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CSDIC(Main)/Y 20.

FIRST DETAILED INTERROGATION REPORT ON TWO ENEMY WT OPERATORS

Name:	CHRISTEN Josef	MIONSKOWSKI Alexander.
Rank:	Pte (Gefr)	Pte (Gefr)
Unit:	2 COY 114 A.TK BN (HQ).	2 COY 114 A.TK BN (HQ).
F.P.No:	33919A.	33919A
Id. No:	St.Kp.Fla.Ers.Btl.47	St.Kp.Pz.Jg. Ausb.abt.43.
Deserted:	3/4 Dec 44, 5 Army Front.	3/4 Dec 44, 5 Army Front.
Secret No:	M44/1973	M44/1974.
Interrogated :	CSDIC(Main) CMF, 10 Dec 44.	CSDIC(Main)/CMF, 10 Dec 44.

Subject of Report: RASTERSCHLUESSEL procedure:  
KAMPFNACHRICHTENSCHLUESSEL:  
Callsigns and frequencies allotment:  
Personalities.

1. PREAMBLE

Both Pw, in company with a third, deserted from their wireless van on the night 3/4 Dec. They are very keen to give information and to say all they know, though they contradict each other on a number of points. CHRISTEN explains this by saying that MIONSKO/SKI was ill in Nov and had only just returned to his unit before they deserted, hence his knowledge is less complete.

CHRISTEN: 23 year old Alsatian, called up to the German Army in Jan 43. Very anti-German, and fairly intelligent. Wishes to join the French Army.

MIONSKOWSKI: 22 year old commercial employee, from DANZIG called up in Oct 42. Very anti-German, and also fairly intelligent. Wishes to join the Polish Army.

Reliability of both Pw: Fair.

2. HISTORY AND MOVEMENTSCHRISTEN:

15 Jan 43 Called up to 47 Army A. Depot Bn at WUERZBURG.  
Training as WT operator.  
Jul 43 Posted to newly formed Mtn A. Depot and Tng Coy (mot) at  
SOLBAD HALL, TYROL.  
Jan 44 Posted to last unit, 114 A.Tk Bn, in CROATIA. Subsequently  
moved to ITALY with 114 Div.

MIONSKOWSKI:

16 Oct 42 Called up to 43 A.Tk Tng Bn, near KOTTBUS. Training as  
WT operator.  
29 Mar 43 Posted to 114 A.Tk Bn in CROATIA. Subsequent movements as  
for CHRISTEN.

3. SIGNALS EQUIPMENT IN 114 A.TK BN.

The Bn is equipped with 80 watt and 35 watt transmitters and "b" receivers. Bn HQ and 1 and 3 Coys have 80 watt transmitters, and 2 Coy (Assault Gun Coy) has the 35 watt Italian sets, normally used in tanks, possibly known as R.F. CM 3.

4. RÄSTERSCHLUESSEL PROCEDURE IN THE IN

Underlays for each day of the month have been issued for the whole IN since Aug 44. The blocks issued bear a number, which is not signalled. The IN received a block of underlays for the month of Dec 44 bearing the number 55720 (PW CHRISTEN)

About mid-Nov 44 instructions were issued concerning key-groups for messages signalled in RÄSTERSCHLUESSEL. According to both PW the key-group is referred to as the "basic-group" (GRUNDGRUPPE).

Until mid-Nov 44 this group contained four letters, which indicated the "start-point", i.e. a bigram for the column and a bigram for the line, enciphering starting from the next available white space. The "start-point" was calculated by adding the number of letters to the digits indicating the minutes in the time-of-origin group. As messages were often passed in two parts, and this gave rise to mistakes because of misinterpretations of the a/m instructions about adding number of letters to digits in the time-of-origin minute group, it was decided to let operators and cipher clerks choose their own "start-point", and indicate it themselves by means of the "basic-group". This now consists of six letters: a bigram for the column, a bigram for the line and a third bigram for the column in which is found the available space from which reading-off (downwards) of enciphered text begins.

The enciphering proceeds as before, line after line, AND the reading off of enciphered text proceeds as before, i.e., first the text is read downwards from the column indicated by the third bigram in the "basic-group", then the column which is next in ascending order is read off, and so on up to 25, and thence from 1, etc. The enciphering of bigrams by means of the box on the reverse of the underlay has not changed.

Messages now begin: t.o.o. break number of letters break six letter group break then five letter groups.

5. KAMPFACHRIFTSCHLUESSEL (Field Code) 114 Div

Both PW stated that this Field Code had been in use in the German Army before, and that they had been taught to use it when training in Germany. However, in 114 Div its use was forbidden, though they did not know why, up to about mid-Nov 44. The Field Code was then adopted by the Div; PW understood that it was mainly used by Artillery OPs.

The Field Code is a table of about 100 to 150 clear words for which three-letter code equivalents are given. These change every two months. In addition daily (or two-daily) tables are issued every month giving a further code version for each code group, also in three letters. Thus, if "bridge" = XYZ on the original table a different three-letter group will be signalled for XYZ on each day, or alternate day; say ABC on 1 Dec, CDA on 2 Dec, etc. PW could not give further details, except that names of persons and localities are NOT signalled in this Field Code, and that their IN had ten "blank" groups allotted to it for names of officers or formations, or, possibly, places, etc. PW CHRISTEN maintained that during Nov 44 code groups changed daily, and that for Dec 44 they were to change every two days. PW MICKSKOWSKI stated that they were to be changed daily.

Traffic in this Field Code is passed in W/T in morse or RT, each letter being spelt phonetically (anton, berta, etc). Messages start with the number of letters and continue with the three-letter groups. No addresses or signatures are used. The traffic is usually between "pack-sets".

During Dec 44 the Field Code was to be the same for the whole Division. On 1 Dec the original table was issued for Dec 44 and Jan 45, but the daily (or two-daily) code-tables were issued for Dec only.

6. CALL-SIGNS AND FREQUENCY ALLOTMENT IN THE BN

PW CHRISTEN stated that since Dec 44 call-signs and frequencies change every three days at 0300 hrs (i.e. a call-sign and frequency is valid for 72 hours). Before 1 Dec 44 call-signs changed daily at 0300 hours and frequencies every three days at 0300 hours. The Div Signals Officer issues them to the Signalmaster (FUNKLEITER) at Bn HQ, who is supposed to bring them round to the NCO i/c W/T Station (FUNKTRUPPFUEHRER). However, in the A. Tk. Bn call-signs were often given to the W/T Station for twelve days (four lots) because the NCO responsible for bringing them forward was not keen to come under artillery fire:

PW CHRISTEN remembered the call-sign YWF and the frequency 1867 Kcs being actually allotted to his Coy in the all-frequency net of which his own W/T station was part (i.e. the link between the Coys and the Bn was on 1867 Kcs for all four stations, YWF was the call-sign for the 35 watt (Italian) set which 2 Coy operated).

PW MIOSKOWSKI maintains that frequencies change every three days and that call-signs change daily at 0300 hours, which PW CHRISTEN says was the case only before 1 Dec 44 (but see PREAMBLE).

7. TRAINING OF W/T OPERATORS

PW MIOSKOWSKI claims to know of an "Army Order" stating that NO more W/T training is to be given to new recruits because of the length of time entailed, and that units have orders to "spare their W/T operators" wherever possible. Div courses are held - lasting six weeks - for training W/T personnel from among the Infantry, but it appears that results are poor.

8. PERSONNEL LIST

Capt WALDMAN	OC 114 A. Tk. Bn	
Lieut SCHILLACH	OC 1 Coy 114 A. Tk. Bn	
Capt ELHN	OC 2 Coy 114 A. Tk. Bn	
Lieut SCHWARZKOPF	OC 3 Coy 114 A. Tk. Bn.	Ill at beginning of Dec, but due back shortly.
2/Lt ENGEL	acting OC 3 Coy 114 A. Tk. Bn	
Sgt LOEFFLER	Signalmaster (Funkleiter) at Bn HQ.	
Sgt RIEDELBAUCH	NCO i/c eqpt (Funkmeister) at Bn HQ.	
Cpl KINAST	NCO i/c 2 Coy W/T Stn.	From VIENNA.

9. IDENTIFICATIONLn.RV.Abt.(not)z.b.V.1

In PW CHRISTEN's paybook there is an entry stating that on 5 Feb 44 he received pay from the above unit. He did not know what the name stood for. All he knew was that at beg Feb 44 his W/T stn was near SORLINO, in the neighbourhood of ORVIETO, and that they drew pay from this unit, which was also stationed at SORLINO.

A.G.D.

C.S.D.I.C. (Main),  
C.M.F.  
12 Dec 44.

*H. T. Shergold Major*  
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Army Section,  
CSDIC(Main), C.F.