

KNIX-1

20 November 1950

SUBJECT: Operations Critique, Operation #1 - BGFIEND.

FROM: []

TO: []

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. HBPIXIES

a. All Pixies should be volunteers, younger men (all but one was over 30 years old) and receive at least three full weeks of training. The men were not in particularly good physical shape nor were the majority of high enough mental caliber for this type of operation.

b. The men arrived over-equipped from HTStein, as though they were to be sent in on a commando operation. Nearly half of this equipment was held here as they would have needed a mule train to transport it.

c. Pixies were spoiled by good living conditions at HTStein school and expected everything to be done for them here, including all the PBPrime cigarettes and beer they could consume. They become temperamental when their various whims were not fulfilled. I believe part of this was resentment that they had been sent to LCFlake and not *there* KMulcer.

2. EQUIPMENT

a. Many mechanical and radio difficulties with covert plane. A detailed list of repair work necessary in LCFlake will be forthcoming.

b. Shipments from ZRMetal were in some cases improperly marked for identification purposes. Markings on the crates did not correspond with those as given in the manifests.

c. Snaphooks on equipment chutes did not fit D rings on equipment bundles.

d. No Type A-5 chutes provided for covert plane crew. In reply to our Ref. [] 2809 for these chutes ZRMetal suggested using operational chutes as we inferred from Ref. WASH 15750. We are not familiar with the means of adapting static line chutes for air crew emergency use.

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e. No holsters supplied with the Lugers or P-38's.

3. BGFRIEND PERSONNEL

a. The whole operation was undertaken with insufficient number of personnel and vehicles to back it up. This lack of support resulted in the job being handled on a makeshift basis with an enormous work load falling on the available BGFriend personnel and [] staff members who worked 14-16 hours a day, 7 days a week and gave up everything else in an attempt to put it across. Perhaps the greatest handicap was lack of transportation which at times threatened to bring the whole operation to a standstill.

b. During the past weeks BGFriend staff members time has largely been devoted to such work as housekeeping, marketing, truck driving, opening crates in warehouse, packing parachute containers, loading trucks, repairing vehicles, and trying to straighten out administrative and financial problems of new arrivals. Having no secretarial help or administrative officer of our own has been another great handicap.

c. The briefing new BGFriend personnel received in ZRMetal on the job they would fulfill here and the living conditions they could expect was quite incorrect. LCFlake is probably the most expensive country in ZRWerth today and living conditions at the best are primitive and lack comfort.

d. Had we been properly staffed with sufficient help and had the necessary motor transport been at our disposal, I feel certain the operation would have gone off far smoother and would not have left most of us in a state of physical and nervous exhaustion when it was finally completed.

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