

NOTES FOR MILITARY AGENTS
OPERATING AGAINST GERMANY.

GENERAL.

As a general guide, agents should report exactly what they see, where they saw it and when. The date is most important.

If the information is not from personal observation, they should also state exactly how and from whom it was obtained.

Reports should be as concise and definite as possible. Vague statements, rumours or agents' own deductions are rarely of use and should be avoided.

The following paragraphs contain the subjects on which information is particularly required, together with some hints on how best to obtain it. Examples of good and bad reports are given.

2. IDENTIFICATIONS.

From identifications the enemies' Order of Battle and hence his strategic plans can be deduced. To obtain identifications of units is, therefore, the most important duty of any agent. It can be done as follows:-

- (a) By observing the number and/or letters worn on troops' shoulder straps, together with the colour of the piping. The number and/or letters without the colour is valueless.

Distinction must be made between army and air force troops. The former wear grey-green (or black in the case of tank troops), the latter blue-grey uniforms.

- (b) By observing the numbers, letters and signs seen on military vehicles. When reporting these agents should always:-

- (i) State whether registration numbers are preceded by WH, WL, or WM (army, air force or navy).
 - (ii) State the number and nature of the vehicles seen with each marking.
 - (iii) State the type of troops seen with the vehicles and give details of their uniforms e.g. numbers on shoulder straps, colour of piping etc.
 - (iv) Report all markings seen on vehicles including conventional signs and numbers.
 - (v) Endeavour to give some indication of the type of unit to which the vehicles belong.
- (c) By reporting a description of any flags or pennants seen outside a building or on a vehicle. This often indicates a headquarters.
- (d) By reporting the numbers and/or letters seen on sign-posts, military notices, trains etc.
- (e) By reporting the names and ranks of senior German officers, either resident in or visiting an area, what they are commanding and their movements.

This information can often be obtained from the local press, from signatures to military proclamations, notices and other documents, and from persons living in close proximity to the officer e.g. waiters, chamber maids, garage proprietors etc.

When reporting these observations, exactly what was seen must be described. Assumptions and interpretations by agents often lead to inaccurate information. Leave deduction to those who receive the information.

EXAMPLES.

BAD

There were many soldiers in LORIENT wearing the Nos. 24 and 88. There were also cars and lorries belonging to the II Artillery Regiment in BORDEAUX.

GOOD

1. In LORIENT on 30.6.41 I saw the following:-

Two officers with white piping and No. 24. Party of 20 soldiers with red piping and No. 88.

BAD

Soldiers in light blue with three birds on their lapels were seen. These were said to be gas troops.

GOOD

2. In BORDEAUX on 2.7.41 I saw 5 lorries marked as follows:
WH. II/A.R.14. (in white) with an inverted Y (in yellow).
Troops driving the lorries had red piping. Numbers on their shoulder straps could not be seen.

3. TROOP MOVEMENTS.

- (a) When reporting these, state the number of troops seen, where they were, where they were going or the direction in which they were moving; also where they came from or the direction from which they came. State how they were travelling i.e. on foot, by train, by lorry etc.
- (b) When estimating numbers, avoid such expressions as "concentrations", "large numbers" or "troops were everywhere". Endeavour to estimate the numbers in round figures, or if the troops were on the march give the time it took the column to pass a certain point. If travelling by H.T. or rail, report the number of vehicles or trucks which were seen.
- (c) State whether troops were in organised parties with their officers and N.C.O's, whether they were travelling independently e.g. going on leave.
- (d) State the average age of the troops, their physical condition, their military bearing and their march discipline.
Above all try and find out to what unit they belong.
(See paragraph 2 for how to do this).

EXAMPLES

BAD

a) In AMIENS last week lorries and troops were marching past all day. They stopped for half-an-hour by the Mairie and most of them seemed very thirsty.

GOOD

a) At 0900 hours on 5th June, 50 lorries all containing troops passed through AMIENS along the road to ABBEVILLE.

BAD

There must have been thousands of them altogether and my brother told me that he had heard one of them saying that they were off to fight the English. There were also large numbers of tanks and lorries.

b) There are indications that the Germans will shortly invade Spain.

GOOD

At 1200 hrs. on the same day, a marching column went in the same direction. They took 1½ hours to pass AMIENS Cathedral. The troops were marching well and were in good spirits. They all had white piping on their shoulder straps and I noticed the following numbers: 14, 89 and 44.

b) On July 5th about 25 German staff officers arrived in HENDAYE and took up their quarters at the Hotel Ritz. Railway officials expect 60 troop trains tomorrow the 8th. Officers are carrying out reconnaissances in the frontier areas. Telephone lines are being laid. Many new dumps of ammunition are to be seen outside the town. A column of heavy tanks went through the town in a southerly direction last night.

4. A.A. DEFENCES.

These include A.A. guns, searchlights, barrage balloons, sound detectors and rangefinders. When reporting them the following points should be noted:-

- (a) The number of guns, searchlights etc. and their exact locations.
- (b) The calibre of the guns.
- (c) If the calibre is not known, whether the guns are heavy or light. (As a rule light A.A. guns fire tracer ammunition, heavy do not).
- (d) How the guns are mounted.
- (e) Whether the guns are static or mobile. (Light A.A. guns are usually mobile, heavy are usually static).
- (f) Identifications of A.A. units which are obtainable from the personnel serving the guns.
- (g) The object being defended.

A sketch, however rough, is often better than a long description.

EXAMPLES

BAD

BERLIN has very strong A.A. defences, guns of all sizes being placed all round the city.

GOOD

There is a battery of heavy A.A. guns (calibre 10.5 cms.) defending the marshalling yard at SOTTEVILLE (S. of ROUEN). See sketch for positions of guns.

5. LAND DEFENCES.

These include coast defence batteries and other coastal fortifications, inland fortifications, (pill boxes, wire entanglements, anti-tank obstacles etc.), mined areas and demolitions.

Areas prohibited to the public may indicate that defences of some sort are being constructed. They should be investigated.

Reports on land defences which are vague or described in general terms are useless.

The following points should be noted:-

- (a) The number and exact position of guns.
- (b) The calibre, or if this is not known the approximate length of the barrel.
- (c) The presence of minefields on beaches or elsewhere and their dimensions.
- (d) The position of barbed wire entanglements giving dimensions.
- (e) The positions of concrete emplacements and their intended use.
- (f) The position, size and shape of anti-tank ditches and road blocks.

In every case defences must be pin-pointed (provide a sketch where possible) and the identification of personnel manning or working on them should be obtained. (See paragraph 2). An estimate of when defences under construction will be completed should also be given.

EXAMPLES

BAD

The whole coast of the Pas de Calais has been fortified with long range guns. Civilians evacuated from this district say that the Germans are building huge fortifications there.

GOOD

There is a coastal battery consisting of 4 guns (calibre 24 cm.) in the dunes 3 km. north of WIMEREUX (see sketch). There are barricades on all roads leading to WIMEREUX at a distance of 5 km. from the town. Only troops are allowed to pass.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Reports on communications of all types are of value from a military point of view as they effect to a high degree the movement, supply and maintenance of armies in the field. In addition, improvements and construction carried out in certain areas may well indicate the intentions of the enemy.

Information is required on the following:-

- (a) Roads. (Widening, straightening, improving the surface and new construction.)

Observers should report the exact location and nature of any improvement, and as regards new roads, give the route they are to follow by mentioning towns or villages through which they will pass.

In all cases the approximate date of the completion of the work should be stated.

- (b) Railways. (Doubling of track, construction of bridges and tunnels, new tracks and rolling stock.)

The same remarks apply as for information on roads.

- (c) Waterways. (Widening, deepening, construction of locks, alteration of course and new construction.)

The same remarks as for (a) refer.

- (d) Sea Transport. (Activity in ports, construction of quays, cranes and other dock installations).

The sailing or arrival of transport ships giving numbers or nature of troops or cargoes should be reported, as well as their destination or place of departure.

(c) Air Transport.

The transport of troops or senior army officers by air should be reported, giving names (if possible), destination or place of departure.

7. DUMPS.

The formation and location of dumps of military stores etc. frequently indicates future military movements.

When reporting these, agents should state their exact location, contents and approximate size. If the contents are not known, a description of articles in the dump should be given together with any markings seen on crates, boxes etc.

Details of personnel guarding, working, or visiting dumps should also be given and if possible the units to which they belong (see paragraph 2).

8. AIR-RAID DAMAGE.

The results of air-raids should be reported with special reference to the effect on the morale of the civil population.

Reports on this subject are only of value if they are not exaggerated and if they come from personal observation.

9. TECHNICAL.

Detailed descriptions of arms, vehicles and equipment used in the German Army are always required. If possible obtain a blue print or a photograph of one: failing this a sketch or plan in the greatest possible detail, or a photograph - may be of very great value.

10. VEHICLES.

Agents must differentiate between:-

- (a) Tanks, which are all track driven, have guns of various calibres and make a considerable noise when on the move.

- (b) Armoured cars, which are wheeled or wheel cum track, carry guns and are comparatively silent.
- (c) Armoured carriers, which are track vehicles and may be confused with tanks. Carriers do not carry armament.
- (d) Troop or store carrying vehicles, which are wheeled or wheel cum track and have no armament.
- (e) Tractors and other cross-country vehicles which may be partly track and partly wheel driven.

11. TANKS AND ARMoured CARS.

When reporting on tanks or armoured cars information on the following is required:-

- (a) The number of guns and/or machine guns, giving their calibre if possible, and where they are sited.
- (b) Approximate dimensions and weight.
- (c) Number of the crew.
- (d) Details of thickness of armour, method of suspension, type of engines etc.
- (e) A rough profile sketch of the vehicle.

EXAMPLES

BAD

Five tanks passed through OSLO yesterday at terrific speed. They were all bristling with guns and it was said they could swim across rivers and were brought to Norway in aeroplanes. One of them had a hose at the back for spraying gas.

GOOD

Five tanks were seen in OSLO on 5th June with the following particulars:-

Armament. 1 gun (calibre about 4.7 cm.)
2 H.G.s.
Length: 17'6". (approx.)
Width: 7'6". "
Height: 7'8". "
Weight: 16 tons. "
Crew: 4 men.

Rough sketch attached.

GAS.

Information on poison gases, their containers, methods of emission and any protective measures adopted is also of great importance. Agents should beware of rumours and "atrocious stories" when reporting this type of information.

Agents should report without delay the issue of a new gas mask.

13. PREPARATIONS FOR INVASION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The type of information required on this subject can be seen from our Questionnaire No. 3 of 10.7.41 which was issued separately.
