

MID 020. G-2. WD-W.O.R.S.

MIS/ThG
JRL
73442

10 May 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF:

Subject: Establishment of the Pacific Military
Intelligence Research Section

I. Discussion.

Importance of Captured Documents.

a. During the present war, enemy documents captured on the field of battle have proved one of the most valuable of all sources of military information. The information obtainable from them is both tactical and strategic in character and affects all aspects of military intelligence: Order of Battle, weapons, equipment, methods of employment, fortifications, topography including terrain, communications, uniforms, and psychological, political, and economic factors.

b. Captured documents differ from all other sources of information in that they are the only form in which the enemy tells his own story authoritatively, voluntarily, and reliably.

c. Captured documents are of immense value in interpreting information from all other sources.

d. Captured documents are among the best technical aids in the training of intelligence personnel.

2. Experience in the handling of documents in the European and Mediterranean Theaters.

a. The machinery for the collection and exploitation of enemy documents and the dissemination of the information extracted therefrom is very well developed and has operated with eminent success in the European and Mediterranean Theaters. Its basic principles are aggressive collection, thorough extraction of all pertinent information of interest at every echelon, and speedy transmission through channels from the forward areas to a single agency for collation and long-range exploitation in the War Office and the War Department.

b. At each stage in the passage of documents back from the forward areas care is taken that all organizations and agencies have an opportunity to extract the information of value to them. Signal documents are turned over to the nearest signal intelligence station for special handling. In no other case are documents diverted from the prescribed channels, so that their final collection at a single point in the rear is assured. This obviates the setting up of separate document exploitation centers, none of which would be provided with all the material or would be able to disseminate intelligence based on the entire picture.

c. All documents originating in the European and Mediterranean Theaters are transmitted as rapidly as possible to the London Branch, Military Intelligence Research Section. Here all military information having a direct bearing on operations is extracted and disseminated to Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces, Allied Force Headquarters, the War Office, the Air Ministry, the Admiralty, the Ministry of Economic Warfare, and other interested agencies. Copies of documents are made where a permanent record is desired. After this processing in London, all documents are sent to the Washington Branch, Military Intelligence Research Section, located at Fort Hunt, Virginia, where they remain as the joint property of the United States and British armies. Here background military information of a long-range nature is extracted and compiled in the form of reference material for the use of all agencies concerned.

d. The Military Intelligence Research Section is an organization set up by agreement between the British Directorate of Military Intelligence and the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2 to coordinate the collection and exploitation of enemy documents captured in the European war (German, Italian, and Balkan). The results of all research are immediately available to all concerned. The London Branch, located in London, is composed of approximately 80 specialists, including 18 United States officers, 38 United States enlisted men, British officers, enlisted men, and civilians, and Polish officers. The Washington Branch, at Fort Hunt, Virginia, is composed of one British officer, two United States officers, and 20 United States enlisted men.

3. As London is considered by the Allies as the intelligence center for the European Theater, Washington is considered the intelligence center for the Pacific Theaters.

4. Application of document handling experience to the Pacific Theater.

a. At the present time, enemy documents captured in the Pacific Theater are processed to a limited extent by the intelligence staffs in the several parts of that theater. Only the most important documents are translated and exploited. Enemy documents are not collected at any central point and are not exploited for all types of information.

b. It is vital that the experience gained in the handling of documents in the European Theater be applied in the further development of the system of military intelligence for the Pacific Theater. The same basic principles are valid, subject only to the differences in distances, types of warfare, and the enemy's methods and practices.

c. The immediate establishment of the Pacific Military Intelligence Research Section at Fort Hunt, Virginia, would make possible the thorough and scientific exploitation of captured Japanese documents to the benefit of all concerned. A location in the vicinity of Washington is necessary to facilitate the constant and essential coordination with the research branches of the Military Intelligence Service, other divisions of the Army, Office of Naval Intelligence, Foreign Economics Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and any other government agencies concerned. The location at Fort Hunt would take advantage of the existing overhead facilities already there. Certain intelligence activities are now operated at Fort Hunt as a mutually satisfactory joint Army-Navy project.

d. The proposed Pacific Military Intelligence Research Section will be organized similarly to the London Branch, Military Intelligence Research Section. The only available basis at present for estimating the strength which will be required is the London Branch as now constituted. This subject to revision at some future time according to the quantity and quality of the documentary material received. Personnel would be assigned only as required. It is expected that the United States Navy, the Army Air Forces, and other agencies will supply personnel in direct proportion to the amount of information which they derive from the organization. An agreement to this general effect now exists for air documents, which has the concurrence of the Navy, the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Intelligence, Army Air Forces, and the Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Intelligence, British Air Ministry. The British War Office should likewise be represented. There is every reason to believe the War Office would participate, but they are not expected to be able to contribute in proportion to the information received due to the shortage of British personnel with the Japanese language qualifications.

e. The Table of Organization of the United States personnel in the London Branch, Military Intelligence Research Section, is attached as Tab A. The proposed Table of Organization for the Pacific Military Intelligence Research Section is attached as Tab B.

II. Action Recommended.

That the Pacific Military Intelligence Research Section at Fort Hunt, Virginia, be authorized with the allotment of grades and ratings as set forth in Tab B, for the purpose of exploiting captured Japanese documents.

III. Concurrences.

Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1	()
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3	()
Assistant Chief of Staff, Operations Division	()

CLAYTON BISSELL,
Major General,
A. C. of S., G-2.

2 Incls.:

Incl. 1 - Tab A
Incl. 2 - Tab B

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