

MR 151, Sec. 1 -- DESERTION, DESERTERS

1944

Map Room
Box 52
Folder 5

WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER
INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~
P R I O R I T Y

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of JCS

memo SM 522-71

By SR Date DEC 7 1973

From: Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary
Forces, London, England

To: War Department

No. S 51987, 17 May 1944

To CCS this is SOAF 28 signed Eisenhower cite
BNPND S 51987.

In view of the large numbers of foreigners serving in the German forces in the west, this Headquarters is approaching the Polish, Czech, Norwegian, Dutch and Belgian Governments with a view to obtaining an amnesty or any useful amnesty - like statement promising considerate treatment of their Nationals serving under compulsion in the German forces provided they surrender at the first opportunity. Such a statement would not include volunteers or members of SS Formations, or individuals known to have wilfully performed traitorous actions. On security grounds any statements forthcoming from these Allied authorities will not be released before D Day, but will be used then in propaganda to induce desertion of foreigners and to increase mistrust amongst German soldiers or foreigners serving in their ranks. In view of the large Russian element in the German forces in the west (including Para-Military and Labour Units) it is suggested you inquire of the Russian authorities whether they are willing to make any concessions which could be used on D Day to undermine loyalty of Russian elements and stimulate German troops mistrust of them. Whatever statement any Allied Government will make will sow some seeds of distrust in the minds of the German associates of these foreigners and will be a bonus to the operations in varying degree.

NOTICE: CC/3

No Sig.

INFO : Gen Arnold, OPD, Gen Bissell, Adm. King, Col. Park,
Log

CM-IN-12783 (17 May 44) 1655Z JB

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WAR DEPARTMENT
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INCOMING MESSAGE

May 7, 1944

To : A.F.H.Q.
From : Chiefs of Staff
Repeated: Joint Staff Mission
Number: COEMED 103

Following from Chiefs of Staff.

We approve your proposals in MEDCOS 98 and 99 if enquiries indicate that proposals for mutiny are genuine. Following additional inducements may be offered (1) Mutineers would be segregated in separate P.O.W. labour units. (11) They would not be repatriated to Germany except at their own request.

T.O.O. 072010Z

ACTION: CCS

INFO : Gen Arnold
OPD
Gen Bissell
Adm King
~~Col Park~~
C of S

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JCS memo, 1-4-74
By RHP, NLR, Date MAY 15, 1974

OM-IN-5971

(8 May 44)

1958z df

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

To: British Chiefs of Staff

Info: Joint Staff Mission for U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff,
H.Q.M.A.A.F.

From: Freedom

MEDCOS 99 April 26, 1944

Signed Wilson cite FHCIC F38030.

You may be aware through the Foreign Office of the Mideast report that a British Liaison Officer in the Peloponnese has received from a German private from Headquarters Fourth Battalion, 999 Fortress Regiment stationed in Alemias Area an approach indicating that considerable portion of his battalion is prepared to mutiny. In dealing with this approach Mideast recommend that object should be to subvert and detach from the German resources as many low grade units as possible in formed and armed bodies capable of resisting the Nazis at the moment when their defection would cause the greatest embarrassment to the enemy and that sufficient assistance should be given on our side to ensure success of mutiny at any date until evacuation is possible.

2. In paragraph 4 of their cable Mideast recommend as general policy

- (a) The encouragement by all means possible of mutinies of whole units in areas where resistance can be effective.
- (b) Such mutineers as are evacuated to be treated as prisoners of war.

3. In their paragraph 5 Mideast suggest following action

- (a) Force 133 to establish that approach is genuine and that there is a reasonable chance of success and to explore possibility of action by other units. This is already being done.

CM-IN-20262 (27 Apr 44)

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JCS memo, 1-4-74
By RHP, NLR, Date

MAY 15 1974

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Col Park

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INCOMING MESSAGE

MEDCOS 99 [REDACTED]

- (b) Contact then to be instructed - (1) general plan for staging mutiny. (2) to make arrangements for evacuation of mutineers to Zante. (3) to hold Zante until evacuation possible. (4) that mutineers after evacuation will be treated as prisoners of war.
4. In their paragraph 6 Mid-east propose to examine
- (a) Exploitation of the incident.
 - (b) Possibility of providing American and British officers to lead mutineers.
 - (c) Subversion of Zante garrison.
 - (d) Evacuation of mutineers from mainland to Zante and afterwards from Zante.
 - (e) Action by P.W.E.
5. After taking into account the views of (? Force 133) on this question which I consider to be of great weight and after consultation with my political advisers I have replied to Mideast in my MEDCOS 98 which is being repeated to you. I am not at all convinced of the genuineness of the approach or of the chances of success and consider that the whole question needs very careful handling indeed.

T.O.O. 262045B

MEDCOS 98 is CM-IN-20261 (27 Apr 44)CC/S

ACTION: CC/S
INFO: Gen Bissell
OPD
Adm King
Gen Arnold
Col Park
C of S

CM-IN-20262 (27 Apr 44)

1750Z bem

[REDACTED]

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JCS memo, 1-4-74
By RHP, NLR, Date

MAY 15 1974

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[REDACTED]

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WAR DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER

INCOMING MESSAGE

To: Mideast

Info: British Chiefs of Staff (AMSSO pass Joint Staff
Mission Washington for U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff
Hq MAAF.

From: Freedom

Number: MEDCOS 98

April 26, 1944

Signed Wilson cite FHCIC P 37950.

Reference Mideast's O/93760 of April 20th.

DECLASSIFIED
JCS memo, 1-4-74
By RHP, NLR, Date
MAY 15 1974

I agree that first thing to be done is to discover whether this is a genuine approach. But you should impress on Force 133 the danger of revealing our strategic intentions. In any dealings with the contact they should act on the assumption that approach is a German attempt to discover the approximate date on which OVERLORD is to be launched and secondly whether we in fact intend to land in Southern Greece in the near future. It should be noted that the battalion is located in the area of one of the notional assaults due to take place on May 21st in accordance with plan ZEPPELIN. For this reason MUTINY should not be staged for a date which would be strategically of greatest value but should be laid on to take place as soon as possible.

As regards your paragraph 4 I repeat I agree that we should try if possible for the desertion of whole units. No inducement however can be offered to this end such as that the units would be allowed to call themselves Free Germans or to keep their arms and fight on our side. Units which desert would be accepted by us on the basis of unconditional surrender and would be treated as prisoners of war.

I repeat I agree that you should study this problem on the lines indicated in your paras. 5 and 6, subject to the above considerations. Your para 6(b) is however not approved. There can be no question of providing British and American officers to lead the mutineers.

T.O.O. 262046 B

ACTION: CCS

INFO : OPD, Gen. Bissell, Adm King, Col Park, Gen. Arnold
G of S

CM-IN-20261

(27 Apr 44)

1747Z

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Zeppelein =
Mediterranean
Conceptual Plan.

NOT A GOOD WORD

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