

~~TOP SECRET~~

Copy No. 21.....

HQ SAS Tps/TSB/5/GOPERATION INSTRUCTION NO. 49BC 2 SAS Regiment.INFORMATION

1. It seems probable that the Germans intend to withdraw to the SIEGFRIED line, gaining as much time as possible by fighting a series of delaying actions en route.
2. It is probable that they intend to try to hold the line of the VOSGES.
3. The bulk of the German Army will probably withdraw through BELGIUM with mobile forces on the SOUTHERN flank attempting to prevent encirclement by Allied Armoured forces.
4. Although the rapid American advance has to some extent reduced the long-term importance of RUPERT and HARDY, there are still large numbers of Germans well to the SW who will attempt to withdraw in the general direction - NANCY.

INTENTION

5. To employ the remaining troops of 2 SAS Regt to the best advantage.

METHOD

6. Action falls into two phases:-

(a) Immediate short-term policy

RUPERT and HARDY will be astride the German withdrawal routes and offensive operation from these bases will be stepped up to the maximum extent. This particularly applies to the jeep squadron now in HARDY.

Reinforcements should be sent to these areas as called for but it is probable that the time for semi clandestine action by parties on foot is over and that it is transport rather than men that are now required. Local transport should be used to the maximum extent and additional jeeps can be dropped if required.

(b) Long-term policy

- (1) RUPERT - A sub-base to be known as COWPER should be established in the ARGONNE as soon as possible, with the object of extending NORTHWARDS the existing inner SAS belt. This sub-base should be so situated that parties based on it can operate against the main L of C REIMS - VERDUN - METZ.
- (11) LOYTON - The majority of 2 SAS Regt should eventually be employed in the VOSGES since this is obviously a most important strategical area.

If comms are not re-established with LOYTON within the next 48 hrs, you will despatch another party to reopen comms and the Phantom patrol commanded by Lt. JOHNSON is allotted to you for this purpose. It is vital to get the LOYTON base established properly as soon as possible in order not to be too late to operate when the main German forces begin to cross the VOSGES.

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7. Any troops returning from DUNHILL, DEFOE or TRUEFORM who are fit for further operations and cannot be employed in LOYTON or ~~COOPER~~ will probably be employed at a later date in BELGIUM.

8. ACKNOWLEDGE.

L. B. Kennedy Shae
for Brigadier,
Commander,
SAS Troops.

c/o Airborne Troops (Main),
A.P.O. England
26th August, 1944
RWM/LGM

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