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HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES FORCES IN AUSTRIA
OSS AUSTRIA
APO 777, U. S. ARMY

SCI/UNIT 1
Salzburg, Austria

15 September 1945
LSX - 54

SUBJECT: SS Obersturmführer Walter GREG, Commander of the VI-s Mission "LANDFRIED" in Roumania and member of the SS Jagdverband "MITTE".

1. Subject was arrested by CIC, Salzburg.
2. He was one of the first members of the SS. His valor as an enlisted man and officer during the Russian campaign earned for him the Knight's Cross with oak leaves.
3. Subject's extreme patriotism made him volunteer for dangerous and exciting missions and early he was assigned as an officer to the Jaeger Battalion 502, and later to the SS Jagdverband "MITTE". Before his services with SKORZENY's he conducted a long range intelligence mission planned by VI-s Section of the RSMA behind the Russian lines in Roumania (Mission "LANDFRIED").
4. This report contains a short biography of Subject, a short account of the Mission "LANDFRIED" and various notes on the establishment of the SS Jagdverband, the Schutzkorps Alpenland (a last ditch defensive operation in the Alps against the Russians), the Kampfgeschwader 200, the Flussschwimmer, and the Total Einsatz (SS Suicide Missions). The entire report was written by Subject with the help of Capt. König of SCI/A.
5. Subject was extremely willing to impart all he knew concerning the SS Jagdverband and kindred organizations. It is recommended that Subject be forwarded for continued interment and any further interrogation deemed necessary.

E. P. Barry
E. P. BARRY
Major, MI
CO, SCI/A

FOR COORDINATION WITH

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
(2) A) Privacy
(2) B) Methods/Sources
(2) G) Foreign Relations

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-2-

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-1-

Statement of SS Obersturmführer Walter GIER, Commander of the VI. a Mission "LINDKIED" in Roumania and member of the SS-Jagdverband "MITTE"

4. BIOGRAPHY

1. I was born in Hamburg, Germany, on 13 August 1919 as the son of the engineer Franz GIER and his wife Olga, nee BLUNDER. My permanent address is Glodorf near Gmunden in upper Austria. I am a Roman Catholic. My father was transferred in 1925 to Pressburg where I attended the local Volksschule. I finished my secondary studies in a boarding school in Fullonbach near Vienna. Again my father was transferred, this time to Impassing in lower Austria. There I received employment as a technician in a machine factory in Gloggnitz.

2. On 1 May 1938 I entered the Waffen SS because I could not provide for myself. There was no question of an established political credo at that time. I was first a motorcyclist, then an infantry man, and was in a short time promoted to classes I, II and III. With the same unit I participated in the Western campaign of 1940 and the Balkan campaign of 1941. After having passed successfully the SS non-commissioned officers school I became a sergeant. My regiment (the 3rd) was dissolved after having suffered heavy casualties in the East (20 Feb. 1942).

3. I was then assigned to a new fighting group with which I stayed until the summer of 1942. Here I received the Eisenerkreuz II and the Siber Infanterie Sturmabzeichen.

4. In July we were sent back to Germany to be re-formed. There I was assigned to the Panzer Regiment No. 2 and received some special training. I was soon appointed tank commander and Panzer officer candidate. In the month of December of the same year we were sent to Russia in the Kharkov area, where I received the Iron Cross First class.

5. On 7 May 1943 I was sent to the Fahnen Junkers Schule des Heeres in Wunsdorf. I received my nomination as Panzer Leutnant with special laudatory comments and stayed in the school as an instructor. When the military situation became worse, I decided to volunteer for special missions. The Russians were continuously threatening many of my comrades with imprisonment or death through their never-ending envelopments. I thus conceived the plan of assembling groups of German volunteers and members of our allied armies who would execute long-range intelligence missions and thus enable the German High Command to be on its guard against Russian surprise attacks and give it time to retreat.

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-2-

6. On 1 August 1944 I was at last transferred to the school of the Jaeger Battalion 502. My commander was SS Sturmbannfuhrer SKORZENY to whom I was presented. Here I received again special training in intelligence work together with many other training courses. As I learned very quickly I received by 26 August 1944 my orders for my first mission. This was a Reichsauftrag (mission from the Supreme Command), transmitted to me by SKORZENY (mission "LANDERIED"). I left with 7 airplanes and 50 members of the Jaeger Battalion 502 for the area of the Siebenbuergen. During my mission I was taken prisoner but was able to escape execution at the last moment. I suffered some wounds and with a pierced left foot I marched 20 kilometers until I reached the front lines. I was told that my reports saved a whole German unit from encirclement by the enemy. After hospitalization the commander handed me the "Ritterkreuz". Soon after that I was given a new mission, to make the same reconnaissance with tanks. It was a very difficult assignment and I had almost no support. I made arrangements but the big Russian offensive in the spring of 1945 frustrated my plans.

7. On 25 January 1945 I looked around for new volunteers, recruited them and left on 1 February 1945, after having conferred with the commander of the Second Army. I crossed the lines and marched with my men about 1,000 km, doing constant reconnaissance under the most difficult conditions. I returned on 17 March 1945 to the fortified position of Kolberg, losing my W/T set while crossing the Vistula River. In Kolberg I was not recognized as a German and was condemned to death, but after one day of imprisonment by our own people I was recognized by an officer and liberated. We had to fight immediately with the occupants of the fortified position, continuing the engagement until the enemy cleared the area. I received the Silver Nahkampfspange and was promoted to Hauptsturmfuhrer. On 1 April 1945 I was given the oak leaves to my Knight's Cross.

8. Notwithstanding the desperate situation I began planning a new mission. It was my intention to land in the upper Tatra mountains. Training for this mission was to take place in the Alps. My men and my W/T sets were transported in the neighborhood of Lofen (near Steinere Mann). Shortly before the German collapse I was given a new mission. I was to occupy certain areas of the Alpenland and fight the eastern enemies with small resistance groups (SS) in the manner of Tito's bands. This area was occupied by the Western Allies. My men were all arrested, discharged by me and sent to Allied POW camps. All my equipment and my provisions were completely taken over by the American troops after my arrest.

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-3-

B. The Mission "LINDFRIED"

9. On 26 August 1944 I received from my immediate commander, SS-Sturmabfuhrer SKORZENY, a top secret order for the Mission "LINDFRIED".

10. The mission was the following: I was to leave with 6 airplanes and 55 men and land in the area of Temesburg. I had plenty of extra weapons and was to distribute them among the civilian population, to organize them and thus establish a defensive line between Temesburg and Kronstadt. This was supposed to halt the advance of the Russians and Rumanians until German troops would relieve me.

11. The equipment was very defective and the time for preparation was very short. I travelled by rail with my men and equipment and arrived in Vienna, where Obersturmbannfuhrer W. NECK, of Section VI-e of the RSHA, gave me further orders. My airplanes were standing ready at the Vienna airdrome. I worked one day in the offices of the VI-e Section and evaluated all reports concerning the OB and the positions of the enemy. The situation changed every day -- it was such that my old mission was no longer possible because Temesburg was already occupied by the enemy. I decided to arrange a new mission. Someone wanted to take away my 6 airplanes and I had to act quickly. I received permission to start and with my men and forty German-Rumanians, whom I had recruited from the SS Frontleitstelle Vienna, flew to Neuburg via Debrecen. Here my men were transported in small trucks to a small frontier village. Fortunately, I met there the SS General PFLEPS, who commanded an army in this particular area and who agreed completely with my plans, which were not markedly changed during my interview with him.

12. The mission was as follows: There were to be three reconnaissance and sabotage groups: (a) the eastern trupp, under the command of SS Oberscharfuhrer FRITSCH, which was to commit sabotage in the passes about 70 km south of Kronstadt, do reconnaissance work, and then come back with the remainder of the men; (b) the central trupp, under my command, operating from Hermannstadt up to the Rotenturm Pass with the same mission, sabotage and long-range reconnaissance; (c) the western trupp, under the command of SS-Oberscharfuhrer HAEN, who would operate as far as Klausburg and 20 km to the south with the identical mission. We were to avoid all direct contact with the enemy. We planned to start without radio and report over W/T as soon as we had any intelligence. The time allotted for the entire mission was fourteen days. Rations were taken along for three days; the rest of the time we were to live off the land. All information was to be obtained from the population. The strength of each trupp was: one commander and 25 SS men; equipment consisted of hand weapons, demolition material and maps.

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-4-

13. I marched with my troops up to the Hungarian frontier village of Zuckermundl. Because we lacked the time I was not able to use my machines for a preliminary reconnaissance flight. We crossed the border on 31 August 1944 without having met any enemy units. Without further contact, we crossed the river Grosser Kockel. The lines were so thinly occupied that we could march even during the day. Our uniforms were sufficiently inconspicuous so that we travelled by train from Agnetonn up to Hernstadt. There I divided my men in three small sections and ordered them to move separately towards the castle of Holtau. My own group pitched our tents in a small garden near Michelsberg. I waited for two days for the others; finally just two men arrived, who had become separated from the others. By 4 September we had collected 6 men and marched towards the Rotenturm Pass. Until now we had found out the following intelligence: the strength of the Roumanian forces marching towards Agnetonn, and also the strength of the Russian units operating around the Rotenturm Pass. We arrived there after a ten-hour mountain climb. Here we intended to spend the night and begin gathering information from the Roumanians. We put up guards but two hours after dark we were surprised by a Russian unit and surrounded. After a heavy fight we managed to escape without any casualties. In Holtau we observed the advance of the Sixth Russian Army and marked its progress on our maps for future reference. These Russian troops were in the best of fighting condition. Discipline and order reigned throughout. We observed many new armored units.

14. In the night of 9 Sept. 1944 we again travelled by train in the direction of the front. Here (in Schaeerszburg) we marched for 35 km towards the main line of resistance, constantly in the immediate vicinity of the Russian advancing columns. We advanced so quickly that we arrived in Nados in a Roumanian depot. As we were weaker than they, we tried to talk it over with them. We asserted that we were Roumanian stragglers who had left our German units. They began searching our equipment and found our weapons. One of my men managed to escape then and there. We had to lie down in the grass and were not well treated. Soon the Russians arrived and we were condemned to death immediately. We had to stand against a small tree and 20 Russians in front of us were ordered to execute us. It was a tight spot but I managed to flee, receiving a head wound, and while on the run my foot was perforated by another shot. Notwithstanding my wounds I marched 20 km, reached the German lines, and made all my reports. All my comrades were shot. I was brought immediately to the army commander, to whom I made a more complete report comprising political, military and social intelligence. I had found out through my reconnaissance mission that the Russians

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-5-

intended pushing over Klausenberg with fresh armored troops and with anti-tank artillery. Because the army commander was informed of this news he was able to re-form his lines and avoid encirclement.

15. The eastern trupp saved a German army corps from complete encirclement and brought back 200 German soldiers who had been left behind. It also was able to destroy completely the water mains of the city of Kronstadt.

16. The west trupp came back with valuable reconnaissance intelligence.

17. We had suffered about 40% casualties during this mission.

18. Some of the men of the mission who had been left behind in Roumania finally joined on 30 March 1945 a W/T intelligence group operating in Roumania and were working for them. They had been declared missing in action since the first of October 1944. This group consisted of one NCO and eight men. This W/T intelligence group had been dropped in Roumania during the last days of the war and never returned home.

C. Appendix to Mission "LUDWIG"

The three trupps were equipped with uniforms which looked very much like those of the Allied paratroopers. Trupp "MITTE" was dressed in civilian clothes. One trupp was sub-divided in four sections of six men each.

The equipment received by the men consisted of a light uniform, and a rucksack. This rucksack contained civilian clothes, similar to those worn in the area, handkerchiefs, a map, first aid equipment, concentrated foods, and ammunition for submachine gun and pistol. (When the men wore civilian clothes, the submachine gun was carried in the rucksack.) The men also carried with them paper, pencil, compass, a watch, a first aid packet, hand grenades, a pistol, a camouflage net, a dagger, a flashlight, matches, and a garotte. The arms were the 7.65 pistol and the British Sten submachine gun.

The entire group was further provided with a large amount of explosives (Nipolitplastic). The commander of the group carried a complete collection of maps and a demolition kit. The entire Mission "LUDWIG" was equipped with two W/T sets (quartz gerat ME 109) and airplane recognition panels.

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-6-

D. Missions for Long-Range Reconnaissance and Harassing-Trupps

It happened very often during the ever-changing tactical situation that German soldiers or even small units came back to the German lines after having been separated from the main body as much as 200 km. On their return they were questioned by the intelligence officer of the division about the enemy. It had been proved that many of these observations were of great tactical value.

The Jaeger Battalion 502 then decided for the first time to establish a number of larger trupps which would do long-range reconnaissance and combine such missions with sabotage. These trupps were purely military units which did not have the missions given to an intelligence agent who was to establish himself in a certain place and operate there. The trupps generally camped in the woods and stayed there usually for three or four weeks. For better camouflage they were dressed in civilian clothes or in enemy uniforms. They used the language of the area. They were never stronger than 25 men and consisted entirely of German and foreign volunteers in the proportion of two Germans to one foreigner.

They worked in the following manner: the trupp was divided into four sections of six men each, working independently and were to meet at previously designated rendezvous points. They roamed through a certain part of the area, made their reconnaissance missions, and delivered their messages at the rendezvous where the messages were transmitted over the air to the army command. Their radius of operation behind the lines was not deeper than 200 km. When a larger target was to be destroyed, the entire trupp was mobilized for the task. The intelligence missions were generally facilitated by contacts with the local population who acted as informers. Every such contact with civilians was to be executed by means of the letter-box system. Every trupp was directed to new targets by means of radio. When the SS Jagdverband were established, these missions continued to be executed and perfected by the different sub-sections.

E. The Establishment of the SS Jagdverbande

When SS Hauptsturmfuehrer SKORZENY liberated Mussolini in 1943 he received the additional assignment of establishing a battalion of German volunteers, who were to be used for special missions. Every man was to receive a very special and varied training, for instance: horseback riding, driving of all kinds of vehicles, airplane flying, parachute jumping, etc. The constitution of this battalion was made in the castle Friedenthal in Sachsenhausen. The training itself began slowly. The battalion was placed

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-7-

directly under Amt VI of the FSHA, where SKORZENY was Chief of sub-section VI-s.

Until the summer of 1944 there was really no battalion 502 but only a staff company, a No. 1 company and a No. 2 company. The companies themselves consisted of cadre men from the Waffen SS. When in October 1944, the SS Jagdverbände were established, parts of the 502 battalion were assigned to the new group, and recruiting of new members was taken up throughout the entire Wehrmacht. SKORZENY had received permission to recruit as many as 5,000 men. The Jaeger Battalion 502 became SS Jagdverband "MITTE". By the end of 1944 it had its complete complement of men. The Jagdverband Ost, SuedOst, NordWest SuedWest were about 70% complete at that time. The only things which were lacking were a sufficient number of weapons and equipment. At that time (end of 1944) the battalion was about 400 men strong.

The equipment of a Jagdverband (motorized and equipped) consisted of approximately the following:

Staff-company: Signal Section with a 70 watt receiver and transmitter and a sufficient number of agent W/T sets.

Motorcycle section,

Supply transport section.

No. 1 company: Three sections armed with the Sturmgewehr SS.

One section of 7,5 light artillery.

Squad of engineers and a squad with flame-throwers for each section.

No. 2 & 3 company: Equipped same as No. 1 company.

No. 4 company; (motorized) Armored reconnaissance section with two heavy and four light armored cars.

Amphibian engineer section (Pionier Stoss-trupp) equipped with demolition material and flame-throwers.

A heavy mortar section in armored cars.

Anti-tank section 7.5 guns (on tractors or on trucks).

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-8-

The SS Jagdverbände

Apart from the ordinary Frontaufklärungsgruppe there were a certain number of groups who were to undertake long-range reconnaissance, special missions and sabotage operations. These special groups were commanded by one staff and were collectively designated as the SS Jagdverbände. They consisted of the following units:

The Jaegerbattalion 502
The Fallschirmjaegerbattalion 500
Parts of the Regiment Brandenburg
Part of the Kampfgeschwader 200
Parts of the Meereskampfswimmer

The constitution of the SS Jagdverbände had been ordered on 1 October 1944. The composition of the SS Jagdverbände was as follows:

1. Staff:

Location: Sachsenhausen near Berlin.
Commander: SS Obersturmbannführer SKORZENY
Chief of Staff: SS Obersturmbannführer WALTER
Signal Unit: A detachment of the SS Jagdverbände Signal Unit.
Supply Unit: A detachment of the SS Jagdverbände Supply Unit.

2. SS Jagdverband Mitte:

Location: Sachsenhausen near Berlin.
Commander: SS Obersturmbannführer FÜCKER,
Composition: 9 companies of 100 men each (only German volunteers) and 3 SS officers each.

3. SS Jagdverband Ost:

Location: Hohensalza in Carthogau.
Commander: Major ANCH
Composition: Volunteers who spoke very good Russian, Polish, Latvian, Finnish, and also volunteer Ukrainians, Latvians, Finns and Poles.

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-9-

4. SS Jagdverband SuedOst:
Location: Near Krens (Oberdonau)
Commander: Major BENESCH
Composition: German volunteers speaking the following languages fluently: Slovakian, Hungarian, Roumanian, Bulgarian, Serbian. Also nationals of the above named countries.
5. SS Jagdverband Nordfest:
Location: Neustrelitz in Okornark
Commander: SS Hauptsturmfuehrer HEDER
Composition: Volunteers from Flanders, Holland and Denmark.
6. SS Jagdverband SuedWest:
Location: Near Stuttgart
Commander: Major?
Composition: Belgian and French volunteers.
7. Flusskarpfchwimmer:
Location: Vienna
Commander: SS Untersturmfuehrer SCHREIBER
Composition: Consisted only of about 100 German volunteers.
8. Signal Unit:
Location: With every SS Jagdverband
School located in the Harz Mountains
Commander: SS Hauptsturmfuehrer STRECKFUSS
Composition: Only German volunteers.

The SS Jagdverbände received their intelligence from the different sections of the Amts Gruppe VI of the RSHA and from the different army groups.

F. The Schutzkorps Alpenland (SKA):

The Schutzkorps Alpenland was founded on 15 April 1945, with the aim of defending the Alpenland against any attacks from the Russians in this area. During operations more adherents were to be recruited among the civilian population. The mission was to be executed in such a way, that the enemy was to be forced to recognize the Schutzkorps as an important opponent.

The Korps was to be commanded by SKORZENY himself. The men were assigned from the SS Jagdverbände. The equipment consisted of weapons and all kinds of material necessary for the campaign. Rations for three months were distributed. Signal communications with the C.P. were to be established by means

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-10-

of 70 watt W/T sets and by couriers. The central W/T station was called "Brieftaube". The supply depot was established in Radstadt in the Tauern mountains.

The entire plan was scotched because the Western Allies occupied the Alpenland. Its main mission had been to prevent the arrest and the transport of the local population by the Allies; the transfer of industrial material, cattle, etc. The day of surrender the men of the Korps were ordered to report to the German Army separation centers for formal discharge from the German Armed Forces.

G. Kampfgeschwader 200:

In the summer of 1944 the Luftwaffe established a unit of volunteers who were ready to execute any Total Einsatz (Suicide Mission) by means of pursuit planes, which would ram into the enemy, torpedo planes, or dive gliders. The Kampfgeschwader 200 was formed to provide airplanes for the dropping of agents in the rear of the enemy lines. The torpedo planes were to be directed to their targets by means of search lights and navigational equipment. These planes were never used for a similar mission.

The planes which would ram into other planes had been used successfully a few times. The dive gliders were already constructed but their missions were never realized.

The last experiment of the Kampfgeschwader 200 was the parachute ball, which contained two agents who would be dropped during a mission, and later it would be destroyed by the men when they arrived on the ground.

H. The Flusskampfschwimmer

The German Navy established the first unit of Marine sabotage (Meereskampfschwimmer) in 1943. The volunteers were equipped with special rubber suits and diving apparatus, with steel cutters and demolition loads with which they were to swim towards the target from a distance of about 20 km. As soon as they arrived at the target, they were to attach the demolition equipment and its time fuses against the target and leave as soon as possible.

The SS Jagdvorbaende had among their missions the execution of bridge demolitions in bridge heads. For that purpose the river sabotage groups (Flusskampfschwimmer) were formed. The river of course traversed the German and enemy positions, which allowed

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-11-

the swimmers to execute their missions. The swimmers dragged with them a load of 1,200 kg of Nipolit (Sprengladung SK 1200). Such a group consisted of six men who could operate in the water for about ten hours and execute their mission by night if necessary. The training school of this group was in Vienna.

I. TOTAL EINSATZ

The Total Einsatz was known to us in this war through the Kamikaze of the Japanese. The Kamikaze idea became rather popular with us during the last years of this war. We had had different units where people who were volunteers for a Total Einsatz could enlist: The Jagdverband 500, the Jagdverband 502, the Meereskampfschwimmer, the Kampfgeschwader 200. We did not have in Germany the complete Total Einsatz, i.e., there was a possibility of completing the dangerous mission and still saving their lives. But there were men who declared themselves ready to ride the one-man torpedo beyond its action radius and to explode themselves with the machine against the assigned target. There were others who volunteered to crash their torpedo or pursuit planes charged with explosives against terrestrial targets.

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42

REF. NO.: 37 (cont'd)

3: See Ref. No. 3, Maj. Benno von ERMITENBERG, the C.C., Abt VI/Z. See CSDIC/CLF/SD 75 (8 Oct '45), sect. 3(c), p. 8.

4: Sturmabfuhrer und Regierungsrat Dr. Otto BEGUS arrived in Italy at Verona, from Greece via RSHA Hqs in Berlin, at the beginning of July '44. As Kommandeur of the newly organized p/o sabotage network, based at Verona and entitled the Unternehmen "CYPRESSE," he belonged to Abt VI/S, under Gruppenleiter Obersturmbannfuhrer Otto SKORZENY. See 1st IR on BEGUS — CSDIC/CLF/SD 51 (7 Aug '45), sects. 2 and 7.

5: Ferdinand, Rittmeister Graf THUN-HOCHENSTEIN, the representative in Milan of Referat IV/III-F, B.d.S. ITALIEN (attached to Sipo and SD, Mussonkommando Milan). See 2nd IR on — CSDIC/CLF/SD 50 (1 Aug '45). For a helpful chart on the GIS departmental inter-relationships in North Italy, see Appendices E and F to the HUGEL report cited in note 1, above.

REF. NO.: 38

Subject: Operation GUITAR¹

133. Meanwhile, the last mail from the Genoa (?) branch (of the Spanish Consulate) to the Milan branch could be seized and assessed. In like manner, the last mail from the ...(?)...branch to the Milan branch was assessed.

134. In order to minimize the use of photo paper (which is unobtainable even on the black market), the following procedure was employed: with a camera, fixed up in the meanwhile for individual photos, all the documents were reproduced on film-strips.² These strips are being developed in the local laboratory, and then go back to SS 1st Lt. ZI(MER).

135. 1st Lt. ZI(MER) has meanwhile had an interpretress (Miss Berthel SCHLIDT) come from Germany with knowledge of the proper languages,³ who also knows photo work and can therefore finish the pictures in the local VI office itself. With the help of a safety-device the film-strips are being brought onto a screen, whence the getting up of translation and report follow. The interpretress will translate the reports, or prepare extracts from them, only if they are of real interest. Lastly, the film-strips are despatched, sealed for forwarding to VI/E-4.

136. Besides mail evaluation, DRAGA is getting up a report wherein he will present the following:—

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JRX 3748
28 JAN 46