

POUCH 77

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SECRET

12 March 1946

German Intelligence Service

TO: SAINT, Washington *J*
 FROM: SAINT, London,
 SUBJECT: *rpk* Maj d R Hans Harald BEBOER

1. Attached hereto is one copy of the Special Interrogation Report on Subject (OSDIO/WEA/BAOR/S), dated 7 January 1946. No more copies are available for further distribution, but we are making pertinent extracts for Madrid, Rome, Cairo, Paris, Brussels and Holland.

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Prisoner believes that the plan for Operation "THEODORA" was first conceived about Jul 40. He heard that the guiding spirit of the enterprise was Obst SCHMITT, Leiter of Ast Wkr VI, MUENSTER/WESTPHALIA (later Leiter Ast. Wkr V, STUTTGART).

2. Aim

The aim of Operation "THEODORA" was to put the knowledge and experience of scientists at the service of mil int.

3. Division of Work

The Chief asst to Obst SCHMITT was Obstd Lt (E) HAECKEL, who had formerly been a Referent with III L (?) Ast MUENSTER. There was apparently some disagreement over the division of the work. Finally it was decided to specialise in theoretical research into the construction of maps (Operation "THEO"), and practical cartography and survey (Operation "DORA").

4. Operation* "THEO"

Prisoner states that this operation was controlled by Obst SCHMITT at Ast MUENSTER. During 1942-3, when Prisoner was at Abw I H WEST 3, the HQ of the operation was located in the castle at RHEDA/WESTPHALIA, in charge of a Hptm d R whose name Prisoner cannot remember. The scientific work was directed by Dr. VOPPEL, who in peacetime had been the head of a state cartographical institute in LEIPZIG. The work was carried out in close cooperation with the Mil Geographical dept of OKW. The "THEO" dept enjoyed far greater powers than the Mil Geog dept, in that it was allowed to issue completely new maps, based on scientific documents, surveyors' reports, air photographs etc, whereas the Mil Geog dept could only issue revised editions of old maps.

5. The "THEO" dept worked out new methods of map-construction, eg by making plastic models of the terrain, showing natural features and military targets. These models were particularly valuable for air operations. During the NORTH AFRICA campaign, the dept did some particularly useful work in the production

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of up-to-date maps of the MEDITERRANEAN coastal area from ORAN to TRIPOLI, and in the publication of technical data, illustrated by drawings and photographs, on the Algerian-Moroccan railway system.

6. In spite of all SCHMITT's efforts, the importance of the enterprise was never fully appreciated and the dept never had any definite establishment. As the personnel required for the work exceeded the WE of Ast MUENSTER by twenty or thirty, constant intervention on the part of Abw I H WEST 3 was necessary to prevent many of these experts from being called up into the army.

7. Prisoner states that he heard nothing more about "THEO" after Aug. 43.

8. Operation "DORA"

Whilst "THEO" concentrated purely upon the scientific side, and eventually limited itself to cartographic work alone, Operation "DORA" undertook the external work. Obstlt HAECKEL and Dr. SCHULTZ-KAMPFENEKEL, who had both been members of the same zoological expedition to the AMZON, assembled a large number of well-known geographers, cartographers, surveyors, geologists, palaeontologists, zoologists, botanists, astronomers and other scientists, and with a few military personnel, formed them into a body of about 150 men. They were put under comd of Obst MAURER of Untergruppe Abwehr I H WEST in 1943, and employed in NORTH AMERICA.

9. By means of long-distance patrols as far as the TIBESTI Mtns "DORA" obtained infm on the terrain for the AFRIKA Korps. The chief value of their work lay in the scientific improvement and amendment of Italian maps, and in recording the numerous new tracks and roads crossing the desert between the Egyptian and Algerian borders. In addition to the AFRIKA Korps and the OB SUD-WEST, the Mil Geog Depts of OKW and RLM were interested in this work.

10. "DORA II"

From Autumn 42 till Spring 43 "DORA" II" functioned in BERLIN-WESTEND under the direction of Maj d LW GERICKE. This office not only evaluated the infm sent back from AFRICA by "DORA" ~~supplied with the necessary personnel~~ and passed it on to the appropriate military authorities, but also kept "DORA" supplied with the necessary personnel and material. Prisoner was in constant comm with GERICKE, between Autumn 42 and Spring 43.

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11. Operation "DORA" later received a more extensive commission. After the North African Campaign, Obstlt HAECKEL took some other post outside the Abw, but Dr. SCHULTZ-KAMPFHENKEL was made Reichsforschungsrat and took over the scientific leadership of "DORA" in the Western and Eastern theatres. The new tasks of "DORA" were to discover the best methods of camouflaging defence-works by means of foliage; to investigate the practicability of the Russian swamp areas for tanks, as illustrated on Russian maps; and to produce new and reliable maps. All these tasks, according to Prisoner, were carried out with great success.

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