

General Staff XXXXV XP Ps Corps

Ic No 6/44 G.Edos

General Staff LXXXIX A.K.

Abt. Ic No 21/44 G.k.

C.P. 10.10.44

6 copies

Copy No 6

101

SUBJECT: Treatment to be inflicted
to Commandos

Distribution:

16.10 IIs sugl. H.Q.

21. Ps Div. H.Q.

Ps.

407/

Enclosed find Order of the Fuehrer dated 18.10.42, together with supplementary order.

With regard to distribution of this document and to safeguarding of its secrecy the P z A. CX. 6 ordonne;

1. The order is to be distributed to regiments and assimilated general staffs included. Communication to lower echelons will be made verbally.
2. Copies distributed to regiments and to assimilated general staffs will be destroyed by them, after taking note of same. Statement of the destruction will have to reach me before 19.10.
3. The attention of the addressees is drawn to the absolute necessity to keep this document in safe custody. If this condition cannot be fulfilled, the four last paragraphs of the order will have to be destroyed.

For the Commanding Chief
The General Staff Chief

Signature: Illegible

2 Enclosures

h. l.

Enclosure No. 1 to note of the PANZER ARMY
OBERKOMMANDO R/1a
No 516/44 - GEdes of 4.10.44

COPY OF A COPY

TOP SECRET

The Fuehrer

033230/42 GEdes/OKM/DEST

F.H. 18.10.42

23 copies

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4 copies of the copy
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1. Since sometime our opponents have been using in warfare, methods which are in violation of the international agreements of Geneva, particularly brutal and crafty is the attitude of the members of the so-called Commandos who are partially recruited - as it has been established - among convicts freed from jails. It has been revealed through captured documents that they have orders not only to bind prisoners but also to kill them without hesitating, when they think they might become a nuisance or embarrass them in the execution of their mission. Furthermore, we have captured orders advising as a rule, to kill the prisoners.
 2. For this reason, an addendum to the Wehrmacht bulletin of 7.10.42 stated that in the future, Germany would use the same procedure toward this group of English saboteurs and their accomplices, that is to say the German troops will exterminate them, without consideration wherever they can be found.
 3. Consequently, I order that:

Henceforth, all opponents found by the German troops during the so-called Commandos operations in Europe or Africa, even when in uniform, or members of sabotage groups armed or not, are to be exterminated to the last man by fighting or by pursuing them. It does not matter if they are, during this actions, landed by ship or aircraft, or even parachuted. Even if such individuals seem to want to surrender, by principle, they will not be spared. In this connection, a detailed report will be addressed to the O.K.W. (Supreme HQ of the Army) for every special case, for insertion in the Wehrmacht daily bulletin.
 4. If members of such Commandos, acting as agents, saboteurs, etc... are handed to the Wehrmacht through another channel (f.i. by the Police in the occupied territories) they will be handed over immediately to the SD. It is strictly forbidden to keep them under military surveillance (f.i. in prisoners of war camps, etc.) even temporarily.

5. These prescriptions do not concern military enemies captured (or who has surrendered) in the field, during normal fighting actions (offensives, important landing operations by sea or by air). - They do not concern either the military enemies made prisoners following naval fights, or flyers who jump with parachutes to save their life, after air combats.
6. I will have court-martialed all chiefs and officers responsible for the non-execution of these instructions, whether they will have neglected to instruct their men accordingly or whether they will have disobeyed this order during action.

Signed: illegible

Directive of 20 October 1943 referring to the order of 18 October 1942 states in part:

"Prisoners taken as a result of contact with British or British Empire Commando troops will NOT be sent on to the usual P. W. Transit Cages (Dulags) but will be handed over without delay to the nearest S. D. (Sicherheits Dienst) Unit; this S. D. unit will be responsible for the execution of these prisoners. Wherever possible such Commando troops will be killed to the last man during the action; only where this is not practicable will the procedure laid down above be followed."

101

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C O P Y

Ref. Order of the Fuehrer No E 33230/42 g. Edos of 12.10.42-OKW/DFST

SUBJECT: Treatment of members of the Commandos

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The O.K.W. issues the following instructions:

1. Even after the Anglo-American landing in France, the order of the Fuehrer dated 12.10.42 concerning the wiping out of groups of terrorists and saboteurs, remains in full force. Those not concerned by these instructions are members of the enemy's forces in uniform, located in the fighting area of the bridgehead, that is to say in the area of the front line divisions and that of the reserves up to the C.P. line (Command Post?) included. (Para 5 of the original order of 12.10.42).
2. All members of terrorist and sabotage groups, including in principle all parachutists, encountered outside the immediate fighting zone are to be exterminated (1). In special cases, they are to be handed over to the SD (Sicherheitsdienst).
3. All units engaged outside the Normandie fighting zone are to be given precise instructions with regard to their duty to exterminate all groups of terrorists and saboteurs.
4. The Oberbefehlshaber will report daily, as from today's date, on the number of saboteurs liquidated (2) in this manner. This measure is first of all valid for operations conducted by the Militaerbefehlshaber. The number is to be reported in the Wehrmacht daily communique with the object of spreading terror as was obtained by the same method during former Commando operations.

P.O. signed: illegible

Lieutenant

- (1) Note of Translator:
"Niedermachen" in the German text.
- (2) "Liquidieren" in the text.

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