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THE MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT
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HEADQUARTERS U. S. MARINE CORPS

WASHINGTON

2 January, 1941.

From: The Major General Commandant.
To: All Commanding Officers (except units of
the Fleet Marine Force and detachments
afloat).

Subject: Naval Attache, Berlin, Germany, report,
Serial R-653, dated 29 November, 1940,
on the subject, "Germany - Intelligence,
Counter Espionage."

Enclosure: 1 (copy of subject report).

1. There is forwarded herewith for your in-
formation, and those of the Intelligence Officers
within your command, a copy of the subject report
which it is believed will be of interest and probable
use.

T. HOLCOMB.

APPROVED FOR MIMEO:

PROOF READ BY:

(150 copies)

C. A. Ketchum
Jr.

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Extra copies to Sgt. Miller.

Serial: R-653

Dated: 29 November, 1940.

From: Naval Attache

At: Berlin, Germany.

Subject: GERMANY - Intelligence; General - Counter-Espionage

B R I E F

Translation from German Air Force Manual of chapter on espionage and counter-espionage. Instructions comprehensive, and indicative of German espionage methods.

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There is forwarded herewith a translation of the chapter on espionage and counter-espionage extracted from the German Air Force Manual, prepared by Colonel Tschoeltsch, a Division Chief in the Air Ministry. The excerpt is regarded as of interest to the Department for comparison with instructions current in the U. S. Navy, for indication of the instructions issued to the German Air Force (for which, in passing, the observation can be made that they appear to be unusually closely observed by all hands), and, finally, as an indication of the obvious directives and methods prescribed for German intelligence agents (since for this purpose they need only to be applied in reverse).

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ESPIONAGE

1. The Foreign Intelligence Services strive tirelessly, also during the war, to learn everything pertaining to our military organization. Germany is covered by a net of agents who under the direction of foreign intelligence services are detailed to the performance of espionage assignments according to a comprehensive plan. Until now the foreign intelligence services have always managed to find, unfortunately, German citizens who through cupidity or stupidity deliver material to them.

2. Whereas formerly in Germany traitors could not be brought to responsibility for their deeds in a deserving manner, and hence espionage and betrayal of country were not fatal, our Fuhrer Adolf Hitler has now effected a complete change. The Government in its legal promulgations has joined with other countries who

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already invariably punished treason by death (Law of April 24, 1934).

3. The foreign intelligence services and their agents are interested in everything which arises in the service of the soldier. The agents attempt to procure data on the state of our training, on our armament, our equipment, our combat principles, war organization, on the spirit among the troops, strength of units names of superiors, and on the life of the soldiers off duty. Especial value is attached by foreign intelligence services to the procurement of orders and secret orders, of service regulations and specifications, and of drawings and sketches of all kinds.

4. Agents in the employ of foreign intelligence services they don't need to be foreigners, unfortunately there also German citizens - appear externally innocuous- and, of course, always in those places where troops are stationed. That they have been especially assigned to cover the new Air Force requires no emphasis. The soldier must always be on guard against them.

5. The agents of foreign intelligence services like to approach under the guise of an old-time soldier, or of an old veteran in the National Socialist movement. They seek to make the acquaintance of the young soldier in cafes where they invite him to a glass of beer to sound him out. They like to tell how it was in the old days when they were in service or in the World War and then they want to know how it is today. Therefore be suspicious and careful regarding all invitations and conversations of this kind. Once the acquaintance has been joined, the agents then attempt to reassure the soldier by asking him to lend a military book to read. Generally they want one which can be bought in any store - it must, of course, appear as harmless as possible. Have they gotten so far with the soldier that he feels safe, then they appear with other requests: Service orders, service leaflets, service regulations and the specifications, or service drawings and sketches are desired "as a matter of interest". They even under some circumstances offer money for them.

6. To deliver agents is not the affair of a soldier. The soldier is no criminal official. What has to take place in every espionage case is prescribed by the cognizant service authorities. Therefore it is necessary that the soldier report at once to his superior every case of espionage. Also every suspicious case is to be reported. What in detail is to be done to deliver and apprehend the agent of foreign intelligence services will be told the soldier by his superior. The soldier must preserve the strictest silence in every case - even toward his comrades. A successful campaign against the foreign intelligence services can be waged only when the soldier does his duty and reports immediately to his superior every suspicious case.

7. There are agents of foreign intelligence services everywhere. They work according to a definite plan. If they have secured their victim, if the soldier has accepted money from them, they become extortioners. They threaten with reports to the Company Commander, if the soldier does not bring the material which they require for their chiefs. The agent now has the soldier in his hand, he can do with him what he pleases. He squeezes the soldier like a lemon - when no more is to be extracted from him, then an anonymous postcard reports him to his Company Commander. Theft - Desertion - Foreign Legion - Suicide, that perhaps is the career of a soldier who has fallen into the hands of agents. No soldier has become rich through treason! None has escaped his debts through betrayal of his country! More likely he has wound up in prison or been sentenced to death - that should be noted by all those who, foolishly in debt, believe that they can get out of their financial difficulties by betrayal of their country. He who is in need of money should confide in his superior who can help him in every case (Note On the presentation of an innocent financial emergency, assistance can be rendered in the form of support, money advance, loan, or emergency contribution. Information can be obtained from the finance officer.). But don't turn to the agent of foreign intelligence services who has no personal interest whatever in the soldier and who only wants to get information in the cheapest way.

8. The soldier should be aware of one thing: every little detail of his service is important to foreign intelligence services. It, with thousands of other reports, is fitted into a mosaic picture by the central offices in the foreign countries, a picture which shows all that is wanted. For this reason utmost care is demanded in all conversations about service affairs. Don't talk about the service in public; in traffic vehicles (trains, streetcars, busses, taxis, airplanes) or in public places (theaters, movies, inns, etc.). Don't talk about the service in the canteens or barber shops of your own barracks. Always remember: The enemy listens in!

9. Be suspicious about former acquaintances and friends. Better to have one time too much caution than one time too little. Be also suspicious toward your own family. Never write that which you already don't dare to speak! Especially in letters in the field mail service. Divorce yourself from a certain self-importance. Especially aviators must be able to control themselves. How does it concern the world what has happened to you in your service? Take to heart in all circumstances the old war principle which has proved itself a million-fold: "Endure, persevere, Shut Up!" (Aushalten - Durchhalten - Maulhalten!).

10. In the realm of the Air Force there is a fundamental prohibition against photographing. Govern yourself accordingly! Don't photograph secretly. You never know to whom the developer of your film may give prints. If others violate this prohibition,

they are to be arrested, if they are not soldiers. If they are soldiers, their identity is to be established from their troop - or service certificate, and they are to be reported. Such a report is in the interest of the safety of your country, there are no other consideration.

11. Female agents also work for the foreign intelligence services. They are especially to be warned against, since they are assigned to cover service ratings and specialists who by virtue of special training know more than others. Also here every suspicious case is to be reported immediately to your superior.

12. In the realm of the armed forces there are employed today numerous civilians. Also these are covered by the foreign intelligence services, also among them can a helper's-helper be found. Take care, also, in contacts with clerical personnel of all kinds, with kitchen personnel, charwomen, civilian laborers, etc. Likewise take care in contacts with civilians who have daily access barracks: bakery boys, newspaper boys, canteen employees, barbers, etc. Never talk to these people about service affairs which do not concern them. The soldier is never safe from agents!

13. The honorable soldier, who lives according to the obligations of his oath to the colors, will scarcely become a betraying fool. On the other hand, he does not have to tolerate such in his presence and correspondingly he will report without scruple every suspect to his superiors. So many brave soldiers had to give their lives in the World War because deserters had betrayed the situation on our side. In the Air Force, however, even in peace time treason can have serious consequences. Therefore: Eyes Open - Mouth Shut!

14. Soldiers who betray their country are tried under the law against treason of April 24, 1934. According to this law they may be sentenced to:

- (a) Death, for betrayal of state secrets.
- (b) Hard labor or death, for obtaining a state secret with the intent of betrayal.
- (c) Prison, for entering into contact with a foreigner for the transmission of a state secret to be jeopardized.
- (d) Fines, for making photographs without permission in officially restricted areas or putting them into circulation.

15. For trial of cases of treason there exists a communal court consisting of five members. Its findings are final.

16. Classified as state secrets are all writings, drawings, facts, and information, the preservation of which as secrets from foreign governments is necessary for the welfare of the Reich in the interest of national defense. Therefore, take care in handling all written matter, circulars, and orders which are intended only for service use. Even a Company order-of-the-day enjoys the protection of the law.

17. In similar manner, all acts of sabotage or all sabotage attempts are punishable, regardless of where they are undertaken. Here again, hard labor or death is to be anticipated as penalty if anything whatever is attempted against the security of the German Reich. Every sabotage attempt is to be reported immediately. Failure to report can be punished by death.

18. The upright, honorable soldier combats treason not from fear of the law, but from the inner conviction that there is no place in Germany for the traitor. Traitors put themselves by their act of treason outside the community. They must take the consequences. Every soldier is called upon, wherever he performs his duty, to combat treason and sabotage vigorously and without relent.