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WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF.

April 15, 1917

Subject:

On the Intelligence System necessary in case
U.S. Troops are ordered to the Continent

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755

CONFIDENTIAL

[See Letters of Instructions to Military Attachés.]

Original.

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9944-X-1

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J. H. C.

REC'D W. C. D., O. C. S. MAY 26 1917

SUBJECT ON THE INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM NECESSARY IN CASE U.S. TROOPS

ARE ORDERED TO THE CONTINENT.

From HS

No. 187

Date started: March 23, 1917
(completed: April 15, 1917) 19

Replying to No. WCD 9941-1

Date February 14, 1917 19

Binding Margin.

1.- On February 1, as there seemed to me a possibility of the U.S. becoming seriously involved in this war, I began figuring on the consequences resulting if our troops be sent abroad to cooperate with the armies of the Allies. In writing the previous report 186 I became more or less conversant with the different systems of intelligence now in operation by the different belligerent powers here in Holland and decided in view of the fact that as all the Allies were working along separate lines it would be necessary for us to establish a similar Intelligence Bureau of our own. With a U.S. force occupying a certain battle front, we would of course concentrate our efforts, by using these agents, in securing information in regard to the district ahead of our own troops. The securing of this information should not be left entirely to other systems. The fact that the Allies are working along different lines shows the absolute necessity of our establishing a system of intelligence entirely distinct and separate from the others, and not depending entirely on the others. Besides there is such an unlimited field to cover here that our system would be a valuable addition to the others.

The results obtained by the German agents in the U.S. must, to a large extent, pass through this country before reaching Germany. This information, whether sent through here by special messengers or by letters, etc., can best be controlled by an efficient system of our own, in this country. It would be foolish to depend on the other systems in this respect.

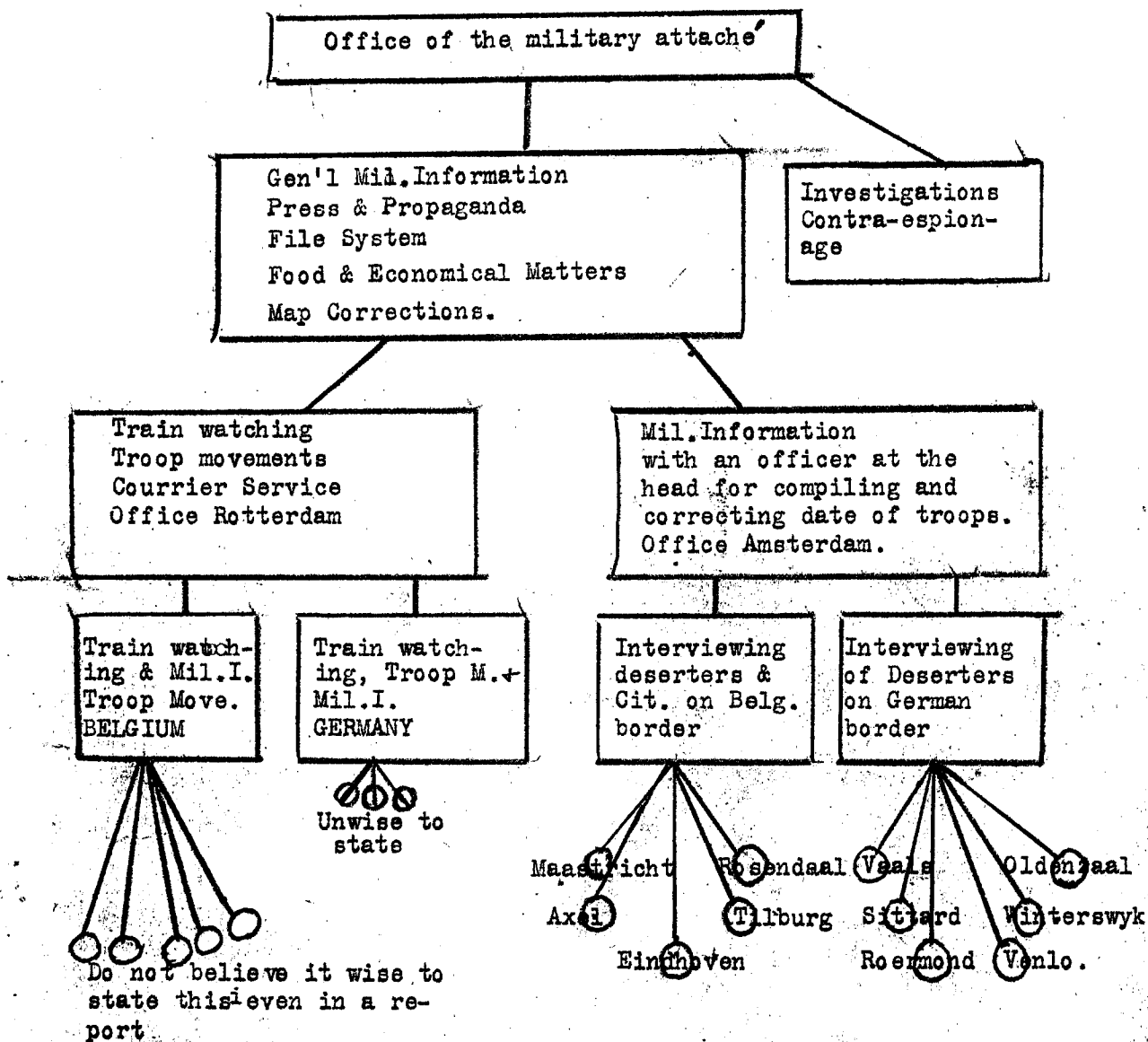
There are seven (7) different large systems in operation by the Allies and by the Central Powers two (2) large systems operating in this country and any quantity of smaller systems who pick up crumbs so to speak here and there. The most efficient system, no doubt, is the German. It has been in operation longer, and is probably better organized than the others. The English are spending tremendous sums of money and getting fair results apparently. On good authority I have been informed that they are spending fifteen (15) million dollars a month (thou this is of course over the entire world.).

One wonders why the Allies have not combined their services, but I have been informed that to a certain extent there is a danger in that, and secondly it enables them to check up each other by counter-espionage. Until our declaration of war it was practically impossible to secure any definite information on the subject. However, since then I have been able to secure a good deal and in my own mind have figured out what I consider will be necessary. This plan I shall first explain and afterwards will give you what details I have been able to

secure in regard to the other services, for future reference not only for the War Department, but for my own office. I have secured a mass of information from numerous agents which will be appended hereto, showing you the class of work that can be expected and its importance. I have neither the office force nor the time or money to devote to any elaborate checking-up system, which would of course be necessary in a proper intelligence service.

The following diagram will serve to explain in detail:

DIAGRAM I



(a) The head of this intelligence service will of course be the military attaché to which all information will be forwarded carded and filed. This naturally will demand a certain increase in office force and an officer assistant.

(b) GENERAL MILITARY INFORMATION DIVISION

This will be a bureau for the purpose of properly keeping indexing and distributing the information, also be a clipping bureau, and possibly contain the files of certain information such as the economical food situation, and if possible an officer of the army in charge with an assistant, from this bureau should also be directed the operations of the investigation and contra-espionage department, which will be referred to later. This office should be located either in The Hague or at Amsterdam.

It will be necessary for this division to subscribe to all newspapers periodicals and pamphlets written or printed, bearing on the subject of the war. Also to file and index it. The clerical force necessary for this work should preferably be an officer of the army and he would need at least two (2) assistants and three (3) interpreters. The cost would be about five hundred (500) dollars a month. Furthermore from this Bureau there should be one man assigned for Press Work to distribute information to the Press, give out opinions on certain movements and if necessary issue pamphlets. The exchanging of opinions play a great part in the propaganda of this war. In fact the main energies will be devoted to securing definite general information regarding the enemy's country, people, political aims, manufacturers, location of factories, food problems and so forth, and indirectly connected with it the department of investigation of the people employed by the enemy's intelligence system, which necessarily will also include contra-espionage, which means watching one's own agents to see that they work in the interest of their own system, also impede the work as much as possible for the agent of our enemies.

There is an American gentleman now in Amsterdam, a naturalized American by the name of "Gustav Wertheim van Heukelom, who comes from a well known Dutch family here, and was formerly in the banking business at 43, Exchange Place, New York City, and who now is contemplating opening a branch here in Amsterdam for the National City Bank of New York. This gentleman has already been of considerable service to me and now has come forward to do what he can for the U.S. He is willing to cooperate with me and this would be following the lead of the British who are using one of the largest shipping firms in Holland

(c).

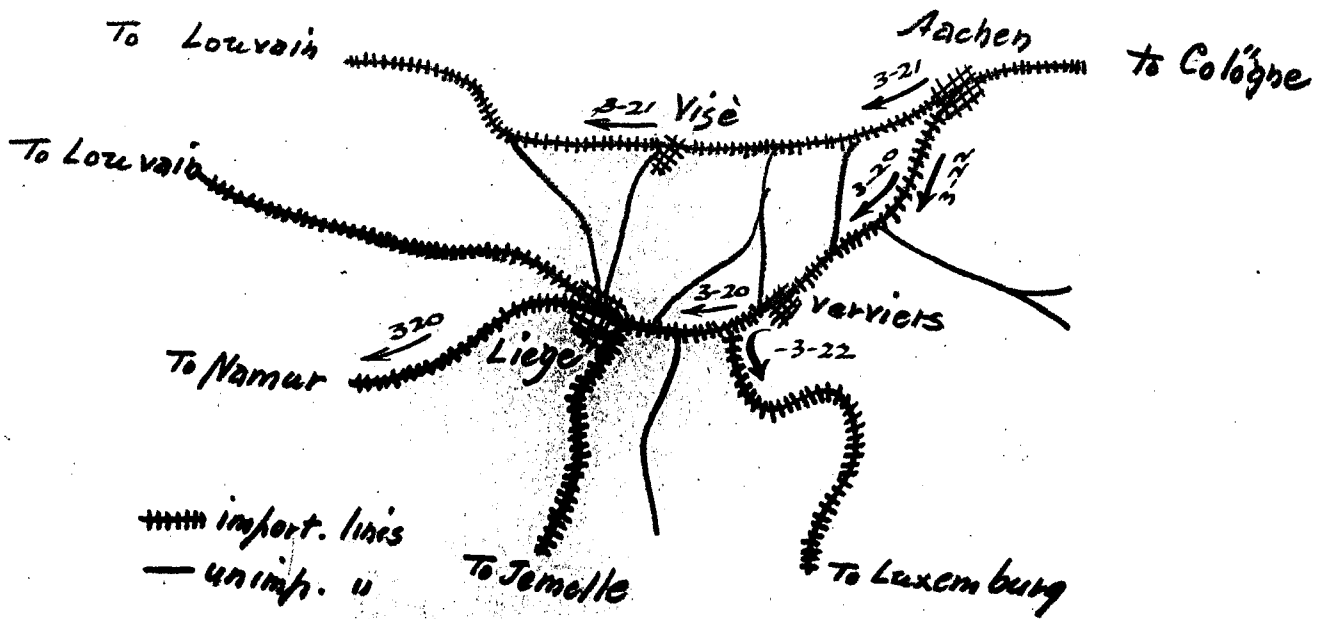
TRAIN WATCHING DIVISION

Here too there should be an officer in charge or a noncommissioned officer. (There is in Holland at the present time a Mr. Olaf Stein, an ex-noncommissioned officer of the cavalry, now ~~making~~ ^{working} for the Bell Telephone Company, who is willing to offer his services and who would be a valuable man in this connection; he is now helping me voluntarily)

This division is one of the most necessary and one of the most important. It is carried out by a system of observations of trains moving to and fro along the front and from the different bases of the enemy. To be effective all lines should be covered in this manner, that is, at every railroad center there must be at least one observer and reports must check up. A check should be made once shortly after a train's departure and again before it reaches the next railroad center. A network of posts is thereby established at each place, there being one head and a number of subordinate observation posts under this head. This of course will mean in Belgium posts be located at places where the division of trains occur, for instance, attached to this report see the intricate system of railways in Belgium as shown on the railway map hereto attached and marked .B.. On this railroad map I have placed a circle around the most important points, those which I consider necessary for the complete control of such a system.

(NOTE: The new railroads are shown in red).

This office will receive constantly reports from agents stationed in Belgium, each day a map is made on mimeograph as shown below on which is marked the information received from the secret agents. Often two posts work on the same road neither of which know the other, in this way they can be checked up and their reports verified. Most of these agents are old railroad men who give their respective reports to a third person unknown to them which forms the courier service.



For the above, information is received that on March 21 a division with supplies and equipment passes through Aachen, and also the same fact was reported from Vise. Also on the 20th about twenty trains with troops passed Aachen to the South and they were again reported from Verviers, so each day there is a notation of the number of trains and extent of traffic on each road, on a new sketch; this is one of the most important things in Intelligence, that is the system of ~~the most important things in Intelligence~~ train watching. I have been reliably informed that the French success at Verdun was due almost entirely to this; it was known that the Germans had moved a large quantity of guns and ammunition from Verdun to another portion of the line, also sent a large consignment to the Russian front, so the French took advantage of the fact and so made their attack, and accomplished in twenty-four hours with a very small loss, on October 24 last, when they retook from the Germans forts Douaumont and Vaux, capturing a great quantity of materials, 15 guns, 144 machine guns, 15 trench mortars and two complete wireless installations besides many rifles, 138 officers and 6,076 men, what the Germans spent 99 days in wresting from them. Many other successes could also be shown to prove the importance of this division of train watching. One of the systems has established a school in Belgium for the purpose of training men in this work.

All reports are dated, so it is a simple matter to check them up, even if 5 or 6 days old. The cost of this service can be only given approximately. In Belgium one post which will include from one to three sub-posts, will cost about 1,000 francs or \$200 a month. And if only one country was working on this territory to be effective it would necessitate at least 27 different posts in Belgium alone, the cost of which would be about 20,000 francs or about \$5,000 per month. Nor would this amount include the courier service. Each courier received from 100 to 200 francs per trip. This will be discussed later. It will also be necessary to establish posts in Germany. However, if we actually send troops to the Western front no doubt a certain territory could be arranged for containing say 5 or 6 posts, which would dovetail into the general system in operation at present by the Allies. I know of three posts that I can establish for about 5,000 marks or \$1200 per month. I know also two men suitable for heads of these divisions here. Naturally it would be better to have a separate office and clerical staff, distinct and separate from this office, preferably at Rotterdam, the running expenses of which would probably amount to \$500 a month.

All these amounts are only approximate, and average about one fourth what the French Military Attache, here in Holland is spending per month, and his system of Intelligence pertains only to the left wing of their Army. The English are spending a good deal more, The Russians also seem to have unlimited credit.

(d) MILITARY INFORMATION DIVISION

There should be an officer in charge. This will consist mainly in questioning deserters and escaped prisoners. Most of the Intelligence systems working in Holland have five or six men placed at different points along the border who are paid about 100 guilders a month. Their service consists of intercepting deserters and over a friendly glass obtaining such information according to question-sheets which are attached hereto. If these agents find that the man is not very intelligent or has very little information to give he will immediately be discarded, but if he should prove intelligent with information of value they notify their head who immediately has an interview and pays the deserters a certain sum according to his information from ten to fifty guilders. The sum is not always paid at once, but six days, if possible, given for verification. This is a very important department as can be seen by some of the deserters' statements hereto attached. This questioning of deserters should serve to keep our armies informed of the troops opposing them, their condition, moral and all other points of military value. This will of course be verified by prisoners taken and the latest reports from the front.

(NOTE: There is a sergeant David Smalakies, retired 1st Sergeant of the 20th Infantry, who could be put on the active list and directed to report to me for duty here. He is now living at Nymegen, Holland. There is also another retired ex-sergeant, Henry Miller, of the Quartermaster Corps, also residing in Holland, who might also be useful).

There are in the neighbourhood of two hundred deserters a week coming out of Germany besides a number of escaped prisoners and any number of civilians, many of which give very valuable information.

Naturally Germany is sending over a number of men for the purpose of giving false information, so the interviewers must be thoroughly conversant with the present position of the German troops, for which he daily received the map attached (A), which shows the location of the different German divisions on the Belgian front; the interviewer must also keep informed each day of the results of the train watching division; as a sample of the information received from deserters, see the Deserters Reports which are hereto attached on pages.....

The following questions are a fair sample of what the interviewer should ask either civil or military persons coming out of Belgium or Germany:

(1) Date of interview. Date of arrival in Holland. Place where he comes from. Occupation. (Impression made on the person questioning him (intelligent, keen observer, serious, etc...or to the contrary). Has he himself seen all that he tells or did he hear it from others? Value of his informations.

(2) Troops in the vicinity of the place where he comes from and through which he passed: infantry, cavalry, or artillery etc. Number of men and their age (landsturm, etc.). Do they come from the front? Numbers of the regiments (active, reserve, landwehr, landsturm). For the Landsturm the number is that of the battalion preceded by that of the army corps. Example: the 18th battalion of the 7th corps is indicated by VII/18. Duration of stay of troops in that place. Where did they come from? Where did they go to? Along the main roads or by railway? In which direction? Were the troops pertaining to the same units quartered in the neighbourhood? Did other troops at the same time arrive in a certain section? Which were the number of the regiments brigades, divisions, corps? Which transports followed? (baggage vehicles, trucks, horses, etc.) Where are the headquarters of the staffs?

(3) Movement of troops. On the march on the main roads. Length of the columns or duration to pass by a certain point, kind of troops, transports. number of men in each row, and where coming from? where going to? how about the cavalry? (slow or fast).

Railways. The traffic in the place where he comes from. Has it been increasing? Number of trains in the daytime and during the night. Passing of trains: date, place, direction, (what section or if missing: north, south, west or east?) Composition of trains, kind of troops in the cars, cars for material, transports, etc.. Artillery trains: are there cars on which were guns, caissons, horses, or various material. If these things were all mixed, in what proportion?

(4) Trenches or defensive works.

Locate the places on a map; use also certain points for locating such as canals, bridges, etc. Are there separate works? (The isolated trench is of no value). Are the works concerned part of the same line, or is it a continued line? When was it constructed? By whom? Civilians or military? Which military?

Depth of the trenches, shelters (subterranean), where are the machine guns mounted, barbed wire entanglements, (their depth). Is the construction of the trenches completed or in course of construction? Since when?

(5) Aerial raids of the Allies. The results, even if none, nature of damage and their importance and extent?

(6) Railway system. Changes or new lines? Construction of platforms, roads, station buildings, double lines? Which lines are removed? etc.

(7) Zeppelins. Indicate their presence or their passing by and especially their number (on them).

The following is recommended: Any information though apparently of little importance, must be reported. Don't drag answers out of a person, but let him have time to think of it, to consult his memory and to weigh his words. Go thoroughly through all the questions, and make them as complete as possible.

On page will be found other questions sheets by some other system.

My report #186 will give some details as to the activities of some of the German agents in Holland. (See the case of McGarrey)&c). Many of the systems now in operation here are so extensive that they have separate bureaus pertaining to each subject. In a small system this, however, would be superfluous and they all have a separate bureau for propaganda work; the Allies having followed Germany's lead in this matter, now distribute pamphlets, and in Holland the majority of newspapers to-day are subsidized by either the one or the other, and all maintain staffs of contributors who write with this purpose in view only.

RESUME OF A POSSIBLE SYSTEM.

In view of the fact that the Allies now have fairly well covered the territories along the border of Belgium and Germany, I suppose if the U.S. volunteered assistance, a certain section could be allotted us, for instance in train watching three or four stations in Belgium and possibly three in Germany.

The cost of this approximately would be about as follows:

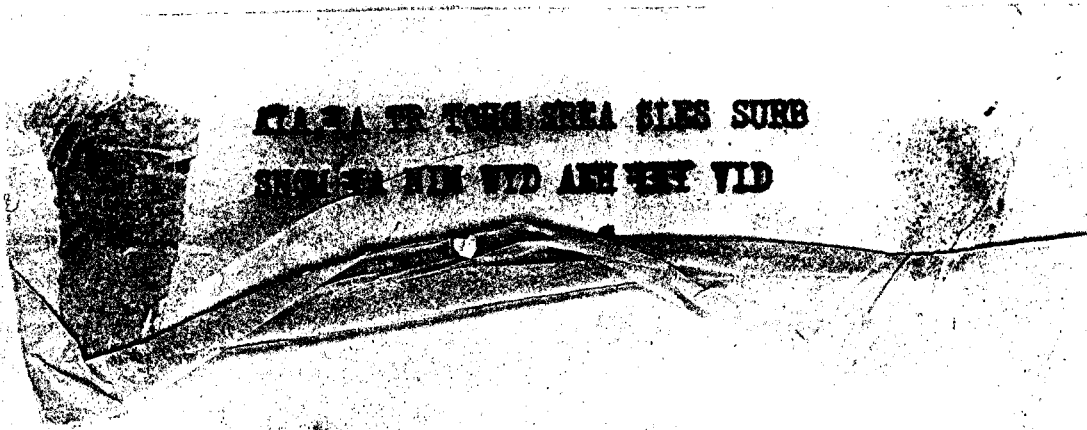
- (1) FOR THE OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ATTACHE
INCREASED OFFICE FORCE.....about \$ 100.00 a month
- (2) GENERAL AND MILITARY INFORMATION,
PRESS,
PROPAGANDA
FILE SYSTEM FOR FOOD AND ECONOMICAL
QUESTIONS, AND
A MAP ROOM..... " \$ 500.00 " "
- (3) INVESTIGATION AND
CONTRA-ESPIONAGE, pertaining to the above....; " \$ 250.00 " "
- (4) TRAIN WATCHING
TROOP MOVEMENT AND
COURIER SERVICE, with an office in Rotterdam.. " \$3500.00 " "
- (5) MILITARY INFORMATION DIVISION
INTERVIEWING OF DESERTERS, & TROOPS MOVEMENTS. " \$3500.00 " "

This would be merely as a start. The amount of money that is now being spent in Holland alone in intelligence work is roughly in the neighbourhood of \$200,000 a month.

(e) COURRIER SYSTEM.

It is impossible to figure on what the courier service will cost exactly. There are certain places much more dangerous to communicate with than others. Therefore the cost cannot be estimated beforehand. One report it may be worth the lives of 10,000 men, and another be absolutely unimportant; yet, generally speaking, there can be little difference in the pay, which will be according to the dangers encountered in that particular territory.

One favorite form formerly used extensively by one of the systems was a key, which is hollow inside and has a screw arranged for closing. On very thin paper in code a certain message is communicated from the head agent in Belgium to Rotterdam, as follows:

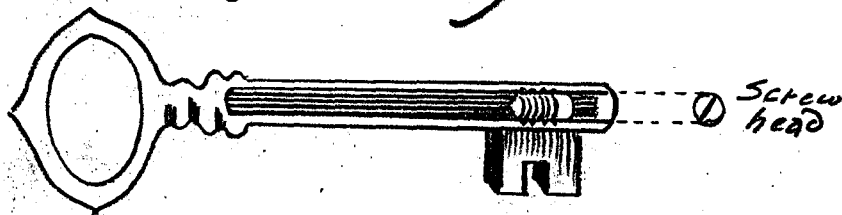


which reads:

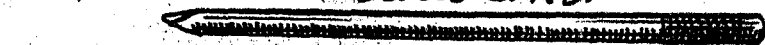
On April 10 twenty trains passed Aerschot through Brussels towards Mons at twenty minutes headway containing troops of the 233rd Division.

These keys are so constructed that by putting cigar ashes in the end after re-screwing with a communication inside, it is impossible to detect. There is a holder with this key for inserting the paper message. (See sketch below)

Hollow Key-



Screw driver

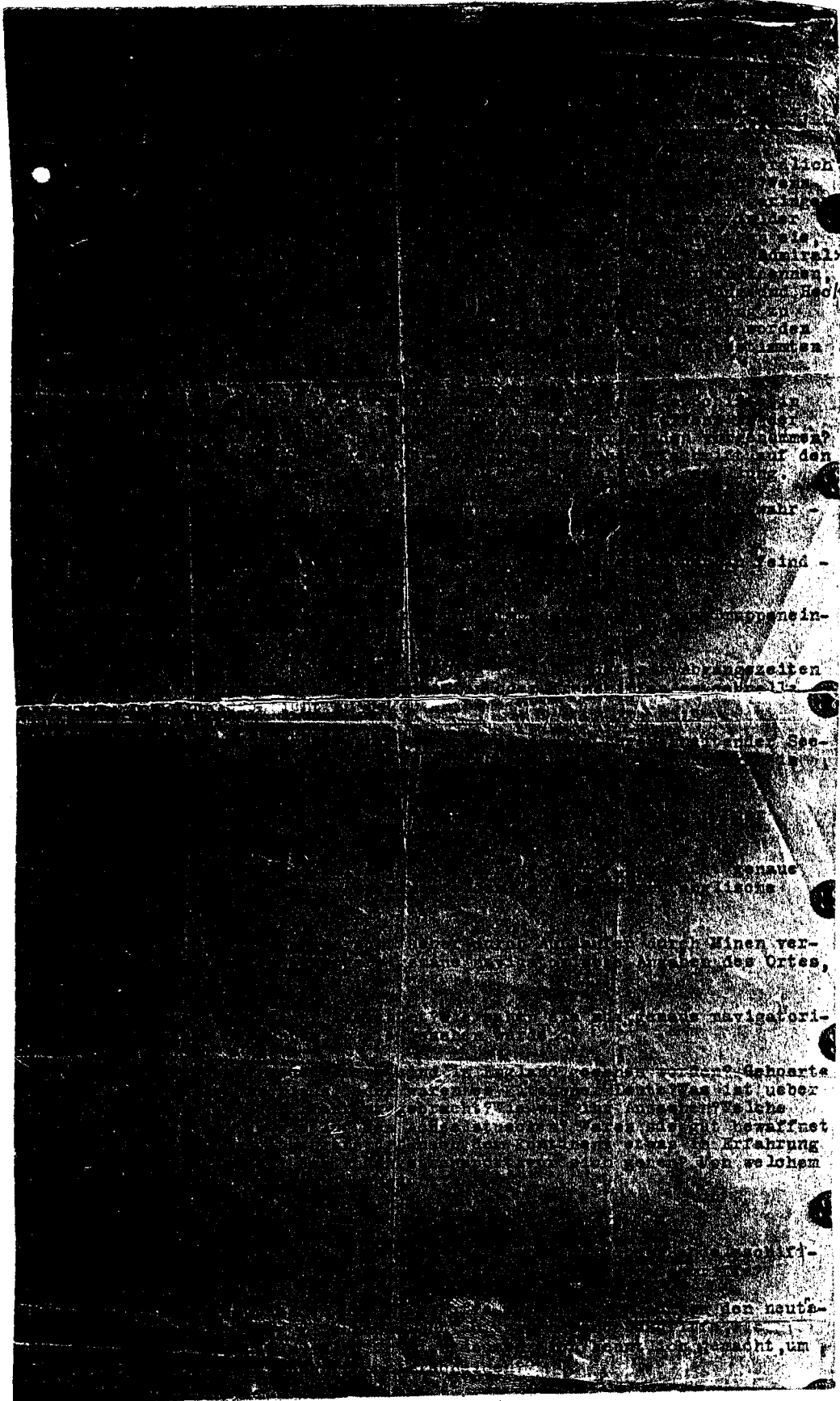


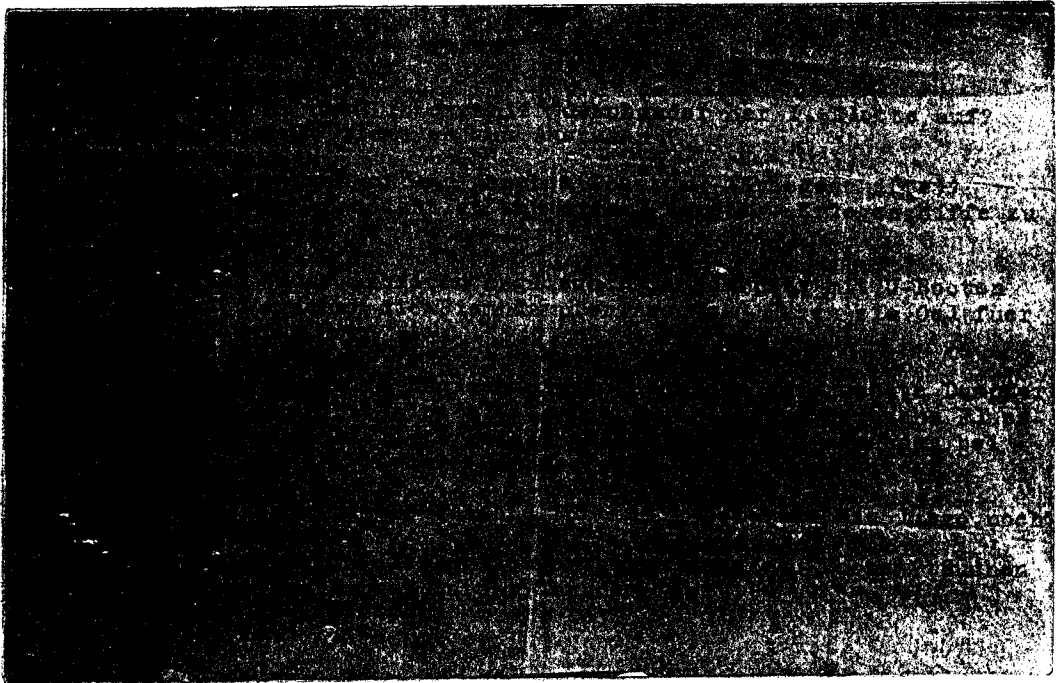
*opening to insert
Message for
putting in key*



These keys are now made with plugs instead of screws. Often times an innocent person has carried a key in or out of Belgium for some friend who incidentally informed him he left it with a certain person and heeded it now to open his kitchen door or cupboard.

Recently a certain agent of the Germans going to England was captured, and the following instructions found upon his person.





The following is a translation of the above instructions:

1) What enemy ships were seen crossing? If possible the names of the ships, otherwise the type (Dreadnought, old battleship, dreadnought cruiser, old armored cruiser, small cruiser, large, small torpedo boat, submarine, mine layer ((the English use old cruisers)), mine sweeper, cannon boat).

Where were the ships sighted? What course were they taking? (northerly, southerly, easterly, westwardly). Were they traveling alone or in groups? If in groups in what formation? Were they traveling at high or low speed? Were they performing vigilance or patrol service in the neighbourhood of the coast or a waterway? Were they at anchor? If at anchor did they have torpedo nets spread out? Did one vessel fly the Admiral's flag? If the names of the ships cannot be ascertained give the kind and number of masts and funnels, shape of bow and stern, valuable clues to the type. It is of great importance to know at what places warships have been seen regularly, such as cruisers or destroyers for vigilance service at certain places near fire ships or entrances to harbors?

2) What ships were in port on arrival? Were the ships in the yards? Were they taking in coal, ammunition or supplies? If in the ship yards what repairs were being made and of how long duration? Were there many marines in the port? What bands were noticed on their caps? New ships, time of completion.

3) Were any newly constructed fortifications seen on the enemy coast?

4) What air defence measures were noticed on the enemy coast or in enemy cities?

5) What particular war preparations were seen? such as the embarkment of troops, the loading of guns, ammunition, supplies?

6) It is of the utmost importance to have intelligence as soon as possible of the departure and destination of warships or secondary vessels.

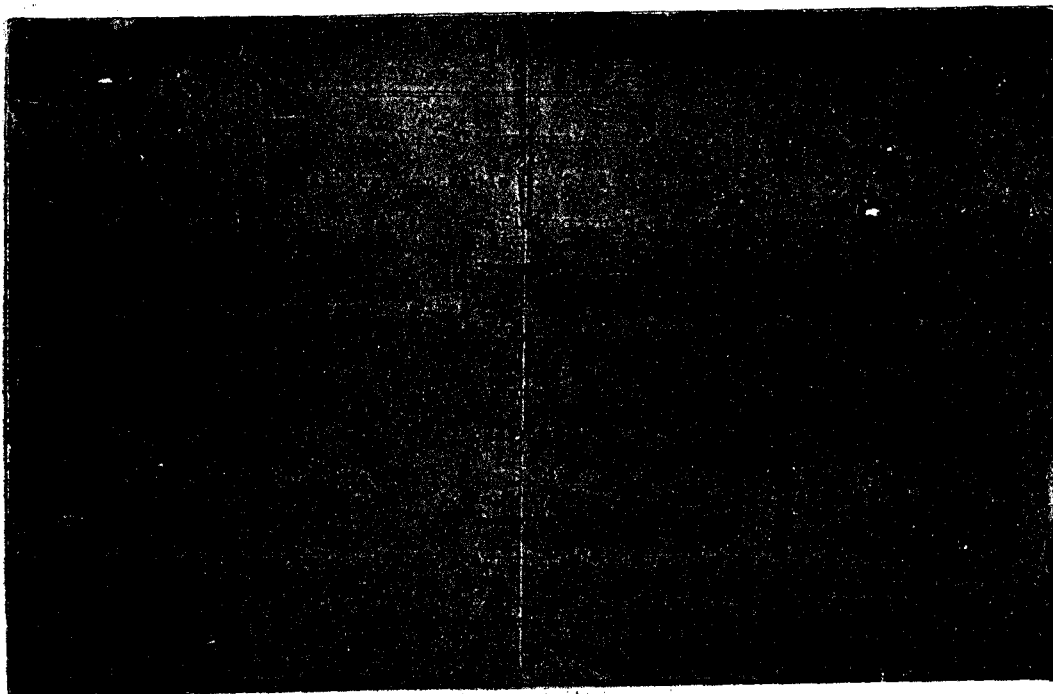
7) What was it possible to learn concerning operations of maritime warfare (bombardment of the Belgian coast, expeditions in the Baltic and the North Sea?)

8) What course did the ship take (give this so exactly that the data can be used for navigation).

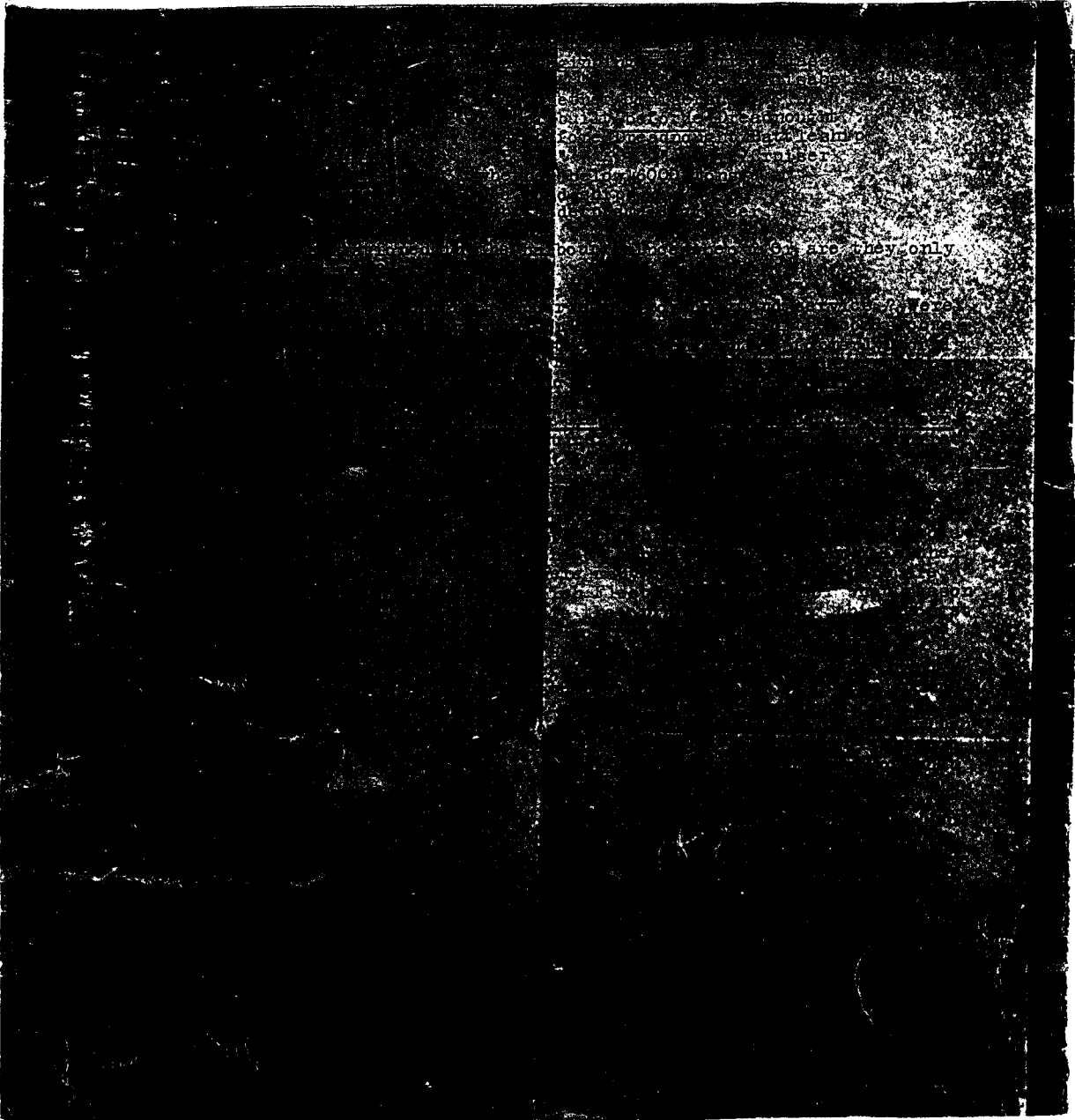
- 9) What was learned about mine fields? As exact details as possible concerning the extent of the mine field, number of mines, English or German mines.
- 10) What was learned about steamers running aground, hitting mines, particularly exact navigation data concerning place where it happened.
- 11) Were drifting mines sighted? How did they look, exact navigation data as to place where they were seen.
- 12) What members of the Army were seen in England? Did they belong to the Territorials? Or were they Kitchener men? What was learned about their training? How did they look? What letters did they have on their shoulder straps? Were they well armed? Was anything learned as to departure for transportation to the Continent? When is the transport to start? From what port and to what place of destination?
- 13) Objects of attack for aircraft.
- 14) What measures has the admiralty recommended to the English merchants marine for protection against attack by German submarines?
- 15) Appearance of English merchant vessels distinguishing them from neutral merchant vessels with reference to attack by submarines. What changes have neutral merchant vessels made in their outward appearance to distinguish themselves from the English vessels?
- 16) Where is the battleship squadron of the First Fleet? Where does it take coal? Where does it lie for the purpose of resting?
- 17) Where have dummy men-of-war been seen? How many? Where are they to be employed?
- 18) In what manner do English fishing-boats collaborate with U-boats? Do these fishing boats spy about for the U-boats? Have they oil on board for the U boats?
- 19) Is it true that the English wish to blockade the Elbe by means of sunken vessels? Only the Elbe, or also other German river-mouths? When is this to happen? By day or at night? How many ships are on hand for this purpose?
- 20) Why is the English fleet kept in reserve, and how long is this to be the case?
- 21) How do the English protect themselves against our U-boats? With steel cables, nets, or fishing craft?

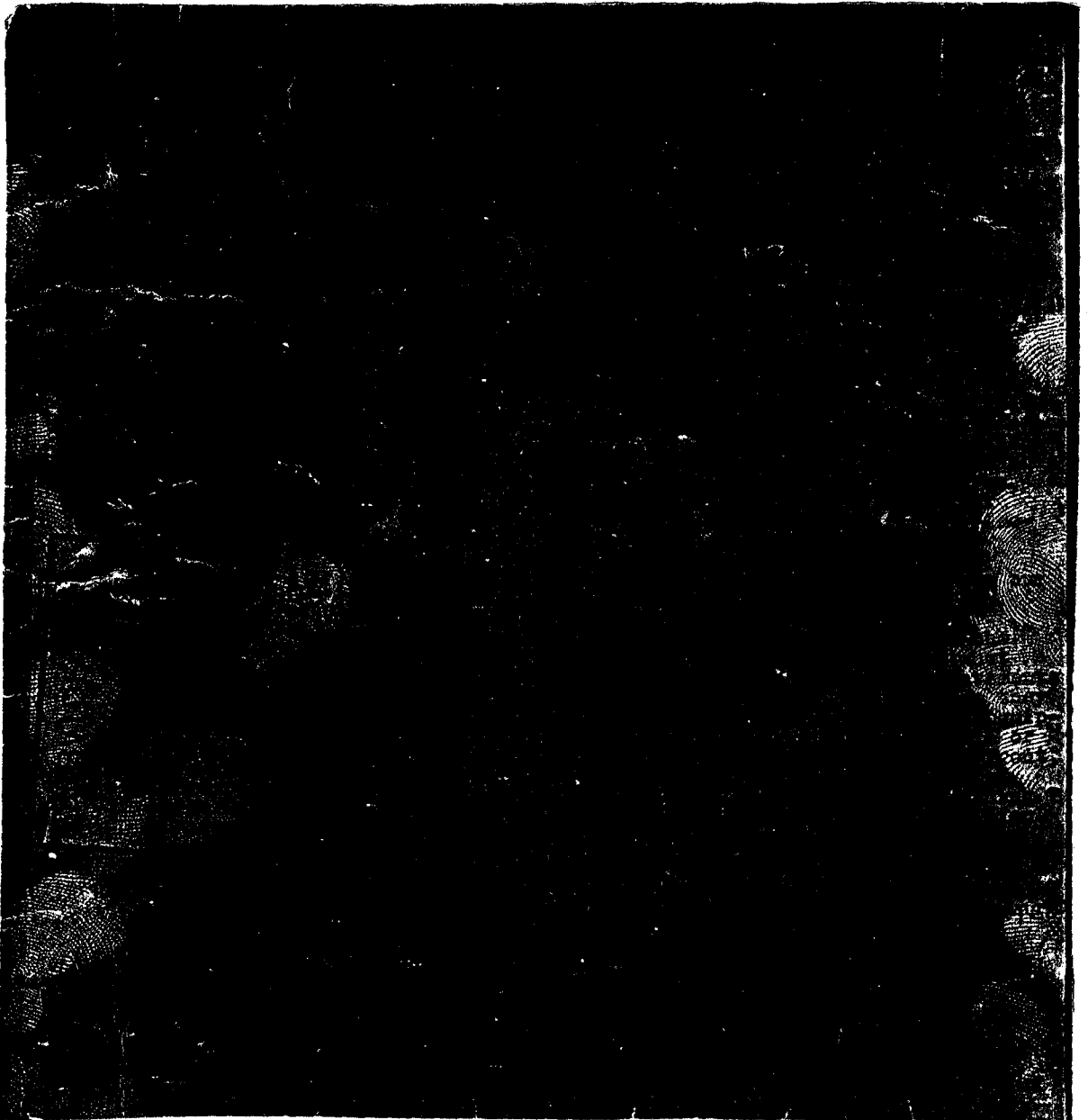
(End of translation)

Also the following was found on the agent referred to above:



The English have also captured a person, who had the following instructions:





(f) DEPARTMENT FOR INVESTIGATION AND CONTRA-ESPIONAGE.

This was referred to above and should come under the control of the head only. It is distinct and separate from any other department or division and in fact should be absolutely unknown to them. It is necessary not only to look after its own agents, to see that they are faithful to their system, but also to watch certain people whom your own officials are obliged to come in contact with daily.

The cost can be any amount.

It should also maintain records of the enemy's agents and it will be essential for them to keep in close contact with the enemy's agents.

2.- Two of the systems here in Holland have another division devoted entirely to the buying and selling of commercial commodities after the war. Immediately upon the completion of peace the effect of their work will be known and felt. England and Germany are carrying this out to the greatest extent, and if desired I can give you further information on this subject, and on their efforts and activities in this line, but will not in this report, as it does not pertain to the military situation.

3.- INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS OF THE ALLIES.

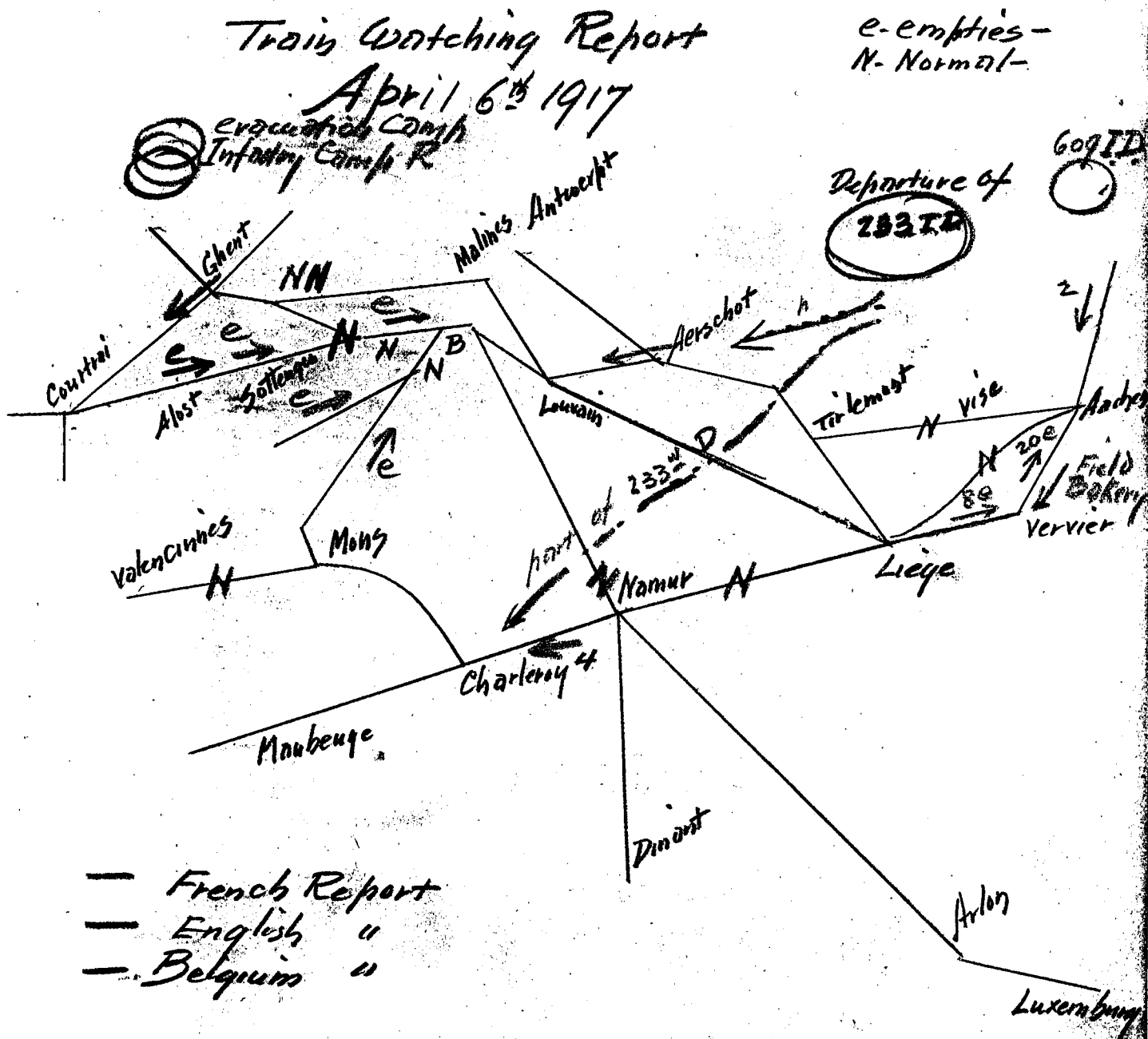
I shall now give what little I know in regard to the systems in operations by the Allies in Holland.

4.- THE FRENCH SYSTEM.

The French, I understand, have two systems here in full operation, and another with headquarters at Folkestone, England, all directed from Paris. They all connect in the matter of contra-espionage, and the office here, which is the office of the French military attache, General Boucabeille, is No. 1, Daendelstraat, The Hague, and has an office force of over forty men. All his material is sent through the Folkestone office. I should say it is very complete, from what little I have seen of it. It is subdivided into numerous departments over each of which there is an officer of the Army the head. One division is the mapping division. There are two special rooms containing the maps on a large scale of all the different theaters of war, and there is one officer in charge, with

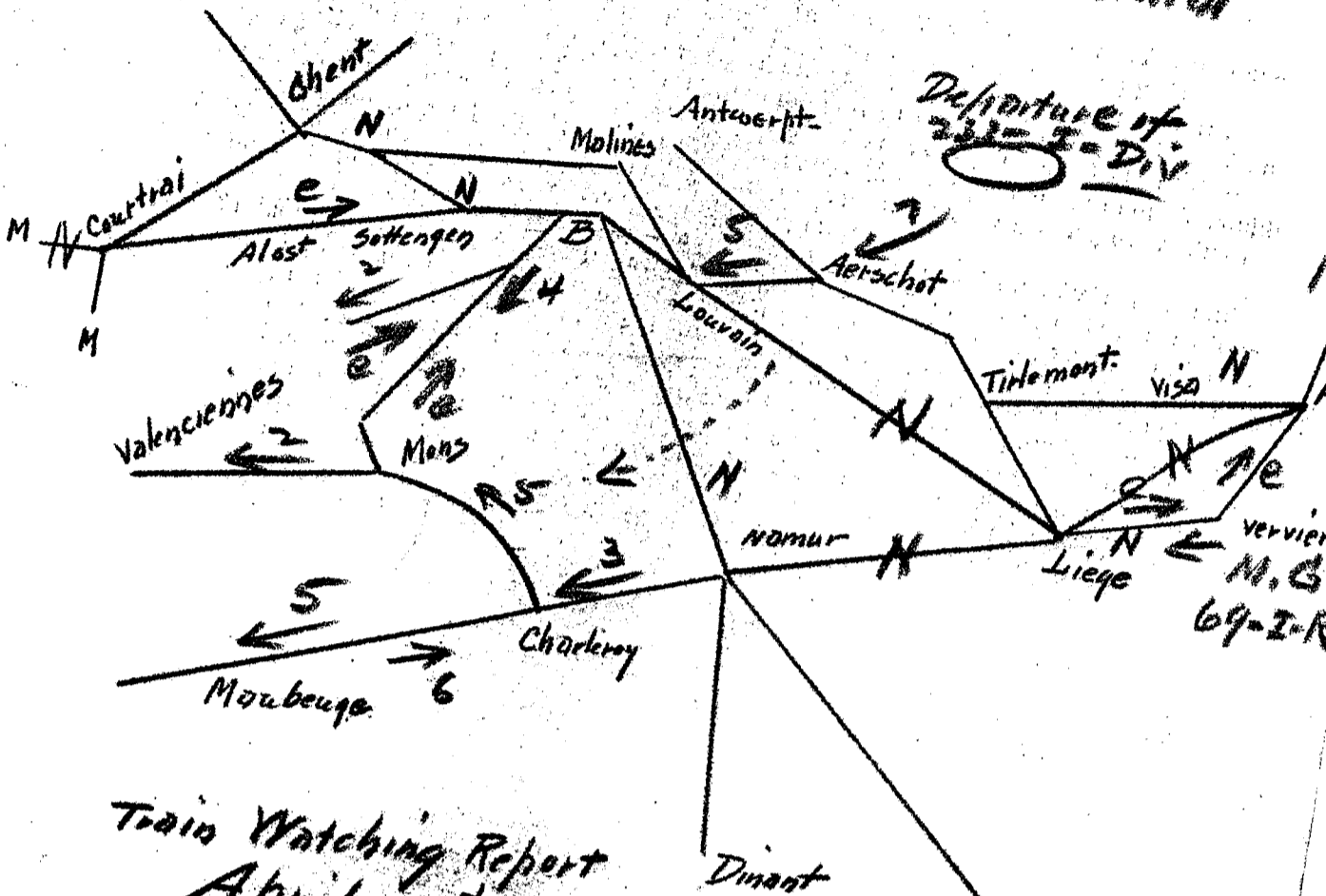
two assistants, whose sole duty is to keep the positions of the enemy properly placed on the map. Every week a mimeograph copy is published, showing the different changes of the German positions. A copy of this map is hereto appended and marked (A). To enable this officer and his assistants to carry on this work, every bit of information pertaining to the German troops in the field passes through this office. This, of course, includes train watching, reports from deserters, and reports from special agents.

The train watching and troop movement is another division, and is constantly receiving reports from their different agents, stationed in Belgium and Germany. This division is under a major P. Wallner. He has mimeograph copies, as shown below for April 6, 7, 10 and 11, and each day marks on it in blue, the information received through the French system; in red, the information received through the British system, and in green the information received through the Belgian system. These are all collaborated in this office. As soon as these maps are made they are distributed to the heads of their different departments and particularly to those who interview deserters and civilians coming out of Germany or Belgium, thus enabling them to at once check up the people they interview. These systems often have two posts in the same place, unknown to each other. Therefore, there is an absolute check and verification. For this work, Major Wallner, tells me, he employs mostly railroad men, and the heads of each post pass their information on through their courier system. The following shows what occurred on April 6, 7, 10 and 11:

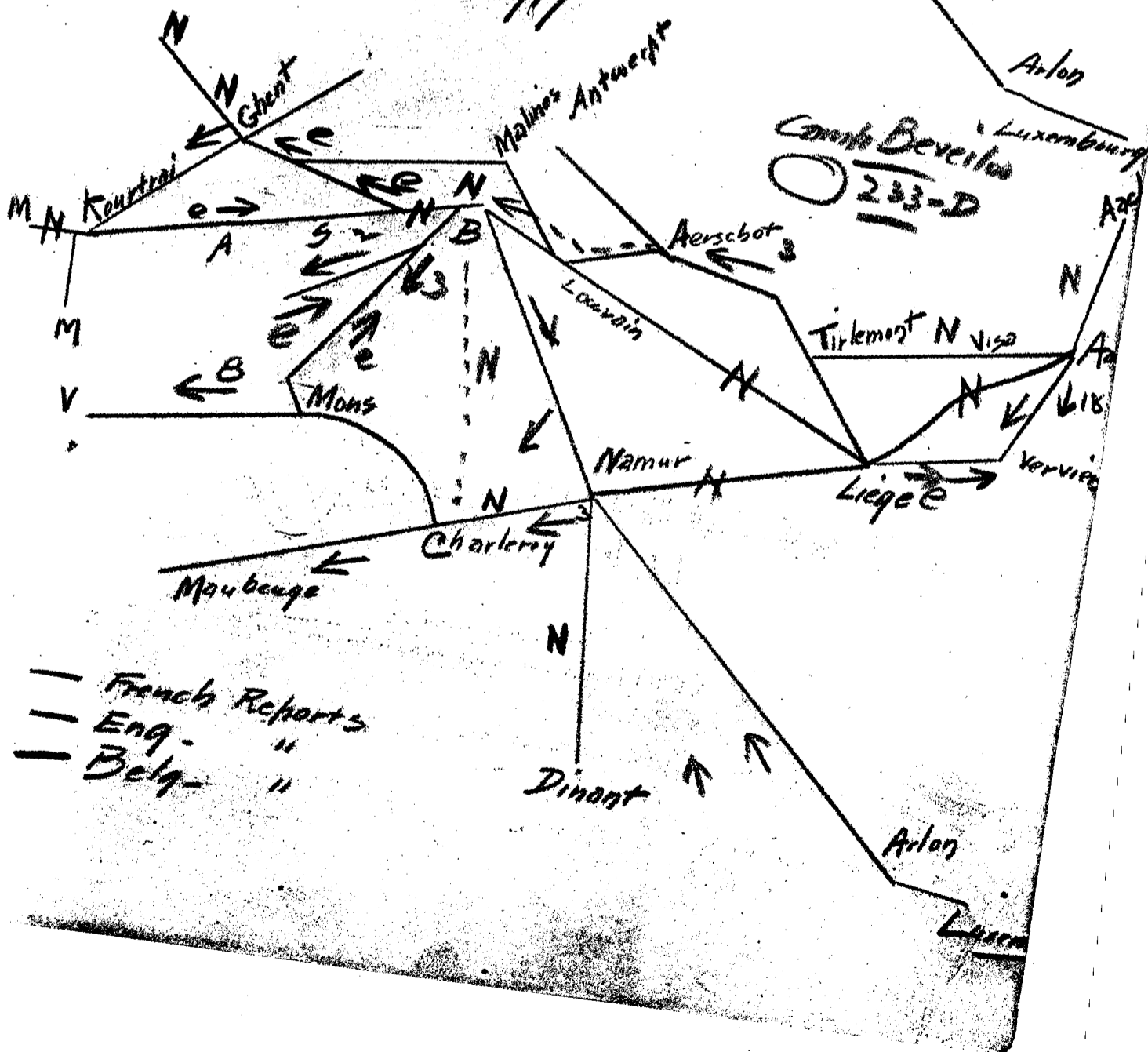


April 7th 1917
 Train Watching Report - 15 -

e - empties
 N - Normal



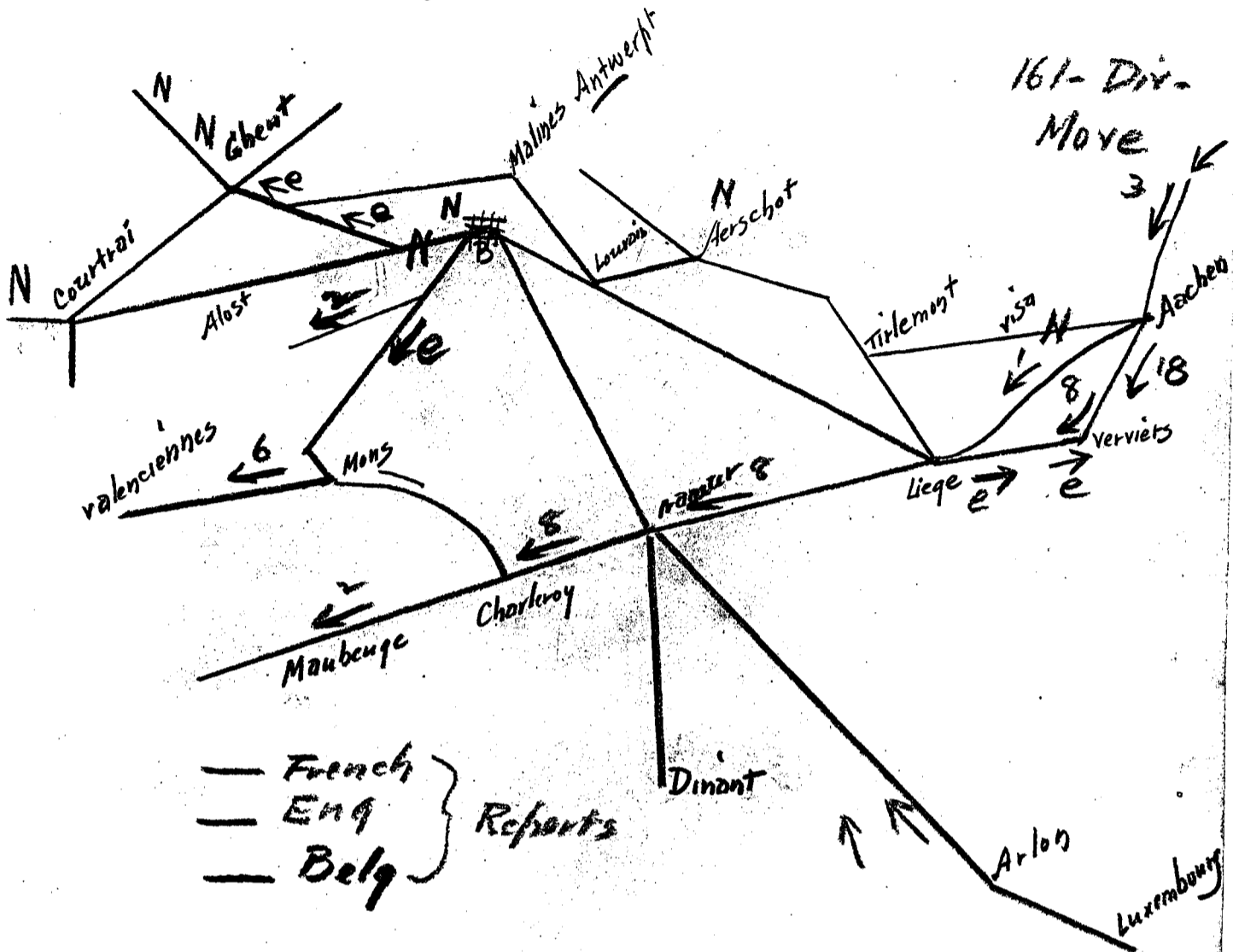
Train Watching Report
 April - 10th 1917



- French Reports
- - - Eng. "
- ... Belg. "

Report -
Train Watching
April-11-1917

- 16 -



Another room in this building is devoted to the information received through deserters, where this information is filed, carded and indexed and disseminated as soon as received through the different departments. All the late information is at once distributed. At the present time there are in the neighbourhood of two hundred deserters a week crossing the borders between Holland and Belgium and Holland and Germany. So this will give some idea of the extent of their work. They have a regular organization. First they have what they call "runners". He is a man who remains in the small towns along the border and catch up with the deserters as soon as they cross. If their story is interesting they immediately notify their superior who is an officer of the army who interviews them and puts a certain number of questions to them. If they prove sufficiently intelligent the interviewer is usually previously advised as to what organization they belong to, and he looks this up at once. Then he first verifies their story to see that they are from the organization they represent themselves as pertaining to. He makes them give an account of their former service, and oftentimes may find that they have been sent over by the Germans or else are so unintelligent or untruthful that their information is worthless. If it is good information, and checks up generally, they are given about ten guilders or four dollars and sent off, but watched.

In this building there is still another division which pertains to the political economy and food problems of Germany. This is principally a Press Bureau, and its results are sent either to the diplomatic or military authorities, as the case may be. They consider this a most important division and gather a great deal of military information from

this organization. It is quite an extensive office, and all German papers are thoroughly perused and translated.

There is still another division which handles the propaganda and distributes articles to the different papers and pamphlets. They also have a system of contra-espionage, which I know little or nothing about.

The French military attache and all his officers have been most courteous to me in every way. They have informed me that they are spending for information pertaining to their left wing only what would equal twenty thousand dollars a month, and even that at times is insufficient.

5. THE ENGLISH SYSTEM.

The English have three different systems operating in Holland, all more or less independent of each other, the total results of which, however, are received in the office of the military attache here, though some information forwarded direct to their headquarters at Folkestone, where all the systems have head offices and collaborate their information. They also exchange reports on the workings of their respective agents (contra-espionage). I know very little about this service.

One of the divisions of the English service and one of the most extensive is under a man named Tinsley who before the war had a large shipping office situated at Rotterdam, .76.c, Boompjes 1) I shall take this up first, as I know more about it. It is the most complete establishment. Before the war it was a mercantile house (English capital). Now, however, there is very little legitimate work going on above the second floor. I have been through it, so speak from personal knowledge. They have about twenty waiting rooms for the purpose of interviewing people. They have a large room devoted to photography and a most extensive filing system. They have another room which pertains to military information and movement of troops only, another with maps and a room for the purpose of copying seals, dies etc. Then there is a Press Bureau and a stationery establishment and a printing office. There are three officers of the army employed here and in addition to this large establishment they have several buildings situated in different parts of Rotterdam. The clerical force I should say roughly amounted to over seventy-five people. Another system is directly under the control of the British military attache here, and I understand works through the different consuls and consular officers, all of which have been quadrupled in size, since the beginning of the war, and are devoting considerable time and attention to trade and commercial matters on the completion of peace. They have quite extensive organizations for this work only.

The third English system I know very little about. It is called the Lord Northcliffe system and so far as I know is almost a private enterprise, though their reports are all handed to the War Office in London.

The amounts that the British are spending here in Holland is tremendous and at least two and a half times what the French are spending.

Their main system, of course, is operating from Folkestone, and is under a major Cameron.

6. "BRITISH SPIES IN AMSTERDAM".

The following is taken from a pro-German paper and part of the propaganda used by the Allies opponents

Translation:

The Amsterdam correspondent of the "Vossische Zeitung" (Berlin)

1) They have still another office at Rotterdam, 203 A. Heemraadsingel.

seems to be suffering severely from war fever, says a writer in the "VOLK" (Amsterdam paper). Like some of his colleagues, the correspondent was evidently inspired, warns his compatriotes who happen to come to Holland, not to betray by word or deed that there is famine in Germany, not to exaggerate like the German who exclaimed, in the dining room of an Amsterdam hotel that in Germany he needed at least twenty Mk. 3,50 meals to satisfy his appetite. Of course, exaggeration is always to be deprecated. But that the warning is necessary, is the surest proof of the precarious position of Germany's food supply.

A far more dangerous thing is the manner in which the correspondent warns his readers against mixing with spies. If he is to be believed, Amsterdam is a congregation of spies in the service of Britain. He does not mention Englishmen, but a German waiter here and there and, for the rest, Dutch hotel and restaurant employees, who are bribed to spy on the Germans who come to Holland. The correspondent cloths his statement in such general terms that one might deduce from them that the employees of all the hotels and restaurants at Amsterdam were bribed by Britain en masse. He writes, -"The German visitor mostly puts up at a hotel. The porter meets him, pleasantly loquacious. As a rule he welcomes the guest in good German. The guest is pleased to meet a compatriote. But - is it a compatriote? Most probably not. All porters in Amsterdam speak good German, and the man inquires sympathetically how matters stand in the Fatherland. In 100 out of a hundred cases the visitor talks. The porter, however, in the evening has an interview with some British "journalist"; and the next day the report is in Britain, not in a paper, but in Downing Street. It is not only the porter who is bribed by Britain. The chamber maid and the waiter do not object either to a liberal monthly salary, which is easily earned. The waiter slinks about, absorbing every word spoken. If the guest does not talk enough, the waiter gives him a fillip. "Tastes good, here in Holland", he says, in a tentative way. It does indeed. I have to make up for lost time! This starts the conversation, and the waiter hears enough to send off a good report. That often the paper in hotels is so strongly glazed that it does not absorb the ink and that the letters written on it are afterwards clearly legible on the blotter that these sheets of blotting paper are regularly renewed by the chamber maid who is in the service of England - these are indisputable facts. Instances could be indefinitely enumerated. A serious warning must also be uttered against the men who with a German paper in his hand approaches the unsuspecting German visitor in a hotel or cafe and starts a panegyric on the latest military German operations. Overjoyed to meet with such enthusiasm abroad, the German engages in conversation on prospective events, on what will happen "when we begin our next offensive at such and such a point", and of "our new guns". This type of English spy always hears something that is worth having. I repeat, the danger of treason lies in neutral foreign countries where spies in considerable numbers enjoy perfect liberty, and is there far greater than at home".

The correspondent, Volk-writer, goes on to comment, writes for a paper that is nicknamed "'Aunt Voss'", on account of the old wives' talk it publishes. Perhaps it wants such stories of highway robberies and does not care that as a result the Germans coming to this country are represented as a herd of stupid sheep. We, however, do care that this journalist represents the personnel of our hotels and cafes as a troop of unscrupulous individuals."

(End of translation).

7.- THE BELGIAN SYSTEM.

They have two systems operating in Holland, one from their Legation here in The Hague under a military attache, and their principal service under a Major Maje, whose headquarters are at Folkestone. Their principal work is confined to Belgium, though I understand they have three posts in Germany. I do not know what they are spending, but think about the same amount as the Russians.

In addition to these which are officially recognised there are three other Belgian systems operated as private enterprises. The Belgians seem to take naturally to this sort of work, especially contra-espionage (see notes on the following pages of my personal interview with two Belgians: Jean Simonis, and Stockmann, also Toitgans). I strongly suspect that these men are connected with the Belgian system. From the other attaches I have been given to understand that they have four good posts only in Belgium.

8.- THE ITALIAN SYSTEM.

They have a small system and are spending about half I should say what the Russians spend, and their main work is interviewing deserters. The Allies have divided up this territory now, and have all agreed that they will not employ any man who is for any reason dismissed or discharged from any one of the services. I believe, however, there is still plenty of room for concentration and improved organization in this work.

9.- THE GERMAN SYSTEM.

This is the most extensive of all and has been longer established. Long before the outbreak of war the Germans had inaugurated this system in Holland. It is probably the best organized and most effective at present. All the German consulates are more or less connected with it, though outside of the consulates they have a number of different branches. In my report #185 will be found a list of houses which I have been reliably informed, have been used by this system and the entire system, I have been given to understand by a newspaper man who studied it up a year ago, is under the direct control of the German Military Attache at The Hague, Colonel Renner. The Naval Attache to the German Legation at The Hague has a separate system also. I know little or nothing about it.

A year ago I was informed that they had different divisions in each town and different heads. In Amsterdam it was supposed to be a man by the name of Cremers, in the Hague a man by the name of Schärmer, who lives at 156, Badhuisweg, Telephone No. S. 1929. He is supposed to work very closely with the systems of Schmitz in Antwerp and Goldschmitz in Brussels. R

Probably the most important division in the Netherlands is that at Rotterdam, under a man named Krebs, who is assisted by his brother. Their duty is not only to accumulate and acquire military information, but to dispatch agents to other countries and also have certain agents distribute false information to the agents of the Allies. It is quite an extensive system. In report 186 some of its workings can be seen. It is so well organized that little is known about it. In paragraph 12 of this report will be found a report of contra-espionage referring to certain men in Rotterdam.

10. THE AUSTRIAN SYSTEM.

They have a system here with its headquarters in Amsterdam. I understand that the head of the system is a Prince Hohenlohe. I know very little about it.

11.- THE BULGARIAN SYSTEM.

The Bulgarians also have a small system, but I know nothing about that.

12. INDEPENDENT SYSTEMS /

I have attached two reports of interviews I have had with two men having separate and independent systems and working alternatively for the French, English, Belgian and Russians. I had a stenographer concealed, so most of their conversation was tabulated. These two reports will follow and may give some idea as to the independent systems of which there are a number operating in Holland. I do not trust these smaller systems, and under no condition would trust them explicitly. Most of their agents are those who have been discharged from one of the other systems and therefore most unreliable.

13.-

FIRST REPORT OF INTERVIEW

On March 30 I had a long talk with Mr. Simonis, who is the head of one of the small independent systems and called upon me voluntarily; so I had a stenographer making notes of our conversation. We talked things over as to how we would arrange matters in case the U.S. decided to inaugurate a system. The first: Train Watching, and the second: Movement of Troops, were the most important. The third: General Information. Those three are all important. Then he stated he had in his service a General Investigation Section of counter-espionage which is separated into two sections:

- (1) for investigating his own people (Belgians) and the other
- (2) for all other people.

Both were quite necessary.

A very important thing, he said, was the Press Bureau or economical department.

Each section had a chief, but all these chiefs are under one, naturally.

This Press Bureau is his 5th Division and has nothing to do with the others. All the sections are divided.

As to train watching, he claimed to have people ready. Also a captain who is familiar with all military questions, and that he had people whom he can start at once.

I asked him how many men I'd need to start and he suggested to wait and see what will have to be established.

The questions and answers were about as follows:

Q. Where must I start train watching?

A. That will be on the principal lines f.i. Liege.

Q. How many men will be necessary at Liege?

A. It all depends. Five men f.i.

Q. What is the next important point?

A. Namur, with five men.

Q. Does that include the captain of each post?

A. No, that comes later. In Belgium we have a centralization department. We have a man of our staff making reports and he handles Liege and Namur. His headquarters are in Brussels. We cannot decide where you will get your mail from.

In Liege we must watch the lines in three different directions. f.i. to Namur, to Brussels and to Tongeren.

Q. How many men are in this central Department?

A. At least two, a captain and an assistant.

Then you will have to see how you can get your mail here. That is the difficulty. You will need people at every point. A courier costs from five pound up to forty or from 200 Marks up to 400 Marks. Don't put your figures too low, because sometimes you will have to pay 1000 francs.

Q. Give an approximate figure.

A. All I can do is give you a fair idea of the thing. I cannot give you the exact figures, for I don't want you to come back on me when my figures are not right.

Q. How many courriers will be necessary for that central department?

A. There are big movements every day and the courriers send out their reports twice a week.

Q. You cannot tell how many courriers will be necessary?

A. We are always trying to find more men. The "courrier" system is not always confined to one man only. So I mean to say that the system cost that much. Sometimes there are three or four men.

Q. What will the courier service cost per month approximately?

A. I cannot say.

Q. I should like to see some figures.

A. Well, you will need a big credit, same as the English Government does. At the end of each month we only tell the British Government, We have spent that much during this month.

If you start a service, we cannot take any responsibility for it nor for the figures. We have had to pay for our experience. You will need six courriers and twenty posts in Belgium, each post cost twenty francs. A post in Belgium costs approximately a thousand francs a month, and you will need twenty-seven posts, so 27,000 francs a month is conservative. That is only the average, however.

Q. How about train watching in Germany?

A. Train watching in Germany is more expensive. That cost twenty guilders a day per man, and you will need at least twenty agents there. The biggest traffic is in Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle).

Q. How many posts should be figured on, to start?

A. Start with three posts. That will cost you at least Marks 200 per post a month. These courriers are very expensive. Each post is ordered from here and one man is in charge. We have also a rented house f.i. one at 2,000 Marks and the agent in that house receives 100 or 200 marks a month. We have a very clever man whom we send out as a laborer in factories etc. to find out certain things. People of this sort you cannot say what they must be paid.

As to expenses, an office costs 7,000 to 8,000 francs a month in Holland.

We have men who are going to Maastricht twice a day. We pay their expenses at the rate of about fifty guilders a month.

MOVEMENT OF TROOPS

This is another system. We have two classes of men, one at fixed posts in Belgium who get from 5 to 6 francs a day, and another to collect the information, who receive 200 francs a ~~day~~ ^{month}, ~~and another to~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~. We call them "promeneurs", and they go from one city to another. They are running a greater danger than the others. They receive 12,50 francs per day. That whole system will cost you 25,000 francs per month, only to start, mind you.

Q. How many men will there be in that service?

A. From 40 to 100.

Q. How many heads?

A. That is another question. The courriers for train watching only know the one man. The danger is if that one man is arrested he may to save his head tell who the others are. So the courriers do not know each other, but only their head.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Q. Suppose you want to know the number of Zeppelins in a certain shed at St. Denis?

A. We send a man to St. Denis and he has to find out where the shed is situated, what kind of material it is made of, so for all such things we have an engineer or a mechanic.

Q. How many men do you need for that ?

A. Three or four men.

Q. What will they get?

A. That is impossible to say. That depends on the class of their work. One gets 10,000 francs and another 20,000 francs. It is their work to find out f.i. about a staff having its headquarters at a certain hotel at Namur, number of officers it consists of. If that place is to be destroyed we have to make a report in such a way that it will tell between what hours they are there. They pretty nearly killed the Kaiser once. They came one hour too late. For instance you get a ~~xxxxx~~ request from your headquarters, saying that in such and such a place they are making a new building; of what is it composed? Therefore you have to send a man down to find out. Sometimes it is impossible to send back what they ask for. We have a man in Germany now who has been in for four weeks. If he is successful he is a millionair before the end of the war. You don't find such people every week, but the better you work and the more honest you are, the more you will get the good people. It happens very often that the same report comes in from two different people. If your headquarters say, Pay that second man a little money also for his information, it is the best way to loose your good people. Of course you will have trouble with your War Department because they won't understand what is going on. The best thing will always be to say to come down yourself and see.

Q. As to construction of tanks, is that under General Information?

A. Yes. Also how guns are made, where they go to, how they are constructed. All this work must be done before the troops attack.

Q. What do you know about these tanks?

A. I must ask in London if they will give that to you. But they are not a success. They were started in Antwerp and they had to move away from Antwerp. We had a man who for that purpose had to go to Germany

to make photographs. Sometimes these people are too audacious and when they are taken they are killed. Our man at Hoboken was killed. We are continually looking for men capable of doing the work for us.

Q. How about the Investigation? What sort of information will it furnish?

A. As soon as war is declared you will get lists of all suspected men in Holland, and of all men who are trying to deal with the enemy. I am pretty sure that there are some people who are trying to find you out right now. That is the big thing, the system of keeping yourself posted and safe. When we engage a fellow we keep an eye on him. If that fellow is doing good work, our man will tell us. What you need from time to time is a talk with the head of your system in Belgium and that you can do. Tell him what you expect, the new things to find out and do etc. You must see that your system is kept running and you must protect yourself. That is quite another department, and in our system we have nothing to do with it, but this department has to take care of our men and keep an eye on them.

Q. What is that going to cost?

A. 25,000 or 30,000 francs a month as a minimum.

Qx I made spent a week to follow one man and it cost me 1000 francs. We were pretty sure that the man was getting money from Germany to destroy our system. We got him away.

If we are going to do anything for you it will be for pleasure, and simply to help you. If you start you must have confidence, otherwise it is no use to start. There are people who are living of this service and they try to get what they can. They will make false reports and we now check them up. In the beginning we were deceived in many ways. That is our service of counter-espionage.

ECONOMICAL OR PRESS BUREAU.

That thing will cost you about 2,000 Gulden a month/ You may take for instance Americans who will have all different opinions f.i. liberals, protectionists, socialists, etc.. You must have people who know something about social questions. You know that the war must end by the laborers that is "democracy". So we must influence the laborers in Germany, then the war will soon finish. A press bureau accumulates the ideas of the people. You make extracts of all the different opinions f.i. Bettman Holweg, Rodzianko, etc. You must subscribe to all periodicals which will cost you about 1,000 guilders a month. Then you must have stenographers to print all these things and copy and duplicate them. If you don't do this your whole system will prove to be a failure. It is very important. There must be some man who will judge all these articles. For instance, why do not the Austrians break with America? That is an economic question. In Germany there are two kinds of policy: that of Bettman Holweg, and that of Tirpitz. Which policy will bring us nearer to peace? Are the German people will ling to follow Bettman or Tirpitz? Where do we get the reply from? From our men who read all the papers and collect the opinions. We ask all these questions to the people themselves, often through the papers. At the present time there is an Austrian Prince here discussing that very question; that is to-day. Also there is a deputation from the Reichstag for the same thing. You must know all that. That is general information. We do not use journalists for this sort of work. In Amsterdam there is an Austrian Prince, and in The Hague a member of the Reichstag, all things which you ought to know.

Q. Do you personally take care of these things?

A. Yes, I wrote a book about espionage and I will give you an idea of the quantity of books in French, Dutch and German given out to the neutrals, if you desire it. Do you know how many books are thus published? In Holland alone to-day there are over two million. That is the work of the Press Bureau, which I suppose really can be called Propaganda-work. When a new book comes out we have 60,000 people to which we send a copy. These are mostly in French. For instance King Albert's Book we also translated into German, because it was also going to Germany. This economic Press Bureau will cost you about 3,000 guilders a month. You must see my office before you start. My department will give you all the people and information and we do it

right away. You will need some Americans for this work. There are Americans enough who can speak, French, German etc. You may take some from among your friends.

The figures about the deserters as mentioned in the papers are wrong. There are about 22,000 men at the present time, who have crossed so far. We have our people along the frontier whom we pay 100 guilders a month.

Q. How many people have you got?

A. We have people at 5 or 6 places f.i. Maastricht, Venlo, Sittard, Winterswyk, Oldenzaal, Hengelo. Rosendaal is not necessary. When a deserter comes into Holland you must know from where he comes; if he is coming from the frontier, he cannot tell very much, but if he is coming from the trenches you take that man to one of your offices where you can question him and where there is a man familiar with military things.

Q. Can you give me these questions?

A. (After having consulted Mr. Rottenberger). Yes. We will send you these questions. (see page 16)

So you need 6 people at 100 guilders a month each.

Now f.i. at Wesel the Germans are building a new factory. The Germans send us hundreds of men to give us false information. So we must find this out.

Q. Suppose I should start a system, how much would I need to start this with now?

A. From 100,000 to 125,000 francs a month. As soon as they get your information your Government will send you cables to find out everything and then they will see that it will cost money. The English in the beginning said to us, Don't spend so much money and so the first month we spent about 20,000 francs, but then they asked us to do this or that work, and so the work increased.

Q. Could you give me a complete list of the German regiments and their positions if you took up this work?

A. No, we must ask it from London, although we have it all here. It does not belong to us. General Boucabeille will give you this.

Q. I have not asked any of them to give me this. But can you furnish me that daily?

A. You will get your maps daily.

What I tell you nobody else will give you. So you must excuse me but I cannot do these things now. If you go to General Boucabeille you will see all these things posted up on the wall. Don't be afraid; the day you join in the war, you will get your information from them. We only give you a scheme now how it will work. The regiments of the German army in peace time you can find in every bookstore. You can buy that anywhere, but they have all changed now.

Q. You must depend on your agents for that?

A. When you want to start an office like that of mine it will cost you 25,000 francs a month from the start and go on increasing.

(End of interview).

14.-

SECOND REPORT OF INTERVIEW.

The following is an interview with Mr. Charley Stockmanns, as mentioned in paragraph 7 and 12 on page 19, which took place about the end of March.

For use

In a talk with a Charles Stockman, a Belgian now in the employ of one of the British systems I secured the following:

The most important thing is the watching of trains. We have our men at every place. I have a man at Liege who has to watch the trains which are going to Charleroi or Jemelle and also to other places, as Namur. We control the trains before they come there, f.i. before they arrive at Namur etc.

At every place we have men who are under one chief who is at Liege. But there are others who have their chiefs in Brussels and some in Antwerp etc. and so the country is covered. Suppose a man is captured by the Germans then the whole thing naturally breaks down. If he does not return we have other men to replace him.

We have 120 men and 4 heads in Belgium alone, and 2 more in Germany (for that one section of Liege). Suppose now a train comes from Gladbach. Then we watch it before it arrives at Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle) Germany and afterwards. We get daily reports from there, but this does not belong to the Belgian service but to Germany, although it is the same system. The reports come to us another way and other people are used for it. Some of them are Belgians, mostly we use neutrals, sometimes Germans. When the train arrives at Aachen it is divided and that is most important to watch. These trains may go into 3 different directions. We have to follow the train from Aachen all through Belgium, no matter where it goes. Now take f.i. the train going to Jumelle. This may be divided again. This we must know to say Jumelle; we do not need to follow it thereafter. When trains are carrying divisions they are never divided. So when we know that there is big traffic or 10,000 men transferred, we must report very carefully. This is brought out by our courier, or we may wire to other agents to watch. For what does it mean when the Germans send troops? For us there is no difference between an attack, an offensive or a counter-attack.

The men engaged by us must first be educated. They go to Brussels and there learn everything, our codes, signals, signs etc. They have to study from morning to night. They get all they want and also a code; they need experience before we can send them out and after they have worked for us they improve. I may help you in this way; you will not then have to pay for this experience. I may bring you in touch with friends of mine; for instance a great many people offer me their services more than I can engage. I only use them when necessary. Suppose you ask me to watch the trains at a certain place, then I send 3 men to watch the same point. If one is no good you get still 2 other reports which may be good. That one man then is replaced by another. If two people do the same work their reports will not always be the same. I will help you as much as I can and tell you what you will have to do.

Then there is another service reporting the movement of troops, so as to know if it is time for action or too early, and therefore we have our men at VENLO, NYMEGEN, VAAKS, SITTARD etc. These people come in touch with a lot of other people, who may tell something. Everything about movement of troops they report. Of course the Germans don't bring their troops straight from Berlin, but from Wesel, Munster etc. Their trains are very bad now. The trains of the Germans used to be the big thing. In the beginning of the war they took many cars from Belgium. They haven't them any more. It is reported that in Aachen there are at present the Regiments No. 59, 163.

Q. Are there any 600 regiments in Aachen at present?

A. No, that does not exist.

Q. I mean the number.

A. No, they have no number. For instance the Germans give their regiment No.2 instead of 400 and so it may be re-

ported

ported that regiment number 2 was on the Russian Front and also on the Verdun front. That is what we have to find out. I suppose that you have got all the books here about the German Army so that you need not send a man up to Aachen to find where the railway station is or whether there is a zeppelin shed is. We can give you a daily report which regiments there are in Aachen. We get everything i. e. when there are deserters coming across the border we have our men who talk with those people and ask them to have a drink, and so get some information from them regarding the place where they have been and the country they have come through.

It is important for you to know what kind of troops there are in Liege, whether they are Landwehr, Landsturm, young recruits, etc., and also know how many of them there are and where they are going. We find out whether they are good looking, well fed, etc.

We have our men find these things out also about zeppelins. Everybody knows where zeppelin sheds are located but we want to know where their gasoline tanks are and how many zeppelins there are in each shed etc. At Cleve there are benzine depots and we have known for a long time that they have fifty zeppelins there. You must be careful about engaging people for this information. If you want that kind of work don't engage anyone unless I have sent them to you otherwise they will deceive you and you will get only false information. (This is the line of conversation every man having an independent system has given me)

Q. What will your information cost me?

A. I can't say what I pay out. Generally speaking it costs me from 80,000 to 100,000 francs a month. Next month it will cost F. 125,000. I started the first month on 17,000 Fr. of this 17,000 Frs. there were only 2,000 Francs of any value. All the rest of the information we got for that money was false. That was our school. In the beginning I thought that my people in London would stop with such a poor result but they told me that I might have six months for experimenting. So we reinforced our service. I know them all now. Everybody is doing his own work and they have to tell me what money they need. The people I use I must be sure of and I know that they are able to do their work and they must know military work. They can also get a V. C. We don't promise a V. C. to a man who is paid. Only a man who is not paid may get a V. C. They are working for the honor. From the beginning we tell them that those who do not run any danger will not get a V. C. (This can be taken with a grain of salt as I know this man has no such authority)

We never discuss whether it is too much or too little. When two men are doing the same work the work of one may be worth one pound and of the other two pounds. It is wrong to ask them where they have spent that pound. Some of them send their couriers to different places and pay them twenty francs or twentyfive francs I always cut them down. It is very easy to get men but the thing is to get the right men who are honest and willing to work voluntarily. For some men you will have to pay 200,000 Francs but you must be careful. For instance there is a man at Bergen Op Broom (That is an awful place). At five o'clock in the afternoon a courier comes from Antwerp and there he finds Mr. --- of the Belgian, Mr. --- of the English Service and Mr. Delescluse of the French System. These three chaps are all waiting for this courier. Then they make their reports and the three services receive the same report and each one of them charges the expenses to his system but they each only pay one third. Since the last five

last five months we have told the English, Russian, French, Italian and Belgium Government's systems to be careful with these people. We try to concentrate our system as much as possible and a man is allowed to charge only when he can tell where he gets his information etc. I have still another service for the control of these men. I have another place in The Hague which costs me 20,000 Francs a month which controls everyone of my men. The one service knows nothing about the other service except the chief who knows me.

Now for instance a man gets a watching post at the Kommandantur Office in Brussels. When the people there come for a passport they have to go to the Kommandantur and they are asked where they are going and what they are going to do. They may say that they are going to Holland or that they will buy food stuffs for the Germans. We know that immediately. They then say we will give you a passport for three weeks or nine or ten and they ask will you do something for us while in Holland? From that moment when that man comes in touch with the Germans he is followed by my men. If he goes to another section he is followed by another man of that section. So we know where he comes from and where he went to. We bring such a fellow in touch with one of our men and try to give him false information. This he will tell to the Germans and they spend a good deal of time in trying to verify it. Sometimes we succeed in getting this false information through. I could also tell you about Americans who come in touch with the Germans. I have an Englishman in my service who is doing business on the line of Ghent. He has been a prisoner of war. He is doing trained watching nevertheless.

We have also to control our expenses in Holland. The office expenses are as small as possible, one or two typewriters. They must be military men and there must be other to judge reports. It is not always necessary to send all of your reports to your staff, but to pick out all that you consider interesting and send it to your headquarters.

Behind this office in Rotterdam there is still another office to control things here in The Hague. It is very easy to tell what train watching costs but not as regards special missions. I have talked to some men who were prisoners of war and have made their escape about 32 people yet they are going back into Germany to do work. They are fine men. But I cannot tell what I am going to pay them.

You know the attack on Verdun. That took the Germans about six months and you know that the French took that part back in two days. How did they succeed? I will explain. The Germans reduced their number of guns in that section. You must also follow the political situation. We have two men to read everything that is published in German papers, etc., and who make extracts. That is still another office. Tingley and Boucaille get this information and in this manner we were informed that the Germans wanted these guns in Roumania. We saw these guns going and got information from that part of the front daily. We knew how many of them were transported and when. That was the time, as the Germans needed them only for three days. Is not the life of one man worth more than 1,000 Francs? This information cost 500,000 Francs. That is what the English say. You have no idea of what the English are spending. I will tell you the right figure. I mean to say England all over the work, in Japan, in Russia and in every country is spending 60,000,000 or about 15,000,000 dollars for espionage and still it is not enough. They are even going to increase this sum. We started with

17,000 Francs

17,000 Francs and the second month we spent 10,000 more and now we are spending 80,000 to 100,000 Francs per month. To do what I am doing you will need 4,000² to start your service and then I will make it easy to tell you all about train watching. You will not have to do as much as I. With 50,000 Francs a month you may make your start, but you will get something for it. Of course you can always do better but this is only to start. You can organize a post for 75,000 Francs. Don't forget that each day it is the same business. You must have people meet the deserters every day. A man at the frontier gets about 100 Gulden a month as salary and his expenses paid. The expenses amount to 25 to 50 or even 75 Francs a day, sometimes ten francs. We give them enough to live on and a small sum for the rent of a house say 45 francs a month and somewhat more to spend. He then tries to get in touch with smugglers and with people going to and coming from Germany. He gives them a drink and tries to get something interesting out of them. I can give you all Belgians and Dutchmen, and sometimes Germans. Generally you can buy everybody in Germany. You could buy the Kaiser himself if you offered the price. We use a lot of girls too. We had a serious accident last week. We had a service in a special factory for asphyxiating gas making masks so we sent a girl to that factory two months ago she came to us and brought us photos and blue prints and when we found that she was quite right we asked her whether she could bring us a sample of this stuff. She said Yes. That time she had only bought the drawing man. What did we have to pay? That you will see for yourself. In the beginning a man wanted two thousand Marks. He never came back when he had received his M.2000. The train watching men get their pay five days after they have given the information. Well, we settled the matter with the girl. We sent another man to take the sample from her. She had the mask all right and everything, but the Germans suspected her and she never came back. We are trying now to get her out and have her make her escape. You cannot fix a price for a thing like that. For instance, we get a request for information from the Staff in London. Then we look for the men capable to handle it and ask them if they will go to Germany. Thus all services do the same. It is wrong when a man is doing it for money alone. We have a man whose father was killed by the Germans. That man hates the Germans and is doing everything he can against them. That is the kind of people you want. You must not have people who give a bill of expenses for M.2000 for information which you can also read in the papers. Of course the Germans know that there is such a service and they have their men find that out. After you work for two months you will see that they will send you false deserters and when they come into the hands of your agents they will give you false information. For instance, he will tell your agent that he is from St. Quentin and what happened there. Sometimes these deserters are found out at once and so have your men say to him: "Go back to your country and tell your people that you are wrong". Your men must know all this. We have people who can help you. You must have men who know the whole organization of the German Army and you will have no time to educate them. We will do that for you. There will be one post that is in touch with you. I do not know the courriers, because everybody has his own section and sub-sections. So we have a Chief of Section at MAASTRICHT, and also at BYSDEN, SITTARD etc. Our agents must report there. Then we have a Chief at EINDHOVEN, at BREDA, BERGEN OP ZOOM, TILBURG. Each day

we have

we have a mail from Flushing to The Hague and twice a day from Maastricht to The Hague. We make our reports in The Hague and sent them on.

You must not start with too many people. I'll give you just enough to start with and I'll show you to come and see how we work. So I mean to let you have a little profit by our experience. That is all I can do for you. I do that, because in Antwerp I was always with Americans and would like to do something for you.

No one can enter that part of Holland within five miles of the frontier unless you have special papers. All my people have these papers. I am located in The Hague, Maastricht and alover Holland. When you come to the border I will show you what I am allowed to do.

I am also going to show you how to intercept mail and how we transfer mail. I have a key of which the one part can be screwed off. I tell my man to hand that key to a friend in Brussels who has forgotten it and he needs it for his bag. That man does not even know what he is carrying. On the head of the key there is a mark. I can't tell you all my tricks. I can be sure of all your couriers also Frank Nool is the first man of Tingeley.

So I can help you in (1) train watching, (2) movement of troops (3) general information but it will be costly. Telling the exact cost is impossible but you know what I have to pay. For one thousand francs per month per post you will get good work. A man at a post gets about 20 francs per day, when it is a family I give 30 francs to the whole family.

For each division I have a chief and everything comes into the hands of the Kommandant and of myself. He is always at the Hague. In each place we have a commandant. If I get any information from one place I ask my chief whether this checks up. The Germans have tried me out with all kinds of men and women therefore nobody can see me at my house. When anyone calls at my private house and says Mr. S. told me to come down and see him he is refused admission. But I am at your disposal if you want something quickly go to Mr. E. Rottenberg, Commandant D'Artillerie, at ----- they have no telephone. The German consul at Maastricht is a good friend of mine also. When a person asks me what I am then I say "I am doing philanthropic work."

I am doing the work for the honor because I want to serve my country. (This last statement can be taken with a grain of salt see following statement from two of the English systems).

April 16, 1917.

My dear Captain Poillon:

For your private and confidential information: The attached is self expalnatory.

TOITGANS is a socialist, and was at one time secretary to VANDERVELDE, President of the International Bureau. Mr. Vandervelde is now one of the cabinet members.

Toitgans was introduced to us by Mr. Stockmans and the train-watching reports that he supplied had the appearance of being "made up"; he had also issued them to other services at the same time. We went into this matter with him, and have made it a point that he should rehabilitate himself by his future actions.

Yours sincerely
(signed) R. B. -----

Exci of memorandum re Mr. Stockmans:
Relations between Commandant Tournay (of Belgian army,
stated)

stationed in London) and STOCKMANS: The latter always assured his principals that his correspondence with CMT. Tournay was purely personal. Stockmans although fully instructed that all 'service matters' were to be delivered exclusively to his principal, did not comply with his instructions, which was clearly proved by contents of correspondence he wrote to Cmt. Tournay, contents which came to the knowledge of his principals here. ~~XX X~~

In addition to the Above:

On several occasions Stockmans was told not to busy himself with the escape of prisoners of war from Germany. He agreed, but continued notwithstanding his activities in this line. In correspondence referred to above, he admits going against instructions received re prisoners of war. Little or no doubt is left about his carrying on this prisoner of war work with funds belonging to another service, i. e. of our own service as also that he employed agents for the same purpose, who might have rendered us valuable service and should have been employed for us. Stockmans has knowingly distracted from our service a valuable agent, for the purpose of his 'escape schemes' In the correspondence referred to above, Stockmans refers to a sum of M.10,000 promised to him for the escape of a certain prisoner. From another source we find that the agent distracted from our service was to get M.5,000 whereas two other men in Holland who can have nothing to do with the escape were to be paid together M 2,000: of the other M.3,000 no mention is made.

Two months ago a man "Wilmet" was dismissed from our service. He occupied his time with contre-espionage and smuggling, his monthly expenses amounting to about but rather less than Fls. 900. In a letter to Tournay, Stockmans suggests that Wilmet's service should be joined up with his service. The name Wilmet is not really mentioned, but the description of the service leaves us no doubt. While Stockmans is fully aware of the dismissal of Wilmet, he nevertheless proposes joining up with him and states that a monthly sum of Fl. 12,000 and Fl. 3,000 is necessary for the purpose.

Finally, despite all the assistance, monetary and other, he has been given, his only success has been one post. He has also sent in a regular supply of military reports from other points than the said post, but these have all proved to be fakes.

15.- The following is an interview with a JULES TOITGANS on April 9, a Belgian who lives at The Hague, 46 Stationsweg, (Hotel Tourist), and who was brought to me by Captain Commandant MAURICE GENARD, an interned Belgian officer here in Holland. Mr. Toitgans is the head of one of the independent systems operating here in Holland, though subsequently I found out he is in the employ of the English. He stated that at the beginning of the war he crossed from Antwerp to England with Minister Van der Velde, whose secretary he was at that time. After six months he returned to Belgium and started securing information in favor of his country, Belgium; he claims his motive is patriotism. He was twice arrested by the Germans in Belgium and kept in prison for a certain period. When they released him they asked whether he would enter their service as a spy, which he did. In advance he received instruction in this line of work and had to pass an examination, in which he succeeded. All this he simply did for his country, he claims. He knows Mr. Genard who brought him up to the office to have him offer

his services to the U.S. He claims we can get all kinds of information about the German system from him. He says that in all the systems they have civilians in charge. In his system they had officers of the army in charge only. These officers make reports. He claims that he can furnish all information on the German army and that the U.S. can take advantage of the experience they have obtained. On my question as to how long his system had been in operation, he answered: "Depuis quelques jours" (literally: "Since a few days"). (Note: This is not true, as I know differently). He stated that all he did was in accordance with and after having consulted Charlie Stockman (see page 19) and the scheme of his intelligence system was the same as set forth by Stockman (see the preceding paragraph). The only thing they intended was to have his service co-operate with that of Stockman's. That would be more economical.

Furthermore he stated they will be responsible for all the reports they submit and as soon as they get word to start they will immediately begin turning in their reports.

He could give no direct answer as to the approximate costs, but he promised to submit a written statement explaining what they could do along this line, at the same time he would insert figures regarding the cost.

Mr. Toitgans did not impress me at all, so I have not communicated with him since, nor do I intend to. I have since received word from one of the British systems⁴ stating that he was in their employ.

16.- All the following reports are authentic and prove what can be done in this direction.

Military Report.

During the last winter the Germans have formed three series of new regiments.

The 400 series, including regiments wearing the numbers 440 to 494, has been formed into thirteen divisions from 231 extra. These divisions left during the first fortnight of March for the front mostly for the Western front.

The 500 series includes ~~some~~ some regiments (very few) in formation on the Eastern (Russian) front.

The 600 series includes 40 regiments from 601 to 640 and three ~~more~~ Bavarian regiments 30, 31, 32.

These regiments are formed to a great extent in the provinces of the Rhine and Westphalia. At the present time, it appears that they are being formed into divisions in the instruction camps.

The series 400 and 600 are formed by men of the 1898 class from individuals, resulting from the revision of men discharged as unfit and others, who in the first years of the war, were employed in the factories and who are, at present, recalled to the colors.

The 500 series seems to be formed of Russian Poles.

The 1899 class has been called up at the beginning of April, and appears destined to serve in the Ersatz and others (~~and~~ Ersatz aux autres).

The departure of troops is confirmed from the camp of Deverlee towards the front. Between the 10th and the 12th of April twenty trains containing troop corps (des corps de troupe) go from Verviers to Liege. Between the 7th and the 10th, thirty trains of troops go from Brussels towards Mons. The presence of fifteen trains on the Prussian-Dutch frontier is noticed.

From the 11th to the 14th, over the railroad which leads from Westphalia to Aix-la-Chapelle by Gladbach, there was a normal traffic. There was much traffic the same days from Namur to Charleroi. After the 16th the traffic was reduced. Troops from the interior of Belgium are leaving for the French front. Among these troops are the 233 division and the 14th Bavarians.

Deserter from the 3rd regiment of marines - deserted March 26th - comes from Dixmunde.

There were there a total of 6 regiments of Marines (3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12), and the 9th regiment of coast artillery. The 3rd belonged to the third brigade of the second division. The supply station - the resting place was at Ostende. During his trip from Flanders to Dortmund he has seen numerous troops coming from the Russian front and moving towards the Western front. They have taken away from the soldiers their epaulette numbers when they were going through Liege.

A DESERTER: old Hyssar, attached to the supply depot of the 7th corps of the reserve (13, 14 reserve divisions) in front of Reims. The station was at Warmeriville. There was a resting place at St. Mames. The districts back of the German front were mined and new positions were prepared. He deserted March 26th.

A DESERTER, escaped from the Russian front saw, during his trip towards Helland, numerous troops moving toward the north. At the station of Kattowitz (Silesia) has seen two trains of reserve infantry troops moving towards the south-east. Other information given by this man is not worth much.

TWO ITALIANS escaped from the neighborhood of Duisburg. Great movement of troops during the last few weeks over the line Duesseldorf-Duisburg. No assemblage of troops on the Helland frontier, the crossing of which is very easy. No troops at Duisburg.

The troops transported over the line Duesseldorf-Duisburg were composed, to a great extent, of troops coming back from Roumania and moved towards the French front. A quantity of artillery of large calibre. An assemblage of cavalry at Duesseldorf/Great munition factory belonging to Krupp at

Military Report.

2.

Rheinhausen.

The class of 1899 was called to the colors april 2nd. The morale of the German soldiers is low. Many cases of self-inflicted mutilation.

DESERTER OF THE 71 I.R. complains about the weakness of the new formations. The children who compose them are apt to become panic-stricken.

April 10th in the station of Cologne two trains of soldiers of the 133 moved to Belgium.

DESERTER, the rest of whose story is not of much value, comes from Arteis, has seen at Charleroi a battery of great calibre of the 39th artillery moving towards the West.

AN INFORMER, meriting confidence as to character, but whose capacity has not yet been proved, states from Germany that the 54th German Division (26, 27, 84, 90 regiments of infantry; 108, 108 artillery companies; 54 foot-artillery-left march 26th for the Italian front passing by Cologne. He announces that the regiment 608 was formed at Eschweiler and was to be sent to Heinsberg on the Holland frontier. The 612 was formed at Schlenen (perhaps Schrenen near Constance) and is to go to Dahlheim. The 618, formed at Cologne, is due to go to Cleve. These regiments have two battalions. The companies have 150 men. Detachments from regiments 9798 infantry have come to Cologne, and are to be sent to the Dutch frontier. There ~~was~~ seen at the station of Aix-la-Chapelle a car containing the four statues in bronze from the bridge of La ~~Fragee~~ Fragnee at Liege.

Military Report.

Jan. ? 1917.

(Translation)/

The recruits that I saw at Goch and Cleve were 19 years old on an average.

I found out that the recruits in the infantry are trained for 10 weeks at least. After that time, those who are best trained are selected and formed into special transports and sent to the Field Recruit Depots which are organized behind the front for the various regiments. In the case of several regiments which have suffered slight losses, the recruits remain in the garrison for training for three or four months. The various regiments also furnish men for the newly-organized formations with the numbers 400 et seq., and 620 et seq. Lately several transports, especially Machine-gun Detachments, have gone from western Germany to the Italian front. In Duesseldorf I saw a whole train of about 40 cars with machine-guns and the carriages belonging to them, which was bound for southern Germany en route to Austria.

At present extensive movements of troops are taking place on the Eastern Front. It has the appearance as if considerable numbers of troops were being concentrated in the direction of Riga, Jacobstadt, and Duenaburg.

I have not yet been able to find out all the names of the Commandeurs and superior officers of the regiments at Goch and Cleve. I hope to get them altogether shortly. I shall likewise find out exactly what bodies of troops are stationed in the places mentioned (Infantry, Artillery, Mine-throwers) - their numbers and strength and furnish the information before long.

With regard to the manufacture of ammunition, all the large factories in Western Germany are working at high pressure. I saw many women come out of ammunition factories.

There was a train at the main railroad station at Cologne which had heavy guns on their way to the Champagne.

Jan. 30, 1917.

A deserter from the "Minenwerfer Comp. 314", who makes a good impression has furnished the following details:

His company was stationed in the sector assigned to the 46th Landwehr Brigade in the Rayon of Smorgon. On January 20th, the officer of the company said to a comrade of the deserter that they had come from Vilna with orders to hold the sector as well as they could until troops arrived to relieve them.

The 101st Landwehr Inf. Reg. marched to SOLY about January 22nd to be embarked on a train there.

About January 22nd the 314th Minenwerfer Company received orders to pack up all equipment effects and to get ready to leave, which would be as soon as certain detachments which were expected had arrived.

At the end of January the deserter received leave to visit his family; he deserted on February 13th.

When he left the sector of Smorgon the 103rd Landwehr Inf/Reg. was still there.

A deserter who left the Ers. Bn. R. I. 33 on January 7th, and who makes a good impression, has made the following declarations:

This Ersatz Battalion consists of:

- a) Depot of recruits;
- b) Three companies of Ersatz;
- c) ~~1~~ 1 "Genesungskompagnie".

The recruit-depot consists at present almost entirely of the 1916 class which has been arriving in increasing

Military Report.

Jan.,.,, 1917. (2).

numbers during the last two or three months. There is but a small proportion of the 1917 class in the depots. The recruits are sent directly to the "Feld-Recruten-Depots" without first being assigned to companies of Ersatz. Batches of the 1918 class left Cologne for the "Feld-Rekruten) Depots" some time ago. Many others are now ready to leave and are ~~not~~ doing temporary garrison service until required for service in the field.

The three companies of Ersatz consist solely of men who served in the army before, that is to say, the "hergestellte" (recovered)", and "reklamierete" (men claimed for non-military work). All the men of the 53rd R.I.R. are required to report to this Battalion of Ersatz at Cologne after having left hospitals in Germany. An average of 15 to 20 men per company of Ersatz have left as detachments every ten or fifteen days during the past three months.

On December 28th some detachments from most of the Battalions of Ersatz at Cologne left for the 53rd R.I.R. at Reims, since that regiment had suffered heavy losses at the Cote du POIVRE.

On December 29th a detachment of 50 men left this Battalion of Ersatz for one of the Battalions of Ersatz of the 159th I.R. at MULHEIM where (this is an open secret) a sort of "new formation" is in process of being organized. The deserter in question met several comrades from that Detachment at Cologne in January; those comrades told him that they were very "severely drilled"; that there were detachments at MULHEIM all the time which were composed of young and unmarried soldiers from the Russian Front, (who, it is said, have been replaced in Russia with old Landsturm men), and who are in process of being made into a sort of "new formation" at MULHEIM "destined for the Western Front in the spring." The deserter in question repeats the general impression that the same sort of thing is taking place in other cities besides Mulheim, and, that sections of the Russian front have now been immobilized in this manner, that is to say, that the young elements there have been replaced with old soldiers.

The "Genesungskompagnie" consists entirely of men who have been returned from hospitals and declared to be neither "Felddienstfaehig" nor "Garnisonsdienstfaehig" (neither fit for field nor garrison service). They are medically examined once a week and are then either assigned to Companies of Ersatz, or discharged as being permanently unfit.

The Emperor's peace offer was immediately considered by all the comrades of this deserter as simply a "bluff in order to raise the spirit of the people." No one expected the slightest results from this offer.

XXXXXXXXXX

Military Report.

March 13, 1917.

A deserter from the Landsturm Battalion 41/7 gives the information that he was destined, at the beginning of January, for a new detachment, which was sent to Cleves during the first half of January—then employed in making trenches in the woods of Reichswald up to the time of his desertion (January 29).

His unit had been notified that it would be soon put into a new regiment 610, in progress of formation.

The following information has been furnished by an agent, who, up to the present, has given information worthy of confidence.

In a conversation, March 7th, what follows has been learned from "Feldwebel" attached to "Verpflegungsamt" "I." "Intendantur" at Wesel. The Infantry regiments 605, 607, 611 are quartered in the "Verpflegungsgebiet Wesel". According to the agent, this district includes Wesel and the region around Geldern, Cleve, Emmerich, and Haltern.

The Feldwebel describes the regiments in question as being "Kerntruppen" composed principally of young recruits who have been called in October 1916, and mixed with men drawn from regiments at the front. The Feldwebel added that the regiments in question had practically finished their training—that they were in full strength and fully equipped. Later the Feldwebel declared that the I.R. 605 had just left the district of Emmerich and that it had gone to Haltern for making there its division drills.

The Feldwebel, who seemed to be well informed, has given the information that a certain number of new regiments were in progress of formation in different parts of Germany—said that he knew several of them in the 600 series.

According to the same Feldwebel, the bakers' shop of Wesel furnished daily bread for 60,000 troops/This bakery furnished 10,000 loaves a day, and a loaf is distributed among 6 men. The agent gave the information that he was at Emmerich on the 7th inst. He saw a certain number of pioneers with number 379. The same agent declared that the German General Headquarters had been transferred to Kreuznach near Mainz, about a month ago. He said that he was certain of this fact. HINDENBURG has established his Quarters in the town, and the Kaiser stays at the "Bad Hotel". The town is filled with staff officers. People cannot enter the city without a special permit. The agent confirms the fact that all the

"D.U." (permanently unfit), and the men who had been exempted from the army are now called in again.

A new agent, who seems worthy of confidence, communicates the following to us:

At Cologne this agent saw, at the beginning of March, the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th companies of the I.R. 609; he heard that the other companies of this regiment were at Bonn. At Cologne, likewise, they are forming a new Armierungs-Battalion, No. 48. At Cologne the agent learned from a woman that she had a son in the I.R. 460—that his company was formerly at Cologne, but that it had been transferred to Elsenborn. At Coblenz encountered men

Military Report.

March 13, 1917. (2).

(on leave) of the I.R. 460 who told him that their regiment was at Elsenborn: that the I.R. 462 was also at Elsenborn, and that the I.R. 460 and 462 belonged to a new division, the 237th, in process of formation at Elsenborn.

The agent also heard that several new batteries of Foot Artillery were in process of formation in the region of Cologne, which batteries were provided with a new type of gun.

According to different reports received from the frontier, the Holland-Belgium frontier was completely closed March 8th. Certain people say that this closure lasted FIFTEEN DAYS.

A deported Belgian, who has escaped from Germany, gives the information that he saw, Feb. 22, at Aix-la-Chapelle, in a restaurant of this city, 7 or 8 young recruits all wearing the number 631 in red on their shoulder straps. These men were dressed in new uniforms but had neither arms nor equipment; all wore a cap with a red band.

A deserter of the regiment of Dragoons No. 23, gives the following information:

The second division of Cavalry consists of the 25th, 22nd, and the Liebenburg Brigades of Cavalry. The Division left Buzau, December 20th, and reached Kronstadt, Jan/1st/

The 2nd division of Cavalry, commenced a short time after its arrival at Kronstadt, to be sent by train at the rate of about 4 or 5 units a day, on account of a lack of locomotives. The deserter travelled via Lemberg, Krakau, Oppeln, Breslau, Gorlitz, Dresden, Halle, Dortmund, Elberfeld, Duesseldorf, Cologne, Aix-la-Chapelle, up to Gand.

The order of their departure was the following: 22, 25, and Siebenburg Brigade.

The squadron of the deserter left Kronstadt, Jan. 10th. It arrived at Gand on the 17th of Jan. The greater part of the division was already there.

An agent informs us that the strike at Krupp's factory lasted two days and a half. This was caused by the lack of potatoes. At the end of this strike the military authorities gave the order to furnish potatoes to Essen.

On account of a lack of food disturbances have broken out at Barmen, and it was only after the arrival of re-inforcing troops that the disturbances were settled.

Military Report .

March 26, 1917.

The following information has been obtained from an agent worthy of confidence:

This agent gives the information that, after conversations which he had with officers and soldiers, he is certain that there are at present at least 4 new divisions in process of formation in Prussia (Rhenish) and Westphalia.

He was told that all these divisions were composed as follows: About half the men have already gone through field service; the remainder belonged to class 1898 with some elements drawn from Landsturm units, and some "Ung. L. sm". All these new regiments are now completely equipped with complete transport, etc., in war strength and they are ready to be sent to the front. The agent heard that all these regiments were considered as excellent fighting units, which would give better results than the regiments at present in the field. The artillery belonging to the above divisions has been formed in

Military Report.

March 26, 1917.

"2"(3).

the great training camps for artillery.

The agent reports that he saw, during the first week of March, in the district of the 7th Army Corps, soldiers with the number 614.

The agent reports that he heard generally that Van Falkenhayn was on the western front, and that the German General Headquarters was at Kreuznach.

He also heard from several officers that the Germans are retiring now to the Siegfried lines. The agent could not give the exact position of these lines, but he thinks that the Germans have now attained these positions which form the limit of their retreat, and which consists approximately in a line starting from Champagne ~~passing just in front of La Fere and St. Quentin~~ ~~and from there towards Arras.~~ The agent reports that he was told by officers, several days before the retreat took place, that district in which it would be. The officers declared that the lines in question were very strong-that they had already been prepared for a long time.

A BELGIAN REFUGEE who arrived in Holland, March 23, reports as follows:

At Overpelt and Neerpelt together there are 3500 men (1 regiment); most of these wear the number 450. They have come from Hammerstein, W. Prussia, but were formerly at Dunaburg and in Galicia. There are some very young men, who have already been under fire-older men who have been wounded, and others who have had cholera in Russia.

AN AGENT WHO WAS AT SENNELAGER/ MARCH 13th-says that the infantry regiments 457, 458 and 459 were stationed there at this time. He spoke to several men of these regiments who told him that they belonged to the 236 division?

The agent describes the composition of these regiments to be as follows: about half the men have already been at the front, that is, men who have been directly drawn from their units; wounded men who are well again,

and such as are called "Reklamierete". The other half is mainly composed of class 1898, with elements drawn from units of the Landsturm, and a few "Ung. Lsm". The agent reports that a new regiment of artillery is also in process of formation at Sennelager. He thinks that this regiment belongs also to the 236 Division.

He heard that all the division including the I.R. 457, 458, 459, was ready, and that they were expecting any minute that this regiment should be sent to the front.

The agent reports that he encountered, the 18th inst., at Aix-laChapelle, a man who wore the number 627 on his shoulder strap. In the course of a conversation with this man, the agent learned that he had been sent from the depot of the I.R. 76 at Hamburg into a new regiment in process of formation -I.R. 627 at Eimsbruttel (Hamburg).

Military Report.

April 4, 1917.

An engineer, just arrived from the vicinity of Mons, declared that he had had the occasion of speaking, at Mons and at Charleroi, to refugees coming from the region of St. Quentin and Cambrai. The refugees declared that during their trip made on foot from St. Quentin to Mons and Charleroi, they saw no work of defense that the Germans had effected.

Military Report.

April 4, 1917. "2" (4).

AN AGENT FROM GERMANY COMMUNICATES TO US WHAT FOLLOWS:
A battalion of infantry regiment 608 arrived at Crefeld.

Two battalions of infantry regiment 610 have arrived at Elsenborn.

The infantry regiments 607 and 608 are at the camp of instruction of Friedrichsfeld, near Wesel.

In Rhenish Prussia and in Westphalia two new army corps are being formed.

A BELGIAN ENGINEER WHO LEFT LA LOUVIERE MARCH 16th and who went, each week to Mons - where he was for the last time on March 16th - has made the following declarations:

The Germans have gradually requisitioned the houses at Mons for installing their military work offices, the officers' mess, etc. The chateau Hardempont avenue of Havre, is occupied by Prince Rurecht of Bavaria. Some time ago an attempt was made at concealing this chateau by laying out lawns and walks over the roofs. Mons is connected with Valenciennes, 1st Army. The offices of the staff are situated, Boulevard Dolez, house Lambert-Patenotre.

At Mons there is a field recruit station at the barracks of the light infantry. The recruits are very young and have arrived from Germany at the beginning of January. They are drilled principally in throwing the hand-grenade.

At the end of January a number of troops (about 20,000 - coming from Roumania - have arrived in Bounage, especially infantry (No. 228) and artillery (No. 49 at Ghlin). No. 228 Nimy has passed principally by way of Silistria.

The arrival of these troops lasted fifteen days. The troops left at the end of February towards the Somme. Since this time no more troops have arrived from Germany, but only some reinforcements.

Colleges, schools, institutes are changed into hospitals where there are already a considerable number of wounded.

Military Report.

March 21, 1917.

The following information has been furnished by an agent worthy of confidence: the agent has a friend who is in the I.R. 609. This man gave the agent the following information: He was called up in October, 1916 - is 42 years old - has been sent to the depot of the I.R. 65 at Cologne. From this depot he was sent to the regiment 609, which was in process of formation at Cologne. From Cologne he was sent with his company to Elsenborn. At Elsenborn a new brigade of 6,000 men was being formed, and the latter was transferred from there to the district of Cleves. The agent states that his friend told him that the I.R. 609 was composed of a combination of men who had already served at the front, and men belonging to the 1898 class (About equally). There were also some elements of the Landsturm in these regiments.

On March 11th the agent heard an "Oberlieutenant" who travelled with him in the train, relate that Mackensen was on the Italian front, and that he was preparing there an offensive which was soon to be put into execution.

The agent states that the ordinary traffic for civilians is greatly disorganized in Germany.

Military Report.

March 21, 1917" (5).

The following information has been furnished by an agent who has already given us information worthy of confidence.

On March 6th, the agent reports that a battalion of the I.R. 609 is at Cologne-a battalion at Bonn, and a battalion at Euskirchen. Battalions of the I.R. 610, and I.R. 612 are stationed at Aix-la-Chapelle, Dueren, Brand, Stolberg, Eschweiler and Forst. The I.R. 611 is stationed between Emmerich and Wesel.

Through a friend, who was formerly in the R.I.R. 257 the agent heard that the I.R. 613 is now at Zossen, and that the I.R. 614 is also there.

The agent learned from several persons at Cologne that the entire 237 Division has left Elsenborn for the Russian front, towards the beginning of March.

They also relate that the Germans and the Austrians will soon begin an offensive on the Italian front.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS FURNISHED BY A BELGIAN REFUGEE: Left Hougaerde, March 13 1917- arrived in Holland March 15-. The person in question reports that about Feb. 20th, 1917, there arrived much cavalry with many wagons in the villages adjoining Hougaerde. These troops all said that they came from Roumania. They were in a dirty condition. The soldiers were, in general, between 20 and 30 years of age-some younger. The general commanding these troops is WISTOCK.

A BELGIAN REFUGEE, who arrived in Holland from Belgium March 13, has stated what follows:

On March 9 th, there was at the chateau of Zeelhem, the Stagg of the 26th regiment of Dragoons of Wuerttemberg, and, in the vicinity, is stationed the regiment. This regiment came from Roumanis three weeks ago (towards the middle of Feb.).

A GERMAN DESERTER declared that he heard from German artillery men that the German army was now provided with a new type of light gun of 5cm. described as being used principally on the front line against armored cars. The shells used in this gun are said to have great penetrating force.

Military Report.

March 28, 1917.

according to the information furnished by a German Electrician workman at the frontier Lujck-Gerstel, the 9th German Army, coming back from Roumania, and including about 200,000 men, has returned to Belgium.

A boatman who has come back from Antoing, reports that he saw, in this locality, the 18th inst., a considerable number of infantry soldiers wearing the number 234 in red on their shoulder straps.

These troops are described as being of all ages, and having the appearance of units who have been at the front. Some people at Antoing said that they were awaiting the arrival, in this town and outskirts thereof, about 25,000 troops about the 26th. The lodging billets were already prepared.

ON March 18th this boatman saw a great number of troops at Tournai. Most of these men wore the number 19 in red on their shoulder straps.

The boatmen also saw some artillery men with grenades and the number 68 on their shoulder straps. All

Military Report.

March 28, 1917. "2" (6).

these troops are described as being composed of men of all ages, wearing dirty clothes, and having the appearance of men who are coming from the front.

A DESERTER OF INFANTRY REGIMENT 604 has declared the following:

This deserter who left the infantry regiment 604 at Senne, at the end of February, reports that he was wounded while he belonged to the I.R. 193—and after he had been cured, he was designated for the 2 Ers. Bat. I.R. 56 at Goch up to Jan. 27th—the date on which he was detached as bugler to the 604 I.R. which was in formation at Engermund since the beginning of January (depots from the district of the 7th Army Corps)/Among the men constituting the company of the deserter, there were some who were former numbers of the regiments 13, 15, 16, 39, 53, 56, 158. The deserter was assigned as bugler to the 6th company which was entirely composed of men not yet 30 years of age of whom the majority had served in the field, and the remainder was composed of recruits having from 6 to 12 weeks of instruction, and of "reklamierete" not drilled.

Towards the beginning of February, all the 12 companies of the I.R. 604 were in full strength, clothed and equipped for going into active service, and having then left for Emmerich in order to having about a week's training time.

About the middle of Feb. the I.R. 604 left Emmerich for the region of Neue-Haus) Senne, where they proceeded to take part in battalion drills—firing drills, throwing of bombs, etc., up to the end of Feb., the time at which the deserter left.

From the beginning of March the I.R. 604 should commence regiment drills. The men were not wearing their regiment number. The regular transports were furnished to Senne at the end of February. Many other troops were there, but the I.R. 604 was in a separated space and the deserter was not able to ascertain what these other troops were.

The deserter in question gave as his personal impression that the I.R. 604 contains a much smaller proportion of older men, and, as a result, we are dealing with a young unit able to render more service than many of the regiments of the present active army.

Military Report.

March 30, 1917.

The following information has been received from an agent considered trustworthy.

a new division is being formed at Bourg Leopold: This division is composed of troops of which a great number have come back from Russia. It includes the infantry regiments 448, 449, 450. There are ordinary soldiers, of the reserve, of the Landwehr, and recruits. The numbers of the soldiers are hidden. They were for two months at Koenigsberg—there the regiments were formed.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS FURNISHED BY FOUR POLES WHO CAME FROM DUREN:

There are at present in Germany important troop movements towards the French front. On the 25th, at Duren, they saw more than 40 troop trains, about 50 guns of all calibers (many of short) and about 150 machine guns. About 30 trains of horses and munitions passed

Military Report.

March # 30, 1917.
"2" (7).

Duren going towards Aix-la Chapelle.

they report that there are a great number of soldiers at Duren and at Aix-la-Chapelle.

On the 26th at Aix-laChapelle, between three and four o'clock in the evening they saw 4 troop trains.

Holland woman has furnished the following information: During the night of March 24th-25th many military trains passed Aix-la-Chapelle going towards Belgium.

Military Report.

April 15.

MALINES - Reassembling or moving of troops.

HOLLAND) GERMAN FRONTIER - An occasional correspondent reports to have seen at Goch, about April 8th, horse-pen-ton train on the march. Direction unknown.

609 INFANTRY - A DESERTER from the 5th Company of this regiment, who gives information to be revised, says that he left his corps April 8th. He was in possession of a meal card stamped by his batallien and punched up to April 7th. It is probable that at this date his batallien was still in Germany, although the deserter asserts that he was in Argenne since February.

48 D.R. (With certain restrictions, various inexact statements) / According to a deserter of the 222 R. his division was resting for two months in the district to the west of Stanislaw. He added that it was going to be sent to the Western front. He indicates as present in his sector, on the date of April 6th, 5, 20, 30, and 40 Austrian chasseurs. The 21, ~~105~~ 105, and 150 Austrian infantry regiments, the 250 Turkish regiment, resting at Tecronia. (S.E. of Lemberg.) They spoke of the arrival of many Turkish troops in this sector.

ROLLING STOCK - An occasional correspondent, very well placed, confirms the fact, that the rolling stock of the German railroads is in a very bad condition, particularly the locomotives.

MAIN WORKS ON THE WESTERN FRONT. They publish in the "Hessische Post", of April 12th a request for 700 workmen immediately, for earthworks in the occupied territory of the West. Departure of Cassel during the week (Firm of H. Stecker from Cologne-Mühlheim).

They ask for workmen immediately for demolition work in the occupied territory of the West. (Dortmunder Union section of bridge construction) appeared April 12th in the "General Anzeiger" of Dortmund.

MUNITION FACTORIES) Several escaped men report that the different factories in which they worked had to stop several days the production "Shells, grenades, armor-plate" on account of lack of coal.

FOOD SUPPLY) Several correspondents report disturbances at Elberfeld in the first week of April. The ration of potatoes at Aix from the 7th to the 10 of April inclusive, was one pound per person.

CLOTHING - At AIX a pressing appeal is made to the inhabitants, asking them to give up all their old clothes, shoes, linen, etc., which they could spare. "Echo der Gegenwart".

TELEGRAMS OF APRIL 14TH / 1917.

LOCATIONS NOTICED BY THE G.Q.G. -

prisoners report the presence of the ix C.A. at Vitry-en-Artois.

The 5th D.R. Bavarian appears to be in line to the west of Craonne.

The 214 D. seems to be inserted between the 14 D.R. and the 58th D.

The D.E.G. is said to be relieved by the 259 D. (doubtful).

The 33 D.R. is still resting in the district Igney-Avrincourt.

The 642 infantry regiment is reported to be in Russia at the beginning of April.

Military Report.

April 16.

BEHIND THE FRONT, Diest region/A sure agent reports that the dragoons quartered at Rillaer, up to the middle of March, came to their quarters on the 4th or 5th. They say that they have evacuated an uncertain district, and to have affected a great deal of destruction there. They show souvenirs of their pillage. It probably the 7 D.C. An occasional correspondent, on the other hand, reports that the 26 Dragoons were (or at least a part thereof) at Bourg Leopold March 7th§

HEREHTHALS-A serious agent reports that on april 12th the connections of trains has been interfered with by the transports coming from the camp of Beverlee.

HOLLAND)GERMAN)FRONTIER-Co-inciding information establishes the fact that the railroad Elten-Zevenaar is, along its whole length, lined with trenches.

A new correspondent reports from Emmerich that the material which was to serve for the bridge-building, reported at the end of March, would be piled up and left where it is //(April 15)//

PASSAGE OF TRAINS-Linex ~~Xs~~ Aix-Gladbach . from noon on the 12th to noon, on the 14th, two batteries and two battallions towards Aix. Some empty trains in the opposite direction.

Aix-Bleyberg. They find again on this line the traffic noted in the preceeding, one train the 11th, 3, the 12th; one, the morning of the 13th.

Aix-Vise. Normal traffic from the 11th to the 13th.

Verviers-Liege. The traffic continues towards Liege. April 10th numerous regimental carriages, without teams; on the 11th, 8 trains transporting units of at least three battallions. On the 12th, 6 trains consisting of at least two battallions. In the opposite direction, at least thirty empty trains.

LINE DIEST)LOUVAIN. Normal traffic from the evening of the 4th to the 6th (It is, however, possible that some empty trains have been sent from Louvain towards Diest.

On the morning of the 7th commences, towards Louvain, an important transport coming from the camp of Beverlee, and comprising five trains ~~on the 7th, 7, 3, 3, 3~~ ~~trains~~ on the 7th, seven on the 8th, three on the 9th, three on the 10th. The traffic appeared to be ended on the 10th at nine o'clock. The observation lasting about 14 hours, as an average, it is possible that the real traffic comprises 30 trains.

In opposite direction 15 empty trains, well-observed.

~~LINE BRUSSELS~~

LINE BRUSSELS)DENDERLEEUEW. Normal traffic from the 3rd to the 8th. It is possible that about 10 empty trains have been moved to Brussels from the 6th to the 8th.

LINE BRUSSELS)ENGHEIN. Normal traffic from the 3rd to the 4th. From the 5th to the 10th, seven separate trains towards Enghein. (2 on the 5th, 2 on the 7th, 0 on the 6th)// In the opposite direction a marked traffic in empty trains. They have noted a total of 28 trains. Daily observations averaging 14 hours.

BRUSSELS)MONS- Normal traffic towards Mons from the 4th to the morning of the 7th. On the afternoon of the 7th, 4 trains; the 8th, 7 trains; 9th, 10 trains; 10th, 3 in the morning. The total of the real traffic according to the duration of observations should amount to 30 or 35 trains.

At HANNOVER there is the 10th army corps. The 73rd and 74th reg. of infantry as well as the 10th reg. of art. are part of this corps. At the end of 1916 there were certain troubles at the Barracks of Hanover. Cause: insufficient food.

At HILDESHEIM (near Hanover) there are approximately 20,000 men (10 corps) At STRAATSBOURG in the barracks situated at Quai de Schlachthaus, there is the 126th reg. of inf. (Wurtemberg): the 105th reg. of inf. (Saxonia) At the Esplanade there is the barracks of the 132nd reg. of inf. the 143rd reg. of inf. the 15th battalion of sappers, the 10th reg. of unmounted artillery, and the ~~train~~ train reg. No. 25, all these forming part of the 15th army corps. This corps was ~~engaged~~ fighting at the Haute Alsace.

At SINGEN (Grand Duché of Baden) There are 2 comp. of Frontierguards troops. At SAARBURG there is the 97 reg. of inf. and the 11th Uhlans, pertaining to the 21st corps.

At HAGENAU there is the 16th army corps.

At BADEN Cos there are ~~the~~ large Zeppeling sheds.

At Friedrichshafen the building of Zeppelin airships is not going on in the same way as before. The army command finally have understood that the Zeppelins did not have the good results as was expected from them. Hundreds of workmen ~~at~~ in the Zeppelinairship factories have been dismissed and ever since they have been appointed ~~for~~ ~~building~~ building of submarines and in ammunition factories. From another source I was informed that these measure were taken in accordance with a secret ~~ammunition~~ order to engage no subjects of hostile countries in any of the ammunition factories. Neither may Poles be engaged in these factories.

The Zeppelinsheds at STUTTGART are provided with a double roof. On the upper roof they have shortly painted a row of trees.

Both during the daytime and at night the building of the new Rhine bridge between Buderich and the Wesel is continued. At present the work is almost finished. This bridge is over 500 metres long, and they started this work in 1914, a few days before war broke out.

In LEIPZIG I learned that among the Greeci an troops interned at Gorlitz riots had occurred. Cause unknown. A German Feldwelbel (segg.maj) who was in the same compartment as I was, claimed to be informed by a reliable source that it was intended to send these Greeican troops to the Russian front, as a result of this mutiny. Many of the interned are said to be wounded.

At Iwangerod and Lublin the military authorities have ~~an~~ established large drill grounds, where the Poland Legionists are trained. The population in the neighbourhood is laughing ~~at~~ at it, as they never seen more than 2 companies over there, receiving practice in such a tremendous space.

Naval

STATEMENT MADE BY A DESERTER OF THE "SAILORS ARTILLERY REGIMENT 2"

A deserter of the 7th comp. III Battalion of the Matrosen Art. Regt. 2, which made an impression of being reliable, furnished the following informations:

As to the defence of the belgian coast, this is divided into 2 sections (Coast ~~xxxxx~~ Sector);

(1) K Coast Sector East: From the Dutch border to Wenduynne included, under the command of the Rear admiral Schmidt v. Schwind, with their headquarters a Zeebrugge. This section is subdivided into : Right wing (from the Dutch border to the Canal Leopold) and a left wing (from the Canal Leopold to Wenduynne).

(2). Coast Sector West: From Wenduynne to Westende Bath, under the command of O.C. 2nd Brigade , Naval Corps. both

The two regiments of naval artillery at the Belgian coast, consist of two battalions ~~xxxxx~~ with 5 companies each and of a battalion containing 6 companies, the latter comprising 2 machine gun companies.

Every couple of months the engineers and the men which have ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ knowledge of torpedoes etc. are withdrawn ~~xxx~~ in small numbers and sent to Germany. Large detachments of naval artillery men have been sent to Turkey ~~an~~ civilians before the war was declared. The address of the Naval artillery in Turkey has always been: Imperial German Naval Detachment, Turkey..... and no more.

The troops along the coast are continually subject to sudden reviews.

The alarm signal for the Eastern Sector usually is: ~~3xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ 3 red "double stars" from a submarine. Patrol vessels ~~fixx~~ light signal rockets. The alarm signal for the right wing sector east is: 3 ~~xxxxx~~ rounds spreading a green light, from a pistol.

Alarm signal for the left wing: 3 rounds, red.

During a Zeppelin raid to England, ^{there is} an empty balloon (a direction balloon) in the air between Heyst and Knocke, at a ~~xxxx~~ at a considerable height. This balloon is extremely light. Each time that a Zeppelin raid to England took place this balloon is up in the air and as soon as the balloon is taken down the sailors know that the raid is over. During the night the Zeppelins know the direction by an automatic lightning from the same point; ~~from~~ every couple of seconds powerful perpendicular lightnings are then seen. These lightnings are started at the time the Zeppelins leave their base and and go on uninterruptedly until they have returned.

~~Nxxxx~~ "Nebel Kommando". Last July a detachment of 30 men of the naval artillery under the command of an engineer (an officer of the navy reserve) was formed with received practice in using a chemical material by which vapor could be produced. The fog thus formed is designed to conceal the batteries from hostile aerial observation. The process was kept secret and the soldiers were not entitled to see anything except the result. The stuff ~~xxxxx~~ at the outside looks like ordinary peat and was carried by railway in great barrels ~~and~~ containing 2 or 300 litres, ~~xxxx~~ ^{over} a great distance, and this stuff was lit in large pans round the battery. This produces a fog which remained at a slight height over the battery, so as to hide it from observation. This vapor has little or no odour and one's eyes ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ are not affected; no masks were utilized. This is purely a defensive system, for the batteries are not able to fire when such a "fog" is produced, and one could not see farther than 20 or 30 metres in any direction ~~xxxx~~ through the "fog".

The deserter in question has seen the "fog" himself, used with succes, at least 4 or 5 times.

F

April 14, 1917.

Germano-Dutch frontier.

From an unchecked source is reported on April 10th the hasty departure of undetermined troops ~~is~~ cantoned at Bentheim and Gronau. They were probably headed for the Western front. (under reserve)

Duisburg.

From a source which is not yet tested, but which may be quite reliable, notice was officially given, in due time, of the passage through the station of Duisburg, "of a division travelling under the designation of Magdeburg",-- a journey which probably commenced March 29. The route probably was ~~via~~ south-west via Duisburg, Aix, thence west.

Indeed, the passage of trains which could transport complete units is described from the 31st to the 2nd, as well as some movement from the 3rd to the 6th.

From the same source:-- passenger travel was prohibited at the Duisburg station from the 29th of March to the 15th of April. (under reserve).

Recruiting:

Class 1919. An official notice prescribes the reexamination of all young men at Aix-la-Chapelle, born in 1899, to take place from the 12th to the 26th of April. This is the first time that a notice of this sort has appeared in the paper, and elsewhere everything tends to indicate that the incorporation of that class ~~is~~ has already commenced in that district. It is likely that that notice applies to youths who are to be left at home longer than the large part of their class.

Same district. An official notice of the 11th of April prescribes that youths borne between January 1 and June 30, 1900, shall present themselves to be enrolled under the control of the Landsturm, of from 17 to 20/4.

52nd Reserve division.

Two deserters have understood it to be said that that division was recently sent to the Eastern front. Notice may not be taken of that assertion except with great reserve, on account of the fact that in general the statements of these deserters may be considered as untrustworthy.

Food, etc.

One deserter said that serious disturbances occurred at Aix la Chapelle on the 10th of April.

Official notices appearing in the Rhine Press are to the effect that the bread ration has been reduced to ~~200~~ 170 grams from 200 grams per day, on account of the unfavorable inventory of grains. However, by way of compensation, the weekly ration of meat has been increased by 250 grams.

At Cologne the ~~right~~ quantities of flour, butter and fat allowed up to the present time, ~~has~~ to pastry-cooks, has been withdrawn.

Military Report.

April 16, (2).

Some empty trains also towards Mons. They noticed 4 on the morning of the 10th. In the opposite direction, equivalent movement of empty trains which appears to have commenced before the transports themselves.

LINE BRUSSELS)CHARE)Normal traffic from the 4th to the 9th.

V A R I O U S .

RAILROADS: A good agent reports that the line Anvers-Heren, Thals-Turnhout has just been equipped with automatic signals.

The "Volksfreund" (Aix-la Chapelle) of April 12th publishes the notice that the transport of merchandise and packages by fast trains, stopped since March 30th, starts again April 13th.

CANALS: A regular, reliable correspondent reports from reliable source that the supply boats will no longer arrive at Lille as formerly. The supply port will be Tournai, and the provisions will be transferred to that place by railroad. This action seems to have been taken on April 13th.

FOOD SUPPLIES: For the period from the 15th to the 21st of April the ration of potatoes at Essen is 3 pounds per capita/. The "heavy workers" receive 5 pounds. Price 20 pfennig for 3 pounds. (Essener Volkszeitung II/4".

The Aachener Post of April 2nd received from Berlin the news that the Empress has made a gift of jewelry of great value which would be sold in neutral countries.

Movement of Troops.

March 26, 1917.

In regard to the division of securing information from deserters, the following shows one week's work in the matter of locating organizations of the German army by one of the systems here in The Hague. This system pertains to the and they are spending what would amount to \$5,000 a month in this work.

The information checked up in the past week regarding German infantry regiment divisions is as follows: They have established the fact that from the 404 regt. to the 408th regt. of German Inf. are all assigned in the 202nd division; that the 204th division was assigned in Ghent on Feb. 22nd last, and consists of two brigades, the 407th and the 408 brigade - the 407th brigade consists of the 413 regt. of inf., 414th regt. of inf., and 388th of Landwehr inf.; the 408th brigade consists of the 415 regt. of inf., the 416th regt. of inf., and the 39th regt. inf/Landsturm; - that the 409th-412th regiment of inf. are assigned to the 203rd division.

That the 413th regt/ is assigned to the 207th division; that the 418th regt/ is assigned to the 183 div., though it has also been reported as in the 192nd division; the 439th regt. is in the 205th div.; the 440-448th regts. are assigned to the 183rd division, and were in the Rumanian campaign. The 450th regt. is assigned to the 223rd div. in Belgium.

All the above regts. are of the older levies. In January 1917 the new regiments were inaugurated, formed and started - just exactly how many of the old men were assigned to the new, I have not yet found out, but in the 450th regt. it is known that in each company of 250 men, 50 of them have seen service at either the Russian or the Serbian front. The new regiments started on January 1917 began at 451 and ended with 640. The 460th, 461st, 462nd regts. are assigned to the 237th div. and were formed and organized at Elsenborn, near the Dutch frontier, and within the last months and within the last 15 days have been sent to the Russian front. The 231st, 232nd, 233rd div. were formed in Bonn, Brandenburg, and Wurdensbruck. The 603rd regt. is assigned to the 251st div. as is also the 64th regt. The 6607th and 609th regt. pertain to the 252nd div. and were formed in Cologne and are stationed at Cleve.

I may state that the usual formation is 3 regts. in a division, though some have four. The 204th div. consists of 2 brigades of three regts., each as noted above and the 609th regt. mentioned above. One of the deserters reports that his regt. was formed from many different classes at least one fourth of the men having seen previous service at the front. A majority of the men - at least one half of the men - he said belong to the class 1898. He stated that the first battalion was in Cologne, the second battalion at Bonn, and another battalion of the same regt. - evidently the 3rd - at Euskirchen.

Another deserter stated that the 610 and 612th regts. are now at Aix-la-Chapelle, Duren, Brand, Stolberg? Eschweiler, and Forst, and the 611th regt. at Eumerich. From another source, the 613th and the 614th regt. are at Zossen. From one of the agents pertaining to this system, he reported on February 24th that cavalry were beginning to arrive in Belgium. The first detachment on Feb. 20th, and that the 605, 607, and 611th regts. were in the district of Wesel.

Another agent also reported that Hindenburg with his

Movement of Troops. (2).

e
entire staff had arrived at Kreuznach, near Mainz? on Mar. 7th, and, that subsequently the Kaiser with his retainers arrived at the same place and is still occupying quarters at the Bade-Hotel there.

Another agent reports from Cologne that he heard from another agent that the 460th. regt. had just arrived there. This was one of the new regiments.

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