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TYPES OF INFORMATION IN THE FILES OF OSS 16 Nov 1977

1. The Office of Strategic Services (OSS) was established by a Military Order of June 13, 1942, as the principal successor to the Office of the Coordinator of Information. The OSS was placed under the jurisdiction of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and was assigned two basic functions: (1) gathering, evaluating, and analyzing intelligence in support of the war against the Axis Powers; and (2) planning and executing operations in support of intelligence procurement. It also carried on military psychological warfare, including propaganda; incited and fostered resistance in enemy and enemy-occupied countries; and aided and directed open resistance groups in carrying out guerrilla warfare and in attacking selected targets. It was responsible for accomplishing sabotage in enemy and enemy-occupied countries, for organzing and supporting underground resistance movements, for conducting such operations as were not assigned to other Government agencies and not under direct control of a theater or area commander of the Army and Navy, and for equipping andtraining individuals and organizations required for their operations.

2. To accomplish the above-described missions the OSS was organized to include a Director, several Deputy Directors in charge of specific activities (such as Personnel, Services, Intelligence, and Operations) and their subordinate units in or near Washington and field establishments in the continental United States and overseas.

3. In the files of each and every major component and of the numerous subordinate units, there are corresponding and sometimes duplicate documents relating to and including the following general categories of records:

a). Director, Executive Secretariat, and Planning Group documents.

b). Secret intelligence plans, reports, and requirements.

c). Counterespionage/counterintelligence

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RESTRICTIONS

The COI/OSS/SSU/CIG-originated documents in these files will have been reviewed for considerations of national security, as defined in Executive Order 11652, and portions of said documents which will require continued protection under that order will be specified in worksheets to be attached.

These documents will not have been reviewed pursuant to the broader considerations set forth in the Freedom of Information Act [5 U.S.C. 522] and in the Privacy Act [5 U.S.C. 522a]; that is, criteria other than national security, according to which documents are to be withheld from the public. Any review by NARS, therefore, must be accomplished by trained and qualified NARS personnel before release of documents to requesters. In case of doubt, documents should be referred to representatives of this agency for review.

STATINTL

[redacted]

OSS Review Team

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