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Interrogation of German Prisoners-of-War.

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"Wir steigen auf zur
Kampfgeviertem,
Der Heldentod ist
unser Recht,
Die Erde soll im
Kern ergraben,
Wenn fällt ihr
edelstes Geschlecht
Brach Etzels Haus
im Blut gesunken,
Als er die Nibel-
lungen zwang,
So soll Europa
stehen im Flammen
Bei der Germanen
Untergang."

WAR DEPARTMENT
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF
OPERATIONS DIVISION
WASHINGTON

FIFTH ARMY HEADQUARTERS
PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH

July 12, 1944

SUBJECT: Interrogation of German Prisoners-of-War (Report # 39)
TO : CO, Psychological Warfare Branch, Fifth Army Headquarters

1. PREAMBLE: 26 German PWs -- including 7 non-commissioned officers -- were interrogated, during the time from July 7 to July 10, at the French "Cage des Prisonniers," in Costalpino, near Siena. All the PWs interrogated were Germans -- except for 3 Austrians, 2 Poles, 1 Sudetenlander, and 1 PW from Bruenn, Czechoslovakia. 4 PWs, including 1 Uffiz., were deserters.

2. GENERAL IMPRESSION: As practically in every group of German PWs, there were among these 26 men two minorities of "extremists" -- namely, the 4 deserters -- articulately defeatistic and anti-Nazi --, and 4 downright Nazis -- insisting on their absolute faith in the Fuehrer and in German victory. As for the others -- the majority --, their attitude wavers between a kind of nebulous confidence in some miracle that might eventually save Germany, and a cautiously admitted defeatism. The morale-boosting effect of "V-1" seems to have already passed its climax. Only one PW (a parachutist!) repeated, and apparently believed, the fantastic rumors about London being destroyed, 3 million people killed, the King having left the capital, and so forth. In general, the ideas of PWs about "V-1" are rather vague and not too enthusiastic. Even those still believing in German victory, don't expect "V-1" to bring an immediate decision, but rather anticipate the coming of other even more devastating weapons. None of the 26 PWs had any detailed information, or any precise conception, of "V-1"'s structure and effectiveness. But if there is no undue enthusiasm about "Vergeltung," there is no panic about invasion, either. The prevailing mood seems to be one of slightly apprehensive apathy -- which may be partly due to the almost complete lack of exact, up-to-date news. At least half of the PWs interrogated were unaware of the new Russian offensive. Some of them had heard that Minsk had been taken by the Russians but re-taken by the Germans. News from the French beachhead are equally vague. However, most PWs seem to take it for granted that the war has entered its decisive stage and will be over this year -- "so oder so..." ("one way or another...") Only the 100-percent Nazis maintain that the war is likely to last for another couple of years or so. The others expect, and hope for, some kind of solution -- a negotiated peace, a political compromise, or ^{out} ~~unavoidable~~ German defeat -- to be reached within the next few months. In fact, their main interest is not in how the war will end but rather when it will be over...

3. MORALE IN COMPANIES: 9 of the PWs interrogated were from the 4th Par.Div. -- 9, from the 29th Pz.Div. Other divisions represented were the 20th Luftwaffen-Felddivision, with 3 men (one of them a Polish deserter), the 92th Div. (192nd Werkstatt-Comp.) with one man (a deserter), and "Organisation Todt," with one Polish civilian. All the out-and-out Nazis came from the 4th Div. -- except one man, Soldat Rudolf Kajetinsky, 1st Comp., 39th Jaeger-Rgt., 20th Luftwaffen-Felddivision -- a native from Bruenn, Czechoslovakia, who asserted with a thick Czech accent that he was a German, believed in German victory, and belonged to the Nazi Party... The 3 other 100-percent Nazis were: Jaeger Fritz MILTNER, 8th Comp., 11 Rgt., 4th Div. -- a lad of 18, from Dresden, who claims that everything in his unit is fine: food, officers, fighting spirit, etc, Uffz. Guenter WAGNER, 10 Com., 10 Rgt., 4th Div., -- a married man from Danzig, 25 years old, since more than 5 years in the army --, and Jaeger Georg MALEWSKI, 9th Comp., 11 Rgt., 4th Div. -- a youth of 18, from East Prussia, who says that the morale in his outfit was pretty high, "with some sad exceptions..." ... As usual, the highest morale was found among parachutists. 5 PWs interrogated had belonged to the 10th Comp., 10th Rgt., 4th Div. -- a unit of apparently high morale. The relations between officers and enlisted men were excellent -- according to these PWs --, the food more than adequate -- especially during the past few weeks when the men were allowed to "organize" food supplies from the Italian peasants, there were plenty of cigarettes -- 15 to 30 a day --; the retreat was carried out under the most orderly conditions.... The morale in other units was less brilliant, however -- even though the food situation seems to have been fairly satisfactory. Uffz. Fritz WILCKEN, 4th Com., 71st Rgt., 29th Div. (an intelligent business man, from Luebeck, 26 years old) spoke of the heavy losses his company had suffered and of the consequent decline of morale. Another PW, from the 5th Comp. of the same Rgt. -- Gefr. Georg PALESKE, 21, student, from East Prussia -- answered the question, "How is the morale in your company?" -- with the characteristic and evasive statement: "The discipline is all right... Everybody is fed up but nobody dares to say a word. One goes on fighting -- because one has to: that's all..." Even one of the parachutists -- Obergefr. Walter CZECH, 3rd Comp., 10 Rgt., 4th Div. -- admitted that the morale in his unit was "pretty dreary" ("ziemlich mies") -- now since the famous "Vergeltung" is supposed to be there at last and yet does not seem to have any decisive effect...: "Well, all we can do, I guess, is to wait and hope for the best..." ("Abwarten und Tee trinken!") ... This PW, who is a native from Sudetenland, complained about the bad treatment given to the "Volksdeutsche" by their German comrades. The unit to which he belonged consisted to one third of Austrians, Sudetenlanders, etc -- who were called "Beutedeutsche" by the German

soldiers and non-cons. Oberfeldwebel Peter JUNG, on the other hand, complained about two Alsations who had been members of his company and were captured with him. Now the Alsations tried to make the French officers believe that he -- the Oberfeldwebel -- had mistreated them -- which (the Oberfeldwebel claimed) was a malignant lie. Another PW, however -- Gefr. Horst STEINBRECH (18 years old) -- who belonged to the same company of which JUNG was partly in charge -- 6th Comp., 15th Rgt., 29th Inf. Div. -- asserted that the Oberfeldwebel was rather unpopular with his troops and had the reputation of being at once brutal and incompetent...

4. CONDITIONS AT HOME: Most of the PWs interrogated have their homes in, or in the vicinity of, more or less severely bombarded cities. There were some exceptions -- like, for instance, two men from Dresden: one of the few big German cities spared major air raids, so far. (One of the two Dresdeners -- Obergefr. Gerhard RYCHWALSKI, a barber, 22, -- is a rather intelligent anti-Nazi, while the other -- Jaeger Fritz MILNER, an ignorant youth of 18, -- is a stubborn Hitler fanatic.) Most of the other men, however, had grim stories to tell about the destruction of their respective home-towns. One man from Munich described in detail the devastation of historical buildings in the Bavarian capital. (The same man, incidentally, stressed the anti-Prussian feelings of the Bavarian population and said that he could imagine a separation of Bavaria from the Reich...) -- Gefr. Erich WAGNER, of Hamburg -- a deserter -- said that he had been home, on a furlough, 2 months ago, and that the city looked awful. There was some bitter resentment against the Anglo-Americans but -- according to this PW -- even more ill feelings toward the Nazi Government.... Another PW from Hamburg said that he believed, and hoped, that London, thanks to "V-1," was now in about as bad a shape as his home-town... Gefr. STEINBRECH, from Frankfurt a.M., said that the morale at home was not too bad, because of the "Terrorzulagen" -- i.e. extra rations for bombarded cities, consisting of liquor, cigarettes, etc. Another PW from Frankfurt, however, stated: "Frankfurt is all in pieces... Das ist ueberhaupt keine Stadt mehr!" (It's no longer a city!) Several men from the Rhineland believed that the Allied air raids could not but have considerably affected the German war production. ... One rather intelligent Austrian with pre-Nazi leanings -- Uffz. Willi WOLDRICH, 10th Comp., 10 Rgt., 4th Div.: a "Doktor Jus." and owner of hotels in Innsbruck and Seefeld -- said that, in his opinion, the Allied bombardments of Vienna and other Austrian cities were a grave psychological mistake. (The same PW claimed to be in favour of an independent Austria but said that he would never break his oath to the Nazi Government...) One PW from Berlin gave maybe the most accurate description of the spirit prevailing in Germany when he said: "What do you expect? It's the fifth year of the War! People are awfully weary. Independent thinking does not exist anymore. (Denken ist ausgeschaltet.) Everybody seems to be waiting for something... But peace is far away -- like a Fata Morgana..." -- Both Nazis and anti-Nazis seem to agree, however, that revolution inside Germany will not be possible, on account of SS and Gestapo -- unless the initiative comes from the top: from the general staff itself.

5. POST-WAR: German PWs have rather gloomy ideas as regards the future of their fatherland, in the case of German defeat. Of course, for the faithful Nazis this problem does not exist. All the others, however, seem to take more or less pessimistic views. What they expect is "ein verschärftes Versailles" -- an even stricter Versailles --, as one PW (Obergefr. Gerhard RYCHWALSKI) put it. The same man said that for the great culprits -- those responsible for the war -- no punishment could be too severe: "But it's usually the little plebeian who actually pays the bill... Well, let's hope that this may have been the last war mankind will have to live through..." -- Several PWs repeated the rumors spread by German propaganda: that if Germany loses, all able-bodied Germans would have to do forced labor in Russia and other countries, that prisoners-of-war would not be allowed to go home, etc. One of them -- Uffz. Wilhelm GRAF -- had also been told that all Germans would be castrated, but this he refused to believe. A PW from Bremen suggested that his home-town would become "either French or Russian." Another PW -- a Nazi -- expressed his hope that the Allies, if victorious, will show themselves "chivalrous" and will not repeat "the mistakes of Versailles" -- namely, to deprive the Reich of such "German territories" as the Alsace and Schleswig-Holstein. A 30-years old PW from the Rhineland -- Obergefr. Franz IKDAN, of Aachen -- remembered the French occupation after the last war and would much rather see his home-town occupied by the Americans. The fear of Russia is strong: even the Poles admitted that their anti-Soviet feelings (but asserted that they disliked the Germans even more...) The only exception was, characteristically, a man who had personal contacts with Russian civilians, when he was stationed on the Eastern front as an instructor of motor-car driving. A rather intelligent semi-Nazi from East Prussia -- Gefr. Ernst von PALESKE, whose father is a conservative squire and the mayor of a small East-Prussian town -- supposes that the Russians have come to definite terms with the Anglo-Americans regarding the demarcation line of Russian occupation. PW does not believe that Russians will occupy Berlin. His father intends to emigrate to Berlin area, if Russians take over East-Prussian territory. 5 PWs said that they didn't really care what happens to post-War Germany, as long as they are free to work and make a living. This opinion was expressed with particular emphasis by a sturdy peasant -- Grenadier Ferdinand ROSAUER, of Rucking, Lower Bavaria, 34 years old -- who said that he could do his work under any kind of regime, that farmers will be needed under all circumstances, that he wouldn't mind seeing Bavaria separated from the Reich, and that he didn't like the Prussians, anyhow.... only 2 PWs -- one Nazi and one deserter -- thought it likely that Hitler could still come to an agreement with Churchill and Roosevelt. ... Most of the PWs were of the opinion that, in the case of German defeat, Hitler will commit suicide: "Er wird mit seinem Werke untergehen!" (He will perish with his work.)

6. PROPAGANDA: Out of these 26 PWs, 12 have seen, while stationed in Italy, Allied leaflets in German language, 6 have heard about leaflets, while 8 did know that such leaflets exist. None of them had the opportunity of listening to Allied broadcasts -- most of them were unable, during the past few weeks, to listen to any broadcasts at all. As mentioned before, most of the PWs interrogated were found very inadequately informed about recent developments on the various fronts. After having heard, on the German side, fantastic stories about "V-1" successes, etc., they were now confused by contradictory rumors told to them by French and Moroccan soldiers. One PW -- Soldat Karl-Heinz MARLOW, 18 -- asked this interrogator whether it was correct that the Allies had made a landing at Reulon, as his French guards had told him. He was inclined to believe in rumors coming from Allied sources, for it was through our leaflets that he had learned about the invasion of Normandy. The same boy recalled having seen a leaflet, "Der sichere Weg nach Haus," and added: "Hast' ich nicht gedacht, dass mir das auch einmal passieren wird..." ("I wouldn't have believe that the same thing should happen to me...") -- Other leaflets frequently remembered were "Frontpost," "Passierschein," "Rum gefallen," and "leaflets about captivity and desertion." One PW said that he had found "Frontpost" pretty exaggerated, up to the beginning of our Italian offensive, but that since then the "Frontpost" news have become more accurate... Another PW remarked: "Well, in any case your propaganda is a little more subtle than the Russian. What the Bolsheviks try to sell us is so obvious that it isn't even funny. Russian propaganda is just good enough to be used as toilet paper..." -- One deserter, who rather liked our leaflets, was worried by one which he had seen on June 12, and which -- he said -- quoted the opinion of a German PW with full indication of PW's name and home address.

7. MISCELLANY: The above-mentioned PW -- Karl-Heinz MARLOW, of Essen, -- has friends who belong to the anti-Nazi youth organization, Edelweiss-Piraten, which seems to be fairly active in the Rhineland area. PW said that this group is not connected with any political party but consists of boys -- most of them between 13 and 16 years old -- who don't like the Hitler Youth and do everything to sabotage the rules and disturb the activities of that official organization. According to PW, the "Edelweiss-Piraten" have many followers in the big Rhenish cities and cause a lot of trouble to the authorities.

Uffz. Fritz WILCKEN, of Luebeck -- a fairly intelligent man of 26 -- was very reluctant to make any statements, for he had been warned that every word he would say to Allied interrogators would somehow find its way back to his German unit. Apparently, PW was afraid of devices, secretly placed in the interrogation room, which would record his statements, or of spies who might be listening at the door... This interrogator did not quite succeed in reassuring the intimidated Unteroffizier.

Almost all the PWs in this group had been told atrocity stories about the terrible treatment they would have to expect, if captured by the Moroccans. Most of them were pleasantly surprised by what they experienced in reality -- although some complained about having been beaten and robbed of all their belongings. In other cases the story went that the PWs would have been^{been} beaten, or even killed, by the Moroccans, if it had not been for a French officer who interfered at the last moment. One PW said, "They didn't beat me, really -- but they sure looked daggers at me!" ("Sie haben mir furchtbar furchende Blicke zugeworfen!")

None of these PWs believed that the Germans would use poison gas. The drill with gas masks -- they said -- has been reduced or altogether omitted. There are rumors, however -- repeated by the Nazi sympathizers among the PWs -- that our side might employ poison gas, as a retaliation for the German retaliation (i.e. "V-1").

None of the PWs -- not even those expecting the end of the War in the near future -- thought it likely that the "Wehrmacht" would surrender when the Red Army reaches German territory. Hitler -- they seem to think -- will continue to fight, even on German soil. It would almost seem that those who anticipate an early end of the War and Germany's defeat (just as those who still believe in German victory), base their hopes, not on any particular strategic development, but on the prospect of some unpredictable, sudden event -- a "miracle"...

Klaus Mann/
T/3 Klaus Mann

1st ind.

PWB, Headquarters Fifth Army, 12/13 July, 1944
TO: CC, PWB, AMHQ, through CC, PWB, AAI

F. A. McCULLOCH
Lt. Col., Inf.,
Commanding.

FIFTH ARMY HEADQUARTERS
Psychological Warfare Branch

26 July, 1944

SUBJECT: Interrogation of German Prisoners-of-War (Report No. 40)

TO : CO, Psychological Warfare Branch, HQ 5th Army

1. PREAMBLE: 12 German PWs were interrogated at the PW Cage of 88th Division, on July 24 and 25. All of these PWs were Germans -- except for one Alsatian and 2 Austrians (one of them a deserter). The group included one Unteroffizier -- Joseph STERNBERG, 10th Comp., 8th Inf. Rgt., 3rd Div., who was captured together with 6 men of whom he was in charge.

2. GENERAL IMPRESSION: Never before has this interrogator found the morale of German PWs as low as this time. The morale-boosting force of the "V-1" propaganda seems to be almost completely exhausted. The rumors about plot among the German generals and about the attempt to assassinate the Führer, have a rather bewildering and depressing effect. Among the 12 PWs interrogated, there was not one who believed, or pretended to believe, in German victory. All of these men expect the War to be over in about two or three from now -- with the exception of one PW from Upper Silesia, Obergefr. Hans CICHEWITZ (Grenadier-Ersatz Bn., 3rd Panzer Gren. Div.; age: 23); who is of the opinion that the War may last another couple of years but does not want to make any predictions as to the ultimate outcome: "Just now things don't look so very bright for us..." ("Jetzt eben schaut's ja nicht besonders rosig für uns aus...")

3. MORALE IN COMPANIES: Most of these 12 PWs expressed in various forms the feeling which one of them -- Soldat Wilhelm HENZE (29th Grenadier Rgt. ((Mot.)), 3rd Panzer Grenadier Div.) -- formulated in the following way: "Jeder möchte sich gerne schonen, um nicht noch kurz vor Schluss zu fallen..." (Everybody tries to take care of himself, so he won't be killed just before the end of the war...) -- Uffz. Joseph STERNBERG, 10th Comp., 8th Inf. Rgt. (mot.), 3rd Div. (a women's tailor from Westphalia; age: 24; for 5 years in the army), said that his men were so completely fed up ("die sind ja schon so fertig") that they didn't even complain anymore but were becoming sullen and apathetic: "They don't see any power on our side -- no aircraft, no arty, nothing..." In the Uffz.'s unit there were several Alsations and Austrians -- even less enthusiastic than the Germans: "Die haben schon gewiss kein Interesse daran, für uns zu kämpfen..." (They are certainly not interested in fighting for us...) -- One of these Austrians -- Gefr. Joseph PARZER (occupation: farmer; age: 21) was also interrogated. He said that he was happy to be in captivity: "Jetzt komme ich wenigstens mit dem Leben davon!" (Now I know at least that my life will be saved!); complained about the unbearable life

on the front ("Das war ja überhaupt kein Leben mehr!" -- that was no life anymore!), and in particular about the irresponsible "Führung" (leadership) which sends the men into murderous fire, while the officers remain in safety, many kilometers behind. -- The other Austrian interrogated -- Obergefr. Hans ROCKENBAUER, 3rd Bn., 8th Mot. Rgt., 3rd Panzer Gren. Div. (age: 25; for 5 years in the army) -- (a deserter!) -- was even more outspoken and bitter in his criticism. According to this PW, most of the Austrians in the German army feel the same way he does; some of them, however, prefer to stay in the army rather than to return to their homes, but that is only because they are afraid of the consequences of the campaign. In the end, only 28 combat soldiers were left. The CO, Lt. Höfllich (age: 21) does not seem to be very Nazi. PW asserted that he met many German officers whose faith in victory is definitely undermined. When stationed in Frankfurt a.M. and working in an officers' mess, he had the opportunity of listening to conversations high-ranking officers had among themselves about the war situation; most of them -- PW states -- sounded pretty pessimistic, already at that point (more than a year ago). He remembers especially one Oberstleutnant WORSCH (now a general) who was openly anti-Nazi and defeatistic (having lost a son in Italy). -- All of the PWs agreed that, if it came to a showdown between the SS, on the one hand, and the army officers, on the other, the average "Landser" would stick to the army officers. If contradictory orders were given out, the soldiers would undoubtedly accept and follow the order calling for retreat and promising the end of hostilities. But none of the PWs asserted that any revolutionary or rebellious initiative could be expected from the ranks themselves: "They are much too much used to taking orders -- it has already become a part of their characters..." --- There were no particular complaints about food in the German army, although 2 PWs said it had been "reichlich knapp" (pretty scarce) of late, and most of the others confirmed that it was better in captivity. None of them appeared unhappy about his being taken prisoner; several admitted that they were pleasantly surprised by the decent treatment -- having been warned by their officers and non-coms that the Americans are now in the habit of mistreating or even shooting their prisoners... One Alsatian, Soldat Paul C. ASPAR, asked whether he could join an Allied army in order to fight the Germans. He could not recall the name of the German unit to which he had belonged, and, in the way of explanation, said that he hated the Germans so much that he didn't want to have anything to do with them and didn't even care to know the name of the unit which they had forced him to join.

3. CONDITIONS AT HOME & POSTWAR PROSPECTS: All of these PWs agreed that, if Germany loses the war, the Nazi Party will disappear and that the Reich would have to renounce all the territories annexed since 1933 -- including Austria. The two

Austrians in the group -- PARZER and ROCKENBAUER -- said that they hoped for Austrian independence to be established after the War. PARZER when he was home on a furlough, in May, found American leaflets promising independence. According to him, the leaflets were read and eagerly discussed by the people in his home-town -- a small place near Vienna. Practically everybody in Austria -- he said -- is anti-Nazi and anti-war; "Aber was soll man machen -- mit loo Piefkes auf einen Oesterreicher?" (But what can you do -- with loo Prussians to one Austrian?) ROCKENBAUER was particularly interested in the question whether there would be religious freedom, under Allied rule, in Austria after the War. Every good Catholic -- he says -- has to be anti-Nazi. On the other hand, he seemed to be somewhat alarmed by anti-religious Russian tendencies. Both Austrian PWs hope that their country will be under Anglo-American influence rather than under Russian. Both think it likely that Otto of Habsburg will be made emperor of Austria. -- 4 of the PWs interrogated are natives of East Prussia. One of them -- Gefr. Franz LICHTENSTEIN (age: 37) -- believed that the Russians had already entered East Prussia, where PW's wife and 3 children are living. However, he took the news rather fatalistically: "Kann man dann eben auch nichts machen ..." (There is nothing one could do about it...) The other PWs from East Prussia had heard that Königsberg had been evacuated by the Germans. Grenadier Hans CICHEWITZ -- the same man who thinks that the War may last for another couple of years -- believes that the Russians would be hard on the civilian German population. His reason for this belief is not that he has heard any atrocity stories about the Russians, but -- on the contrary -- that he knows about many crimes the Germans have committed in Russia: "Es beruht alles auf Gegenseitigkeit..." (Everything is reciprocal...) -- Soldat Wilhelm HENZE (age: 20) is from Witten, in the Ruhrland, which he visited, on the occasion of his last furlough, in May. Asked whether he had a chance of visiting the city of Essen, he answered, in a strangely detached and casual manner; "Essen? Davon ist doch fast nichts mehr da!" (Essen? That hardly exists anymore!) Everybody in his home-town -- he says -- is so utterly fed up with the war that people would welcome even defeat, as long as it means a early end of the war. In PW's opinion, defeat would be even better for Germany than victory... Uffz. STERNBERG, from Westphalia, could imagine, and would not dislike, the separation of the Rhineland from Prussia. He believed that Westphalia was once under British rule (?) and feels that it may be a good idea to have an English government in that part of Germany again. -- None of the German PWs seemed to have any conception regarding the type of government, or the political leaders, that might come to power in Germany, after Hitler's fall. All of them took it for granted that Germany will be occupied by the Allied armies; that the Anglo-Saxons will not allow the Russians to become too influential in Germany; and that they -- the simple German soldiers -- will have to work pretty hard to make good for the crimes of the present German regime. This prospect -- while of course not particularly inspiring -- did not seem to strike any of them as distressing or unbearable.

4. PROPAGANDA: All of these PWs -- with the exception of CASPAR, the Alsatian, who appeared somewhat dazed -- had seen Allied leaflets in Italy; 2 PWs were captured with leaflets in their pockets. The leaflets most frequently mentioned were FRONTPOST and PASSIERSCHREIN. 3 PWs said that it was through FRONTPOST that they first learned about the Russian offensive. There was no particular criticism as to the style or contents of the leaflets. One man -- Gefr. Heinz GOETZE (a musician from Berlin; age: 36) -- said that he was a regular reader of FRONTPOST, and that all his friends had been reading the paper regularly. Most of the FRONTPOST news -- GOETZKE said -- were subsequently confirmed, either officially or by private reports from back home. -- ROCKENBAUER, the Austrian deserter, listened frequently to the American broadcasts, "Voice of America," when on furlough home. He was pleased to hear that only the great culprits would be punished by the Allies but the ordinary little people spared.

5. MISCELLANY: One PW -- Hans CICHEWITZ -- repeated certain slogans from the present Gobbels line according to which England will emerge from this war in any case as the loser. The British Empire -- in CICHEWITZ's opinion -- is gradually going to pieces ("bröckelt allmählich ab") -- with India and Canada (?) being on the verge of open rebellion. Uffz. STERNBERG, from Westphalia, had not heard about the "Edelweiss-Piraten" (the anti-Nazi youth organization active in the Rhineland), but remembered that the "Pfadfinder" (boys' scouts) movement in the Rhineland had used to be particularly strong before the Hitler Youth took over, and thought it likely that the "Edelweiss-Piraten" may have developed from the remnants of the suppressed "Pfadfinder" groups. All the PWs had been told, by their Allied guards, about the (officially yet unconfirmed) arrest of Marshal KESSELRING; none of them seemed to consider this news incredible or even particularly startling. The general opinion seemed to be that KESSELRING's arrest (if true) would be just "one of those things" which one had to take fatalistically, and which hardly affect the little "Landser" directly. "We have seen so many generals disappear," one of them remarked. "One gets gradually used to it. When we hear about one of the bigshots being killed in an airplane crash -- do you think we believe that kind of stories?" But even though nobody was surprised, the news of Kesselring's fall seemed to add to the mood of apathy and hopelessness prevailing among these PWs. "If they lock up our best strategists," one of them said, "who is going to run the war?"

APPENDIX

A Deserter from the German Merchant Marine

Matrose Siegfried SPECK; age: 22; from Freiburg i.Br. Joined the Merchant Marine in 1937. Since 1940, stationed mostly in Norway. Home on furlough, in May, he destroyed his orders, which would have forced him to return to Norway, and made out new orders for himself, with which he went to ~~Genoa~~ Verona (supposedly on his way to Genova). From Verona, he proceeded by car and on foot, until he reached the Allied lines. The trip took him about one month. Two deserters from the German Infantry with whom he made friends in Verona, were betrayed by Italian civilians and caught by the German MPs.

PW said that he deserted as he was fed up with the war, has long lost faith in German victory, and considers it nonsensical to risk one's life "at the last moment." Besides he disliked the idea of returning to Norway, where he found the attitude of the people towards the Germans uncooperative and hostile. During his stay in that country, PW heard about many acts of sabotage and witnessed several of them himself -- one in Bergen, where German military barracks were blown up by the natives; one in Oslo, where an ammunition dump was destroyed. PW believes that, in the case of an Allied landing in Norway, practically the whole population would be on our side. But he is also of the opinion that the German forces in Norway are particularly strong -- "something like three million men;" mostly soldiers who formerly fought in Russia.

According to PW, the morale in the Merchant Marine is very low; criticism and discontent are more wide-spread and more outspoken than in the army, where "one has to be more discreet and secretive" ("in der Armee geht alles mehr leise und heimlich zu"). In the navy, however, "herrscht ein offener Ton," (prevails an open manner); even the officers utter frankly their anti-Nazi views. The men of the navy, especially the Merchant Marine, can't be so easily cheated as their comrades of the army; for most of the sailors know the world -- having seen foreign countries even before the war. (PW was in South America, the U.S., England, Finland, and for several months in Russia, where he was interned, in 1940.) ... PW would not be surprised if history repeated itself and the coming German revolution were started by the sailors, as it happened in 1918.

T/3 K l a u s M a n n

1st Ind.

PWB, Headquarters Fifth Army, 26 July, 1944
TO: CO, PWB, AFHQ, through OC, PWB, AAI

P. A. McCULLOCH
Lt. Col., Inf.,
Commanding.

P.W.B. EIGHTH ARMY

GERMAN INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO.

This Report is based on the interrogation of the following
German P/W at No. 370 P.W. Cage (Eighth Army Cage) 10 Sept 44

Gefr. HOLZHÄUSER, Harold 7 Komp/117 Inf.Regt./98 Inf.Div.
Age 20 Home: ESSEN Drafted in 1942, one year in Russia, once wounded.
Came to Croatia in June 44 and has been in Italy a short time, only
two days in action.

This P/W is an unusual case; not only does he not believe in a German victory, but he goes as far as saying that a German victory would be disastrous for the world as well as for the German people. This statement was made quite spontaneously and explained as follows: We have seen what kind of "Zwangsherrschaft" (tyranny) Nazism means in Germany and the occupied countries. In case of German victory the cruelty of this system would be multiplied ("vertausendfacht"), - especially since the Nazis in such a case would not have to consider the feelings of the front-line soldiers or of their satellites and the neutral nations.

P/W emphasized that he owes his political education to his father, a mine-~~XXXXX~~ worker and a veteran member of the Communist Party; without his father's advice, he said, he might be as ignorant and Nazi-indoctrinated as many of his comrades. During his last leave, about a year ago, his father took him around to his friends - mostly men in their ~~XXXXX~~ forties - some of them members of the Communist party, and P/W was surprised that many of them shared his father's views. While he did not think that at the time of his last visit an organized underground movement existed, he feels that in view of the worsening of the German military situation the Anti-Nazi opposition is likely to become more active.

P/W admits that, for a time, when he was deep in Russia, and things seemed to go well for Germany, he was inclined to doubt the wisdom of his father's predictions but soon afterwards realized that his father was right when saying that Germany could not win and should not win.

The fear of Russia is, in P/W's opinion is a product of Nazi propaganda. He has witnessed himself how wounded German soldiers who had escaped from Russian captivity had been cared for by the Russians. On the other hand he met men from the Waffen SS who bragged shockingly about atrocities they had committed against Russians.

P/W knew about the Free German Committee in Moscow and also that Fieldmarshal PAULUS had joined it; SEYDLITZ' name was known to him but in a rather vague sort of way. He did not know the names of former German Communist leaders, now members of the Moscow committee (PICK etc.) but was certain that his father would know them.

According to P/W German soldiers on the Eastern front often talked about deserting to the Anglo-Americans as soon as they would get to the Italian front. P/W noticed, however, during his short stay in this theatre, that they did not ~~xxxx~~ actually do so. In his opinion this is mostly due to the fear of reprisals against their relatives. P/W, however, had already at that time made his plans to desert at the first opportunity and informed his father by writing him that he would soon ~~shortly~~ join his friend, who as his father knew, was a P/W in Canada. However, he did not need to desert as he was captured after only two days in action. Asked why he did not desert in Russia, he replied that it was technically impossible.

He thought that the situation in Italy was hopeless for the Germans. Morale in his unit was low for various reasons such as: poor military qualifications of many troops in his unit; cancelling of leave (Urlaubssperre) which in his opinion has a strongly depressing effect as furloughs were the only thing for soldiers to look forward to; poor food - which deteriorated noticeably of late: "Der Verlust der Ukraine hat sich bei unserer Verpflegung schlagartig bemerkbar gemacht" (the loss of the Ukraine had immediate consequences on our food situation).

His C.O., O/Lt. BUETTNER, Age 28, was described by him as a fanatical Nazi who in a recent Kompaniebesprechung said that any one who does not believe in German victory should be ashamed of himself and change his mind straight away. However, this pep-talk met with little success and in fact was ridiculed by the troops. When it came to action this officer "glänzte durch seine Abwesenheit" (was conspicuous by his absence).

P/W saw copies of PRONTPOST and believed them: "Some time ago the Allies may have exaggerated a bit in their propaganda but today there is no reason for them to make up anything, true facts speak for themselves."

As for post-war prospects P/W is convinced that after a short period of transition Communism will gradually play an increasingly important role in Germany. He had heard that Ernst THAELEMAN, the former chief of the German Communist Party, had been sent to Russia according to an agreement between Hitler and Stalin at the time of the German-Russian pact.

P/W said that after the war he would like to migrate to another country, maybe the United States because he is disgusted with the lack of political and individual initiative of the average German. Isn't it typical, he said, that even Rumania, Bulgaria and Finland are now seeing the handwriting on the wall "aber nur der dumme deutsche Michel ist immer noch nicht aufgewacht" (only the dumb German is still fast asleep). When it was pointed out to him that his country after the war would need young men of his type for reconstruction work, he became rather thoughtful and after a while said: "Das ist vielleicht richtig, denn bisher habe ich mit meinem Gewehr fuer Deutschland verdammt wenig getan" (that may be correct, til now I have done damn little for Germany with my gun).

The above report was submitted by Sgts. MANN and GERSTMAN, PWB Interrogators at 370 P.W. Cage (Eighth Army Cage).

P.W.B. EIGHTH ARMY

GERMAN INTELLIGENCE REPORT NO.

This Report is based on the interrogation of the following
fifteen German Ps/W at No.370 P.O.W. Cage (Eighth Army Cage)
11/12 Sept.44

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>HOME TOWN</u>
Gefr.	TANNER, Andreas	13 Komp/100 Mtn Rgt. 5 Mtn.Div.	35	O/Steiermark/ Austria
O/Gefr.	TRUEBENBACHER, Joseph	6 Komp/100 Mtn Rgt.	33	Berchtesgaden
O/Gefr.	KOWAR, Rudolf	Stab II Bn/100 Rgt.	27	Bukowina/Rumania
O/Gefr.	ROTHE, Alphons	5 Komp/129 Recce Bn 29 P.G. Div.	20	Westphalia/ near Muenster
Uffz.	HARDER, Bruno	do do	26	Mecklenburg
O/Gefr.	GROSS, Willi	do do	31	Erfurt
Gefr.	DINGLER, Georg	2 Komp/191 Gren Regt 71 Inf.Div.	20	Nuernberg
O/Gefr.	TAUKERT, Karl	2 Komp/191 Gren Regt	24	n/Magdeburg
Gefr.	SIEMON, Karl	do do	20	n/Kassel
Gefr.	ROSTOCK, Wilhelm	Stab II Bn 194 Gren R	22	Dortmund
O/Gefr.	MACK, Karl	7/Komp/290 Regt 98 Inf.Div.	24	n/Ulm
Uffz.	BERGER, Georg	6 Komp/290 Regt.	34	n/Breslau
Gefr.	GERNER, Ludwig	3 Komp/198 Pzcs.Bn.	27	n/Innsbruck (Austrian)
O/Gefr.	LAMPERT, Joseph	1 Komp/289 Regt.	38	n/Karlsruhe
Gefr.	MARKS, Guenther	3 Komp/289 Regt.	20	Breslau

The general impression gained, not only during these interrogations but also in informal chats in the Cage, was that the average morale was considerably lower than that covered by the last report. One of the reasons this change may be that in this particular lot there were no parachutists. The news of today's crossing of the western German frontiers was conveyed only to five Ps/W who appeared greatly surprised and impressed. In fact, one of them who at the beginning of the interview asserted his belief in German victory, made a complete turnabout when told the news.

As a point of interest it may be noted that, according to recent observations, the very young German soldiers between the ages of 18 and 20 are conspicuously lacking in enthusiasm and more often than not rather critical of the German leadership. The explanation for this attitude may be that they entered the army at a time when Nazi power was already on the downgrade - in contrast to the men in their middle twenties who started the

military career at the height of Nazi success.

MORALE - ITALIAN FRONT.

TANNER drafted 40, in Russia one year, frozen feet and once wounded. In Italy since Dec. 43, almost constantly in action. P/W, an Austrian, describes morale in his unit as being low - especially among the Austrians of which there are many in his unit. He describes continuance of fighting as "sinnlos" (senseless) and thinks that a German victory, in which he does not believe anyhow, would be detrimental to Austrian interests: "Von mir koennt der Dreck jeden Tag aus sein" (as far as I am concerned it could finish tomorrow). P/W complains about discrimination against Austrians and they refer to us "als die bloeden Ostmaerkler" (as the stupid Austrians).

TRUEBENBACHER drafted in 39, one year in Russia, then limited service (g.v.h.) because he was claimed for work on Hitler's new place in Berchtesgaden - P/W's native town - where he worked previously as a carpenter. He was redrafted in Jan 44 and sent to Italy where he has been in line since Febr as a medic. His unit suffered heavy losses at Cassino and since then medical supplies have been rather scarce. Morale in his unit is low: "Begeistert ist hier keiner mehr" (lack of enthusiasm). P/W does not believe in victory and is skeptical about new weapons. He referred to Goebbels' speech "beim Anblick der neuen Waffen blieb mir das Herz stehen" (when I saw the new weapons, my heart stood still) and said that this phrase was turned in to a joke by the soldiers: "Uns wird das Herz auch mal stehen bleiben" (Our hearts too will stop some day). Even some of the officers including his C.O. Hauptmann STROHEIMER who was killed at the time P/W was captured, expressed their doubts in a German victory.

KOWAR is a Rumanian born in Bukovina, formerly Austrian. Was two years in Rumanian army and in 41 transferred to German Wehrmacht. Naturalised German. Fought in Russia, both under the Rumanian and German army, in Italy since Dec 43. Before Rumania entered the war, the attitude in the Rumanian army towards Germany was hostile but this changed to a pro-German attitude - primarily due to the ardently anti-Russian sentiment of the average Rumanian. Although impressed by Rumania's change of heart, P/W considers himself firstly an Austrian and, with Austria still belonging to Germany, a German. He does not believe, however, in German victory and feels that it is futile to continue the war. Does not believe in new weapons. Morale in his unit is low - not so much on account of Allied infantry as because of our arty and air-force: "Manchmal war's schwer und bitter" (at times it was hard and bitter). He thinks that the already low morale ~~will~~ be further affected by the news of the recent developments in France. P/W remarked that it was said in his unit: Fighting must be fun for the Allies with their material superiority.

ROTHE drafted 42; in Italy 15 months, fought at Salerno, Nettuno and Cassino. Has lost faith in German victory as result of French debacle. In his opinion main reason for Germany fighting on is fear of Russia. Thinks that many of the officers, while anti-Nazi, still feel that they are fighting for their fatherland. Was captured by Scotch troops and well treated but had been previously told that coloured, French, Polish and above all New Zealand troops, mistreat German P/W.

HARDER drafted in 39, six months Russia, three times wounded; in Italy for one year, almost constantly in action. This is the P/W referred to in our introductory paragraph. At first he appeared confident of German victory but was stunned when he heard about Allies crossing into Germany: "Da sehe ich freilich ein, dass nichts mehr zu machen ist; die Grenze haette nicht ueberschritten werden duerfen" (I realise now that there is little to be done; we should have prevented them from crossing the border). If Hitler remains in power he is certain they continue fighting on German territory; he thinks, however, that Hitler may be overthrown in which case hostilities would cease immediately. P/W was sure that the news about the crossing into Germany cannot but make a strong demoralising impression on the fighting troops here since most of them had expected that the enemy would be held at the border. But practically speaking there is nothing the German soldier can do as to carry on: "Befehl ueber alles - auch ohne Kampfgeist" (orders first, even without fighting spirit).

GROSS drafted in 40, three months in Russia, once wounded; in Italy since Jan 44 and in line since June 44. He said that fighting in Italy "ist sehr hart" (very tough) mostly on account of Allied arty whereas the absence of the German L/W is something, one has already become accustomed to. In view of Allied material superiority P/W thinks that it is quite impressive that the Germans manage to do as well as they do. He therefore refused to admit that the continuation of the war had become altogether futile ("sinnlos") for Germany. But when he got all through, he acknowledged that "ueber kurz oder lan (sooner or later) Germany was bound to lose. He does not expect the war, one it is being fought on German soil; to continue for a long time: "Man wuerde sonst das Mutterland Kampfhandlungen preisgeben" (otherwise the homeland would be subjected to warfare).

DINGLER drafted 42, in Italy for ten months; P/W was reluctant to talk: "meine Ansichten behalte ich lieber fuer mich" (keep my opinions to myself). He admitted however that - although he thinks German victory possible - it may also be that she loses: "Das kann man ja nicht wissen" (one doesn't know). This was the most optimistic statement regarding Germany's chances made by any of the 15 P/W interrogated. Besides P/W took refuge behind the "kleine Lander" attitude.

TACKERT drafted in 41, in Russia one year, thrice wounded; in Italy since Feb 44. P/W realised that the situation for Germany was critical and did not pretend to believe in German victory. He considers fighting in this theatre from the German point of view as senseless and while not a deserter himself, would not condemn anybody who did: "Das muss jeder mit sich selbst abmachen" (that's everyone's own affair). The main reason for the continuation of the war is, in his opinion the fear of Russia and the German hope for an eventual

conflict between the Anglo-Americans and the Russians.

SIMON drafted in 42, first in occupied countries (France, Denmark); in Italy one year and in line for several months. P/W who is only 20 years old and very immature, said that his own morale was all right as long as he got enough to eat which so far was the case in the German army. He was apathetic about the war: "Kein Interesse an ganzen Kram" (not interested in the whole mess). Does not believe in German victory or new weapons; his only interest is a quick end of the war - the sooner the better.

ROSTOCK drafted in 42, in Russia til Feb 44, twice wounded. In Italy since June 44, in line one month. P/W is glad to be in captivity: "Da kommt man wenigstens mit heilen Knochen davon" (at least well and healthy). He called the material superiority of the Allies here "erdrueckend" (overwhelming) and thinks that the Germans will eventually withdraw from Italy altogether. He doubts German victory but believes that war might last another year due to new weapons which in his opinion will not be war decisive but war prolonging.

NACK drafted in 41, six months in Russia, frozen feet, then mostly in Germany in Italy three weeks and in line six days. He said that the army was worse here than in Russia and enemy material superiority was more noticeable because of the complete absence of the L/W which was ^{here} conspicuous here than on the Eastern front; they often used to remark "Wo ist die L/W"? This P/W was one of the most pessimistic as he said: New weapons are bluff, "Krieg ist verlohren" (war lost) and will be over in a months' time. He regrets the fact that the more reasonable Generals have been done away with and that only the Gestapo and SS prevent an open revolt in Germany. He lost his last hope during his visit home in May 44 where he found the people completely discouraged:

"Kein Mensch will mehr was vom Krieg wissen" (nobody wants any part of the war). BERGER drafted in 40, two years in Russia, once wounded; in Italy only three weeks and in line two days. P/W does not believe in German victory and considers it futile to fight in Italy while German territory is being invaded. Among his comrades various opinions about the outcome of the war can be found, but the pessimistic view predominates. The news of the Allied crossing of the German frontier did not particularly surprise him, "war ja zu erwarten" (had to be expected) but proves once more the hopelessness of the situation. The reason why the soldiers continue fighting, is first of all the strict discipline and that they still help to defend the fatherland. According to P/W only very few have realized that they are actually fighting for the Nazi Party rather than for Germany.

SEENER been in the army six years, two years in Russia. In Italy five weeks. Confirmed that morale in his unit (98th Div) is particularly low which is partly due to a high percentage of Volksdeutsche. P/W lost faith in German victory as far back as Stalingrad and thinks the war will be over in about eight weeks. According to P/W only he and his C.O. survived the Crimea evacuation. P/W is an Austrian and an outspoken anti-Nazi for which he was recently busted. He was overheard saying: "Der Krieg ist bloss noch ein Hinmorden, am vernuenftigsten waere es, wenn alle miteammen aufhoeren wuerden". He thinks that practically all Austrians have by now lost sympathies for Nazi-Germany with the exception of a few opportunists who would fall in line as soon as the Allies would enter the country: "Wenn's drauf ankommt, schwenken die sofort ein". P/W does not anticipate any resistance to an Allied invasion on the part

of the Austrians but nevertheless expects hard fighting as Austria is full of Germans. These German troops are, in P/W's opinion likely to make a particularly strong stand in Austria as they do not consider it an integral part of Germany and would not mind its destruction. P/W thinks that, if Germany won the war, most of the Austrian population would be transplanted to East-Prussia and other parts of the Greater Reich, and therefore would consider German victory disastrous for Austria. This view is shared by all other Austrians in his unit.

LAMPERT, a deserter was drafted in 39, in Russia for three years, came to Italy in Aug 44. P/W considers the war lost for Germany and further fighting senseless; his desertion was the logical consequence of this view. He discussed desertion with many of his comrades; they seemed inclined not to put up any resistance - "wenn der Tommy kommt, keinen Schuss" - but were lacking initiative and courage for actual desertion. Morale in his unit is very low and in fact has worsened since Himmler took over the army at home: "Seitdem ist der Dienst strenger geworden" (since then things have tightened up). The attack on the Green Line came as a great surprise: "da haben wir in der Patsche gesessen" (we were in a fix). P/W considers Italy's betrayal as the turning point of the war and thinks that Germany ~~had~~ had no winning chance ever since: "Was zu viel ist, ist zu viel, viele Hunde sind des Hasen Tod" (Too much is too much). He believes the war will be over within a month, in spite of the fact that there are still quite a few German officers and men who still believe in victory and seem determined never to surrender. He confirmed that this belief was due to the hope for new weapons and for an eventual clash between the Russians and Anglo-Americans.

MARKS drafted in 42, mostly in Germany, in Italy six weeks. P/W ~~xxxx~~ said that everyone is browned off and he expects the war to be over in two months. No belief in victory, much impressed by French advance. He does not think that war will last long on German soil, every one will be glad when the end comes, the war has been going on too long for the German people.

WESTERN FRONT

During informal conversations in the Cage it was noticed that those who still cling to their belief in German victory, accept and in many cases repeat Goebbels newly launched slogan: It makes no difference where we fight but how we fight and above all that we fight. Following this line they try to belittle the importance of their territorial losses. There can be no doubt, however, that developments on the Western front have seriously affected German morale in this theatre, even before the Allied crossing into Germany was known. As indicated above, this news is apt to discourage even those who hitherto had consoled themselves with the idea that the war was still being waged on non-German ground. On the other hand, it would be wrong - according to the reactions observed - to look for any actual results such as acts of disobedience or collapse of discipline on the part of fighting soldiers in Italy. The unanimous opinion expressed by P/W is that there is no alternative for the little Landser except to obey orders.

EASTERN FRONT.

The fear of Russia persists and undoubtedly remains the outstanding factor in keeping the German soldier fighting. At the risk of appearing repetitious one cannot stress often enough how important a role the idea of an eventual Russian-Anglosaxon conflict keeps playing in the thinking of German Ps/W. One rather intelligent P/W, TANKERT, was particularly eloquent in discussing this subject: "I am positive that in the end you will have to fight the Russians. Russia wants to rule the world and it will have to come to a showdown between the two systems, Bolshevism and Democracy, only one of the two can survive. It will be very difficult for you to defeat Russia as shown by the failures of Napoleon and Hitler. One side will inevitably perish while the other will emerge as the leading world power: There must be a Fuehrerstaat. Russia is preparing herself for the coming struggle with the help of the Comintern which has only seemingly been abolished. Why do you think did Russia start the Civil war in Spain in 1936(!) and is now trying to gain control over the Balkans?"

The most fanatical anti-Soviet views were expressed by KOWAR, the P/W from Rumania. He emphasized again and again that it would be immaterial to him, whether his homeland, Bukovina, after the war will become Austrian, German, Hungarian or Rumanian as long as it will not be Russian. His main argument, as in the case of most of the other anti-Russian Ps/W is that Russia's cultural standards are too low to be acceptable to any civilized (!) European.

One remarkable exception was LAMPERT (deserter) who stated that he was not afraid of Russia at all but on the contrary rather liked it. He learned to speak Russian during his army career and made friends with Russian civilians in SIMEFEROPOL, the capital of the Crimea. In fact, at one point, he had thought of deserting to the Russians. In his opinion the generally accepted anti-Russian view is the result of Nazi-propaganda.

POSTWAR

Strange sort of apathy and a remarkable lack of interest and vision remains the general reaction to postwar problems. In case of German defeat military occupation by the three main Allied powers is taken for granted. These Ps/W, as many before them, are much less afraid of Anglo-American occupation than of Russian. Two Ps/W from Breslau, BERGER and MARKS, expect their part of the country to be temporarily taken over by Russia and appeared to be quite fatalistic about this prospect. WACK from Ulm would like to see Southern Germany separated from Prussia and Bavaria and Austria united.

Ps/W believe in their majority that Germany will be "divided" but are vague as to the actual meaning of that term. Some of them call "division" the loss of those territories annexed since 1933; others, however, believe that even the "Altreich" will be split up or at least made much smaller. HARDER said that Germany's fate in the case of defeat would be disastrous, "es wuerde zerriessen und zerstueckelt werden" (would be torn to pieces). This is, what Nazi propaganda has been preaching for so many years and he still hesitates to believe that it might only have been a trick designed to keep them

fighting: "Das waere die groesste Gemeinheit" (that would be the dirtiest trick).

As to possible candidates for government in postwar Germany, there is an almost complete lack of any predictions or preferences. Some had heard about the activities of the German Generals in Moscow, particularly Fieldmarshal Paulus, but did not connect them with future governments. ROSTECK from Dortmund thought that there were still many Communists in Germany and he had also heard of the anti-Nazi youth movement, Edelweisspiraten. GROSS, on the contrary, thinks that there is little chance for a left-wing government in Germany as the German people have "a horror" (Abscheu) of anything that smells of "Bolshevism". Although a protestant himself, he expects the catholic 'Centrum' party, maybe under the leadership of BRUENING or PAPEN, to play an important role in future German politics. ROTHE, a catholic from Westphalia, spoke in detail on this point. His own bishop, Graf v. GALEN of Muenster, is ~~only~~ the most outspoken and prominent anti-Nazi in the German clergy and represents, in P/W's opinion, the general attitude of the German catholics. The church may have hoped for a time, that in case of German victory, Hitler would relax his anti-clerical policy but recently the church has apparently come to the conclusion that the more radical elements (Rosenberg and Goebbels) have gotten the upper hand. This is the reason why the church now has definitely declared itself against the Nazis. Catholic politicians like BRUENING might in P/W's opinion play an important part in post-war Germany. He also mentioned the name of PAPEN who "is not really liked by the Nazis but only tolerated because he knows too much". P/W thinks that both PAPEN and GALEN may be directly connected with the recent conspiracy of the Generals. Another name mentioned by several P/W was that of HESS, who still seems to enjoy a certain popularity because some look upon him as the man who was the first to realise that Germany could not win the war.

LEAFLETS.

Out of the fifteen P/W 13 had seen leaflets, the other three had heard about them. Every one remembered FRONTPOST and all considered it as being reliable. News from German sources being so scarce, it was through FRONTPOST that some of the P/W had learned about such important events as the Allied landings in France, the fall of Paris etc. SIEMON was particularly interested in the two pictures of KESSELRING in a recent FRONTPOST issue which he kept as a souvenir. TANNER, an Austrian remembered a leaflet promising Austrian independence and also recalled a "Safe Conduct" leaflet. MACK also kept a FRONTPOST copy because he found it very interesting reading and discussed it at length with his comrades. KOWAR said about FRONTPOST: "Das ist die Wahrheit, sogar ich als kleiner Landser konnte das erkennen" (that was the truth, even I as a little soldier realised that). Others saw "Safe Conduct" which reaffirmed the general opinion that treatment in captivity would be good. GROSS who read in Frontpost about the Allied invasion of Northern France, was first somewhat skeptical and discussed the news with comrades. They came to the conclusion that there was nothing impossible about it, considering the Allied material superiority that they themselves had; encountered here.

TRUEBENBACHER SAID that sometimes Frontpost arrived a few days late, and by that time the news contained, had already been confirmed by German OKW which helped to build up the credibility of Frontpost among the soldiers.

MISCELLANEOUS.

In discussing the possibility of new German weapons the following argument was successfully tried: If Germany really ~~xxxxxx~~ has some war deciding weapons up its sleeve why did Hitler not try to prove their existence to his former Satellites? Undoubtedly, Rumania, Bulgaria and Finland would not have abandoned the German cause, had they been presented with conclusive facts that such weapons are in the making and will be effective enough, and be read in time, to influence the outcome of the war.

The above report was submitted by Sgts. MANN and GERSTMAN, PWB Interrogator at No. 370 P.O.W. Cage (Eighth Army Cage).

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH

5 October, 1944

SUBJECT: Interrogation of German Prisoners-of-War
TO : CO, P.W.B., Headquarters Fifth Army

I. AN AUSTRIAN PW WITH POLITICAL TRAINING IN THE SOVIET UNION

Obergefreiter Roman WAGNER, 2nd Comp., 1st Bn., 131st Rgt.,
44 Inf. Div. -- Deserter. -- Interrogated at 88th Div. PW Camp,
4 October, 1944.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND: PW is intelligent, apparently sincere, and fairly well educated. Age: 22; home-town: Linz, Austria. His father is an official ("Obersekretär") at the court in a small town near Linz. One of PW's uncles, Richard Wagner, played allegedly a rather important role in the "Vaterländische Front". -- PW claims that he has an aunt who lives in the U.S., near Washington, D.C., as the wife of a retired American admiral. ... PW was drafted in May, 1941, and first served with the air force, in Austria. In December, 1942, he was transferred to the East and assigned to a "Luftwaffe-Felddivision" -- which, according to him, means practically Infantry. In June, 1943, he was captured by the Russians, at Stajra-Russa, on the northern sector of the East front.

EXPERIENCES IN RUSSIAN CAPTIVITY: Almost immediately after his capture, PW was interviewed by a representative of the Free German National Committee -- a librarian from Hamburg, who asked the prisoner whether he would care to attend a special course of political instruction and enlightenment ("Aufklärungskurs"). Wagner agreed, although he had hardly been interested in politics before. ... The course lasted 5 days and was conducted by two Russian officers who spoke fluently German. Each officer was in charge of 2 PWs -- with only 4 men participating in this particular class. The main points of the course, as remembered by PW, were these: Germany is responsible for the War. An exact and detached reading of "Mein Kampf" proves beyond any doubt that Hitler's political plans and aspirations have always been of a nature to make war inevitable. Hitler started preparing war as soon as he came to power -- which was his way of "solving" the problem of unemployment in Germany. The Soviet Union, on the contrary, wanted nothing but peace, and would never have broken the Stalin-Hitler Non-Aggression Pact. The initial success of the German invasion in Russia proves that the Soviets did not expect war and had by no means mobilized their vast resources. Now the War is lost for Germany -- as confirmed by General VON SEYDLITZ and other high-ranking German officers who have joined the Free German Committee in Moscow. After the War, the German people will be free to choose their own government, without interference from outside. The Soviet Union is not interested in imposing Communism on the German nation. The Bolshevik form of life and government will be maintained, developed, and improved in Russia, but is not supposed to be exported to other countries.

There was no anti-religious propaganda, but the prisoners were assured that the Soviet Union favours religious freedom. ... Two points are particularly remarkable in PW's report: First, he insisted that, according to the instruction he received in Russia, the Free German National Committee in Moscow was expected to become a kind of provisional German Government, after the fall of Hitler, and was as such recognized by all the Allies. Second, PW was surprised when told about the Moscow Declaration guaranteeing Austria's independence; his Russian teachers had failed to mention this fact which would have been particularly interesting to PW. The information he got was simply, that the future of Austria had not yet been decided upon, and that it would be up to the Austrian people to choose whether or not they would stay with the German Reich. During this instruction period PW also had the opportunity to read some propaganda literature, such as a "Free German" newspaper published in Moscow, pamphlets dealing with social conditions in the Soviet Union, and a book, "Who is Hitler?", which made a strong impression on him. He remembered a speech which the German Communist poet Erich WEINERT (to whom PW referred as "professor Weinert") delivered to the PWs -- dealing mostly with the coming reconstruction of Germany which must not be hampered by national disunity or civil-war-like conditions. General VON SEYDLITZ, too, put in a personal, and explained the reasons for his change of heart, after the Stalingrad debacle. (As for Field Marshal VON PAULUS, he was at that time not yet a member of the Moscow Committee.) ... PW said that the Russian ideas and arguments convinced him to a certain extent: he believed "about 70 %" of what he was told by his teachers. In certain respects, however, he thought Russian propaganda "too obvious": "Der Deutsche ist sehr feinfühlig in idöser Beziehung!" (The German is very sensitive in such matters.) What he especially questioned was the Russian assertion that the Soviet Union had renounced all world-revolutionary plans and definitely dropped the Third International. This new Russian attitude is, in Wagner's opinion, not sincere but dictated by tactical necessities, and is not likely to last. Also, PW thinks that the Soviets will be less influential in Central and Western Europe as they expect to be; for "the Anglo-Americans don't want the Bolshe-^{than}zation of the continent." Yet he feels that the general German fear of Russia is greatly exaggerated, and that the Russians are much less savage and malignant than most Germans believe. ... After having finished his instruction course, Wagner was asked by one of the Russian officers, whether he would like to return to the German army -- not in order to work as a Soviet agent and propagandist, but just in order to tell his comrades that prisoners are not being tortured and killed by the Bolsheviks. Wagner was first reluctant -- being afraid that the Russians might shoot him when he tried to return to the German lines, but then he made up his mind and accepted the offer. He was furnished with some propaganda material and then taken -- blind-folded -- to a point from where he could easily reach the German outposts.

EXPERIENCES IN GERMAN CAPTIVITY: While Wagner tried to cross the German line, he was seen by a guard and brought to an officer. He admitted that he had not escaped but had been "sent" by the Russians. He was put under arrest and kept as a prisoner for 3 weeks -- which, according to his report, is the usual procedure in the cases of all those who return from Russian captivity to the German army. He denied, however, having attended the Russian instruction course, as this would have been regarded as high treason. Before being sent to jail he managed to give underhand some of the propaganda material he carried to one of his guards -- an SS man. While doing so, he remembered that his Russian teachers had told him that the most fanatic Nazis -- SS men and the like -- were those he should particularly try to influence and enlighten. ... During his imprisonment of trial ("Untersuchungshaft") he was repeatedly interrogated by agents of the Secret State Police. All of those officials -- Wagner said -- seemed surprisingly well informed about the goings-on in the Russian PW camps and about the Russian practice of sending prisoners back to the German lines. Fortunately for Wagner, one of the Gestapo interrogators happened to be an old personal friend of his -- a man on whose reliability he could entirely depend and whose anti-Nazi views he had long suspected. To him Wagner confided everything he had experienced among the Bolsheviks. The friendly Gestapo man, on his part, confessed that he shared many of the Russian ideas and was altogether fed up with Nazism. He told Wagner that many other members of the Secret State Police felt exactly as he and waited only for an opportunity to rebel against Himmler. Thanks to this man, Wagner was soon released -- after having signed a solemn declaration that he would not talk to anyone about anything he had heard and seen in the Bolshevik camp. ... PW was then granted a home furlough of four weeks, after which he was transferred to the Italian front.

IMPRESSIONS IN AUSTRIA: While at home on leave, PW got the impression that most Austrians are by now quite disgusted with the Nazi régime and have turned definitely anti-Germans. Of course, there are some exceptions -- mostly people profiting directly by the present state of affairs. Paradoxically, PW's mother seems to be one of those few still sympathizing with Nazism. In general, however, even the former opponents of the Dollfuss and Schuschnigg governments have come to realize that Austria was better off when it still was independent. PW believes that most Austrians will try to help the Allied troops, once we have entered Austrian territory -- provided that our men do not antagonize the native population. ... As for Austria's future, PW is not in favour of a monarchy would prefer some kind of democratic solution: "Austria should become a free country like Switzerland -- with tourism as its main source of income..." ... He did not know the Free Austrian Committee in Rome, but remembered the name of Baron Berger-Waldeneck, who is a member of the committee and, according to PW, has a good reputation Austria.

IMPRESSIONS IN ITALY: PW was active on the Italian front as a runner ("Meldegänger"). He described the morale in his unit as low. Many Austrians -- all of them discouraged and disgusted. Reasons for low morale: the general war situation; poor food, because of disturbed communication lines; bad weather; insufficient sleep. ... PW was considering desertion for some time and discussed it with an Austrian comrade (Gefr. Ernst EDER, interrogated by Pfc HESS). While on his way to deliver a message from his company CO, PW was caught by a heavy artillery barrage and hid in a building, where he was subsequently picked up by U.S. troops.

ABOUT PROPAGANDA: PW was a regular reader of FRONTPOST, of which he carried an issue when captured. He likes the paper because of its simple, factual character ("einfach und sachlich"). He was particularly impressed by a quotations from the writings of General Von CLAUSEWITZ, which he had read in FRONTPOST, and which he was able to repeat almost literally. On the other hand, he feels that our propaganda is sometimes "too obvious" ("zu plump") -- referring especially to a leaflet he had seen in Vienna. This leaflet, he said, had a "threatening tone" and made therefore a bad impression. It sounded as if we promised that any Austrian who would surrender now might get away with 49 blows, while he was to get 50 if he continued to fight. ... In general PW suggested (following the Russian line) that we should try to make our propaganda more appealing to the out-and-out Nazis, including the members of SS and Gestapo -- instead of playing up the discrimination between the "culprits", on the one hand, and the "innocent, misguided Germans," on the other. By doing so -- PW said -- we arouse fear and suspicion, and are likely to strengthen the will of resistance of those who may have reasons to think that they might be counted among the "culprits." ... PW is interested in propaganda work himself; in fact, he has written several satirical poems about Nazi bigshots dodging military service, one of which was published in a German army newspaper, "Ostfrontzeitung." The poem was called, "To Whom it May Concern," and attacked cowards and war profiteers in general, without of course openly referring to the Nazi officials. Also, PW is working on a pacifist book, "Krieg, Mörder der Jugend" (War, Destroyer of Youth).

Not dictated

KIT
Investigation Section
PWB, 5X

1st Ind.
Headquarters F.A., PWB Command
P.W. Team, A.P. 464
To: P.W. F., Hq. AA I
for information
F.A. - Main Unit
Ct. Col. 7-1

FIFTH ARMY HEADQUARTERS
PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH

18 October, 1944

SUBJECT: Interrogation of German Prisoners-of-War
TO : CG, P.W.B., Headquarters Fifth Army

1. PREAMBLE: Five PWs were interrogated on October 12, at the 98th Div. PW Cage. The village where the Cage was located had been under German shell fire for the two preceding days, and shelling was still going on during the interrogation; in fact, it was now necessary to interrupt one of the interviews and to take refuge in the cellar. Shortly before the interrogation, a shell explosion in front of the Cage had killed 3 German PWs, one I.P.W. interrogator, and one M.P. Evidently, these conditions could not but influence the attitude of the PWs -- first, because they seemed to expect a German counter attack and were therefore reluctant to talk; second, because they were irritated and scared by the continuous shell fire; third, because they were depressed by the death of their comrades which many of them had witnessed personally.

2. PERSONAL DATA:

Obergefr. HOPFACH, Heinrich, 14th Comp., 289th Rgt., 98th Div.
From Kassel; age: 30; occupation: carpenter.

Sanitäts-Uffz. HAYER, Mathias, 7th Comp., 289th Rgt., 98th Div.
From Trier; age: 38; occupation: farmer.

Obergrenadier RICHTER, Horst, 7th Comp., 289th Rgt., 98th Div.
From Breslau; age: 19; occupation: bank clerk.

Obergefr. SCHMIDT, Johannes, 8th Comp., 117th Rgt., 98th Div.,
From Muenberg; age: 24; occupation: student of philosophy.

Feldwebel SCHUERGER, Hans, 14th Comp., 289th Rgt., 98th Div.
From Wuerzburg; age: 39; occupation: technician.

3. COMPANY MORALE: All of these PWs, with the exception of RICHTER (the most intelligent and sympathetic one), asserted that they still believed in German victory brought about by the coming new weapons; and claimed that most of their comrades shared their optimistic views. RICHTER, as the only one, stated that the average German soldier was fed-up with war and military life; but even he said that only very few ever consider desertion. The main deterrents are, in his opinion, the typical German sense of duty ("Pflichtgefühl") and also the fear of our colored troops. According to SCHUERGER, the main reason why the German soldier keeps fighting is his fear that "the Americans may let the Russians into Germany." -- HAYER believes in victory mainly because it is inconceivable to him that "such a gifted, diligent and creative people as the Germans could ever perish." While all of these PWs appeared loyal to the Fuehrer, HAYER spoke of Hitler with real enthusiasm. Besides he was very bitter about U.S. soldiers who had captured him, although he was waving a Red-Cross flag. He was not allowed to take care of three wounded comrades but had to leave them behind in a deserted building. This story was confirmed by Feldwebel SCHUERGER who witnessed the incident. He also complained about the conduct of American troops who had kicked him, torn the epaulets from his shoulders, and taken away all his belongings -- watch, diary, and so forth. "It is very interesting," he said, "that

every other American soldier needs to carry a German pocket knife or a German cigarette lighter." Notwithstanding his bitterness, he appeared quite impressed by the military qualities of American troops, whereas the English are, in his opinion, "feige" (cowardly). -- HOFFMANN thinks that the War has "reached its climax" and everybody expects the end in the near future. He claims that the morale in his unit was good and there were no complaints about officers or food. RICHTER and SCHMIDT, however, found their officers "too young" and "incompetent;" RICHTER also said that his CO had "no understanding for his men" ("kein Verständnis für seine Leute"). Again with the exception of RICHTER, all of these PWs asserted to be very unhappy about their being in captivity; HAYES even went as far as to say, "It is the greatest misfortune that has ever occurred to me." Asked whether he would have preferred to die in action, he replied, "Naturally I would! Then I would be immortal as are all the other heroes who gave their lives for the Fatherland!"

4. NEWS & PROPAGANDA: All of these PWs claimed that they had had very scarce news for the past few weeks; yet they seemed to be aware of the more important recent military developments and knew that Allied troops are fighting on German soil. In SCHUBERT's opinion, the situation in the West is rather apt to strengthen German morale. HOFFMANN, who had seen a German communiqué about two weeks ago, believed that the Germans were making counter attacks both in the East and West.

None of these PWs had ostensibly ^{read} any Allied leaflets nor had they heard any discussions about our propaganda among their comrades. RICHTER remembered having seen one leaflet in Polish and English, which he was not able to understand; while SCHMIDT had noticed a leaflet lying on the ground but had not bothered to pick it up; "I thought it's just propaganda -- the same kind of stuff we shoot over to the enemy."

5. POST-WAR: All of these PWs followed more or less closely the Goebbels line, according to which defeat would be a fatal disaster to the European continent in general and to the German nation in particular -- bringing Russian hegemony, Bolshevism, etc. SCHMIDT used the phrase: "Für uns gibt es nur totalen Untergang oder totalen Sieg!" (For us the only alternative is -- total destruction or total victory!) -- RICHTER had heard about the Allied intention to sterilize all Germans but could hardly believe it. He is afraid, however, that his home-town, Breslau, will be taken over by the Russians. He showed no interest in the question of a future German government to be established after the fall of the Nazi régime: "I don't care as long as I am left in peace and able to make a living." As for the four others, they shrugged the question off, as they were incapable of imagining German defeat or a Germany without Hitler. HAYES insisted that, no matter what happens, the Nazi movement will survive in one form or another: "An idea cannot be killed!"

None of them had heard about current rumors according to which the Nazi Party will go underground in the case of German defeat. As for guerrilla resistance in German territories already occupied by the

Allies, SCHMIDT remarked: "The only people still back home are the Party members. All the other able-bodied men are at the front..."

6. MISCELLANEOUS: SCHMIDT, who had been studying philosophy in Heidelberg before he was drafted into the army, asserted that scientific life in Germany was still flourishing and enjoyed complete freedom. Asked whether any ideas not in line with Nazi ideology had ever been mentioned by university professors, he answered: "Of course not! There is only one philosophy being taught at German universities -- the philosophy of National Socialism."

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Sgt. KLAUS MANN & PFC C.H. HESS
Interrogation Section, P.W.B.,
HQ, Fifth Army

1st Ind.
P.W.B., Headquarters Fifth Army, 18 October, 1944
TO: CO, P.W.B., HQ AAI
1, For Information

F. A. McCULLOCH
Lt. Col., Inf.,
Commanding

FIFTH ARMY HEADQUARTERS
Psychological Warfare Branch

23 June, 1944

SUBJECT: Interrogation of German Prisoners-of-War (Report # 35)

TO : CO, Psychological Warfare Branch, Headquarters 5th Army

1. Two Cases of particular Interest for P.W.B.

OBERLEUTNANT OTTO B/BAURER, Heerespanzer-Nebenzeugamt, Spandau (near Berlin); officer, deserter.

Obergefreiter HANS REISER, Kuestenartillerie (Coast Artillery), 1111; deserter.

Lt. Baurer is 36 years old; Catholic; married. He joined the regular German army (Reichswehr) in 1928, and has been with the "Wehrmacht" ever since -- first as an enlisted man, until 1940; then as a technician (in charge of motor cars, etc), -- with the rank of a 1st Lt.; and, since February, 1944, as a regular officer (1st Lt.). ... Born in a small town in the Lake-of-Constance area, near the Swiss frontier. Since in the army, has been stationed mostly in Berlin and vicinity. ... Fairly intelligent but by no means an intellectual. Appears unassuming, very cooperative and absolutely sincere. ... Without being connected with any particular political or religious anti-Nazi group, PW claimed that he was decidedly and implacably anti-Nazi -- even before Hitler came to power, in 1933 -- and that he remained opposed to the regime during the following years. As a member of the old Reichswehr, he distrusted and contempted Nazi doctrines and tactics. Resented infiltration of Nazi propaganda into army ranks. His criticism increased since beginning of War. Never believed in German victory. Asserts that his feelings were shared by many of his fellow-officers -- especially those of the older generation. As for the younger, "there may still be a lot of incurable fanatics..." ... PW had, in Spandau and Berlin, a circle of friends (among them several army physicians), who were in the habit of discussing freely the War situation and listening to foreign radio stations. PW quoted as one of the most outspoken anti-Nazis his own CO -- Major Hutt, chief of the Heerespanzer-Nebenzeugamt. Hutt could never pass by the Hitler portrait placed in his office, without making some irreverent remark -- ridiculing "the greatest strategist of all time," etc. ... One of the officers, however, who participated in the gatherings of PW and his anti-Nazi friends, reported them to the Gestapo as indulging in conversations of a "wehrzerstehend" character (i.e. "corroding the morale of the army"). PW -- warned by the stool pigeon himself -- went to Italy, on faked orders -- determined to come over to our lines. He gave himself up on the first occasion -- wearing his

officer's uniform and carrying a neat little suitcase.... In PW's opinion, Germany will have lost the War in a few months from now. He thinks that Reich ought to be occupied by Allied troops and should be divided. PW is rather eloquent in describing destruction of Berlin and the reduced, primitive life in the German capital. He is likely to have more interesting stories to tell. Unfortunately, the conversation this interrogator had with PW, was interrupted by a G-II officer, who called PW for an interview. PW is recommended for long-term P.W.B. interrogation.

Obergefr. Hans Reiser is 25 years old; single; Catholic; born in Munich; civilian profession: actor (under contract with the Bavarian State Theatre, Munich). ... PW is unusually intelligent -- if somewhat on the emotional and over-enthusiastic side --; very articulate, imaginative, and dynamic; ardently anti-Nazi. Being a professional actor of apparently high standards (and, moreover, experienced in radio work), PW -- who is most eager to contribute as much as possible to the Allied cause -- may prove a valuable asset to our propaganda effort. This interrogator -- being personally acquainted with several of PW's German friends (including PW's dramatic teacher in Munich) -- considers PW's political and moral trustworthiness almost beyond any doubt. ... PW has been with German army for the past 5 years -- temporarily released from military duties for theatrical work in Munich. Witnessed, and took part in, the anti-Nazi riots that ~~took~~ occurred at Munich University, in 1942, and resulted in the execution of one girl student and of 2 young men. PW describes dramatically the incident, which was provoked by a public speech of Gauleiter Paul Giesler (now "Ministerpraesident" of Bavaria), who attacked and ridiculed female students and, when the girls left auditorium as a gesture of protest, had them arrested by SS guards. PW's anti-Nazi feelings were intensified by scenes of horror he witnessed in Poland and Russia -- mass executions of Jewish women and children, etc. Moreover, PW has many interesting details to reveal as regards the corruption of theatrical and artistic life in Munich and other big German cities. He seems to be well acquainted with various leading German actors and actresses who, on their part, are in close contact with Hitler, Goering, Goebbels, etc. One of PW's personal friends was the American step-dance girl, who was repeatedly Hitler's guest at Berchtesgaden, and whose name was repeatedly mentioned, three or four years ago, in American gossip columns, as the American girl whose "beautiful legs bewitched the Fuehrer..." PW has been contemplating desertion for a long time, and finally carried out his plan when he found conditions propitious, after the Allies entered Rome. PW was first hiding, in civilian clothes, in the house of an Italian peasant, MARIANO LANDI (in the village of Palidoro), whom he describes as most helpful and sympathetic; later, in Rome, in the home of an Italian anti-Fascist writer and editor by the name of Brutti. ... PW would like to do everything in his power -- as a propagandist or even as a combat soldier -- to help speeding up Allied victory and the fall of Nazism.

II. Four Deserters

1. PERSONALIA:

Gefr. Franz **AHRENS**, Panzerjaegerabteilung 590; nationality: German. -- Age: 31. -- No religion (Communist). -- Married. -- Residence: Hamburg. -- Occupation: law student. -- Was in concentration camp (Dachau), from Feb. 1934 to summer 1939, on account of anti-Nazi activities. -- Called up: 1943. -- Well-informed and intelligent.

Soldat Ferdinand **WIESER**, Pionier Bn. 192, 29 Div. -- Nationality: Austrian. -- Age: 24. -- Catholic. -- Residence: in the country, near Vienna. -- Occupation: working in father's business. -- Called up: March, 1943. In Italy, since January, 1944. -- Not very intelligent but cooperative and polite. Speaks with thick Austrian accent.

Gefr. Helmut **RICHARDS**, Nachrichtenpark 511, Armee-Oberkommando 10. -- Nationality: German. -- Age: 35. -- Communist. -- Occupation: musician (saxophone player); touring Germany with various bands, working for radio stations, etc. -- Married. -- Called up: May, 1943. -- Intelligent and cooperative.

Gefr. Stanislaw **KNAPIK**, 5th Comp., 40th Jaeger-Rgt., 20th Luftwaffen-Felddivision. -- Nationality: Polish. -- Age: 29. -- Residence: in the country, between Katowice and Cracau. -- Married (3 children). -- Catholic. -- Occupation: technician; later working for German authorities in Poland, as an interpreter (speaking Polish, Russian, German, French, and Italian). -- Intelligent and cooperative.

2. CAPTURE:

AHRENS, **WIESER**, and **RICHARDS** are active deserters, while **KNAPIK** deliberately tarried in Casteldelpiano (on June 19) -- until the French showed up, to whom he promptly surrendered. The three others are full of praise for Italian civilians who helped them in their escape. **AHRENS** was hiding in the home of Italian Partisans, who gave him civilian clothes. **WIESER** -- who had previously tried to desert, in France, in 1943 -- owes this time the success of his venture to an Italian girl, who picked him up, about 3 miles from Santa Fiore, and provided him with civilian clothes and food. In her house, PW met a German lieutenant who dropped in to "organize" some food, and with whom he sat for half-an-hour at one table -- talking Italian with him. **RICHARDS**, too, was helped by an Italian friend -- a shepherd with Communist leanings, who gave him civilian clothes. PW thought the moment for desertion had come when his CO gave orders for destruction of military installations -- which indicated that arrival of Allied troops was imminent. -- **AHRENS** suggested that there might be much more desertions -- in spite of fear of German reprisals against families --: if it were not for the belief of many German soldiers that they would be killed, or mistreated, by Allied troops -- especially Moroccans etc. **AHRENS**, when surrendering in civilian clothes, was threatened with execution by French officer. **WIESER**, however (who surrendered also to French) was well treated by Moroccans.

3. MORALE IN COMPANY:

According to these PWs, the morale in their respective units has reached an alarming low. AHRENS said that the majority of his former comrades are fully aware of Germany's hopeless situation and that their sole desire is, not to get killed or wounded -- "fuenf Minuten vor Torschluss" (five minutes before the end). In WIKER's Bn were about 30 Russians and 20 Austrians -- all of them completely defeatistic and often quarreling with the Germans, some of whom he described as "hopelessly stubborn" ("stur"). ... KNAPIK's unit was formerly stationed in Denmark (November, 1943, to May, 1944) and consists to about 20 % of Poles and Czechs. Officers tried to convince troops that Allied invasion of France has practically failed and that German tanks are breaking through English lines, but were not believed by men. He said that German combat soldiers are greatly depressed about superiority of Allied artillery, which fires 50 or 60 rounds when the Germans fire one... The German sergeant who was with him when PW and several others surrendered to the French, remarked, "Gut -- dann sind wir wenigstens raus aus der Scheisse..." ("All right -- then we are at least through with all that s...") ... RICHARDS's unit consisted of about 40 men (technicians); he thinks that at least 70 or 80 % of them are definitely anti-Nazi and expect German defeat for some time before Christmas. He described the relations between officers and KM as becoming worse and worse. Kesselring -- he said -- is particularly unpopular -- "ein grosser Schweinehund." When the Allies advanced, the Marshal escaped by plane, while the high-ranking officers followed in "Luxuswagen" (luxurious automobiles), and the KM had to look after themselves. ... PWs confirm the usual description of German retreat -- hiding at daytime; moving during the night, on roads jammed with traffic, abandoned vehicles, dead horses, etc. AHRENS thinks that much more German troops might have been trapped and annihilated, if Allies had advanced faster and had acted less cautiously.

4. CONDITIONS AT HOME:

AHRENS, as an active Communist, is experienced in illegal anti-Nazi work and also in the horrors of life in concentration camps. Describes drastically appalling conditions in Dachau, where the SS leaders "study the old books of the Spanish Inquisition to discover new ways of torturing their victims..." The detail by which this interrogator was most struck and shocked, was the one about the German doctors who examine the victims before the physical torture, to make sure how much beating the prisoner might be able to take, and who assist the clubbing, in order to stop it if the victim seems on the point of dying, or -- if the prisoner is not supposed to survive -- to certify his death. ... PW believes that Communism is still strong among German people -- not as an organized party but among individuals and small groups. In Hamburg -- he says -- a group of 23 men, including his brother-in-law, were recently arrested on account of Communist activities; 20 of them were killed. After the heavy air raids on Hamburg, no Nazi official could dare, for several days, to show himself in the streets. There was -- according to PW -- considerable resentment

against the Anglo-Americans, but even more bitterness directed against the Nazi government. However, PW does not think that the German people have a chance to make a revolution before Allies reach German territory. ... The part of Poland where KNAPIK's family lives, has not yet been affected by air raids. Yet living conditions are bad. PW heard many stories about Polish Underground but was not in direct contact with it. He has also read about tension between Soviets and Polish Government in Exile, but took reports for German propaganda. Believes that Stalin favours Polish independence. Does not believe in German story of Soviets having killed Polish officers. Friends of PW witnessed arrest of some of those Polish officers by German Gestapo... Polish intelligentsia -- PW maintains -- has been almost completely annihilated by Germans. ... WIESER holds that in Austria practically everybody is fed up with Nazism and War, and hoping for German defeat and Austrian independence. PW has not heard about Moscow Declaration, but expects some kind of "democratic government" -- preferably a democratic monarchy. Otto of Habsburg -- he says -- has many followers in Austria. Pressure of Nazi terror increases: "Jeder ist eingesperrt..." ("Everybody feels like in jail.") ... RICHARDS says that there are -- and have been, for the last ten years -- only three groups in Germany: Nazis, Communists, and "those on the fence," (whom PW holds mostly responsible for the War etc.) PW's wife is now living in East Prussia -- running a big farm, together with relatives. There are only 4 Germans working on the farm, while the others are Russians, Poles, etc. PW says that his wife -- as almost everybody in Germany -- is afraid of the revenge the foreigners are likely to take, if and when Germany loses war. He thinks morale on the "home front" very low, and believes it is even lower among German soldiers stationed in France.

5. PROPAGANDA:

All of these PWs have seen Allied leaflets. AHRENS recalls "Frontpost" (which he calls "Luftpost") and "Landser Haben das Wort." He didn't care for the latter -- being unpleasantly touched by the humorous note: "That's the kind of stuff the Nazis keep telling us, as they don't have anything else to say. But you should be more serious and factual..." WIESER remembers a leaflet about the fall of Rome, which an Austrian Uffz openly displayed in the orderly room, until the CO -- very angry -- gave orders to destroy it at once. KNAPIK mentioned the same leaflet, and also one about our invasion of France. He thinks that about 80 % of the German soldiers believe in what the Allied leaflets say. ... RICHARDS quoted the title of a leaflet, "Wo bleibt die deutsche Luftwaffe?". Also, he listened frequently to BBC broadcasts and sometimes to an Allied station in Italy, broadcasting in German (probably the 5th Army station). AHRENS is willing, indeed, eager to work for Allied propaganda. RICHARDS, too, would like to cooperate -- preferably in his capacity as a musician. Both might prove useful for P.W.B. purposes.

6. MISCELLANY:

Of these four anti-Nazi PWs, only one -- Gefr. AHRENS -- had heard about General von SEYDLITZ and the activities of the Moscow committee. ... None of them believes in the existence of a Secret Weapon, while three of them think it likely that Germany is going to use poison gas. Only KAPNIK doubts that the general staff would ever employ such a desperate weapon -- even if Hitler were willing to do so: "It would be suicide for Germany..." In Denmark -- he says -- there was weekly drill with gas masks, while at the Italian front the wearing of gas masks is not being enforced. The three others, however, assert that "Gasschutzuebungen" (drill with gasmasks, etc) were very frequent of late, and that the opinion prevails among German soldiers that poison gas may prove the weapon that brings the final decision. AHRENS says that his unit was officially warned that the outbreak of the "gas war" was imminent; his CO is supposed to have suggested that Germany will probably take the initiative... RICHARDS says that German people "are praying that they may be spared gas attacks," but that most Germans believe poison gas will be Hitler's "ultima ratio." According to WIESER, German soldiers expect poison gas to be first used by Allies; there seem to be rumors about gigantic gas supplies Allies transported to France. ... AHRENS says that the "pilotless," or "robot," planes used by the Germans in recent attacks on England, did not come as a surprise to German soldiers, who had often heard about this new device. He thinks, however, that this new "Raketenflugzeug" will hardly prove of decisive effectiveness, as the Germans are not in a position to afford any mass production -- with most German factories being destroyed or damaged.

III . Two Nazis

Gefr. Karl SCHMIDT, Sturmregiment 12 (Fallschirmjager), 4. Div.
 -- Age: 20. -- Residence: Siegen, Westphalia. -- Single. -- Catholic.
 -- Profession: locksmith and machinist. -- Called up: October, 1942.
 -- In Italy, since January, 1944 (stationed at Nettuno beachhead).
 -- Last furlough, May 12; returned to front, after fall of Rome.
 -- Intelligence: mediocre. Completely indoctrinated.
 Grenadier Guenther GUENZEL, 10. Comp., 3. Bn., 361 Rgt., 90. Div.
 -- Age: 19. -- Residence: Breslau. -- Profession: technician. -- Single. -- Catholic. -- Called up: August, 1943. -- Last furlough: January, 1944. -- In Italy, since beginning of March. (Stationed at Cassino; wounded there, 14 days hospital, then back to front).
 -- Intelligence: mediocre. Without strong political interest or enthusiasm, but following in general the Nazi Party line in his ideas and statements.

SCHMIDT is the only one among the PWs interrogated for this report, who claims that his unit has not suffered any considerable losses; that the morale ~~is~~ ^(was) high, the food ~~is~~ ^{adequate}, and that

the retreat -- or rather, the "strategic withdrawal" ("Absetzbewegung") was carried out by daylight, in the most orderly fashion. ... Even this PW admits that Allies might succeed, eventually, in occupying the whole of Italy; he does not believe, however, that such a development would have any decisive influence on the outcome of the War: "The decision will be made in France. Of course, if the Anglo-Americans ^{succeed} in establishing and widening their beachhead -- that might mean quite a blow..." But he does not think that this is likely to happen. The official German radio station ("Wehrmachtssender") has informed German soldiers that the Allied armies in Normandy have been split into two parts by German forces, etc. ... Both PWs believe in Secret Weapon; neither seems to consider "piloteless planes" the real thing: they expect more terrific weapons to come. GUENZEL is one shade less confident than SCHMIDT: "Maybe this whole talk about 'Vergeltung' has just been made up to make the Landsers feel better," says he. "But again, maybe it's more than just propaganda. In any case, the Secret Weapon is the Landsers' last hope..." While SCHMIDT does not think poison gas is going to be used, GUENZEL is of the opinion that it will probably be employed. ... SCHMIDT does not admit any doubts as to ultimate German victory: "Als guter Deutscher, glaube ich natuerlich fest an den Sieg!" ("Being a good German, I am naturally convinced of German victory!") He does not know how Germany will win; she just must win, as the Fuehrer has promised it. GUENZEL -- somewhat more skeptical -- answers: "Victory? I don't know... Sometimes I feel that I don't have any opinion anymore. After all, everybody is the product of his own country's propaganda..." ("Jeder ist seines eigenen Landes Propaganda Sohn...") ... He admits that it looks pretty bad, just now, for Adolf Hitler's State. ("Es stent wieder mal schlecht um Adolf Hitlers Staat...") Yet, Frederick of Prussia, too, was in a fix and in the end came out victorious. Besides ^{PW} has been told by friends that British officers in captivity keep saying that Britain will eventually fight with Germany against Russia. GUENZEL feels that such a development is likely to take place -- even if Germany should lose the War and the Hitler regime should fall. England -- he suggests -- might come to terms with Germany, if Russia's demands become too imoderate, during the peace conference. ... SCHMIDT has seen Duisburg and other Rhenish cities, heavily bombarded by Allies, but is of the opinion that air raids will never break German morale, no matter how much suffering they may inflict on German women and children: "The German people believe positively in German victory and hope that Hitler will not disappoint them!" ("Das deutsche Volk glaubt schwer an den Sieg und hofft doch sehr, dass der Fuehrer sie nicht enttauschen wird!") Both PWs have seen various Allied leaflets. SCHMIDT claims to recall one about the German occupation of Hungary, "Ein feiger Ueberfall auf Ungarn" (?), which he thought exaggerated. He has

never listened to Allied broadcasts -- only to the "Wehrmachts-sender": "That was sufficient for me..." ... GUENZEL remembers leaflets about Cassino, issues of "Frontpost," and a leaflet with the title, "Der Weg nach Hause geht ueber die Gefangenschaft" -- describing good treatment in Allied captivity. PW believed in what the leaflet said, but never considered desertion: "I had a furlough coming, in a few weeks from now. Now, since I have been captured, it may take years before I come home again..."

RECEIVED
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Klaus Mann
T/3 KLAUS MANN

1st Ind.

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH, Headquarters 5th Army, 23 June, 1944.
TO: C.O., P.W.B., A.F.H.Q., through O.C., P.W.B., H.Q., A.A.I.

F. A. McCULLOCH,
Lieut. Col., Inf.
Commanding.

FIFTH ARMY HEADQUARTERS
Psychological Warfare Branch

June 27, 1944

SUBJECT: Interrogation of German Prisoner-of-War (Report # 36)

TO : CO, Psychological Warfare Branch, Headquarters 5th Army

A German-American in the German Army

Obergefreiter WOLFGANG DOMAN, 19. Luftwaffen-Felddivision. -- Age: 26. -- Nationality: German. -- Single. -- Occupation: Student (economics). -- Called up: January, 1940. -- DESERTER. -- Came to Italy two days before his desertion. Was hiding with Italian Partisans, near Sumeritto -- fighting the Fascists with them.

Personal Background: PW is the stepson of the songstress Elisabeth RETHBERG, who -- he says -- is much closer to him than his own mother. PW's father is an industrialist, Albert DOMAN -- living in Germany, but -- according to PW -- opposed to the Nazi regime. Madame Rethberg is an American citizen -- one of the stars of the Metropolitan Opera. (It has been criticized, however, that Madame Rethberg sang at the Berlin State Opera, several years after Hitler's government had been established, and that she continued to appear ~~in~~ at the Salzburg festivals, when the Nazis had already taken over and all anti-Nazi artists refused to collaborate. Also, Madame Rethberg was for many years an intimate friend -- or, allegedly, the fiancée -- of the Italian singer Enzo Pinza, who was interned in Ellis Island by the U.S. authorities, in 1942, on account of his pro-Fascist leanings and activities.) PW went to school in the U.S., from 1924 to 1932 (Riverdale Country School). His English seems almost perfect. He then went to Switzerland (Basel and Lausanne), and subsequently studied in Germany (Goettingen). The family had a summer house in Ascona, Switzerland, where PW made the acquaintance of prominent German refugees -- Emil Ludwig, Remarque, and others.

MILITARY HISTORY: PW had various kinds of jobs in the German army, but was mostly used as an interpreter. On the Eastern front, he was for a while monitoring BBC broadcasts and had to report about them to Lt. General SOMME. In Frankfurt-Oberursel, PW was assigned to the most important (or -- as PW claims -- the only) German Intelligence unit specializing in interrogation of Anglo-American pilots. Thanks to his American education, -- PW asserts -- he got along nicely with the Allied fliers. Yet he found it difficult to obtain any military information from

them -- or rather (as PW added), "I've never tried very hard to get anything out of them..." ... PW was stationed in Lille, France, when our invasion started. He left his unit and was hiding in the house of French friends -- contemplating desertion to Allied forces. Our advance in Normandy, however, turned out to be not quite so rapid as he had anticipated. He decided, therefore, to get himself transferred to Italy. ... The morale of the German troops in France -- PW said -- was in general fairly good. He believes that at least 100 German divisions are stationed in France. Many German soldiers -- he thinks -- are of the opinions that Hitler has "allowed" Allied forces to land in Northern France, in order "to destroy as many enemy divisions as possible" -- with the "secret weapon" or otherwise... This interpretation of recent Allied successes in France has never been confirmed officially (according to PW), but is a rumor popular among German soldiers.

General OUTLOOK: PW is most eager to become an American citizen. Allegedly, he has always been anti-Nazi. He joined the "Wehrmacht" as he was compelled to do so. Never believed in German victory. He feels, however, that we ought not to underrate the fighting spirit of the German soldiers. What keeps them going (according to PW) is, first, their fear of a devastating mass revenge -- an immense slaughter ("ein riesenhaftes Blutbad") that would take in Germany in the case of Allied victory; and, second, the hope that the Anglo-Americans might eventually come to an understanding with Germany -- against the Soviet Union. As for the former point, PW asserts that Goebbels has been only too successful in convincing the German people of the inhuman character of Allied post-war plans. A book like Kaufmann's "Germany must perish" -- PW says -- is being frequently quoted in the German press and presented as an official, or semi-official, American document. ... None of the leading generals -- PW believes -- would ever think of surrendering individually. When the Allied troops and the Red Army reach the German frontier, the "Wehrmacht" is likely to defend the territory of the Reich and if possible. ... PW thinks that "Vergeltung" and "secret the German have probably told him about a gas more effective than believe that poison PW, while describing high, believes that creasing on the especially in Gestapo man :

is plotting with Bavarian noblemen and generals against the Nazi regime.

Propaganda: PW has not seen any of our leaflets here -- having been in Italy only for two days. He was, however, a regular BBC listener and also heard occasionally Radio Tunis. Moreover, he has seen various English leaflets in Germany and France. Most of them were in his opinion "too threatening" -- promising to the Germans all kinds of coming distasters and thus strengthening their morale, or their will of resistance, rather than to weaken it. PW thinks our propaganda could be effective only if we were in a position to make definite statements about our post-War plans. But even if we could do so, PW wonders whether we would succeed in convincing the Germans of our good intentions; for they would always remember Wilson's Fourteen Points which, in German opinion, were ignored by the victorious Allies, in 1919...

cf/see

T/3 KLAUS MANN

1st Ind.

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH, headquarters Fifth Army, 27 June, 1944
To CO, P.W.B., A.F.H.Q., through O.C., P.W.B., H.Q., A.A.I.

F.A. McCULLOCH,
Lt. Col., Inf.
Commanding

X
FIFTH ARMY HEADQUARTERS

Psychological Warfare Branch

25 May, 1944

SUBJECT: Interrogation of German Prisoners-of-War

TO : CO, Psychological Warfare Branch, Fifth Army

I. 9 ANTI-NAZIS

1. PERSONALIA:

Josef VAJDIC, Obersoldat; 2nd Comp., 194 Field Reserve Rgt.
Age: 21. - Yugoslav. - Catholic. - Residence: Satteldorf,
near the Croatian frontier. - Occupation: driver. - Single. -
Called up: 10 Feb., 1942. - Last leave: March, 1944. -
Has been stationed in Sicily; then in Italy, for one year --
mostly as a driver. - Intelligence: average. - Captured:
18 May, near Formia, by Americans -- without having fired
a shot... Special remark: PW was courtmartialled because he
had slapped the face of a German "Unteroffizier" who called
him an "Austrian swine." PW was given "Frontbewaehrung" and
~~he was~~ assigned to an "Alarmkompanie."

Rudolf IDE, Soldat; Stabskompanie, 194th Rgt. - Age: 19. -
German. - Protestant. - Residence: Quedlinburg (Harz). -
Occupation: farmhand. - Single. - Called up: 16 October, 1942. -
Last leave: November, 1943. - Captured by French - without any
resistance. - Intelligence: average; immature but lively and
observant.

Hermann AGTEN, Soldat; Fallschirmjaeger, 110 Rgt. 4th Div.
Age: 17. - Nationality: German. - Religion: Protestant. -
Residence: Gronau (Westphalia). - Occupation: Laborer (textile
industry). - Called up: July, 1943. - Last furlough: June, 1943
(when stationed in Berlin, as member of a semimilitary youth
organization). - Intelligence: average. - Captured: 8 May, on
the beachhead, by Americans. Deserter.

? PASCH, Soldat; 194 Rgt., 94 Div. (Untergruppe Blesch, Gruppe
Schulze). - Age: 24. - Yugoslav. - Catholic. - Residence:
San Martin (Yugoslavia). - Single. - Called up: December, 1942. -
Last leave: September, 1943. - Captured: May 20, by Americans.
- Intelligence: average. - Deserter.

Gerhard SEIFERT, Soldat; 194 Rgt. - Age: 29. - Nationality:
German. - Religion: Protestant. - Residence: Bremen (born in
Chemnitz). - Occupation: Laborer (war industry). - Married;
one child. - Called up: 1942. - Last leave: December, 1943. -
Captured: 21 May, by Americans. No resistance. - Intelligence:
good average.

P28 MN

Ernst BRANDT, Uffz.; 1st Comp., 433 Baubattillon, 15 P.Div. - Age: 42. - German. - Communist. - Residence: Loburg, near Magdeburg. - Occupation: Mason. - Married. - Called up: 1942; discharged, on account of his political record; re-drafted in 1943. - Captured: May 21, near San Biagio, by Americans. - Deserter (passive). -- Intelligence: HIGH. Very articulate and politically schooled. Redlined for P.W.B.

Hermann WILL, Soldat; 33 Pionier Btn., 15th Div. (1st Comp.) - Age: 36. - German. - Protestant. - Born in Belgium; residence: Berlin. - Single. - Occupation: Mechanic (planned to become engineer) temporarily, teacher at Berlitz School, London. - Called up: November 1943. - Captured: 20 May, by French. - Deserter. - Unusually intelligent; good linguist (speaks German, English, French, Portuguese, etc.) - Redlined for P.W.B. -- Special Remark: PW was in the concentration camp of Oranienburg (Sachsenhausen), from November 8, 1939, to November 5, 1943 -- the date of his military induction. He gave the names and addresses of several persons in England, the U.S., and Brazil, who would be willing to confirm his story. His papers (including the "Entlassungsschein" from concentration camp) were kept by French officer who first interrogated him. Franz BORDEHL, Gefr.; 1st Comp., 15 P.Div., 33 Btn. -- Age: 35. - Austrian. - Catholic. - Residence: Vienna. - Occupation: Mechanic (car repairing). - Married (no children). - Called up: November, 1942. - Last leave: November, 1943. - Captured: 17 May, by French (Moroccans), near Esperia. - Deserter. - Intelligence: high. Violently anti-Nazi. Good storyteller (with Austrian accent). Redlined for P.W.B.

Walter HABERLAND, Feldwebel; 2nd AA, 400 Rgt. - Age: 29. - German. - Protestant. - Residence: Rauscher (Oberlausitz; near Goerlitz). - Occupation: Shoemaker. - Married (one child). - In the army, since 1935 (with a few interruptions). -- Has been for two and a-half years in Italy; 3 weeks in line. -- Captured: May 17, by French (Moroccans), near Itri. -- without resistance. - Intelligence: high. Unusually frank, unassuming and sympathetic.

2. MORALE IN COMPANY:

All these PWs seem to agree that the morale in their respective units is deteriorating. They believe that the majority of their former comrades have lost, or are on the point of losing, their faith in both victory and Nazism. Rudolf IDE thinks that at least 80 % of the German soldiers he knows are fundamentally anti-Nazi, although not all of them dare to admit their feelings. Hermann AGTEN thinks that practically all the German soldiers (including officers) would much rather become prisoners than continue to fight: "Satt haben's alle..." (They are all fed up). - If the discipline still is more or less intact, it is only on account of compulsion. The expression, "freiwilliger Zwang" or "freiwilliges Muss" (voluntary compulsion) seems to be a favourite slogan -- returning in the statements of many PWs (not only anti-Nazis). -- There are complaints about food, which is adequate in the rear areas but very poor in the front line, because of

transportation difficulties. (AGTEN about food conditions: "Mies wars ja..." -- SEIFERT had had no food, sleep or cigarettes for the last four days preceding his captivity.) -- The powerful fire of our artillery seems to impress German soldiers and to undermine their morale; especially BODERL emphasized how terrific the Allied barrage was in the area of Esperia. -- Another factor affecting German morale is the often-mentioned absence of the German "Luftwaffe." -- Evidently, the morale of the older men is poorer than the morale of the younger soldiers; the oldest one among these 9 PWs -- Ernst BRANDT (42) -- dwelled particularly on this theme. He suggests that the induction of older men -- fathers or several children, etc. -- is an angle that could be effectively used in our propaganda. He knows various stories about fathers, now serving in the "Wehrmacht," whose sons were forced to join the SS against their (the fathers') will and were subsequently killed in Russia, etc. -- Also, there are complaints about officers and non-coms. IDE dislikes his officers -- especially his CO, Hauptmann MICHAEL. Had a quarrel with his platoon leader -- an "Oberfeldwebel" -- because he (the non-com) failed to accompany his troops when it came to action. AGTEN spoke bitterly about one Lt. SCHLIEDER, who would "send his own people into certain death." Feldwebel HABERLAND -- an experienced soldier who has seen action in Poland, France, Russia, etc -- has much to say about the incompetence and arrogance of young officers, who have just finished their training in the "Ordensburgen" and are eager to get themselves decorated with the E.K.I or the Ritterkreuz. -- The 3 "volksdeutsche" (non-German-born) PWs -- VAJDIC, PASCH, and BODERL -- feel that they were unfairly treated by the German non-coms and, at times, by their fellow-soldiers. In their respective units, there were only a few "Volksdeutsche" (Austrians, Yugoslavs, Alsations), who seem to have stuck together against the German-born majority. -- The 5 deserters (AGTEN, PASCH, BRANDT, WILL, and BODERL) are not ashamed of what they have done -- on the contrary. AGTEN suggests that most of his comrades would like to do the same thing, if they only had the opportunity. PASCH says it was all very simple: he was just hiding in a house until the Americans came to catch him. BRANDT, too, is a "passive" deserter. BODERL has the most dramatic story to tell (hiding in bushes; fired-at by Allies; pistol ready to shoot any German who would try to stop him, and, if no chance to escape, to shoot himself... etc) -- All these men had been considering and preparing desertion for quite some time. BRANDT and WILL -- both having been in jail, respectively concentration camp -- tried to get to the front line for the definite purpose of deserting as soon as feasible. -- While BRANDT and WILL (both politically schooled) kept their plan completely secret, PASCH, the Yugoslav, and BODERL, the Austrian, discussed it with "a few selected friends" -- that is, with other "Volksdeutsche." BODERL escaped together with one fellow Austrian.

3. OUTLOOK:

All these PWs are sure that Germany will lose the war and that the war will be over this year. Feldwebel HABERLAND -- the most experienced soldier among them -- believes that the Allies will be in Rome in a few weeks from now, and that Germany will collapse "in two or three months." -- According to these 9 men, there is hardly anybody left in the "Wehrmacht" who still believes in the "Secret Weapon" or in "Vergeltung." Many of them quote the following joke: "Die Geheimwaffe? - Das sind die Sechzigjährigen!" ("The Secret Weapon? - That's the sixty-year-old men!") -- which seems to be popular also with less outspoken anti-Nazis. --- They all are convinced that Germany is responsible for the war. BOEDERL, the Austrian, and VAJDIC and PASCH, the Yugoslavs, blame the Reich for having forced their respective homelands into the conflict. BRANDT, the Communist, explains Hitler's war policy from a Marxist point of view ("capitalistic imperialism," etc), while WILL, the cosmopolitan and democrat, utterly dislikes Prussian militarism, etc. But even Rudolf IDE, a simple German youth from Quedlinburg, says that "there would be no war without Germany." -- After Hitler's fall, they all expect occupation of German territory; some predict division of the Reich. HABERLAND thinks that the German people will not have any considerable influence on the formation of a future German government ("Die werden wohl nichts mitzureden haben..."). BRANDT and WILL hope for a democratic regime -- the former emphasizing that the Communists would have to be strongly represented. VAJDIC has not much of a political vision; PASCH thinks Marshal TITO the coming man of Yugoslavia. BOEDERL expects an independent Austria -- either as a republic or under the rule of OTTO OF HABSBURG: "Whatever the Americans want..." -- All of them (with the exception of BRANDT) seem more or less afraid of Russia. -- None of them likes Italy. (HABERLAND points out that the Italians betrayed both the Allies and the Germans and keep sabotaging the war effort of both sides.) -- As for their "pet animosities" among Nazi chieftains, most of them pick Hitler; only two of them -- AGTEN and HABERLAND (both Germans) -- think that Hitler personally is "not so bad" and that Goering is indeed the main culprit. -- IDE and AGTEN -- 19 and 17 years of age -- do not remember the names of BRUENING, STRESEMANN, etc. -- They all seem still to be very much interested in the case of RUDOLF HESS, who was, in their unanimous opinion, by far the most popular Nazi "bigshot." Most of them believe that HESS was sent by HITLER to England, in order to discuss "an alliance against Russia;" especially BRANDT dwelled on this point and on its political implications.

4. PROPAGANDA:

Among these 9 anti-Nazis, only four have actually seen our leaflets

or listened to our broadcasts, while all of them have heard about our propaganda efforts. VAJDIC remembers a leaflet addressed to the Austrians ("Oesterreicher, kommt! Helf den Krieg schneller beenden!" ...etc) and a BBC broadcast he heard several months ago, when on furlough. BRANDT, who was a regular reader of our leaflets, recalls particularly FRONTPOST also, he referred to our premature leaflet dealing with the beachhead situation, which was called a "bluff", at the time, but -- in PW's opinion -- has been confirmed by recent developments. BRANDT believes that this would be the right moment for us to intensify our propaganda effort. -- WILL, too, has read issues of FRONTPOST and DAS FUENFTE JAHR. -- BODEHL carried in his pocket a copy of our leaflet, "Wer kaempft fuer Oesterreichs Untergang?" and the FRONTPOST of February 27. He was particularly impressed by a booklet with Hitler pictures, taken from the film, "Triumph des Willens." Thinks our propaganda should ~~more~~ stick to facts and avoid rhetorics. -- BODEHL has heard about Moscow declaration concerning Austrian independence. Only BRANDT and WILL know about the Moscow committee of anti-Nazi German officers (General von Seydlitz, etc)

5. CONDITIONS AT HOME:

VAJDIC: PW's father -- unpolitical -- was forced to leave his home-town and expropriated by Nazis because of his dealings with Jews. Hopes for Nazi fall as he likes to do business with Jews. Calls Nazis "die Braune Pest, von der Deutschland heimgesucht wird." Many of the able-bodied men in Yugoslavia have been killed or removed to other areas. General unrest; sympathies for Partisans. Terrible food conditions. -- PW travelled in Germany; overheard anti-Prussian conversations in Munich: "Preussen haben die grosse Goschen..." (Prussians have a big mouth...) etc.

IDE: PW's father politically in disgrace -- PW asserts, not to know reasons. Did not receive any "Winterhilfe." His mother, who gave birth to 10 children, was not given the Nazi "Mutterkreuz" (Mother Cross). PW worked as a gardener with several French PWs in his home-town. One of the Frenchmen was eager to get home and expected to be released if he saved the life of one German citizen. IDE agreed to jump into a river, in order to be "saved" by French PW -- who consequently was free to return to France.

AGTEN: Father working in Bochum armament factory badly damaged by Allied air raid ("'ne ganze Ecke ist weg...") PW's home-town (Gronau, Westphalia), not yet considerably affected by raids; but mother reports constant movements of Allied aircraft -- en route to Hamburg, Berlin, Ruhrland, etc.

PASCH: thinks 99% of all the Yugoslavs anti-German. Bad food conditions. PW's family do not speak German: therefore disastrously handicapped.

SEIFERT: used to work for air-plane factory ("Weser-Flugzeugbau-gesellschaft"), in Bremen. Many of his fellow-workers, Frenchmen -- who were not too bad off, yet impatient to get home. PW thinks foreign workers would join Allies, when Invasion comes.

BRANDT: has been a member of the German Communist Party since 1927. Several times arrested. Could not participate actively in underground work as watched by Gestapo. Kept contacts with Communist friends. Thinks Communism still very much alive in Germany; scattered members of Party will find each other when hour comes. Has seen inscriptions on walls, in Magdeburg and other German cities: "Nieder mit Hitler! Es lebe die Sowjetunion!" etc. Has been told that Communist leader, THAKELMANN, is still alive -- in a prison in Hannover, Alte Zeller Heerstrasse.

WILL: Is preparing a list of sadists in Oranienburg concentration camp.

BOELDEFL: His sister committed suicide as she feared concentration camp -- having refused to do forced labor (Arbeitsdienst). Mother had nervous breakdown. PW afraid Nazis might kill her, as it is their policy to "liquidate" the insane. -- PW is full of stories about Nazi atrocities he witnessed both in France (where he used to be stationed) and in Austria. Says that life in Vienna has become quite unbearable for anybody not affiliated with Nazis. General misery; high prices (people pay 2 Mark for one cigarette, as only three cigarettes are allowed per day...) -- PW admits that that a certain percentage of Austrians (less than one half, in his opinion) still are fanatically pro-Nazi - while the other part is even more fanatically anti: "Die winden sich in Kraempfen von Scham und Wut..." (They writhe in convulsions of shame and rage...)

HABEFLAND: states that in Silesia people expect Russian invasion. Factories -- especially in Posen -- and Silesian coal mines affected by air raids. -- PW's wife wrote from home that she saw English leaflets.

II.

7. HALF-DISILLUSIONED GERMANS

1. PERSONALIA:

Emilian WEIS, Gefreiter; Nachschubskompanie, 194 I. Rgt.
 Age: 41. - Sudeten German. - Catholic. - Residence: Stanowitz (small town, near Marienbad). - Occupation: Technician (working on Reichsautobahn). - Married (3 children). - Called up: February, 1943. - Last leave: November/December, 1943. - In Italy, since August, 1943; in line ("Alarmkompanie"), for three or four days. - Captured: May 19, near Itri, by Americans. - Intelligence: average.

Kurt HYMACZYK, Gefr.; 2nd Comp., 1st Btn., 71 PG Rgt.
 Age: 18. - German. - Protestant. - Residence: Gersfeld (near Fulda). - Occupation: Student. (Attended a special academy for education in political leadership.) - Called up: 1943. - Last leave: February, 1944. - Intelligence: fairly high. - Captured: 21 May, near Monte Calvo, by Americans.

Moritz KAUFFELT, Soldat; Fahrkolonne 1, 94th Rgt. - Age: 45. - Nationality: Letland (German-speaking). - Born in Riga; family now transplanted to Poland. - Protestant. - Married (2 children). - Occupation: Worker. - Called up: November, 1943. - In line: 4 days. - Captured: May 19, near Itri, by Americans. - Intelligence: rather low.

Karl KREMER, Gefr.; Untergruppe Blesch, Kampftruppe Schulze (194 Art. Rgt., 94 I. Div.) - Nationality: German. - ~~Protestant~~ Catholic. - Occupation: Worker. - Married (one child). - Called up: 1942. - Last leave: July, 1943. - In Italy since November, 1943. - Captured: 19 May, by Americans. - Intelligence: average.

Horst SCHLEIF, Gefr.; Untergruppe Blesch, Kampftruppe Schulze (like KREMER). - Age: 22. - German. - Protestant. - Residence: Leipzig. - Occupation: Manson. - Single. - Called up: December, 1941. - Last leave: August, 1943. - With unit, since December, 1943. - Captured: 19 May (with KREMER). - Intelligence: average.

Otto GEMKING, Gefr.; 9th Comp., 274 I. Rgt., 94 Div. - Age: 31. - German. - Protestant. - Residence: Bremen. - Occupation: worker (cigarettes factory). - Married. - Called up: 1941. - In Italy: since February, 1943. - Last leave: January, 1944. - Captured: 21 May, near Fondi, by Americans. - Intelligence: average.

Hermann BREITWIESER, Soldat; 4th Comp., 433 Bau-Btn., 94 Div. - Age: 41. - German. - Protestant. - Occupation: Gardener. - Married (3 children). - Residence: in the country, near Darmstadt. - Called up: February, 1943. - Last leave: February, 1944. - Captured: 21 May, at San Biaggio, by Americans. - Intelligence: average.

2. MORALE IN COMPANY:

According to these PWs, the morale in their respective units has been definitely declining during the past few weeks preceding their captivity -- especially since the beginning of new Allied offensive. -- WEIS said that soldiers in his company were talking

about Allied artillery and air superiority, destruction of German war industry, loss of Rumanian oil, etc. His CO -- Hauptmann HEISE -- was not particularly popular: "eine etwas strenge Natur -- echt preussisch..." (A severe nature -- typically Prussian). -- Hard work, little sleep, inadequate food (especially in the front line). -- KAUFFELT -- 45 years old -- pointed out that the three men with whom he shared his fox hole are about his own age-- all extremely dissatisfied. -- KREMER says that men in his unit were greatly impressed by superiority of Allied material, and that more than half of the German soldiers he knows have lost, or are on the point of losing, faith in German victory. Yet few of them would ever think of desertion: "Wenn wir all davonlaufen wuerden -- dann waer' ja der Krieg gleich verloren..." ("If all of us would run off -- then the war would be lost at once...") -- SCHLEIF believes that about 75 % of soldiers in his company still expect German victory -- not realizing the strength of Allied material. -- GEHRKING says the main interest of "Landers" is, quick end of the War -- "so oder so..." -- There were about 60 men in one "Bunker" when PW was captured. Almost no ammunition. Received Americans with white flag: "Kamerad, nicht schiessen! We surrender!" Says that everybody (including the non-coms) was happy when the moment came at last: "There is no sense in fighting tanks, if one has just a rifle and a few bullets left..."

3. OUTLOOK:

Of these 7 PWs only one -- Gefr. KREMER -- thinks that German victory still is possible; but even he admits that situation is pretty dreary, right now; ("sieht ja jetzt alles ziemlich mies aus...") The others expect German defeat before end of year. (KAUFFELT: "Wenn die Aepfel werden reif sein, wird auch der Krieg vorbei sein..." -- "When the apples will be ripe, the war will be over, too...") Some of them were still inclined to believe in victory, before they saw Allied strength as displayed behind our lines. (RYMACZYK: "Als ich das gesehen hab, da hab ich mir gesagt: Armes Deutschland, pack ein!") -- RYMACZYK is the only one among them who was actively Nazi, but gradually "lost his idealism." WEIS, the Sudeten German, was a Party member, but just in order to get himself a job: "Es war nur eine Formsache..." ("It was just a formality.") The others call themselves "unpolitical;" (Gefr. GEHRKING: "Keine Politik -- nur Wassersport!" -- "No Politics -- only water sport!") -- All of them agree that the German government will go on fighting as long as possible: Hitler has no other alternative. The Fuehrer -- one of them suggests -- just wants to have "some more beautiful hours" ("will nur noch ein paar schoene Stunden haben"), before his inevitable fall takes place. -- Six of these 7 PWs agree that Hitler, in the case of defeat, is likely to commit suicide (an opinion which was also expressed by the 9 anti-Nazis). (KAUFFELT: "Courage hat er ja -- und keine Familie! Der wird sich eine Kugel vor den Kopf schiessen..." -- "After all, he has courage -- and no family! He'll shoot himself...") BREITWIESER suggests that

one should leave Hitler to the German people: "They'll take care of him..." -- All of them seem to take it for granted that Germany will be occupied by Allied troops, in the case of defeat-- hoping that the occupation army will be Anglo-American, not Russian. -- No belief in Secret Weapon; several quote the joke about the sixty-year-old men who are "the Secret Weapon." -- Gefr. WEIS stated that there is an increasing fear among German soldiers that Nazis might use poison gas before surrendering. KREMER, on the other hand, thinks that Hitler would never start gas war. -- No definite ideas about future German government. Some remember BRUENING. (BREITWIESER: "Unter den Sozialdemokraten haben wirs ja ganz schoen gehabt..." -- "Under the Social Democrats, we've been fairly well off..") --

~~4.~~

4. CONDITIONS AT HOME:

WEIS, the Sudeten German, says that the popularity of the Nazi stooge, HENLEIN, has rapidly declined in his homeland. People think that HENLEIN has failed to live up to his many promises and has abused his power to enrich himself. (Rumors that HENLEIN gave three big land estates to his three lazy sons.) -- In the case of German defeat, Sudeten Germans expect to become citizens of Czechoslovakia again. -- PW believes that most of the more mature and reasonable Sudeten Germans are completely fed up with Nazism, whereas among the younger ~~one~~ many still are under the spell of Nazi propaganda ("... immer noch betoert"...)

RYMACZYK feels that the exorbitant taxes are an important factor in embittering German population. Two-thirds of all the Germans, he says, have been in jail -- "for one kind of crime or another..."

KAUFFELT, from Riga, gives as one of the main reasons of discontentment in the Baltic states the mass transplantations of families to Poland, ("Umsiedlung"). He believes that people in Balticum are more anti-German than anti-Russian.

KREMER's home in Krefeld was destroyed by Allied bombs while he was wounded at Stalingrad. Wife saved as in shelter.

GEHRKING found his home-town (Bremen) "terribly destroyed" when last visiting it (January). His wife -- evacuated. -- Food conditions still fairly good.

BREITWIESER has heard about destruction in Darmstadt and other cities in this neighbourhood. -- Thinks revolution might break out any day, if it were not for Gestapo and "a few fanatics."

5. PROPAGANDA:

None of these PWs has seen Allied leaflets on the Southern front or listened to our broadcasts. All of them -- except KREMER -- have heard about leaflets, however. No opportunity of reading "enemy propaganda," as it had to be turned in immediately. -- SCHLEIF remembers having seen Russian leaflets, on the Eastern front. -- KREMER, who was at Stalingrad, remembers vaguely the name of General VON SEYDLITZ, but knows nothing about him. -- None of them has ever heard the name of General DITTMAR.

III. ONE NAZI

1. PERSONALIA:

Horst KOENIGS, Gefr.; 2nd Comp., 1 Btn., 71 Rgt., 29 Div. -- Age: 20. -- German. - Catholic. - Residence: Freiburg i.Br. - Occupation: Student. - Single. - Called up: 1942. -- Last leave: February/March, 1944. - Captured, 22 May, at San Biaggio, by Americans -- being surprised and "trapped" by enemy troops as he was carrying a wounded comrade. -- Intelligence: fairly high. Well-bred, polite, rather pleasant. Son of a German captain stationed ~~in France~~ on the Eastern front.

2. MORALE IN COMPANY:

PW claims that the "Stimmung" in his unit is excellent. If we get a different impression, it is on account of certain "weak characters" among German soldiers, who change their attitude as soon as they become prisoners, and try to please their new masters. PW has observed such cowardly transformations -- even while the captured Germans were "humiliated" and "maltreated" by the Americans and Italians. PW is inclined to forgive the Americans for the rough way in which they (allegedly) treated the prisoners, but his feelings are extremely bitter towards the Italians, whom he saw applaud the Allied conquerors -- just as they had hailed the Germans, when it still seemed opportune to do so.

3. OUTLOOK:

PW was a member of the HJ, and would be a member of the Nazi Party, if he had not been young to join it, before his military induction. He believes in victory -- or in any case tries to do so. "There must be a Secret Weapon... There must be a Vergeltung..." The Fuehrer will never yield. The spirit of both military front and home front is unbreakable. Nazism is the only suitable form of life for the German people. Without Nazism, there would have been no social progress in the Reich. Without Hitler, the Germans would still be in the state of slavery that was imposed on them by the "Dictate of Versailles,"... etc. -- PW admires Hitler and Goering; thinks that Goebbels -- whom he likes somewhat less -- is "probably indispensable for propaganda." He is puzzled by the case of Rudolf HESS; does not believe that Hitler was informed of Hess' flight to England (while most of the anti-Nazis seem of the opinion that Hitler was in the plot). -- For all his Nazi idealism, PW does not want to have anything to do with a Nazi underground movement, which might be established, if and when Hitler falls. He thinks it likely however, that such a movement would come into being: "There are always unyielding patriots -- like Schlageter after the last war..." -- But if Germany loses -- who would rebuild the destroyed German cities? Consequently, Germany has to win!

4. CONDITIONS AT HOME:

PW's father -- as mentioned above -- is a German captain on the Russian front. His uncle and cousin, too, were German officers -- both killed at Stalingrad. PW says that his aunt took the death of her husband and son heroically. His mother is a good Catholic but at the same time a good Nazi. Other members of his family, however, are too devoted to the Catholic Church to be enthusiastically pro-Nazi. According to PW, there are many people in Germany, and especially in his milieu, who expect, and desire, a negotiated peace between Germany and the Anglo-Americans -- resulting in an alliance against the Soviet Union. PW himself thinks such a solution by no means out of the question -- nor would he disapprove of it.

5. PROPAGANDA:

PW has not seen any of our leaflets nor does he remember having heard about them. -- He does not know the names of Generals Von SEYDLITZ and DITMAR.



CONCLUSION:

The 9 anti-Nazis ^{may} ~~have~~ have been picked and are perhaps not really typical of the average German soldier. However, they seem to represent certain sectors of the German population, including the German army. Remarkably, the views of the 7 "half-disappointed" men are much closer to those of the anti-Nazis than to the outlook of the one downright Nazi -- Horst KOENIGS. It is obvious, however, that KOENIGS' pro-Nazi attitude is much less firm and determined than the implacable anti-Nazism of such men as BRANDT, WILL, and BROEDERL. KOENIGS is indoctrinated but not incurable. He left this interrogator with the promise that he would study some "objective" literature and try to correct his views, the onesidedness of which he does not yet recognize but begins somehow to sense...

Klaus Mann

T/3 Klaus Mann,
Aversa, May 25/26.

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
Psychological Warfare Branch

2 April, 1944

SUBJECT: Interrogation of German P/Ws (Report No.25)

TO : C.O., P.W.B., 5th Army

I ARTSCHWARZER, Erich; Obergefr.; Piesilier Bt. 1

1. PERSONAL DATA: 24 years old. Home town: Schwerin, Mecklenburg. Born in East Prussia, as the son of a little farmer; working as a farmhand himself. Very much the heavy, stubborn, tight-lipped East-Prussian type. Not talkative; very evasive; probably not very intelligent.

2. CAPTURE: On the Beachhead; March 27. With three other men and one sergeant on patrol duty; lost their way; were encountered by British troops. Professes that there was "no other way out." - Claims that he is not upset or depressed by his captivity. ("Laesst mich ganz kalt...") Expects that German PW's will be treated by Anglo-Americans "as decently as the Anglo-Americans are being treated by us." - Has never heard any stories about bad treatment in Anglo-American camps.

3. MILITARY BACKGROUND: Joined the army in October, 1940. Military training in East Prussia. Russian front; wounded (May, 1941). Since wounded, twice (1941 and 1943). Since August, 1943, with his present regiment; since August, in Italy.

4. CONDITIONS AT HOME: Last home furlough (four weeks), in May, 1943, to recover from his wound ("Genesungsurlaub"). Found conditions at home fairly good. Father has now his own little farm (inherited from uncle), which produces enough for family. PW has eight sisters and brothers; most of his brothers are in the army - several on the Eastern front. - Mecklenburg has The part of the country where his family live (Mecklenburg) has up to now not yet been considerably affected by Allied air raids.

5. OPINIONS: PW claims to be completely "unpolitisch" and seems indeed remarkably ignorant. No interest in, or knowledge of, the V. Has no definite opinion as to the likelihood of German victory, but would not be too upset about German defeat; not even the possibility that East Prussia might be occupied by the Russians seems to impress him. -- Has "never heard" about the possibility of an Allied invasion. -- Has been heard about the "secret weapons," but never didn't pay much attention to rumors which he seems to regard as somewhat stale and without particular interest. --

("I don't care - as long as they let me do my job...")

6. ALLIED PROPAGANDA: Has never seen, and never heard about, Allied leaflets; never listened to Allied broadcasts.

7. TREATMENT: Satisfied. Food is good, but "there could be a little more of it." American white bread is all right, but PW prefers German "Kommisbrot," which he thinks more nourishing.

I
B.) ROBLITSCHK, Johann; Obergefr.; ^{"Folkt"} Sturmregiment.

1. PERSONAL DATA: Age: 23. Home: ~~village in Sudeten land~~ ("Niederdonau"), - German since 1938. Civilian profession: farmhand. Father's profession: locksmith. -- Unusually ~~a~~ bright and articulate, considering his social background; not without a certain suavity; remarkably well informed.

2. CAPTURE: Beachhead; March 19. ~~Found himself~~ in a fox hole, with one wounded comrade - surrounded by British troops. Further resistance would have been "senseless." As it was night, and too dark as that the enemy could have seen his signs, he cried, "Nicht schiessen! Kamerad kaputt!" - which was promptly understood by the English. PW stated that - if it had been daytime - he might have raised his arms to indicate his intention to surrender, but would not have liked to wave a handkerchief: a gesture which seems to strike him as somehow childish and undignified. - He was most agreeably favorably impressed by the courtesy of the British soldiers who carried his wounded companion on a stretcher, while some of their own men, also slightly wounded, had to walk. *does not seem of course*

To him, ~~his~~ captivity is, from a human point of view, by no means the greatest misfortune. From a soldierly point of view his present plight is quite deplorable; but he PW feels that he has nothing to reproach himself, as he has tried his best and "further blood shed would have been nonsensical senseless."

3. MILITARY BACKGROUND: In 1941, PW was in Russia (Crimea and Ukraine) - not as a combat soldier but as a farmhand. Joined the army in 1942. - In Italy since January, 1944. - Believes that his C.O. (Lt. Bodian) too has been captured and that he may also be in the POW of Aversa.

4. CONDITIONS AT HOME: Last ~~home~~ furlough, June, 1943. Found conditions ~~at home in gener~~ on the whole unchanged - except for the fact that most of the younger men are away and ~~replaced~~ prisoners of war, mostly Russians, doing their work.

- Food conditions are not too bad in this farming area. -
No Allied air raids.

The part of Sudeten land from where PW's home is situated, belonged for a short time (3 weeks or so) to Austria, after the first World War, and was subsequently taken over by Czechoslovakia, until the Germans annexed it, in 1938. - PW's family (including himself) seem definitely (but not fanatically) anti-Czech and anti-~~8~~ pro-German, but not fanatically pro-Nazi. PW says that they got along fairly well with the Czechs but naturally preferred the German administration ~~to~~. They do not speak Czech at all and obviously ~~look~~ have a certain contempt for the "racially inferior" Slawish ~~population~~. In case of an Allied victory, PW hopes that his home land,, will ~~beco~~ be integrated with Austria, rather than with CSR

5. MORALE & OPINIONS: PW says that, when still an active German soldier, he believed - or rather, "had to believe" - in German victory. "That's the way all German soldiers feel," he asserted, and added - somewhat contemptuously - : "They're mighty stubborn..." ("stuck"). - Asked whether the German troops on the beachhead expect that they will succeed in driving the Allies back into the sea, he answered, rather evasively, that such strategic problems are too "great" and difficult for the simple "Landser" ~~to~~ and are hardly discussed. He asserts, however, that the morale among his former comrades is in general good: "We ~~don't~~ didn't have much to complain about. The German soldier is well taken care of..." Yet he admits that German soldiers at times are ~~malcontent~~, as - he thinks - are soldiers in all armies.

PW asserted that he no longer has any political opinions since he has become a prisoner. He proved well informed, however, of the present situation in all the theaters of war, and appeared rather pessimistic as regards the position of the German armies in the East. In the case of German defeat (which he does not seem to consider unlikely) he hopes that Germany will be occupied and ruled by the Anglo-Americans, rather than by the Russians. The impressions he received of Russian life during his stay in the Soviet Union, were not of a favourable nature. Surprisingly, he finds a strong resemblance between conditions in the Soviet Union, on the one hand, and in Nazi Germany, on the other (lack of freedom, etc) - which seems to indicate a more critical attitude towards Nazism than he chooses to admit.

Skeptical about "secret weapon", about which there has been too much talk. yet thinks it possible that the Germans may have something "up their sleeves;" intimates that there might be "subterranean" armament factories, to replace the industrial plants destroyed by Allied attacks.

Notwithstanding, seems to expect German defeat - in which case . . .

which I consider his anti-factory business to
Social Union (Communism)

because he suffered from hostile attitude of population - especially in Norway; (emphasizes the unpopularity of Quisling with his countrymen.) Does not believe that Germans Since January in Italy. *was wanted to PW agent, Germany, Bonn.*

4. Conditions AT HOME: Last home furlough: August, 1943. Found his home-town (Cologne) in a terrible state. ("Sieht schlimm aus!") His family, however, not directly affected; ~~as~~ (mother and sisters moved to the country). - His PW's furious. Thinks that war German war industry must have suffered considerably ("ist schoen mitgenommen worden!"). *The point of* Thinks that people waste their time when building up factories again, ~~as they are~~ - just to furnish targets for the next raid... Says, however, that the morale of the bombarded individuals ~~is~~ was in general not too bad, as they were enjoying special privileges and were given such rarities as real coffee, cigarettes, etc.

5. MORALE & OPINIONS: Used to believe in German victory as long as he was active soldier, but has ^{now} changed his opinion since in captivity - partly under impression of Allied strength... as visible behind the lines. - Claims that main hope of average German soldier still is "Secret Weapon," although he has become increasingly skeptical... *but hardly believes in it himself.*

Thinks that Allied invasion of Western Europe might have a chance to succeed, (although he is not sure...). Allied are likely to have learned since landing at Dieppe, which was "just a rehearsal."

Not a Nazi
Respects Hitler, but without enthusiasm. Thinks that the Fuehrer has pretty much brains ("Koepfchen hat er ja!"), and is a hard-working man. A Favorably impressed by H.'s modesty in wearing only his World-War decoration (Iron Cross) - in contrast to Goering, who produces his own fancy decorations... *(E.I.I.)*

native When in N. and the N.s, suffered from hostile attitude of populations... ~~Especially~~ especially in N., where everybody hates Quisling...

Italy - people more friendly, but make faces behind back... No respect. "Hin-und-her-Volk..."

Answer: Above
Eager for peace - expressive sigh... Would not mind occupation (even Russian) - if he is allowed to work...

Would not mind to work in U.S. war industry. Would like to learn English.

However, his last question to the interviewer: "Will German people be annihilated...?"

where people do live. The
Graham, and, ~~according to~~
but was interesting, the Graham -
learned Quaker & liquor.

but ^{Suspect} ~~definitely~~ that the Thom girls
with some to have a good
a time, dinner with a ^{land} and
Graham when it likely " to
make a far.

" That's the way, they are - a
marvelous

Asked whether he ^{had} ~~was~~ ^{for} ~~eyes~~ ^{for}
people his to that he was with
be over soon, his answer may be

6. ALLIED PRO.: Has seen leaflets in Cologne (probably remembers Hitler in Russia, dressed in heavy coat, surrounded by inadequately dressed freezing soldiers...) and a leaflet about the U-Boot war: "Wir fahren gegen England...in den Tod." Has not listened to enemy broadcasts, but has heard German broadcasts being interrupted by a voice crying, "Nieder mit H." Food - good, but should be more...

7. Treatment: Satisfied. - White bread - "Feiertagsbrot..." - English interrogating officer - urgent... wanted details about a certain MG, about which PW professes to know nothing... "Ordered"...

IV.

SLEZIAK, Joseph;

Soldat (Pvt);

deserter; Pol.

1. PERSONAL DATA: Age: 19. Home-town: Vislitz, Upper Silesia, formerly Polish. PW is very young, very sympathetic, extremely naive, not to say childish, but by no means stupid; frank, straightforward, but handicapped by his poor German... Violently anti-German and anti-Nazi... *(disturbingly)*

2. CAPTURE: PW emphasizes proudly that he has not been captured but actually ran over... Was the only Pole in the front line - with one German in a fox hole. Took off while German went to fetch food... Found American guards asleep: claims that he might have killed them... Woke them up instead and told them that he was "a Polack" and wanted to surrender... *(fox hole)*

3. MILITARY CAREER: Was inducted into German Wehrmacht on Feb. 5, 1943 - greatly to his displeasure... Temporarily stationed in France; then transferred to Italy. Was the only Pole in his "Schwadron" to be used in front line - while 4 others were stationed with train... (In the 2nd Schwadron of the same Bn. - 20 Poles, all with train...)

4. CONDITIONS AT HOME: Father working in Hannover, railway... Mother, sister, at home... All decidedly anti-German - waiting for Hitler's defeat... *(at the road)*

5. OPINIONS AND MORALE: Convinced of imminent German defeat - although his opinion of American soldiers are not very high ("Viel Waffen, viel Angst!" as he put it), and although he believes that the Germans, especially the German officers, will fight to the last man... yet lack of manpower and material... : "Boys of 16 and 17...: all from the HJ!" - The Secret Weapon? His answer was just a sneer. "And if they have such a thing - so what? They don't have the men..."

Has heard about... Asked, however, whether he would like to join Polish Legion, he became a trifle evasive.... "Health"...

6. ALLIED PROPAGANDA: Saw 3 leaflets : Stalingrad; one in Italian; one - to surrender.... The last promised after War. Asked interview whether he could

Hope this to be correct.

6. ALLIED PROPAGANDA: Has not seen Allied leaflets or listened to our broadcasts but has been told occasionally that such things exist. Emphasizes how dangerous it would be for a German soldier to listen to any enemy broadcast or to keep a leaflet, instead of marking it with the word, "Feindpropaganda", and turning it in to his officer.

PW asked this interviewer whether it was correct that American soldiers are free to read and keep German leaflets and to listen to German stations. He appeared considerably surprised and impressed by this fact (which, incidentally, might be occasionally played up in our propaganda, to stress and illustrate the strength of our moral position).

7. TREATMENT: PW seems satisfied with his treatment in the PW, but not enthusiastic. Complained about two things: First, his watch was taken away from him, and he wonders if that is in accordance with Geneva Convention. Claims that watch had great sentimental value to him - being inherited from a cousin killed in Russia. - Second, one of the officers by whom he was previously interrogated, allegedly tried to impose on him his own political views and - thus antagonizing PW and hurting his feelings. The interviewing officer was - according to PW's report - greatly "prejudiced" against Germany and very "one-sided" in his opinions. "Of course, I am helpless and have to listen to that kind of stuff," ("Ich muss mir ja was alles anhören,") he concluded, not without bitterness.

III. WALLERANG, Joseph; Obergefr.; Fallschirmregiment.

1. PERSONAL DATA: Age: 20; Home-town: Cologne. Civilian profession: farmhand and worker in armament industry. - A very "Germanic" type - slow, heavy-set; slow in his reactions; neat-looking; makes the impression of a patient, industrious, conscientious and good-natured fellow; fairly intelligent and comparatively sincere - yet not without a certain cautious reserve.

2. CAPTURE: Beachhead, March 17. Claims to have been in a fox hole - at a distance of only 5 meters from the (British) enemy, whom he could see but who had no sight of him. Began to run out of ammunition. Might have fired a few more shots but didn't think it reasonable to kill anybody, since he had no chance to escape anyhow. Raised his arms and remained in that position until the English told him to stand at ease. Is not upset about his present status. Has been told that Anglo-Americans treat prisoners decently. "as human beings."

3. MILITARY BACKGROUND: Joined army in 1940. Was stationed in Norway and Holland, but didn't like it much there,

Sees no reason for this - except "He is not a Jew. Men but Jew."

FIFTH ARMY HEADQUARTERS
Psychological Warfare Branch

30 June, 1944

SUBJECT: Interrogation of German Prisoners-of-War (Report # 37)

TO : CO, Psychological Warfare Branch, Fifth Army Headquarters

A POLL

The questionnaire ("Fragebogen") of which a copy is attached herewith, was previously used to estimate the morale of German PWs in Aversa. This time (on June 27 and 29, in Civitavecchia), the same set of questions was submitted by this interrogator to a number of German PWs individually -- not in the form of a collective poll, as it had been done on all the previous occasions. Only one question was changed: instead of the standard question # 11 ("Do you think it likely that the Allies will make a landing in Western Europe within the next few months?"), the PWs were asked whether they considered the new German "pilotless planes" the long-discussed "Secret Weapon."

The questionnaire was answered by 25 men -- all of German nationality. Among them were 11 Non-Coms ("Feldwebel" and "Unteroffizier") -- with the others being mostly "Obergefreiter." There were 6 men from 1st Bn., 45th Rgt.; 3 men from 39th Luftwaffenjager Rgt.; 3 men from 37th Rgt.; 3 men from 38th Rgt.; 3 men from 67th Rgt. The others were from various units, mostly from the 19th Division.

collapsing It would seem, according to this miniature poll, that German morale -- although naturally declining -- is by no means on the point of ~~declining~~ but still surprisingly well intact. It is true that in almost every group of German PWs there are now at least a few articulate and determined anti-Nazis and defeatists -- most of them deserters or semi-deserters. But it also true that the rest (i.e. the average "Landser") still believe -- or try, or pretend, to believe, -- in German victory. There can be no doubt that this irrational faith has been strengthened -- if only temporarily -- by the appearance of the new German rocket plane over England: notwithstanding (or because of?) the fact that the PWs interrogated had but an extremely vague and indirect information ~~of~~ about the nature of ~~of~~ the new device. Even those not believing in German victory are of the opinion that the "robot plane" represents ~~t h e~~, or at least ~~o n e~~, "Secret Weapon;" about half of them think that other new weapons -- even more devastating -- are to come soon into action. 11 men answered question # 13 ("Do you think it possible to drive the Allies out of Italy?") with a conditional "Yes!" The condition is: "... if we succeed in driving them out of France!" This, however,

may prove possible (according to these PWs) , thanks to the "Secret Weapon" -- which will subsequently be used in Italy as well.

Question # 4 -- "Do you believe in the Fuehrer?" -- had in previous polls a 80 %, or even 85 %, rate of affirmative answers. This time, just a little more than 50 % -- 13 PWs, out of 25 -- asserted that their faith in Hitler was unshaken and unshakeable. -- while 9 answered in the negative and 3 were undecided. This result may indicate, in itself, a definite drop of morale; it could be, however, that it is partly due to the fact that this time the questioned PWs had to face the "enemy" interrogator personally, which may have made them reluctant to admit their confidence in the Fuehrer. (On the other hand, the previous majority of pro-Hitler votes, too, might be misleading, in a different way. One of the PWs who answered question # 4 in the affirmative, added the following remark: "If you put the question that way, almost every German will tell you that he believes in Hitler -- automatically, as it were --, even if he doesn't really believe in him. It's like asking a Catholic whether he believes in the Pope...")

Of the 13 PWs believing in Adolf Hitler, 7 asserted that they would have preferred to continue fighting, rather ~~in~~ than to become prisoners (question # 15); 3 believe that Hitler would not surrender, if he knew that he no longer has a chance to win (question # 8) -- with the 10 others being undecided or answering in the negative; 8 would prefer a long continuation of the War to a temporary occupation of Germany by Russian and Anglo-American troops (question # 7); 9 would rather be sent to the Eastern front (question # 9); 5 think that the War will be over this fall (question # 12) -- while the others have no definite opinion about this point.

As for those who don't believe in Hitler, all of them would prefer to stay in captivity, rather than to be sent to the Eastern front -- with the exception of one PW who is -- curiously -- a deserter (from the 956th Rgt.) ^{but} who hates the Russians so much that he would like to go to the Eastern front in order to give them a beating... 8, out of the 12 anti-Hitlerites, do not believe that Hitler would surrender if he recognized the hopelessness of his position (question # 8); 6 believe that the War will be over by fall (question # 12) -- with one man suggesting that there will be no victors or vanquished but "a negotiated peace."

Question # 5 ("Do you believe that a reconciliation between Roosevelt and Churchill, on the one hand, and Hitler, on the other, is possible?") was answered in the negative by 9 anti-Hitlerites (out of 12) -- in the affirmative by 8 pro-Hitlerites (out of 13).

More than 50 % of the total (13 out of 25) believe that, in the case of German defeat the German civilian population would have to suffer from the revenge of the victors (question # 6) -- with most of these PWs pointing out that, in their opinion, such a revenge would have to

be expected from the Russians, or from "the Jews and Bolsheviks," while the Anglo-Americans are too gentlemanly and cultured to be revengeful.

Question # 1 ("Have you been treated well in captivity?") was answered by all the PWs interrogated with a positive "Yes," -- with some of them adding that they resented the way in which the capturing American soldiers ~~had~~ robbed them of all their belongings, including watches and personal souvenirs.

None of them had been told that the Americans mistreat their prisoners (question # 2) -- while one PW claimed to have heard such things about the British (question # 3).

9 PWs, out of 25, have seen Anglo-American leaflets in German language in Italy (question # 16); one of them did not believe what the leaflets said (question # 18); none of them was carrying a leaflet when captured (question # 17).

One question asked by several PWs in the course of this interrogation, was about an "ultimatum" which Hitler offered allegedly to the Allies -- threatening us with complete destruction, unless we withdraw immediately from France.

Klaus Mann

T/3 K l a u s M a n n

1st Ind.

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH, HQ 5th Army 30 June, 1944
TO: CO, P.W.B., A.F.H.Q., through OC, P.W.B., H.Q., A.A.I.

F. A. McCULLOCH,
Lt. Col., Inf.
Commanding

FRAGEBOGEN

Dieser Fragebogen gibt Ihnen Gelegenheit, Ihre Meinung frei zum Ausdruck zu bringen. Zur Gewährleistung dieser Freiheit fragen wir nicht nach Ihrem Namen, sondern bloss nach Rangklasse und Regiment:

Rangklasse :

Regiment :

Die folgenden 18 Fragen sind nur mit „ja“ oder „nein“ zu beantworten, und zwar indem Sie im „ja“-Fall in das erste, im „nein“-Fall in das zweite Quadrat ein X hineinsetzen. Als Beispiel zeigen wir die Beantwortung eines Musters:

A. Wurden Sie in Italien gefangengenommen? Ja ☒ Nein ☐

Nur ein „ja“ oder „nein“ ist als Antwort zulaessig. Falls Sie noch Zusatzliches dazuschreiben wollen, ist die Rueckseite dieses Bogens zu verwenden.

- | | Ja | Nein |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Sind Sie seit Ihrer Gefangennahme gut behandelt worden? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 2. Ist Ihnen vor Ihrer Gefangennahme je gesagt worden, dass die Amerikaner ihre Gefangenen misshandeln? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 3. Ist ähnliches je von den Engländern gesagt worden? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 4. Vertrauen Sie auf den Führer? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 5. Glauben Sie, dass ein Ausgleich zwischen Churchill und Roosevelt einerseits, und Hitler andererseits möglich ist? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 6. Glauben Sie, dass falls Deutschland den Krieg verliert, man an der Bevölkerung Rache nehmen wird? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 7. Würden Sie eine jahrelange Kriegsverlängerung einer verübergehenden russisch - englisch - amerikanischen Besetzung Deutschlands vorziehen? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 8. Angenommen die deutsche Führung wusste genau, dass Deutschland den Krieg verloren hat, glauben Sie dass sie aufgeben würde? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 9. Angenommen, Sie könnten jetzt zurück und würden sofort an die Ostfront geschickt, würden Sie lieber hierbleiben? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 10. Glauben Sie, dass Deutschland "geheime Waffen" hat, welche den Krieg entscheiden können? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 11. Halten Sie es für wahrscheinlich, dass die Anglo-Amerikaner in den nächsten Monaten in Westeuropa landen? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 12. Glauben Sie, der Krieg ist bis Herbst zu Ende? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 13. Glauben Sie, dass es noch möglich ist, die Alliierten aus Italien zu vertreiben? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 14. Waren Sie, als Sie gefangengenommen wurden, zum ersten Mal im Gefecht? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 15. Als Sie gefangengenommen wurden, hätten Sie noch gerne weitergekämpft? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 16. Haben Sie hier in Italien anglo-amerikanische Flugblätter in deutscher Sprache gesehen? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 17. Hatten Sie ein derartiges Flugblatt bei der Gefangennahme bei sich? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 18. Glaubten Sie, dass was in den Flugblättern berichtet wurde, den Tatsachen entsprach? | ☐ | ☐ |

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- | | Ja | Nein |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Sind Sie seit Ihrer Gefangennahme gut behandelt worden? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 2. Ist Ihnen vor Ihrer Gefangennahme je gesagt worden, dass die Amerikaner ihre Gefangenen misshandeln? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 3. Ist ähnliches je von den Engländern gesagt worden? | ☐ | ☐ |
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| 5. Glauben Sie, dass ein Ausgleich zwischen Churchill und Roosevelt einerseits, und Hitler andererseits möglich ist? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 6. Glauben Sie, dass falls Deutschland den Krieg verliert, man an der Bevölkerung Rache nehmen wird? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 7. Würden Sie eine jahrelange Kriegsverlängerung einer verübergehenden russisch - englisch - amerikanischen Besetzung Deutschlands vorziehen? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 8. Angenommen die deutsche Führung wusste genau, dass Deutschland den Krieg verloren hat, glauben Sie dass sie aufgeben würde? | ☐ | ☐ |
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| 10. Glauben Sie, dass Deutschland "geheime Waffen" hat, welche den Krieg entscheiden können? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 11. Halten Sie es für wahrscheinlich, dass die Anglo-Amerikaner in den nächsten Monaten in Westeuropa landen? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 12. Glauben Sie, der Krieg ist bis Herbst zu Ende? | ☐ | ☐ |
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| 14. Waren Sie, als Sie gefangengenommen wurden, zum ersten Mal im Gefecht? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 15. Als Sie gefangengenommen wurden, hätten Sie noch gerne weitergekämpft? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 16. Haben Sie hier in Italien anglo-amerikanische Flugblätter in deutscher Sprache gesehen? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 17. Hatten Sie ein derartiges Flugblatt bei der Gefangennahme bei sich? | ☐ | ☐ |
| 18. Glaubten Sie, dass was in den Flugblättern berichtet wurde, den Tatsachen entsprach? | ☐ | ☐ |

S E C R E T

APPENDIX "A" TO FIFTH ARMY G-2 REPORT NO. 388

ESTIMATED ENEMY ORDER OF BATTLE IN ITALY AS OF 25 SEPTEMBER 1944

INDEX

- I. Higher Organization of C-in-C South-West (OBSW)
- II. Tabulation of German Divisions and their Components.
- III. Tabulation of Independent Units
 - 1. Infantry Units (incl Ost Bns)
 - 2. Reconnaissance, Mobile, Assault Units
 - 3. Assault Gun Units
 - 4. Tank Units
 - 5. Anti-tank Units
 - 6. Rocket Artillery (Werfer) Units
 - 7. Field Artillery Units
 - 8. Coast Artillery Units
 - 9. AA Artillery Units
 - 10. Foreign Units (excl Italians and Ost Bns)
 - 11. Signal Units
 - 12. Engineer and Construction Units
 - 13. Supply, Transportation, Ordnance, Maintenance Units
 - 14. SS, Police, and Military Police Units
- IV. Commanders and Staff Officers in Higher Echelons (incl Div)
- V. Divisional Infantry, Tank, and Artillery Commanders

S E C R E T
-1-

S E C R E T

REMARKS

Section III is a tabulation of independent units identified up to 25 September 1944, their last dates of identification, and their chains of command. In many cases the higher headquarters could not be conclusively established, and the headquarters of the area in which the unit was last reported is given instead. Locations are mentioned only, where they are recent enough to have any bearing on the present whereabouts or operations of the unit concerned.

Information on the 34th Inf Div, reported in NORTHERN ITALY near the MARITIME ALPS, is still so scant that the only reference to this unit is made in Section II, which enumerates its components. For information on Italian forces see Appendix "A" to Fifth Army G-2 Report No. 380.

LEGEND

of foreign and unconventional terms and abbreviations
used in the attached charts and tabulations

OKW/OKH/OKM/OKL	High Command of the Armed Forces/Army/Navy/Air Force
OBSW	C-in-C South-West
Armeeabt.v.ZANGEN	Army Task Force v.ZANGEN (See Section I)
Genkdo	Hq above Div
Ldsch	Landesschuetzen
Sich	"Sicherungs-"(Security) Units (L of C)
Mob	Mobile
Werfer	Rocket Artillery
Cstr	Construction
Pol	Police
Gas	Motor Gasoline (<u>not</u> Chemical Warfare)
Slov	Slovak
PGD	P.G. Div
ID	Inf Div
IR	Inf Regt
JR	Jäger Regt
AR	Arty Regt

Abbreviated German ranks are used for Army and SS officer personalities:

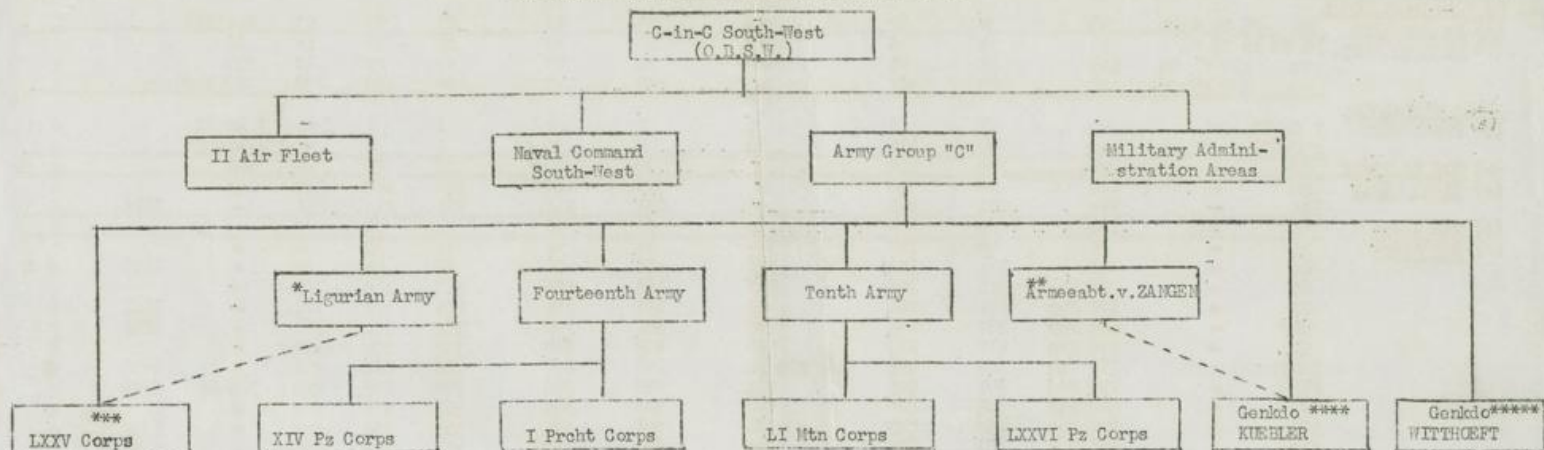
<u>Army</u>	<u>SS</u>	
Genfeldm		Field Marshal
Genobst		Col Gen (U.S. General)
General	Obgrpnfhr	General (U.S. Lt Gen)
Genlt	Grpnfhr	Lt Gen (U.S. Maj Gen)
Genmaj	Brigfhr	Maj Gen (U.S. Brig Gen)
Obst	Obfhr	Colonel
Obstlt	Stdtnfhr	Lt Col
Major	Strmbnfhr	Major
Hptm	Hptstrmfhr	Captain
Oblt	Obstrmfhr	1st Lt
Lt	Unterstrmfhr	2nd Lt

NOTE:

The German method of indicating companies or battalions is used in the attached charts and tabulations. In this system 2/50 Regt or Bn indicates the 2nd Co(or Btry) of the 50th Regt (or Bn). II/50 Regt or Brig would indicate the 2nd Bn of the 50th Regt or Brig.

S E C R E T

SECRET
I. HIGHER ORGANIZATION OF C-IN-C SOUTH-WEST



- * Ligurian Army : See Appendix "A" to Fifth Army G-2 Report No. 300 "Italian Republican Forces".
- ** Armeeabt.v.ZANGEN: Translated as "Army Task Force v. ZANGEN". This headquarters is the former LXXVII Corps with all its attached organizations. It is responsible for coastal defense in all non-operational areas, and may, therefore, include Genkdo KUEBLER (see above) along with other coast defense formations in the north.
- *** LXXV Corps : According to unconfirmed reports LXXV Corps is at present under the command of the Ligurian Army.
- **** Genkdo KUEBLER : Befehlshaber im Sicherungsgebiet ADRIATISCHES KUESTENLAND (Commander of the Security Zone Adriatic Coast). The Security Zone Adriatic Coast stretches along the entire southern border of the Security Zone Lower Alps (Alpenvorland) and along the line of the provincial borders of SACL and LATISSANA to the Gulf of TRIESTE. It also includes the islands of KRA, CHERSO, and LUSSINO. Reported in March as part of Armeeabt.v.ZANGEN.
- ***** Genkdo WITTHOEFT: Befehlshaber im Sicherungsgebiet ALPENVORLAND (Commander of the Security Zone Lower Alps). The Alpenvorland (Lower Alps) comprises the area of SOUTH TYROL with the provinces of TRENTO, BELLUNO, and BOLZANO.

SECRET
- 3 -

SECRET				II. TABULATION OF GERMAN DIVISIONS AND THEIR COMPONENTS										Inf Bns	
Types of Unit	Divisions	Armor	Ren Bn	Inf Regt	Inf Regt	Inf Regt	Arty Regt	AT Bn	Engr Bn	Sig Bn	Repl Bn	AA Bn	SP Bn	per Divs	
1. Pz & Pz Gren Divs:															
(a) Panzer Divs:	26	26 Tk Regt	26	9	67	-	93	93	93	93	93	304(SP)	-	4	
(b) Pz Gren Divs:	16	SS 16 Tk Bn	16	35	36	-	16	16	16	16	16	16	-	6	
	29	129 Tk Bn	129	15	71	-	29	29	29	29	29	313	-	6	
	90	190 SP Bn	190	200	361	-	190	190	190	190	190	190	InfGrCo	6	
2. Field Divisions:															
(a) Procht Divs	3	Procht	-	1	3	4	1	1	1	1	-	1 AA/MG	-	8	
	4	Procht	-	4	11	12	4	4	4	4	-	4 AA/MG	-	9	
(b) GAF Pd Divs:	20	-	20	39	40	-	20	20	20	20	20	591	-	4	
(c) Light Divs:	42	-	142	25	40	-	142(?)	142	142	142	142	-	-	6	
	114	-	114	721	741	-	661	114	114	114	661	-	1114	6	
(d) Mtn Divs:	5	-	85	85	100	-	95	85	95	95	95	-	-	6	
(e) Inf Divs:	34	-	34	80	107	253	34	34	34	34	34	-	-	6	
	44	-	44	131	132	134	96	46	80	64	44	-	1146	8 ?	
	65	-	65 Fus	145	146	147	165	165	165	165	165	-	-	6	
	71	-	171 Fus	191	194	211	171	171	171	171	171	-	1171	6	
	94*	-	194 Fus	267	274	276	194	194	194	194	194	-	1194	3 ?	
	98	-	198 Fus	117	289	290	198	198	198	198	198	-	-	6	
	162(Turc)	-	236 Fus	303	314	162 Div Bn	236	236	936	236	236	-	1236	4	
	278	-	278 Fus	992	993	994	278	278	278	278	278	302 AA	1278	6	
	305	-	305 Fus	576	577	578	305	305	305	305	305	-	-	6	
	334	-	334 Fus	754	755	756	334	334	334	334	334	-	1334	6	
	356	-	356 Fus	869	870	871	356	356	356	356	356	-	1356	6	
	362	-	362 Fus	956	1059	1060	362	362	362	362	362	-	-	7	
	715	-	715 Fus	725	735	1028	671	715	715	715	671	-	-	6	
3. Limited Employment Divs:															
(a) Reserve Divs:	148**	-	148 Fus	8 Jäg	239	252****	8	1048 Mob	8	252	-	-	-	6	
	157***	-	157 Fus	1 Mtn	157	-	7	1057 Mob	7	-	-	-	-	7	

NOTES: * Reforming.

** Bns of 8th Res Regt: 7, 24, 164

Bns of 239th Res Regt: 327, 372, 444, 661 Ost

**** Also known as Regt KESSLER.

***Bns of 1st Res Regt: I and II/98, 99, 100

Bns of 157th Res Regt: 179, 207, 802 Ost

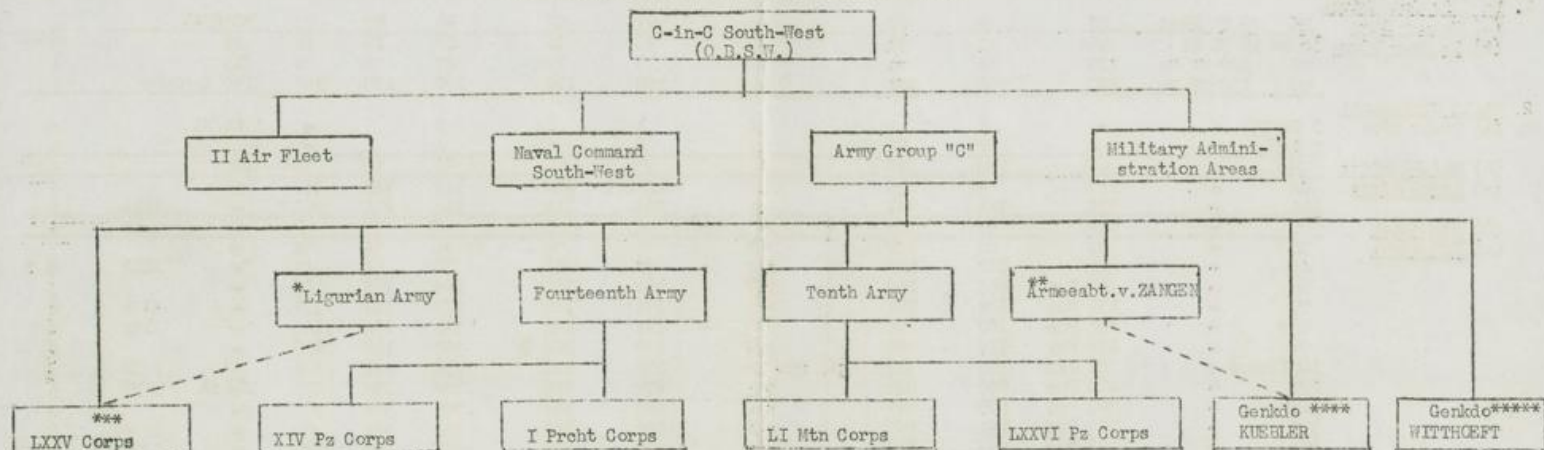
For independent brigades and regiments identified on the Southern Front see "TABULATION OF INDEPENDENT UNITS" (Section III).

SECRET

-2-

SECRET

I. HIGHER ORGANIZATION OF C-IN-C SOUTH-WEST



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SECRET
- 3 -

SECRET

II. TABULATION OF GERMAN DIVISIONS AND THEIR COMPONENTS

Types of Unit	Divisions	Armor	Rein Bn	Inf Regt	Inf Regt	Inf Regt	Arty Regt	AT Bn	Engr Bn	Sig Bn	Repl Bn	AA Bn	SP Bn	Inf Bns per Div
1. Pa & Pa Gren Divs:														
(a) <u>Pa Gren Divs:</u>	26	26 Tk Regt	26	9	67	-	93	93	93	93	93	304(SP)	-	4
(b) <u>Pa Gren Divs:</u>	16 SS	16 Tk Bn	16	35	36	-	16	16	16	16	16	16	-	6
	29	129 Tk Bn	129	15	71	-	29	29	29	29	29	313	-	6
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2. Field Divisions:														
(a) <u>Procht Divs:</u>	1 Procht	-	-	1	3	4	1	1	1	1	-	1 AA/MG	-	8
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For independent brigades and regiments identified on the Southern Front see "TABULATION OF INDEPENDENT UNITS" (Section III).

SECRET

SECRET

III. TABULATION OF INDEPENDENT UNITS

1. Infantry Units

UNIT	COMMANDER	DATE	LAST KNOWN CHAIN OF COMMAND	REMARKS
<u>A. Brigades:</u>				
135 Fort		Sep	14th Army	LA SPEZIA
Inf Lehr	Maj KINGERIA	Sep	I Prcht Corps	Vic.FUTA PASS
<u>B. Regiments:</u>				
3 "Brandenburg"				
2nd Bn	Maj JAKOBI	Aug	14th Mtn Corps	
924 Fort		Aug	10th Army	Adriatic
925 Fort		'43		
"Thessalon" Ldsch				
<u>C. Battalions:</u>				
<u>a. Mtn</u>				
3	Maj BADER	Sep	LXXV Corps	In 5 Mtn Div
4	Hptm SCHOENLEBEN	Sep	LXXV Corps	In 5 Mtn Div
5		Mar		In 5 Mtn Div
<u>b. GAF</u>				
8		Mar	Armeeabt. w. ZANGEN	ISTRIA
<u>c. L of C</u>				
509 Sich		Mar		
527 Ldsch	Hptm HEIDIG	Jun	14th Army area	
572 Ldsch		Sep	LXXVI Corps	BG Obst PETER
676 Ldsch		'43	10th Army	
746 Ldsch		Jun	14th Army	
783 Ldsch		Jun		ISTRIA
921 Sich		Jun	14th Army	
936 Sich		Jun		Penal
1217 Sich		Apr	OBSW	
<u>d. Fortress</u>				
903	Maj ELSNER	Aug	924 Fort Regt	BG Obst PETER
904		Aug	135 Fort Brig	
905		Aug	135 Fort Brig	
906		Aug	135 Fort Brig	
907		Aug	135 Fort Brig	
<u>e. Ost</u>				
412	Hptm MERTENS	Jun	III/578 IR, 305 ID	
555		Jan		PESCARA area
556	Hptm CHOPACHIK	Jan		PESCARA area
557		Feb		PESCARA area
560		Mar		
616		Apr	III/194 IR, 71 ID	
620		Jun	II/274 IR, 94 ID	
661		Aug	IV/8 Mtn Res IR, 148 Res ID	
KANZ		Jun		GROSSETTO area
? Ost Bn		Jun	III/1059 IR, 92 ID (now: 362 ID)	
802		Sep	III/157 Res. IR	

SECRET

S E C R E T

2. Rcn, Mobile, Assault Units

UNIT	COMMANDER	DATE	LAST KNOWN CHAIN OF COMMAND	REMARKS
<u>A. Brigades:</u>				
20 Mob		May	14th Army area (OBSW?)	
<u>B. Regiments:</u>				
<u>C. Battalions:</u>				
<u>a. Rcn</u>				
11	Hptm WICK	Sep	I Precht Corps	Vic. FIRENZUOLA
400		May	OBSW 10th Army area (ITRI)	
<u>b. Mob</u>				
510		May	20 Mob Brig	ANZIO
517		May	20 Mob Brig	
621		May	20 Mob Brig	
<u>c. Assault</u>				
Assault Bn SW	Hptm BORCHERT	Jun	OBSW	

3. Assault Gun Units

UNIT	COMMANDER	DATE	LAST KNOWN CHAIN OF COMMAND	REMARKS
<u>A. Brigades:</u>				
All so-called German "Assault Gun Brigs" of battalion strength are listed as battalions.				
<u>B. Regiments:</u>				
914	Maj DOHMEYER	Jun		VERONA area
916				
<u>C. Battalions:</u>				
216 (Brig)	Hptm HOSTMANN	Jun	14th Army	
241 (Brig)		May	10th Army	
242 (Brig)	Hptm BUSSJAEGER	Jul	10th Army	
907 (Brig)	Hptm SCHROEDER	Jul	10th Army	

4. Tank Units

UNIT	COMMANDER	DATE	LAST KNOWN CHAIN OF COMMAND	REMARKS
<u>A. Brigades:</u>				
<u>B. Regiments:</u>				
4				
1st Bn	Hptm FOERSTER	Aug	LXXVI Corps	Adriatic Coast
<u>C. Battalions:</u>				
208		Sep		GORIZIA-UDINE
504		Aug	XIV Corps	
508	Maj HUPEL	Aug	I Precht Corps	
Pz Lehr "South"				
24 Tk Plat			14th Army	

S E C R E T

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5. Anti-tank Units

UNIT	COMMANDER	DATE	LAST KNOWN CHAIN OF COMMAND	REMARKS
<u>A. Brigades:</u>				

B. Regiments:

C. Battalions:

525	Maj GUTTMANN	May	OBSW, LXXVI Corps area	CISTERNA
529				
590	Hptm GUEMPFEL	May	OBSW, I Precht Corps area	Vic. ANZIO
653				

D. Companies:

AT Tng			10th Army	
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6. Werfer Units

UNIT	COMMANDER	DATE	LAST KNOWN CHAIN OF COMMAND	REMARKS
<u>A. Brigades:</u>				
5	Obst STROH	Apr	OBSW Hq for all Werfer units	

B. Regiments:

56	Obst SCHAEFER	Jul	5 Werfer Brig	Under 14th Army
71	Obst ANDREAE	Sep	5 Werfer Brig	Under 10th Army

C. Battalions:

D. Batteries:

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

7. Field Artillery Units

UNIT	COMMANDER	DATE	LAST KNOWN CHAIN OF COMMAND	REMARKS
<u>A. Commands & Brigades:</u>				
316 Sen Arty Comd (*)		May	10th Army	Arty Hq, 14th Army
317 Sen Arty Comd (*)		May	14th Army	Arty Hq, 10th Army
122 Arty Comd (**)		May	I Precht Corps	Arty Hq, I Corps
414 Arty Comd (**)		May	XIV Corps	Arty Hq, XIV Corps
451 Arty Comd (**)		May	LI Mtn Corps	Arty Hq, LI Corps
476 Arty Comd (**)		May	LXXVI Corps	Arty Hq, LXXVI Corps
533 Regt Hq			14th Army area	
553 Regt Hq		May	14th Army area	Controlling head- quarters only.
554 Regt Hq			14th Army area	
619 Regt Hq			14th Army area	
623 Regt Hq			14th Army area	

B. Regiments:

1 Lehr				
3rd Bn	Maj EICHHORN	Sep	14th Army area	
2 Lehr	Obst MACKENSEN	Sep	14th Army area	
1st Bn	Maj MALKEDY	Sep	317th Sen Arty Comd	
3 Lehr		Jun	14th Army area	
51				
2nd Bn	Maj KRESSE	Jul	10th Army area	
100		Jun	10th Army area	

C. Battalions:

64 Surv	Maj. HUNDERTMARK	May	317th Sen Arty Comd	
70 Surv			10th Army area	
71 Surv				
298				
420			317th Sen Arty Comd	
435			476th Arty Comd	
450	Hptm ANSCHUETZ	Aug	476th Arty Comd	
451	Maj NEUMANN	Aug	14th Army area	
557	Maj ALLERS	Aug	10th Army Area	
573 Surv		Sep		
602		Sep	10th Army area	M. GRINDOLFO
619	Maj HASSELBACH	Mar		
620				
660			317th Sen Arty Comd	
677		Jun	317th Sen Arty Comd	
733	Hptm BENDROTH	Sep	451st Arty Comd	
761				
763				
764	Hptm ALIG	Jul	414th Arty Comd	
765		Aug	316th Sen Arty Comd	
922		Jul	317th Sen Arty Comd	
923		Jul	317th Sen Arty Comd	
988		Jun	316th Sen Arty Comd	
992		May	317th Sen Arty Comd	
998	Hptm SCHREINER	Jul	Under 3rd Lehr AR, 14th Army area	
Arty Bn "BOCK"	Maj DROSTE	Jun	122nd Arty Comd	

D. Batteries:

500 Surv		Jun	14th Army area
756 Hv		May	317th Sen Arty Comd

* "HARKO" - Hoehrer Artillerie Kommandeur.

** "ARKO" - Artillerie Kommandeur.

S E C R E T

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8. Coast Artillery Units

UNIT	COMMANDER	DATE	LAST KNOWN CHAIN OF COMMAND	REMARKS
<u>A. Commands & Brigades:</u>				
Coast Arty Comd		Jan	OBSW/TYRRHENIAN	Navy CA?
Hq Army CA Regt "SOUTH"		Jul	OBSW (controls theater)	Army CA
Army CA Group I		Jul	CA Regt "SOUTH" for 14th Army	
Army CA Group II		Jul	CA Regt "SOUTH" for 10th Army	
Hq 554 RR Arty		May		
Hq 619 Special CA Regt		May		
Hq 623 Special CA Regt		May		
Hq 646 RR Arty		Jul	XIV Corps	
Hq 927 CA Regt		Jun	CA Comd for 10th Army/ADRIATIC	
Hq 932 CA Regt		Jan	CA Comd	
Hq 933 CA Regt		Jan	CA Comd for 14th Army/TYRRHENIAN	
<u>B. Regiments:</u>				
130 *				
135		Jul		
180				
993		Jul	XIV Corps area, 14th Army	
1101		Jun		
1102		Apr	14th Army	
1230				
1240				
1245				
1252				
1272				
1287				
1291				
Regt "ASTURG"		Jun	CA Regt "SOUTH"	
<u>C. Battalions:</u>				
36		Jun		
113		May		
677		Aug	14th Army	
1103		Jun	Controls I/112 Res AR (188 Res Div)	
1106		Jun		
1107		Jul	XIV Corps area, 14th Army	
1108		Jul	XIV Corps area, 14th Army	
1109		Aug	14th Army	
1110		Jun	XIV Corps area, 14th Army	
1111		Apr	14th Army	
1112	Maj LEHNERT	Jun	14th Army	
1113		May		
1161				
1230				
616 Navy	**)Korvkapt SCHREIBER	Jun	Naval CA Comd SW	
619 Navy	***)Kaptlt EICH	May	Naval CA Comd SW	
632 Navy	Kaptlt WOLF	Jun	Naval CA Comd SW	
<u>D. Batteries:</u>				
659 RR	Hptm LACH	Sep	14th Army	Called: Arty Group "LACH"
660 RR	Hptm WOERG	Sep	14th Army/Arty Group "LACH"	
691 RR				
693 RR		May	646th RR Arty Hq	
699 RR				
712 RR		May	317th Sen Arty Comd/XIV Corps area	
725 RR		May	317th Sen Arty Comd/XIV Corps area	
756 RR		May	317th Sen Arty Comd	
761 RR		Jun		
RR "HAGEN"		Jun		
RR "HAUSER"		May		
RR "WOTAN"		May	14th Army	
*) All units not specifically marked "Navy" are assumed to be Army CA.				
) Korvkapt - Lt Comdr *) Kaptlt - Lt (s.g.)				

9. AA Artillery Units

UNIT	COMMANDER	DATE	LAST KNOWN CHAIN OF COMMAND	REMARKS
<u>A. Commands & Brigades:</u>				
C.O. AA N.ITALY	Gen Ritter v. POHL	Aug	2nd Air Fleet for OBSW	
25 AA Div (mtz)		Jul		Vic. MIRANDOZA
3 AA Brig	Obst KOENIG	Jul	2nd Air Fleet for 14th Army	
12 AA Brig				See 12 AA Regt
22 AA Brig	Obst MUELLER	Jun	2nd Air Fleet for 10th Army	
31 AA Brig		'43		
92 AA Brig		May		TAGLIACOZZO

B. Regiments:

5	Obst MALL	Jun	22nd AA Brig	
2nd Bn	Obstlt HAHMEISTER	Jul		Vic. ASSISSI
12	Maj ARNOLD	May	3rd AA Brig	See 12 AA Brig
1st Bn	Hptm STANGE	Jul	105th AA Regt	
13		May	Unallotted	
17		Apr	Unallotted	Vic. LA CHUISE
26	Obst OLDENDORF	May		
1st Bn		May	37th AA Regt	
2nd Bn	Maj PRANKE	May	37th AA Regt	
27				
1st Bn		May		
2nd Bn		Jul		
36				
37		May	22nd AA Brig	
1st Bn		Jul		
2nd Bn	Hptm STANAU	Jul		
39		Aug	3rd AA Brig	
41		Jul		
7th Bn		May		
57	Obst v. SONNENBERG	Jul	22nd AA Brig	
58		May	Unallotted	
78	Genlt(?) HIPPLER	Jun	22nd AA Brig	
87		Jun		
105	Obstlt HOHLBEIN	Aug	3rd AA Brig	
112			Unallotted	
116	Hptm SCHLACHLEIN	Apr		N. ITALY
131	Obstlt BACH	Jun	3rd AA Brig	
132		May		
135	Obstlt FISCHER	Aug	22nd AA Brig	
137		Jul	3rd AA Brig	
149		Jul	3rd AA Brig	
173		May	3rd AA Brig	
205		Jun	Unallotted	
1st Bn		Jun		
2nd Bn		Jun		
3rd Bn		Jun		
241				
1st Bn	Hptm ZIMMERMANN	Jun	57th AA Regt	
300		Mar	Unallotted	
Regt "ZIEGER"	(?) ZIEGER	May	3rd AA Brig	

S E C R E T
9. AA Artillery Units (Cont'd)

UNIT	COMMANDER	DATE	LAST KNOWN CHAIN OF COMMAND	REMARKS
<u>C. Battalions:</u>				
40		Jun		
51	Hptm v. BORKE	Aug		
82		Jun		
88	Maj EXNER	Jun		
99		Jul	3rd AA Brig	
102		'43		
116		Jun		
135(?)		Jun		ASSISI
160		Mar		
163		Jun	C.O. AA N. ITALY	
165		May	C.O. AA N. ITALY	
167	Maj ROESKY	Jun	57th AA Regt	
182		Jun		
192	Obstlt SCHMIDT-FIEBINGER	Jul	37th or 39th AA Regt	
194		Aug		Vic. PISA
199	Hptm WINSTEDT	Jun	Former II/152nd AA Regt	
211		Aug		
212	Obstlt RETTENBERG	Aug	57th AA Regt	
221		May		
237	Maj BRUNO	Jun	57th AA Regt	
243		'43	B.G. "PACHALY". See 327th AA Bn	
247	Maj HERWIG	Jul	135th AA Regt	
256	Hptm BREMEIER	Aug		
257		Sep		
259		Jul		
264	Hptm GERSTEUER	Jun		
274		Jun		
281	Maj Dr. GEHRS	Jul		
283		Jun		
287	Maj SCHNEIDER	Jan		
291		Jun		
292		Jun		
327	Maj PACHALY	Apr	B.G. "PACHALY"	
334	Hptm GAWEL	Jun	105th AA Regt	
341		Mar		
354		Aug		TUSCANY
361		Aug		S. of BOLOGNA
363			Now known as 452nd AA Bn	
365	Hptm WERNER	Jun		Vic. PERUGIA
374		Jun	39th AA Regt	Vic. ORBETELLO
376	Hptm TIMMERMANN	Jul	12th AA Regt (Brig?)	
385				
386	Hptm EHRENTAUT	Aug	57th AA Regt	Vic. FLORENCE
403			Existence doubtful	
451			Existence doubtful	
452	Maj MARANDER	May	Former 363rd AA Bn	
454		May		Vic BOLOGNA
456		May		
483		Mar		
485		Mar		
486		Jan		
487		Aug		N. of MASSA
488		May		
489		Jun		
492		May		Vic. VERONA
501 MG		Jun	14th Army area.	In 20th GAF Div
507		Aug		
523		Jul		Vic. FERRARA
534		Aug		
547		'43		
548		Mar		
563	Maj MELZER	May	105th AA Regt	
574		May		
575	Maj ANDERS	Aug		

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S E C R E T

9. AA Artillery Units (Cont'd)

UNIT	COMMANDER	DATE	LAST KNOWN CHAIN OF COMMAND	REMARKS
<u>C. Battalions (cont'd):</u>				
603		Mar		
646	Hptm AHL	Aug	105th AA Regt	
715		May		
717		Aug		
723		Jun	135th AA Regt	Vic. BOLOGNA
730		'43		
734	Maj PREUSSE	Jun		Vic. SUBIACO
736		Jun	Atchd to I Prcht Corps	
750		Jun		
758		Jun		
760		Aug		
761		Mar		
809		Apr		
841	Hptm HENKE	Apr	57th AA Regt	
843		Jul		Vic. OSOPPO
851 SP	Hptm HACKER	Aug	135th AA Regt	
860		Jun	39th AA Regt	
869		'43		
914		Jul	841st AA Bn	
921	Maj SEEWALD	Jul		
945	Maj TROETSCH	Jun	105th AA Regt	
985		Feb		

D. Army AA & Misc:

1-Preht AA Bn		Sep	1st Prcht Div	See Section II
2 AA Repl Bn		May	C.O. AA N.ITALY	AA Repl (German)
2 AA Repl Tng Bn	Hptm PIPER	Jul	C.O. SS N.ITALY	AA Repl (Italian)
4 Prcht AA Bn		Sep	4th Prcht Div	See Section II
16 SS AA Bn		Sep	16th SS P.G.Div	See Section II
20 AA School "SOUTH"		Jul	CO AA N.ITALY	
44 AA Obs Bn		Mar		
76 Ras AA Bn				
2nd Btry		Mar		
273		Sep	Unallotted	
274		'43	Unallotted	
302		Jul	135th AA Regt/278th Inf Div	
304	Hptm MEISSNER	Aug	26th Pz Div	See Section II
307		Aug		
308		Jul		
310 SP		Mar		
311 SP		Aug		
313	Hptm LENG	Jul	29th P.G.Div	See Section II
492 Res				
5th Btry		Mar		
612 MG				
617				
3rd Btry		Mar		
761				
2nd Btry		Mar		
919 AA Repair Co		May		

S E C R E T

S E C R E T
10. Foreign Units

UNIT	COMMANDER	DATE	LAST KNOWN CHAIN OF COMMAND	REMARKS
<u>A. Commands, Divisions, Brigades:</u>				
2nd Slov Tech Div	Genmaj BESSEL	Aug	Slovak Army/OBSW	

B. Regiments:

101 Slov Tech		Aug	2nd Slov Tech Div	
102 Slov Tech	Obstlt KLEMENT	Aug	2nd Slov Tech Div	

C. Battalions:

5 Czech	Obstlt TOKSTEIN	Aug	Czech Protectorate Army/OBSW	
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12 Czech battalions are known to exist in the Italian theater, but only the 5th Czech Bn has so far been identified.

11. Signal Units

UNIT	COMMANDER	DATE	LAST KNOWN CHAIN OF COMMAND	REMARKS
<u>A. Commands & Brigades:</u>				
7 Sig Intercept Comd		May	OBSW	
54 Fd Sig Hq		May		ISTRIA
310 Sig Hq		May	10th Army	

B. Regiments:

5				
21 GAF				
3rd Bn	Maj. HUERGER	Jul	2nd Air Fleet/OBSW	
28 GAF				
? Bn	Obt FREYWALD	Jun	2nd Air Fleet/OBSW	
508		Jul	10th Army	
512		Jul	10th Army	
2nd Bn		Jul	10th Army	
524		Aug	14th Army	
598 z.b.V.				
651 GAF		Apr	2nd Air Fleet/OBSW	

C. Battalions:

16 Pz		May	14th Army	
60		Jul	XIV Corps	
64	Maj AHREND	Jun	LXXVI Corps	
86				
213				
414		Jul	XIV Corps	Corps Sig Unit
451		Jul	LI Mtn Corps	Corps Sig Unit
476		Jul	LXXVI Corps	Corps Sig Unit
487		May	Armeeabt. v. ZANGEN	Sig Unit
I Pcht Corps Sig	Maj BERLIN	Jun	I Prcht Corps	Corps Sig Unit
RR Sig z.b.V. "ITALY"		May	OBSW	

D. Companies, Parks, Misc.:

22 Telephone Maint		Apr	651st Sig Regt	
212 Sig Cstr (GAF)		Aug	2nd Air Fleet	
603 Sig Intercept Co		Jan	7th Sig Intercept Comd	
649 Cable Co				
651 Sig Maint Co		Apr	651st Sig Regt	
Sig Co, C-in-C South-West		Jun	OBSW	
571 Sig Park		Feb	10th Army	
592 Sig Park		Feb		

S E C R E T
12. Engineer and Construction Units

UNIT	COMMANDER	DATE	LAST KNOWN CHAIN OF COMMAND	REMARKS
<u>A. Commands & Brigades:</u>				
36 Sen Engr Comd		Jun	Engr Comd OBSW	
7 RR Cstr Hq				
15 RR Fort Hq		Jul	See 91st RR Engr Co & I/33rd Engr R.	
16 Fort Hq		Jun	14th Army	
18 Fort Hq				
20 Fort Hq				
30 Fort Hq				

<u>B. Regiments *):</u>				
3 RR		Jun	15th RR Fort Hq	
33 Fort				
1st Bn		Jun	15th RR Fort Hq	
34 Fort				
1st Bn				
112*		Jun		
413*		Jun	14th Army	Vic. GENOA
431		May	14th Army	
543*		May	LXXVI Corps	
604*		Apr	See 60th Engr Bn	
780 Cstr				

* Perhaps Hq only.

<u>C. Battalions:</u>				
1 RR Cstr				
1 RR Oper		May	14th Army	
4 RR Cstr				
4 Lehr	Hptm GAMON	Sep	OKW, LXXVI Corps area	
6 Tech				
11 RR Cstr				
12 RR Cstr		Jul		
13 RR Cstr		Jan		
14 Fort				
20 Fort				
21 RR Oper		Jun		
22 G/F		Jun	14th Army	
34 RR Cstr				
45	Hptm HEINRICH	Aug		PO Valley
60	Maj LEITNER	Jul	604th Regt, with XIV Corps	
62		Jan		
74	Oblt FOHL	May		Vic. FOLIGNO
161				
205 RR				
313 Nav				
353				
384		143		
412		Jun		
430 Cstr	Maj FONDLER	Jun	10th Army (?)	
431 Cstr	Hptm SACHERL	Jul		
432				
433		May		
501 Cstr				
516 RR Cstr		Jul	14th Army	
518 RR Cstr			Same as 518 Ldsch Engr Bn?	
518 Ldsch (Co?)			Same as 518 RR Cstr Bn?	
736 Cstr	Hptm KNURA	Jun	I Prcht Corps	
788		May		
789	Hptm ZOELFFER	Sep		
790		Mar		
791		Mar		
794 Cstr		Mar		
818 Mtn		Jul	LXXVI Corps	
821 Cstr	Hptm STOCKMANN	Sep		
972 Cstr		Jun	LI Mtn Corps	

S E C R E T
- 14 -

S E C R E T

12. Engineer and Construction Units (Cont'd)

UNIT	COMMANDER	DATE	LAST KNOWN CHAIN OF COMMAND	REMARKS
<u>B. Companies, Columns, Parks, Depots, etc.:</u>				
17 Tech Cstr Co		Jun		
30 Quarry Co		Jun	14th Army	
43 Tech Cstr Co		May	14th Army	
49 RR Co				
55 RR Co	Hptm SEIDEL	Jul	14th Army	
74 Cstr Co		Aug	OBSW	
83 RR Co				
84 RR Co				
91 RR Co	Oblt MAI	Jul	15th Engr Hq	
96 RR Co		Mar		
99 RR Co		Aug	14th Army	
105 RR Co				
204 RR Oper Co				
205 RR Oper Co		Jun		
811 Pz Engr Co"G"		May	10th Army	GOLIATH tanks
813 Pz Engr Co"G"		May	14th Army	GOLIATH tanks
Bridging Comd "B"		May	14th Army	Controlling Hq
840 Pz Bridging Comd		Jul	? Corps in 14th Army/Controlling Hq	
936 Pz Bridging Comd		Jun	? Corps in 14th Army/Controlling Hq	
44 Bridging Column		Aug	Bridging Comd "B"	XIV Corps area
66 Bridging Column		Jul	Bridging Comd "B"	XIV Corps area
95 Bridging Column		May	Bridging Comd "B"	
141 Bridging Column		May	Bridging Comd "B"	
505 Bridging Column		May	Bridging Comd "B"	
936 Bridging Column		May	14th Army area	
514 Map Depot		May	14th Army	
530 Fort Park				
2405 RR Cstr Plat				

13. Supply, MT, Ordnance, Maintenance Units

UNIT	COMMANDER	DATE	LAST KNOWN CHAIN OF COMMAND	REMARKS
<u>A. Commands & Brigades:</u>				
5 Sen Supply Comd	Obst ZIMMERMANN	Aug	OBSW	
	v. SIEFART			
512 Supply Comd			See Armeest.v.ZANGEN	
521 Supply Comd	Obst WILHEIM	Aug	10th Army	
585 Supply Comd	Obst MILLAUER	Aug	14th Army	
Supply Comd v.ZANGEN			Same as 512th Supply Comd?	
6 Fort Supply Hq				
103 Special Sup Hq	Maj ALBRECHT	May		
264 Special Sup Hq				
289 Special Sup Hq	Obstlt FREY	Apr	v.ZANGEN	
563 Special Sup Hq				
593 Special Sup Hq				
681 Special Sup Hq				
683 Special Sup Hq		May	521st Supply Comd	
743 Special Sup Hq	Maj CARSTANJEN	Apr	v.ZANGEN	
744 Special Sup Hq	Hptm KNOCHE	Jun	585th Supply Comd	
792 Special Sup Hq		Jul	521st Supply Comd	
822 Special Sup Hq	Maj v.HANIEL-NIETHAMMER			
Tech Forces Hq		Mar	OBSW	
<u>B. Regiments:</u>				
1 Special Sup	Obstlt HAERMS	Aug	5th Sen Supply Comd	
616 MT	Maj REES	Aug	5th Sen Supply Comd	
MT Regt "SOUTH"				

S E C R E T

13. Supply, MT, Ordnance, Maintenance Units(Cont'd)

UNIT	COMMANDER	DATE	LAST KNOWN CHAIN OF COMMAND	REMARKS
<u>C. Battalions:</u>				
4 Tech		May	Tech Forces Hq	
6 Tech		Jan	Tech Forces Hq	
7 Tech		Jan	Tech Forces Hq	
7 MT		Jul	512th Supply Comd	
10 Tech		Jan	Tech Forces Hq	
11 Turc Ord				
13 Tech		Jan	Tech Forces Hq	
14 Tech		Jun	Tech Forces Hq	
17 Tech		Jun	Tech Forces Hq	
24 Ord				
37 Ord*		Jun	LXXVI Corps	
42 Ord		May		
45 Ord				
52 Ord				
53 Sup Labor	Hptm v. GAYHSO			
112 Ord		Jun	512th Supply Comd	AMELIA
147 Sup Labor	Maj WITTMANN	Aug	5th Sen Supply Comd	Harbor Bn
445 Sup				
506 MT		May	10th Army area	
513 Maint		Jan	585th Supply Comd	
563 MT	Hptm SICKENBERG	May	521st Supply Comd	
593 MT	Maj LOEHR	Aug	585th Supply Comd	
597 MT				
605 MT				
611 MT				
617 MT		May	5th Sen Supply Comd	
988 MT				
4th Co	Hptm KRUEGER	May	5th Sen Supply Comd	
3472 Ord Sup				

D. Companies, Detachments, Lower Administrative Commands:

6 MT Co		Feb	112th Ord Bn	
149 Mot Maint Co				
223 Maint Co		May	585th Supply Comd	
414 MT Co				
451 MT Co (Bn?)				
526 Sup Labor Co				
527 Sup Co				
566 Sup Co		May	744th Supply Hq	
577 Gas Adm Hq		May	585th Supply Comd	
592 Gas Adm Hq	Oblt WEGEMANN	Jul	521st Supply Comd	
618 Sup Co				
626 Amn Adm Hq		Mar	14th Army area	
633 Sup Co				
655 Mot Maint Co				
723 Sup Co				
755 Sup Co				
853 MT Co		Jun	112th Ord Bn	
1025 MT Co				
1150 MT Co		May	593rd MT Bn	
1151 MT Co		May	593rd MT Bn	
1152 MT Co		May	593rd MT Bn	
1153 MT Co		May	593rd MT Bn	
1154 MT Co				
1155 MT Co				
1156 MT Co				
547 Amn Adm Hq				
740 Amn Adm Hq				
853 Amn Adm Hq		May	585th Supply Comd	

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

14. SS, Police, and Military Police Units

UNIT	COMMANDER	DATE	LAST KNOWN CHAIN OF COMMAND	REMARKS
<u>A. Commands and Brigades:</u>				
<u>B. Regiments:</u>				
10 SS Pol		Jul	OBSW-SS	UDINE
12 SS Pol		Jun	OBSW-SS	
14 SS Pol		Sep	OBSW-SS	UGOLIN
15 SS Pol		Jun	OBSW-SS	Vic.TURIN
19 SS Pol		Apr	SS	SLOVENIA
20 SS Pol		Jul	OBSW-SS	Vic.PISTOIA
SS Pol "BOZEN"*		May	OBSW-SS	Vic.BOLZANO
"BUERGER" Pol (SS?)				**Citizen Police

<u>C. Battalions:</u>				
541 MP		Jan	OBSW	
610 MP		Jan	14th Army	
653 MP		Jul	I Prcht Corps	FLORENCE
692 MP			14th Army	
741 MP			14th Army	
936 MP		Jul	14th Army	

<u>D. Companies and Detachments:</u>				
610 Secret Fd Pol Det		Jun	14th Army	
641 Secret Fd Pol Det				
653 Secret Fd Pol Det		Jul	I Prcht Corps	Vic.FLORENCE
676 Fd Pol Det				
999 Fd Pol Det				
1000 Fd Pol Det				
1001 Fd Pol Det				
1009 Fd Pol Det				
SS-"KARSTWEHR"				

* SS Pol Bn "Alpenvorland" (Lower Alps), which has also been reported, is assumed to be the same unit as 1st Bn, SS Pol Regt BOZEN, which was identified in the defense of ROME. It is also possible that another battalion of Pol Regt "BOZEN" -called SS Pol Bn "Alpenvorland"- was kept in SOUTH TYROL for the maintenance of order.

** This citizen police - under the direct or indirect control of the SS - is a semi-military organization of Germans in SOUTH TYROL.

IV. GERMAN OFFICER PERSONALITIES: COMMANDERS AND STAFF OFFICERS IN HIGHER ECHELONS (INCLUDING DIVISIONS)

UNIT	COMMANDER	CHIEF OF STAFF	G-3	G-2
Army Group "C" & AirC SOUTH-WEST (O.S.S.W.)	Genfeldm v.KESSELRING	Genmaj WESTPHAL	Army: Obst WENZEL Navy: Kapt NEUBAUER Air: Major v.SCHULZ	Obst ZOLLING
10th Army	Genobst v.VIETTINGHOFF	Obst WAGNER		Major HOFFMANN
14th Army	General v.LEMELSEN	Obst v.HAUSER	Obstlt BOEHMKE	Obstlt EPENDORFF
Ligurian Army	Marshal GRAZIANI			
Armeeabt. v.ZANGEN	General v.ZANGEN	Obst NAGEL	Major v.BUCHHOLZ	
Genkdo WITTHOEFT	General WITTHOEFT	Obst GERICKE	Obstlt GOEDECKEMEYER	
Genkdo KUEBLER	General KUEBLER	Obst Dr. HENNECKE	Hptm Dr. LANGER	
I Pz Corps	General SCHLENN	Obstlt v.HOFFMANN	Hptm KNOELKE	Major HECHT
XIV Pz Corps	Genlt HARTMANN		Hptm HEDER	
LI Mtn Corps	General v.FEURSTEIN	Obst SCHMIDT	Obstlt SCHUSTER	
LXXV Corps				
LXXVI Pz Corps	General v.HERR	Obst RUNKEL	Major v.CLAIR	Obstlt MARTINI
1st Pz Div	Obst SCHULZ			Obst TREIDER
4th Pz Div	Genmaj TRETTNER	Major v.ROOM		Obst KRAUSE
5th Mtn Div	Genmaj SCHRANK			
16th SS PG Div	SS-Gruppenfhr SIMON	Obfhr ALBERT		Sturmabannfhr GOTTSCHALK
20th GAF Field Div	Genmaj GRISSOLLI	Obstlt LAEMPE		Obst Dr. HAHNSTEIN
26th Pz Div	Obst GRASSMANN	Obstlt v.DERNSTORFF		Hptm BAUMDACH
29th PG Div	Genlt FRIES	Obstlt MOLL	Hptm FABIAN	Hptm v.CERTZEN
42nd Jäger Div	Genlt BRUNNER			
44th Inf Div	Genlt ROST	Obstlt v.STRACHWITZ	Obstlt REINHART	Rittm SCOPA
65th Inf Div	Genlt PFEIFER	Obstlt v.A.KNESEDECK		
71st Inf Div	Genmaj RAPPEKE	Obstlt FRECHL	Maj HEYDKE	
90th PG Div	Genmaj BAUDE	Obstlt v.METZ		
94th Inf Div	Genmaj ECKERT			
98th Inf Div	Genlt REINHARDT	Maj MUEHLEHNER		
114th Light Div	Genmaj EGLSEER	Obstlt ANGUSS	Maj ARNOLD	Lt BOEHMKE
148th Res Div	Genmaj FREYTER-PILO	Maj SCHULZ		Obst PILOT
157th Res Div	Genlt PFLAUM(?)			
162nd Inf Div	Genmaj HEIGENDORF			
278th Inf Div	Genlt HOPPE (reported wounded)	Maj KLENNERT		Obst PENNINGSFELD
305th Inf Div	Genmaj HAUCK	Obstlt SCHUSTER		Hptm BABEL
334th Inf Div	Genmaj BOEHLKE	Obstlt v.CANSTEIN		Hptm Dr. HENNECKE
356th Inf Div	Genmaj ROHR	Major HERZ		Obst RODEK
362nd Inf Div	Genlt GREINER	Obstlt DUESING	Maj HENZEL	Hptm BOEHNER
715th Inf Div	Obst KLUGE	Obstlt HADEDANCK		

S E C R E T
-18-

SECRET

V. GERMAN OFFICER PERSONALITIES: DIVISIONAL INF, TANK, AND ARTY COMMANDERS

DIV	UNIT	COMMANDER	DIV	UNIT	COMMANDER	DIV	UNIT	COMMANDER
1 Precht Div	1 Precht Regt	Maj ROEHNECKE	44 Inf Div	191 IR	Obst NAGEL	157 Res Div	1 Res Regt	
	3 Precht Regt	Obst HEILMANN		192 IR	Obstlt HOFFMANN		157 Res Regt	
	4 Precht Regt	Obstlt BOEHMER		194 IR	Obst SCHOLLER or		7 AR	
	1 Precht AR	Obstlt SCHIRMER			POPPINGER	162 Inf Div	303 IR	Maj ESER
4 Precht Div	10 Precht Regt	Obst FUCHS		96 AR	Obst SIEHL		314 IR	Maj DANNAUSER
	11 Precht Regt	Obst GERICKE	65 Inf Div	145 IR	Obst JOHN		162 Div Bn	Maj KAMINSKI
	12 Precht Regt	Major TIMM		146 IR	Maj KRELL		236 AR	Obstlt LEFORT
	4 Precht AR	Obstlt SCHRAMM		147 IR	Obstlt SUFFER	278 Inf Div	992 IR	Obstlt CRANZ
5 Mtn Div	85 Mtn Regt	Maj WALTHER		165 AR	Obst SACKERSDORFER		993 IR	Obst BROECKLER
	100 Mtn Regt	Major ERNST	71 Inf Div	191 IR	Obst MATTHIS		994 IR	Obst DAYER
	95 AR	Obstlt REITEL		194 IR	Obst VOELKER		278 AR	Obst v. LONSKI
16 SS PGD	35 SS PGR	Obfhr GESELER		211 IR	Obstlt RUMOH	305 Inf Div	576 IR	Obstlt SEELE
	36 SS PGR	Stdtmfr HORN		171 AR	Obst ZEHE		577 IR	Maj PICK
	16 SS Tk Bn	Stdtmfr HEUENFELD	90 PGD	200 PGR	Obst v. BEHR		578 IR	Obst TROMPETER
	16 SS AR	Stdtmfr STANGE		361 PGR	Obst HEYDEKEMP		305 AR	Obstlt KURZ
20 GAF Div	39 GAF IR	Obst BODIN		190 Tk Bn		334 Inf Div	754 IR	Obstlt ORTLIEB
	40 GAF IR	Obst KUECKLING(RIEGER ?)		190 AR	Obst KIRSCHKE		755 IR	Obstlt VOSS
	20 GAF AR	Maj FRITSCHE	94 Inf Div	267 IR	Obst GRASSAU		756 IR	Obst JENISCH
26 Pa Div	9 PGR	Obst v. WITZLEH		274 IR	Obstlt EHERT		334 AR	Obstlt EHLERS
	67 PGR	Maj. ECKERT		276 IR	Obstlt v. SEHLER	356 Inf Div	869 IR	Obst v. SANDERN
	26 Tk Regt	Obst SCHMAL		194 AR	Obstlt URBAN		870 IR	Obst KLEIMENS
	93 AR	Obstlt HEINEMANN	98 Inf Div	117 IR	Obst LERDINE		871 IR	Obst SCHUETTEN-SACK
29 PGD	75 PGR	Obstlt WALTERSDORF		289 IR	Obstlt WINZEN		856 AR	Obstlt BAUMANN
	71 PGR	Obst FELLER		290 IR	Maj VEIT	362 Inf Div	1059 IR	Obst VETZEL
	129 Tk Bn	Hptm PAUSER		198 AR	Obst v. KOENIG(ER)		1060 IR	Obstlt KAISER
	29 AR	Obst POLIAK	114 Lt Div	721 JR	Obst HERGER		956 IR	Obstlt BAUMEISTER
42 JHg Div	25 JR	Obst SCHIEROWSKI		741 JR	Obst SCHOCH		362 AR	Maj SEIFERT
	40 JR	Obstlt DITTMANN		661 AR	Maj GEMMELE	715 Inf Div	725 IR	Obst WEHER
	142 AR		148 Res Div	8 Res Regt	Obstlt NIEDLICH		735 IR	Maj MICHALSKI
				239 Res Regt	Obst HAHN		1028 IR	Obst MANGOLD
				252 Res Regt	Obst KESSLER		671 AR	Obst HANNES
				8 AR	Obst SUKKER			

SECRET

-19-

353/12

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Information and Censorship Section
(A.F.H.Q.)
PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH
H.Q. A.A.I.

Report No. 44/63

28th July '44.

Report on the interrogation
of
12 GERMAN DESERTERS.

Released by GS(I), AAI, for use in leaflets, radio and Press, except for words underlined and passages sidelined, which are for background information only.

NOTE: Much material obtained from these and other deserters has been circulated in FR/- reports. This report is concerned more with the deserters themselves and their views than the information they have to give. It is prefaced by some material obtained from other Ps/W on

I DETERRENTS TO DESEATION

FEAR OF DISHONOUR

1. A 21 year-old Brandenburger, O.Gefr., PZ.Gr.Regt., "A deserter is a traitor to his country. No decent soldier can consider such a step... No, not even Poles. After all, they gave the 'Fahneneid.'"

FEAR OF COLOURED TROOPS

2. An intelligent Polish deserter said that one thing that kept German soldiers from deserting was fear of French Colonial troops, particularly Negroes. He said that no German soldier would desert to them; he admitted the Germans had used this as a propaganda line, but he himself would not have surrendered to coloured troops.

FEAR OF REPRISALS ON FAMILY

3. A P/W from HQ Coy., 305 Regt., 305 I.D., stated that in March '44 all the men in his unit had to sign a document to the effect that they knew that if they deserted, their families would be held to account (zur Rechenschaft gezogen).

WARNINGS

4. O.Gr., 6 Coy., 67 Regt., 26 Div., captured 9 July after 3 weeks at the front, a former clerk. He had got lost when his unit was dispersed under an artillery barrage (versprengt), and he was trying to rejoin it. He walked in the wrong direction and was captured without resistance; he was in a state of complete exhaustion, suffering from hunger, lack of sleep, and blistered feet. He admitted that he would have deserted had he not been afraid because of threats made by the Coy CO, a Lt. Eger, who had declared about 14 days previously that anyone who was absent because of "Versprengung" for more than 3 days would be shot as a deserter. This officer had previously reported as deserters three men who had been captured while asleep in their dug-outs.

5. A P/W of 3 Coy., 37 Regt., 19 Div., captured 4 July, said that the unit was warned against desertion before going into the line, but no specific threats were uttered.

II SENT TO HIS DEATH

A P/W from the 4th GAF Penal Bn. (zbV), formerly in the 23 Long Range Recon Sq., was sentenced to 13 months imprisonment in 1936. The charge was high treason, because P/W had made the following remark, "Der dicke Hermann ist ein grosser Schwindler" (Fat Hermann is a big swindler). The case was brought up

again before a Court-martial in Berlin in 1936, as it was thought the sentence was too lenient; the prosecuting officer asked for a further 5 years' sentence (Zuchthaus). The previous verdict was however upheld. Thereafter, P/W was always treated as a criminal. In April '44 he was transferred to the Penal Bn. for having fraternised with Italians.

P/W was sent into action without arms on the personal order of Lt. Gen. Greiner, commanding 362 Inf. Div. This happened four times, and the fourth time P/W deserted.

III AUTHOR

Gefr. Walter Hoffmann, 9 Bn., 661 A. Regt., 114 Jaeg. Div. Aged 36. Journalist. Of German nationality, but resident in Copenhagen until called up in '42. Left-wing leanings, but not Communist. Has published books in German and Danish. Speaks English fairly well.

Hoffman's chief work is "Die Untermenschen" (Sub-men), a study of the Nazi mentality, published in '35. In this attempt to analyse the reasons for the acceptance of Hitler by the bulk of the German nation, he stressed mainly that German youth as a whole, and the working-class, including socialists and communists, were basically petty bourgeois: instinctive longing for security and order arising out of timidity; respect for the uniform, aping of the leisured classes. (Man sah es sogar an den Moebeln - alles unecht und nachgeahmt.) He considers that the German educational system deliberately bred this type, who make ideal "voting cattle" (Stimmvieh).

Hoffman believes that the vast majority of the German people have now lost all hope of outright victory, but that civilians as well as soldiers are so well disciplined that they will always obey orders from their superiors, whatever their own feelings may be. They long for peace, but while they are ordered to fight they will fight. In this war the work of internal propaganda has been much more thorough than in the last, and the police system is also more efficient.

The bulk of the people would welcome a compromise peace which would keep the Russians out of Germany by letting the Western Powers in. But the leadership of the Nazi Party know that any surrender, whether to the Russians or to the Western Powers, or to both simultaneously means the end of them; their interest is to prolong the war as much as possible, so as to bring about general exhaustion, and therefore they must attempt to put up a maximum resistance everywhere, in the West as well as in the East. The aims of the General Staff, Hoffman thinks, are distinct from but not necessarily antagonistic to those of the Party. They are chiefly concerned to preserve their own organisation intact after the war, and to safeguard as far as may be the Prussian military tradition. Should the General Staff ever contemplate surrender, therefore, they would be inclined to parley with the side that holds out the best hopes of achieving these aims. The Western Powers have declared unmistakably that they stand for the complete liquidation of German militarism and everything that goes with it; the Russian policy in this respect has never been clearly stated.

At all events, both Party and General Staff are at one in their determination to put up the maximum resistance for as long as possible. The defeatism of the ordinary German soldier should not therefore be taken as a sign of impending collapse, in view of his high standard of discipline. Nevertheless, he thinks this is the fatal weakness which Allied propaganda should bear down on - divergence of interest between the Fuehrung and the ordinary soldier.

IV ACTOR

O.Gefr. Hans Reiser, Coast Artillery 1111. Aged 25. Single. Catholic. Home: Munich. An actor at the Bavarian State Theatre; occasional broadcaster. Unusually intelligent, if somewhat emotional and over-enthusiastic; articulate, imaginative and dynamic. Ardent and trustworthy anti-Nazi.

P/W has been in the German Army for 5 years, except for one spell when he was temporarily released to act in Munich. It was then that he witnessed and took part in the well-known riots at Munich University, which resulted in the execution of two men and one girl student. P/W says the whole thing was provoked by a public speech of Gauleiter Paul Giesler (now "Ministerpräsident" of Bavaria) who attacked and ridiculed women students; when the women left the hall in protest, he had them arrested by SS guards.

P/W's anti-Nazi feelings were intensified by scenes of horror he witnessed in Poland and Russia - mass executions of Jewish women and children...

P/W is acquainted with various leading German actors and actresses, who are more or less intimate with high Party circles, and he speaks of the general corruption of artistic and theatrical life and values... He knew personally the American chorus-girl who was often Hitler's guest at Berchtesgaden.

P/W contemplated desertion for a long time, and finally had his opportunity in the retreat north of Rome. He hid in civilian clothes in a peasants' house, and later in Rome in the home of an Italian anti-Fascist writer and publisher.

V AMERICAN BACKGROUND

O.Gefr. Wolfgang Doman, 19 LW Felddiv. Aged 26. Single. Called up Jan. '40. P/W is the stepson of the singer Elisabeth Rethberg, who, he says, is closer to him than his own mother. [She is an American citizen, a Metropolitan star; she was criticised for singing at the Berlin State Opera after Hitler came to power and for continuing to appear at Salzburg music festivals when anti-Nazi artists were refusing to perform there. She was also for many years an intimate friend of the Italian singer Enzo Pinza, interred in the USA in '42 for pro-Fascist activities.] P/W's father is an industrialist, Albert Doman, living in Germany, who, according to P/W, is opposed to the regime.

P/W went to school in the USA from 1924 to '32 (Riverdale County), and he speaks excellent English. He then went to Switzerland, and subsequently studied economics in Germany (Göttingen). The family had a house in Ascona in Switzerland, where P/W made the acquaintance of well-known German refugees, Emil Ludwig, Remarque and others.

In the Army P/W was mostly used as an interpreter. He monitored BBC for some time, when he was on the Eastern Front, sending in reports on the broadcasts to Lt.-Gen. Somme. In Frankfurt-Oberursel, P/W was assigned to what he claims was the only German Intelligence unit concerned with interrogating Anglo-American pilots. Thanks to his American education, says P/W, he got on well with the Allied fliers. He states that he never tried very hard to get anything out of them...

P/W was stationed in Lille in France when the landings occurred. He left his unit and went into hiding with French friends, intending to desert. When the Allied advance was not as rapid as he had expected, he decided to come to Italy... After two days in Italy, he joined up with Italian patriots, and states that he did some fighting with them until he had a chance to give himself up to the Allies. P/W says he has always been anti-Nazi. He joined the Wehrmacht because he had to. He never believed in German victory. He wants to become an American citizen...

Uffz. Willi Lange, A.R. 148, 2. Abt., 148 Div. Aged 29. From the Rhineland. Gardener, salesman. Five years in the Army, served in Russia; signals, camouflage, staff duties.

P/W deserted from the Channel coast early in June (before the Allied landings) and succeeded in reaching the Allies on the Italian front within a fortnight, by the following various and ingenious means. He had received a telegram stating that his step-father had died. This entitled him to 7 days' compassionate leave. He stole several (stamped) order blanks from the orderly room, obtained travel orders for Bonn - not his home - and left the next day. He was held up for two days near Brussels, and therefore applied for extension of leave at Bonn, claiming that he had only just learnt that his father had died at Biberach. He contacted relatives, telling them he was "on his way to the front," and got some food from them. From an acquaintance he made while travelling he obtained the Field Post Number series of German units in Italy, and was thus able to "order" himself - on one of his blanks - as casual replacement to a fictitious unit. He went through Munich without reporting to the "Frontleitstelle." He had some trouble at the Brenner, but got through finally. At Verona he was told that all returning soldiers were being assembled and held at various points, since there was no further transport south. He rode out of the town underneath a truck, in company with other men who were afraid of being put into scratch "Alarm" line units and preferred to return to their original, non-infantry units. They experienced "awful" bombing and strafing attacks on the roads. When he got to Florence he was forced to go to the Frontleitstelle for lack of food. He stampeded the officer into signing his papers by telling him a truck was waiting to take him to his unit, they had sent him - there was no time to lose. These papers entitled him to four days' food. He hitch-hiked on, finally left the roads and went cross-country with another man he had picked up. They spoke to some Italians, saying they were lost; the Italians gloefully told them that "coloured troops" were killing off all the Germans they found, whereupon his comrade took fright and made off. P/W was afraid this man would give him away, and hurriedly cleared out himself. He was finally told by Italians when there were Americans around and he found a lone Military Policeman and gave himself up to him.

P/W thinks "things look black" (Ich sehe schwarz). He had wanted to desert all along, but considered it too dangerous in Russia and had had no opportunity during his year in France. "I think internationally... The Germans are funny people - they are 'idealists,' which means that they persuade themselves about things against their better knowledge. I am a realist... The average soldier can't see further than his nose. He may grouse, but it won't be about the war itself, but only about being sent into a battle where he is inferior... I believe in retaliation against Germany, after what they have done. The best thing would be for neighbouring countries each to annex a part of her; not another Versailles - simply because there isn't anything left in Germany with which to make or pay reparations."

He cannot see just how the end will come. The army is too well disciplined ever to revolt. The foreigners in Germany will start it. He thinks the Army would refuse to shoot German civilians, but "the SS has been trained for nothing else. They'll do it."

As for himself, he is not afraid. - "Für den tüchtigen Menschen wird überall Brot gebacken." (Bread will always be baked for those who can earn it.)

VII POLITICAL ANTI-NAZIS

1. Uffz. Richard Wolk, 2 Coy., LW Jaeger Bn., z.b.V.8 (Penal Bn.). Aged 42. From Berlin. Called up in 1940, stationed in Germany.

Before 1933 P/W was an active Social-Democrat, Secretary of the N. Berlin Party branch (Schriftfuehrer und Vorsitzender der Gruppe Berlin Nord), which had about 50,000 members. In 1933 he was sent to prison for three years for propaganda against the government.

P/W has been in prison twice since he has been in the Army. The first time in 1941 he was sentenced to two months while he was serving with the Luftkriegsschule 6 Bernau-Berlin; he was convicted of Zersetzung der Wehrkraft for the following remark: "Hess, der die meisten Sympation bei der Partei hatte, wurde nach seiner Flucht nach England fuer verrueckt erklaert. Die wirklichen Verrueckten haiben hier und fuehren ein verrueckten Krieg weiter" (Hess, who had the biggest following in the Party, was alleged to be mad when he flew to England. The real madmen are those who stayed behind and are carrying on with a mad war). The second incident occurred in July '43 when P/W was with the AA(3 Bty., Flak Abt, 727) in Dresden. Two Uffz., Waldenburger and Herold, of P/W's unit said that if the Russians got into Germany they would merely throw away their Party badges, to which P/W retorted, "Don't worry, there will be enough of us right here in Germany to take care of you Party members." For this remark P/W got three months, and was transferred to a penal Bn. Members of such units are supposed to prove themselves at the front to earn a return to a normal unit, but P/W said, "Wer einmahl z.b.V. ist, der kommt bis Kriegsende nicht mehr raus."

P/W deserted a few days after reaching the front, and fought actively with Italian patriots for several months.

P/W had heard that a German General was broadcasting or had broadcast from Moscow, but did not know his name. He said it was his opinion that some fine day a German General would force Hitler to quit at the point of a gun and then a number of representatives of the German General Staff would sue for peace. P/W went on: "Don't be fooled by such a move, they will only be trying to save the pieces for another go." (Interrogated before the recent attentat.)

2. Gefr. Franz Ahrens, Pz. Jg. Abt. 590. Aged 31. Married. From Hamburg. Former law student. In Dachau from '34 to '39 for Communist activities. Called up '43.

P/W is full of praise for the Italian civilians who helped him to escape, giving him civilian clothes and hiding him.

3. Gefr. Helmut Richards, Nachrichtenpark 511, Armeo-Oberkommando 10. Aged 35. Communist. Former jazz band player, touring Germany with bands, playing on the radio, etc. Married.

P/W decided his moment for desertion had come when his CO gave orders to destroy military installations - that meant the Allied troops would arrive any minute. An Italian shepherd - with Communist leanings, he says - gave him civilian clothes.

4. O.Gefr. Alexander Weitschat, Krankenkraftwagenzug 1, 190 San. Komp, 90 PG Div. Aged 33. From Königsberg, E. Prussia. Before 1933 a member of the SPD. "Wie kann Deutschland einen Krieg gegen die ganze Welt gewinnen?"

VIII DEFEATISTS

1. Gren. Werner Wohltat, 5 Coy., 9 Regt., 26 PG Div. Aged 18. Student.
From Berlin. Bombed out last Dec. Deserted 5 days after coming into line. He betrayed utter pessimism, except for a faint flicker of hope about the secret weapon, which, however, had come too late, he thought.
"Vollen Sieg gibt's nicht fuer uns... vielleicht ein Abkommen..."
Germans would prefer a Kaiserreich after the war. A republic would not do, because you have to have leadership to unite the people - "Fuehrung muss sein!"
The German people is "querkopfig" and cannot lead a healthy political life except under energetic leadership.
2. O.Gefr. Alfred Buchrer, 11 Coy., 104 Regt., 15 PG Div. Aged 38.
From Freiburg. "Warum soll ich mich denn noch fuer eine aussichtslose Sache opfern?" Was well informed about the situation in France, but was not aware of the extent of the latest Russian gains. Shown a map, he was very surprised and said, "Wenn das so steht, sollte die Fuehrung Einschen haben und Schluss machen."
P/W said he had made up his mind to desert after he had read a "Passierschein" leaflet. He was sure that the statements about good treatment were true. He had also seen several copies of "Frontpost," and said, "We believed them rather than the OKW communique - they gave irrefutable facts" (Da waren ja unwiderlegbare Tatsachen).
3. O.Gefr. Hans Pfister, HQ Coy., 29 Regt., 3 PG Div. Aged 30. From Schweinfurt. Deserted after an accumulation of personal misfortunes. When he was home on leave in February he found that his wife was living with a FW. stationed in his home town, and he obtained a divorce. He didn't see why he should go on risking his neck for other people who destroyed his home while he was away... One brother-in-law of his had died in N. Africa. Now he heard that his brother had been killed in Russia. When he came back from leave, he reported sick at Perugia. He stayed on there, protected by an Austrian Oberschirmmeister; when the hospital moved out, he hid with civilians and gave himself up when the British occupied the town.
P/W is gl d the Allies have landed in France at last, because it will shorten the way which Germany cannot win anyway. "Deutschland ist zu klein um gegen die ganze Welt zu kaempfen."