

CHINA.  
BURMA-  
INDIA  
THEATER

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**SECRET**

**FAR EAST THEATER  
SOUTHEAST ASIA COMMAND**

**REPORT DIGEST  
DECEMBER, 1943**

**I. PERSONNEL SITUATION, 31 DECEMBER 1943**

	Army		Navy		Marine		Total	Civilian	Grand Total
	Off.	E.M.	Off.	E.M.	Off.	E.M.			
Allotment	148	481	55	77	2	0	763		
Recruited	132	313	9	17	1	0	472		
Unobligated	16	168	46	60	1	0	291		
Overseas	58	79	9	17	1	0	164	45	209

**A. Administration**

Following the reorganization of the Theater in November, the following assignments were made for the Southeast Asia Command:

Chief . . . . . Lt. Col. R. P. Heppner  
 Special Assistant  
 and Liaison Offi-  
 cer with SEAC "P"  
 Division . . . . Lt. Cdr. E. L. Taylor  
 Liaison Officer  
 with British . . Captain Sherman Joost  
 Adjutant . . . . Major Jack Lanterman.

**B. Intelligence**

Director . . . . . Lt. Col. Robert Hall  
 Chief SI . . . . . Dr. Dillon Ripley (acting)  
 Chief R&A. . . . . - to be assigned -  
 Chief X-2. . . . . - to be assigned -

**C. Operations**

Director . . . . . - to be assigned -  
 Chief SO . . . . . - to be assigned -  
 Chief MO . . . . . - to be assigned -  
 Chief Maritime . . Lt. Fisher Rowe  
 Chief OG . . . . . Captain Feddicord.

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**D. Services**

Chief, Lt. Col. Harry Berno

**E. Special Funds**

Officer to be assigned

**F. Security Office**

Officer to be assigned

**G. Communications**

Chief, Captain Charles Copton (acting)

**H. Schools and Training**

Chief, Major Enders (acting)

**I. Camps**

Commandant . . . . .	Captain John Diffenbaugh
OB Camp . . . . .	Captain Redford
Sumatra Camp . . . . .	Captain R. Koke
Thailand Camp . . . . .	Captain Webster
French Indo-China Camp . . . . .	- to be assigned -
Malay Camp . . . . .	- to be assigned -
Burma Camp . . . . .	Captain Pittard

**II. GENERAL**

The following report is digested from communications received from Lt. Col. Richard P. Heppner during the month of December:

As SEAC activity is to be coordinated with the Office of the Supreme Commander, it has been necessary to organize for the establishment of the OSS base in Ceylon. The acquisition and construction of bases are proceeding rapidly. The area has been requisitioned on the shore at Trincomalee and a headquarters in Colombo. Additional headquarters and camps are being requisitioned in the hills near Kandy, which will be near the headquarters of Admiral Mountbatten.

**III. INTELLIGENCE SERVICE**

**A. SI Branch**

An OSS overall intelligence program has been submitted

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and officially approved by the "P" Division and by the ADCOS/A. To this basic program, additional new assignments have been added.

B. X-2 Branch

This Branch will be organized under the supervision of Colonel Rubenstein who is enroute from London to the theater.

C. R&A Branch

Inasmuch as there is no similar organization available in the Allied Command, it is proposed to push vigorously the development of a Research and Analysis Unit of OSS. To this end, it is believed that Theater Commander approval can be secured for the employment of female civilians.

IV. STRATEGIC SERVICES OPERATIONS

A. SO Branch

1. An outline of proposed lines of expansion of OSS/SEAC mission has been presented and approved by the "P" Division.

2. A deception project is being planned, but held in abeyance, pending the arrival of Captain Garnons-Williams. A list of special weapons and supplies has been submitted to the "P" Division.

3. Program of current and future OSS operations in the North Burma area has been submitted.

B. MO Branch

A deception plan has been submitted and approved by the "P" Division which contemplates: (1) the establishment of deceptive W/T stations behind enemy lines; (2) distribution of leaflets and proclamations; (3) spreading of black rumors by native agents mingling with civilian population.

C. MU Branch

Great emphasis on maritime operations has been placed by the Supreme Allied Commander.

The acquisition of four fast surface craft has been approved, to be placed on Trincomalee, a large naval base. Three groups of thirty men each are to be trained for amphibious operations in Sumatra.

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**SECRET****D. 99 Branch**

OSS has been particularly lucky in securing the services of Captain Pedicord who is one of the Army's outstanding experts on amphibious warfare, having served in the Italian campaign with gallantry and distinction. Upon his arrival, he will be assigned to a recruiting trip through the other theaters where he knows the key personnel in amphibious operations.

**V. COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH**

Plans have been submitted for the establishment of a comprehensive network throughout the area.

**VI. SERVICES BRANCH**

The setting up and supplying of the new Ceylon base will occupy the Services Branch for some time to come.

**VII. SCHOOLS AND TRAINING BRANCH**

Plans have been made to establish training camps as indicated in Paragraph I, above. The immediate problem will be to train operational groups in the following subjects:

1. Jungle craft
2. Ambushes
3. Combat intelligence
4. Demolitions
5. Night operations.

**VIII. AIR ACTIVITIES**

Theater Commander approval has been secured for the acquisition and transport of a few light planes for OSS activities.

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**SECRET****CHINA-BURMA-INDIA THEATER****I. PERSONNEL SITUATION, 30 NOVEMBER 1943**

	<u>Army</u>		<u>Navy</u>		<u>Marine</u>		<u>Total</u>	<u>Civilian</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
	<u>Off.</u>	<u>E.M.</u>	<u>Off.</u>	<u>E.M.</u>	<u>Off.</u>	<u>E.M.</u>			
Alloiment	145	481	55	77	2	0	760		
Recruited	128	252	32	17	1	0	430		
Unobligated	17	229	23	60	1	0	330		
Overseas	54	79	10	17	1	0	161	28	189

**II. GENERAL**

During November this Theater of OSS was reorganized by General Donovan, at the time of his visit to New Delhi.

**III. SACO**

The following report was digested from the War Diary of Captain Miles in Chungking, received during November. The operations described, however, took place in October:

**A. General**

The Commanding Officer maintained liaison with all of the various intelligence agencies in the field, and in addition had a long conference with Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten regarding OSS activities in the area, past, present, and future.

**B. Field Operations and Plans****Camp No. 1 -- Major Masters, USMC**

The situation at this camp remains unchanged since its evacuation from Hweichow. Plans are being made for its reestablishment, after a conference between Major Masters and the Chief of SACO.

**Camp No. 2 -- Lt. Stewart, USNR**

Plans were made to instruct a raiding squad and an

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intelligence group conceived by Lt. Stewart as being approved by General Tai Li, who has agreed to assign a group from the Chinese Command Army for duty at Camp No. 2. Routine intelligence regarding Occupied China was furnished.

Camp No. 3 -- Major Dow, AUS

Captain Gleason and the remainder of the personnel for Camp No. 3 arrived on 22 October. Radio communication has been set up, but there has not been sufficient time to report any other activities.

Camp No. 4 -- Captain Bisceglia, VMFC

This group has been delayed, due to the non-arrival of medical equipment from Kunning, and has been reduced as to size, due to shortage of food and other facilities in the area. It is expected that the camp complement will get under way early in November.

Camp No. 5 -- Commander Mervier

The work of this group, which is the most promising, is still being held up due to dissension among the French and Chinese officers in high position, but it seems probable that these difficulties will be ironed out shortly, and that the work can become more effective.

Intelligence is being received from French Indo-China regularly and transmitted to General Pechkoff, who at the present time is in North Africa.

Camp No. 6 -- Lt. Colonel Kunjara

Operation of this group is waiting preparation in the forward areas. Mr. Eularaksa and Mr. Tilaka, representatives of the Free Thai movement, are proceeding to the U.S. for consultation.

Thailand Operations

At a meeting in Chungking, 26 October 1943, between General Tai Li, General Chang Kai Ming, General Fee, and Captain Miles, it was agreed that forward bases for Thailand operations should be established at Puenh and/or Chali for the training of 3,498 troops by 60 instructors.

The target of the operation is to subvert a Thai army of approximately 30,000 men located in the northwest corner of Thailand.

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These troops are to be trained in groups of from 200 to 600, which will be known as raiding battalions and will operate as such in the field.

The training will consist of:

- (1) Jungle combat
- (2) Sabotage and guerrilla warfare
- (3) Communications
- (4) Subversion of the Thailand troops which are now serving with the Japanese

It was agreed that Colonel Kumjara should be used in connection with the Thailand Operations, provided no political implications should be assumed by him to emanate from the aid which will be given to him and his people.

It was agreed that the training course should take at least six weeks and that an effort should be made to train approximately 600 at a time.

Eventually, it was agreed that a wireless transmitter should be established at Puerh and a field hospital.

#### C. Communications

Aside from regular communications between Headquarters and the camps, work has been undertaken in the location of enemy agent radio stations in Free China.

#### D. Field Photographic Branch

The Photographic Section completed inventories of equipment sent to Chungking.

Work is in progress to remodel a house for a photographic laboratory in Calcutta.

A photographic unit has completed the assembling of a group to proceed to Chungking. This group will undertake planning for the setup of developing still pictures and for shooting both 16 mm. and 35 mm. motion pictures in black and white and in color.

The Calcutta unit completed the Kodacolor shooting of the recent Moslem festivities in Calcutta, which film was forwarded to OSS, Washington.

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A miscellaneous collection of U.S. Army Signal Corps and Air Corps training films was received, filed, and listed.

**E. SUPPLY**

An officer was sent to New Delhi to coordinate the supply situation with Colonel Heppner, the Army Quartermaster Corps, and the JICA. Satisfactory arrangements have been made for the handling of supplies destined for Chungking.

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