SECRET

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
WASHINGTON 25, DC

17 July 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL ARNOLD:

I think you may be interested in a few notes on a special ground/air system of intelligence reporting which represents another example of the cooperation between the AAF and OSS. This system, developed by OSS is known as J/E(Joan and Eleanor). When put into operation with the assistance of the Eighth Air Force during the closing months of the war against Germany it proved a valuable new tool for penetration of any desired depth into enemy territory.

Because of its portability and superiority security features, J/E has important advantages over wireless telegraphy in certain specific situations. The equipment carried by the ground agent affords maximum possibilities of concealment, as the two pocket-size units and collapsible antenna weigh less than four pounds and there is no dependence on outside power supply. The danger of detection through enemy monitoring is minimized by the high frequency used and the selective beam pattern cast upward, which make it improbable that the enemy will hear the signals. Hence except for messages involving top security, the necessity of coding is eliminated.

Direct two-way voice communication permits spot advice to the agent on priority intelligence desired and makes it possible in some instances to receive requested information at once. Both sides of the ground/air conversation are recorded in the plane for purposes of accuracy and as a check on the identity of the ground operator. A contact via J/E, lasting 15 or 20 minutes, can supply a greater volume of intelligence than several days of W/T transmission under normal circumstances. It is also possible for a plane in the course of a single mission to make more than one such contact, if the agents are so located as to make this practical.

To place J/E into actual operation under combat conditions required careful planning and coordination with the AAF, which have throughout given excellent cooperation. While the J/E ground agent requires relatively less training than a W/T operator, in order to obtain thorough familiarity with procedure he should have at least four successful flight contacts, no two of them in the same day. Moreover, the air operator must have knowledge of aircraft operations and flying conditions, and must possess physical and psychological qualifications of the highest order. The AAF supported European J/E operations by providing crews qualified to participate in this exacting type of flight and by outfitting the Mosquito bombers which were used for J/E in ETO with necessary special equipment, including complete oxygen systems, secondary inter-communications systems, direction indicators and emergency lights.

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The first successful operation with J/E was accomplished in November 1944 with an agent placed in Holland. Between 21 January and 24 April 1945, twelve J/E teams were introduced directly into Germany, where they were placed in key cities. J/E security features enabled two of these teams to work in Berlin without being detected. 29 J/E missions were flown between 19 March and 25 April. The accumulation of operational experience resulted in exceptionally good contacts toward the end of this period, although some failures occurred at the start. Thus, except for attempts which failed to reach the target area, every mission but one, of those flown during the last week of these operations, produced useful results. An example of the effective use of J/E is set forth in detail in Appendix A.

Far Eastern operations present a wide field for the further use of J/E. It is expected that this equipment may facilitate the penetration of such difficult targets as Korea, Manchuria and Japan.

William J Donovan
Director

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