

FORM NO. 51-29 JUN 1949

(7.8.9.)

London, S.W.I.

11 July 1951

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att I TO MGRW-12076

"I send you herewith a report on the infiltration of agents into the Ukraine undertaken by us in May last. From it you will see that we have had accurate and fairly detailed information of the disaster which befell the party dropped in Poland. We have since heard from one of our groups to the Ukraine by W/T, reporting all well.

SECURITY INFORMATION

(In this short paragraph SMEDDUM refers to information which is being brought to the attention of \_\_\_\_\_\_ through other channels).

"We would be glad if your headquarters could let us have a similar report to that attached in respect of your operation."



SECURITY INFORMATION

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## SECURITY INFORMATION

1. As you already know we carried out three operations on the night of 14th/15th May, namely:

(a) a group of 4 men, with two W/T sets, secret writing, arms and mail to Poland, landed at a point selected in advance by the leader of the party, namely: 50° 14' N, 22° 54' E.

(b) a group of 6 men, with two W/T sets, secret writing, arms and mail into Western Ukraine, landed at a point selected in advance by the leader of the party, namely: 490 33' N. 250 06' E.

(c) a group of 5 men, with two W/T sets, secret writing, arms and mail into Western Ukraine, landed at a point selected in advance by the leader of the party, namely: 48° 36' N. 250 00' E.

2. The three groups were conveyed in two aircraft from a base located south of the target areas. Parties (a) and (b) were carried in the first aircraft and party (c) in the second, both aircraft having crews specially trained for the operations.

3. The first aircraft, carrying two parties, made direct for the Eastern D. Z. (in Western Ukraine) and, after dropping party (b), turned back and dropped party (a) in Poland. No interference was encountered and both the despatchers and the leaders of the landing parties were satisfied that they were being landed over the agreed D.Zs.

4. The second aircraft proceeded direct to the D.Z. in Western Ukraine (48° 36' N. 25° 00' E.) and dropped party (c) also without interference.

5. The only incidents reported by the pilots of the aircraft were:

(a) in the case of the first aircraft a white beacon signal, presumably meant for the aircraft, was sighted for the space of about two minutes in the region of Lvov, i.e. on the approach to the D.Z. for party (a) (Poland).

(b) the second alreraft, after breaking cloud close to the D.Z. area, found itself flying over a fully illuminated acrodroms, at which alreraft were observed to be landing and taking off. No interest appears to have been taken in our aircraft and since its engines were already throttled back it is presumed its noise was taken for that of an aircraft based on the aerodrome observed.

6. All the three parties dropped had instructions to establish W/T contact as soon as possible and a careful watch for signals was started the day after their successful infiltration. Nevertheless until now no signals have been heard from any of the parties.

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at#2 to NGKW-12072

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## SECURITY INFORMATION



7. On June 9th we received a message from the organization in Poland to when party (a) was to have reported. It reported the arrival of the guide of party (a) who brought news that the remaining three members of the party had been killed in action in the woods near the D.Z. on May 21st, but that the guide had managed to escape and had reported, bringing intact the mail entrusted to the group.

8. Since the receipt of this message the guide in question has made his way back to Germany and has produced a more detailed report, which is as follows:

(a) party (a) made a pin-point landing on the D.Z. (49° 33' N. 25° 06' H.) at 22.55 hours EST on the night of 14th/15th May; the first three men came down within 50 meters of each other, complete with their leg bags. The fourth man appears to have made a bad exit from the aircraft and to have been struck by his leg bag, which then broke loose. He landed unconscious about 300 metres from his companions but recovered and half an hour later met up with the rest of the party.

(b) a search was made for the missing leg bag, but it could not be located.

(c) after burying their parachutes and helmets the party moved into woods some 3 klms from the D.Z. where two of them lay up for 24 hours, while the two others (one of whom was the surviving guide) proceeded to the agreed contact point and in due course returned bringing food.

(d) the guide then went alone to make contact with the liaison men of the Chief of the organization in Poland, taking with him all the mail brought by the party and most of the money.

(e) before the departure of the guide the other three moved to a second hide-out 2 kins away and there buried the remainder of their stores and prepared to await the return of the guide before proceeding to the safe house on the route to the Headquarters of the Chief of the organization in Polend.

(f) this decision proved fatal, for during the absence of the guide, the neighbourhood was alerted, either through the discovery by the authorities of the missing leg bag or as a result of the men having been seen in their hide-out and reported on by the local inhabitants. In the ensuing thorough search the men were discovered, engaged in combat and presumably killed, though the possibility is not altogether excluded that one or other may have escaped and be in hiding.



SECURITY INFORMATION

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(g) when the guide returned in company with the liaison men of the Chief of the organization in Poland, he discovered signs of fighting but no trace of his companions. He also found all the buried stores, which included one of the two W/T sets (the other was in the missing leg bag). These he and the liaison men took to the Chief of the organization in Poland. After handing them over, the guide, still accompanied by the liaison men, proceeded over land to Germany, all three arriving back on June 19th.

(B) the leader of the party infiltrated into Paland and now presumed dead (or captured), carried the mail (including a copy of the joint Anglo-American letter to the Underground). But it is presumed he handed it all to the guide who subsequently delivered it to the Headquarters of the organization in Poland (see Para 8 (d) above). Nevertheless, whether taken dead or alive, the missing members of the party would have been in possession of various articles identifying them as foreign agents.

9. Until receipt of further information it is idle to speculate on the causes of the disaster. It would seem, however, that the loss of the leg bag may have brought it about and its discovery hastened by the presence of soldiers in the D.Z. area, probably engaged in spring manosuvres, since it is doubtful whether troops could have been on the spot so quickly had they been alerted as a result of the reported presence of an aircraft in the neighbourhood.



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