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FIRST DETAILED INTERROGATION REPORT

Source : ~~*MODER-KAYSER~~, Josef
Position : SS Untersturmfuehrer
Instructor, Sabotage School
Case No. : S036
Ref. No. : S036/USDIC/DC7
Date : 12 January 1946
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This report deals with the SS Jagdverbaende Sabotage School at Langenwang, Steiermark, and contains information of the instruction plan, the demolition course, and the final liquidation of the school after the arrival of the Russian Army.

Alfred E. Claus
for JOSEPH M. KOLISCH *1st Lt. Inf.*
Major, Infantry
Commanding

INTELLIGENCE DIV. GSWA
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I. SOURCE

For personal description and vital statistics reference is made to Preliminary Information Report on MODER-KAYSER, Josef, Reference Number S036/USDIC/PC11, dated 2 November 1945, this Headquarters.

The information below supplied by Source is regarded as reliable. It is supported by material presented in Detailed Interrogation Report, Reference Number S02/USDIC/DC2, dated 27 November 1945, this Headquarters, Source, *ZINKE, Theodor, Commanding Officer of Sabotage School "Waldeck". The prisoner was very willing to profer information, although he changed the subject frequently.

As a student and later a teacher, he is able to give an accurate picture of the Sabotage School setup by the SS Jagdverbaende at Langenwang, Steiermark. Source was an instructor in demolitions.

II. SABOTAGE COURSE IN STEIERMARK

The course given to the students at the sabotage school in Langenwang, Steiermark, was originally of three weeks duration. Through an order from Berlin the course was changed to two weeks, including Sundays. The following subjects made up the complete curriculum: tactics, demolition, map reading, riding, self-defense, and small arms.

A. TACTICS

A two-hour lesson daily was devoted to tactics. The organization of German intelligence and defense units was first presented briefly. Then defensive methods of German and Allied intelligence organizations were thoroughly discussed. In this connection the Russian (GPU) and the Belgian units were singled out. The latter had, according to Source, the best defensive set-up in the world. The protection of German as well as Allied industrial plants from sabotage activities was also presented in this connection.

After this orientation the student was taught: (1) how to prepare an attack against a target, (2) how to attack, and (3) how to behave in a retreat. In planning an attack he was told, for instance, how to identify or make out false identification papers, listen to people talk about the target he was to attack, and gather all vital information. Then he was briefed on how

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to attack an object at its most vulnerable point and inflict the greatest damage. Finally, he was instructed in the methods used to destroy all evidence. As an example, the use of enemy material could deceive the opponents intelligence units. The students received no practical experience in the field. The whole course was presented in form of lectures with big sand tables as training aids.

B. DEMOLITION (see Appendix I)

This topic apparently covered the greatest part of the course since four hours were given each day. Of these four hours there were two hours of theoretical work and two of practical work. The student was taught the different methods in demolition, such as explosives, destruction by fire, mechanical means, and electrical apparatus. Demolition by chemical means was discussed but not practiced. According to Source, there was a radical difference in opinion of the effectiveness of chemical agents. This school did not believe in it too much, whereas the demolition school at NEUSTRELITZ did, and therefore gave its students practical experience. The explosives of other countries were discussed and demonstrated, and the use of explosives as to amount, type, and place was taught and practiced. The greatest emphasis in explosive demolition was placed on the use of the hollow charge method. Camouflaged explosives (tarnladung) were also shown. In this connection, Source mentioned an explosive called 'Nipolit', which has a grayish black color and is hard as wood. It is completely safe to handle, and when fired it will not explode. It burns like celluloid and can be manufactured into all kinds of articles such as canes, belts, etc.

At the end of the demolition course the students made an inspection tour of a railroad repair shop, a power plant, and a mill. Installations which demolished and would have the greatest destruction effect were pointed out by the instructors, including Source.

C. MAP READING

Nine to twelve hours of the schooling were devoted to map reading. This included terrain sketching, use of compass, and familiarization with signs and symbols.

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D. RIDING

The object of these instructions were twofold. One was to give the student some physical exercise. The other purpose was to familiarize the man with the horse as a carrier and also to enable him to handle a horse saddled and without a saddle.

E. SELF-DEFENSE.

Close combat without the aid of small arms covered between nine to twelve hours of the course.

F. SMALL ARMS

The nomenclature and use of small arms and automatic weapons up to and including M.G. 42, was demonstrated and practiced. Pistols of all armies were shown and fired. Source in this connection mentioned the Lichtziel pistole. (A flashlight attached to the barrel of the pistol points at the object as a sight. However, the recoil of the pistol bursts the bulb after a few shots.) Anti-tank tactics were taught in connection with an orientation on all tanks, enemy and friendly.

The purpose of the small arms course was chiefly as a means of self-defense, and all practical work was pointed to that aim.

III. GENERAL INFORMATION

Students came from all units such as the Army, SS Jagdverbande, and Amt VI. The notice of their arrival was radioed to the school, and the men arrived with cover names which were used all through the course. The size of the of the classes ranged from six to thirty-five students. The average number of students was between 20 and 30. The secrecy of the school is best shown in that the students could not leave the post during their entire stay, nor could they communicate with the outside world. They arrived and departed at night. At the end of the course the instructors assembled to grade the students according to efficiency, willingness, political attitude, physical and mental ability. The students returned to their former units after completion of the course.

The political reliability of the student was determined from conversations between instructors and students. The student did not necessarily belong to the NSDAP or any of its affiliated organizations.

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IV. DETAILED LESSON PLAN FOR DEMOLITION CLASS

1st Day -- 4 hours theory

History of explosives; history of the discovery of black powder, Nobel, dynamite, ecrasite, PE2 and 808 (British explosive.) Effect of different explosives and their detonation waves. Use of explosives in cold, heat, and water and against stone, wall, and iron. Kinds of primers and chemical and mechanical primers.

2nd Day -- 2 hours theory

Explanation of primers, primer caps, old primer caps with fulminate of mercury; time primer cords of different countries; the handling of different explosives.

2 hours practical

Ignition of primer cords; constructing cord type fuses, direct and indirect currents.

3rd Day -- 2 hours theory

Chemical fuses; recognition of time of burning by color of safety; the chemical under water fuse.

2 hours practical

Handling of fuses.

4th Day -- 2 hours theory

Mechanical fuses; small contact mine.

2 hours practical

Use of fuses; construction of mine expedients with the aid of fuses.

5th Day -- 2 hours theory

Incendiary devices like incendiary bottles made out of gutta percha and filled with gasoline and petroleum.

2 hours practical

Use of incendiary formulas and in connection with explosive formulas.

6th Day

Repetition in theory and practise; also electrical fuses; preparation of explosives and incendiaries.

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7th Day (Sunday)

25 km. hike.

8th Day -- 2 hours theory

The most important formulas for computation of use of explosives.
These are for PE2 and 808:

L - amount of explosive in gram. E - effective radius
D - diameter S - stability of material
A - area T - tamping

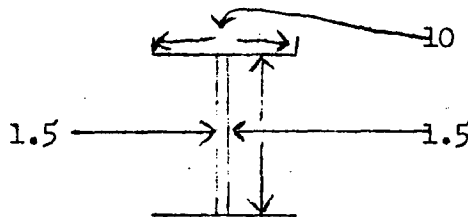
(1) Wood

$$L = \frac{D^2}{5}$$

Add 1/3 if wood has more than 30cm. or if wood is tough.

(2) Iron

$$L = A \times 5 \quad \text{ex: } A = (10 \text{ plus } 10 \text{ plus } 15) \times 1.5$$



(3) Wall

(a) Concentrated charge

$$L = E^3 \times S \times T$$

(b) Multiple charge

$$L = E^2 \times S \times T$$

(4) Cable

(a) Less than 4 cm. D.

$$L = D^2 \times 5$$

(b) more than 4 cm. D.

$$L = D^2 \times 10$$

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9th Day

Practical work according to formulas taught the previous day.

10th Day -- 2 hours theory

Camouflaged explosives; under water explosives and their expedients.

2 hours practical

Practical work of morning's lecture.

11th Day -- theory

Bridge models; calculation of amount of explosives necessary to destroy bridges (according to cross section).

12th Day -- theory

Chemical and mechanical demolition without explosives.

practical

Blasting.

13th Day

Inspection tour of three industrial plants; instructors pointed out the vulnerable points of the plant.

14th Day (Sunday)

25 km. hike

V. LIQUIDATION OF SCHOOL

The school was dissolved in the beginning of April 1945. Part of the personnel under SS Hauptscharfuehrer KRAFFT was sent to the town commander of Bruck/Mur to report there for duty. This group consisted of about twenty men. According to inquiries made, these men did not report to Bruck but instead to the chief of SD in Graz. KRAFFT asked to be sent to the SS Police Chief in Laibach. There is no further information about this group's destination. They were equipped with horses, bicycles, rations, and T/O weapons.

Another transport under SS Unterscharfuehrer SCHULZE was sent by vehicle to Salzburg and was to report to the chief of SS Police or to SKORZENY. Source does not know of this group's fate.

After the school was cleared, it was handed over to the control of a Colonel RFLITHEL of the Combat Group Semmering.

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The remaining group, consisting of ZINKE, STEINMETZ, HESSE, MODER, SCHMITT, CZERNOCWICZ, and six other men moved to the house of forest ranger FELBINGER. It was their intention to be bypassed by the Russians and remain behind their line for sabotage activity. In this connection the building of two dugouts was started of which one was completed. The finished one at approximately coord. 913208 of Map Austria 1:50,000, Muerzaschlag (East) had food, clothing, blankets, one radio receiver, and tools. It is, according to Source, not booby-trapped. The unfinished dugout at coord. 956114 of same map had small arms. Both are in the British zone of Occupation in Austria.

In the beginning of May ZINKE saw the hopelessness of the situation and sent some of the men home. After Source heard of the capitulation of Germany, ZINKE and Source also decided to return home.

VI. PERSONALITIES

* CZERNOCWICZ

1915

(SS Oberscharfuehrer) instructor in map reading and close combat at Langenwang; height, 1.72 m; blond hair; age 36; comes from Western Germany but lived in Posen for some time; was also in Borneo as a farmer and hunter.

* ^EDINGL, Franz

(SS Unterscharfuehrer) instructor in riding at Langenwang; height, 1.85 m; dark hair; married, with three children; Volksdeutscher from Siebenbuergen.

* FELBINGER

Forest Ranger, who harbored men of the Langenwang Sabotage School after it closed.

* HESSE, Alfred

1913

Height, 1.70 m; dark blond hair, rather bald; single; age 38; came from Stettin.

* ISRAEL, Herbert

c: 1923

(SS Oberscharfuehrer) instructor in demolition at Langenwang; height 1.75 m; slim build; dark blond hair; age 27 to 30; married, has one child; speaks Saxonian dialect.

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*KRAFFT, Tom

1923

(SS Hauptscharfuhrer) instructor in small arms at Langenwang; height, 1.82 m; dark blond hair; married, has one child; age 28; comes from Wels, Upper Austria.

*REITHEL

C: 1898

(Colonel) Kaapf Gruppe Semmering; wearer of the Knight's Cross; former Commanding Officer of the Army Mountain Artillery School at Dachstein (date unknown); height, 1.80 m; dark blond hair; age 50 to 55.

*SCHMITT, Ludwig

1918

(SS Hauptscharfuhrer) assistant instructor in small arms at Langenwang; height, 1.78 m; blond hair; age 33; single; little finger on left hand missing.

*SCHULZE

1906

(SS Unterscharfuhrer) instructor in demolition at Langenwang; height, 1.75 m; bald; wears glasses; age 45; married, has one child; speaks Saxonian dialect.

*STEINMETZ, Gustav

C: 1912

(SS Obersturmfuhrer) assistant commanding officer and instructor in tactics at Langenwang; height, 1.80 m; dark blond hair; blond mustache; age 38 to 40; married, has three children.

*ZINKE, Theodore

(SS Sturmbannfuhrer), commanding officer at Langenwang. See Preliminary Information Report Ref. No. S02/USDIC/PC1, dated 22 September 1945, and Detailed Interrogation Report Ref. No. S02/USDIC/DC, dated 27 November 1945, this Headquarters, for detailed information.

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