

WFSt/Qu. (Verw. 1)
Nr 009074/44 g.Kdos

22 July 1944
TOP SECRET

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copy destroyed according
instructions. Signature
illegible - 27/7)

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Subject: Treatment of Members of Foreign "Military Missions" captured with
(guerilla) bands.

Conference Notes

1) The Fuehrer has stated that the members of so-called Anglo-American and Soviet-Russian "Military Missions" who are captured in combat with partisan bands in the southeast, should be treated as members of a commando group and not as prisoners of war.

2) The Ag. Ausl. brings up the question of the treatment of British and American soldiers captured with partisan bands, independently of the above-mentioned statement, because of injuries received from the RSHA (Reichssicherheitshauptamt)- Military Office.

The following positions have been taken by:

a) Ob. Southeast:

The members of allied "Military Missions" must be handed over to the SD (Security Service) if the following (b) is not applicable.

b) OKW/Kriegsgef.Alg. in connection with OKH (High Command of the Army)/Gen.St.d.H. (General Staff of the Army/Fremde Heere West (Foreign Armies West))

Treatment of PW's according to order WFSt/Op (H) No 03408/43, secret, dated 18 August 43.

c) OKW/Chef Kriegsgef. in connection with WR

Treatment of PW's according to order WFSt/Org. II, No 02958/43 secret, dated 8 July 1943, which makes no distinction between nationalities. Exception only in the case of commando groups (in which case they are to be handed over to the SD).

d) R.S.H.A./Abt. IV:

Treatment as PW's, in principle according to directives given under b) and c), but clear instructions are necessary, if and in which cases they have to be handed over to the SD.

e) R.S.H.A./Militaeramt.

Does not favor the application of the commando orders for the fight against partisan groups in the southeast, and considers it also as dangerous because of the perils arising for members of our own "organizations" (Brandenburg). No position is taken with respect to the foreign missions.

f) Ag.Ausl.:

Treatment as PW's, unless members of the mission participated in a commando operation

g) WFSt/Op (H):

The same treatment as the members of the partisan bands themselves, namely: As PW's if in uniform and if captured in open battle or if they surrender; to be killed, in civilian clothes or if caught in the execution of sabotage or a commando operation.

3) Position and Proposal WFSt:

The British, captured at "Roesselsprung" for instance, would also have to be treated as PW's, according to the orders received up to now. (This is particularly evident from the Op (H) order, dated 18 August 1943.)

The commando order has not been applied to such missions up to now; it's extension to them has not been ordered so far. If those missions are to be treated differently, as the orders up to now stipulate, it must first be determined if a foreign mission working with the partisan bands of the southeast is to be considered as a commando group and to be treated accordingly. Such a decision is considered necessary, even if it does not conform with the conception of a commando operation up to now (as a particularly treacherous combat-method, which has not been employed before and which must be fought with the appropriate counter-measures) and with the text of the commando order.

We must nevertheless take the viewpoint that all the members of partisan groups in the southeast are also to be considered as guerillas, in principle. They are being treated like PW's for reasons of expediency, in order to attract as many deserters and labor forces as possible. This reason does not exist in the case of the small number of members of the foreign missions. It is therefore not necessary to treat them like the partisans themselves, in every case Anglo-American as well as Soviet-Russian military missions can, on the contrary, be considered as a commando group and treated accordingly.

Enclosed order is therefore proposed.

initialled: W (Warlimont)

Translator's Note: This is draft of document concerning treatment of allied military missions, captured with partisan groups of the S.E., dated 22 July 1944.

In the corrected document, dated 27 July 1944, paragraph g) and 2nd sentence of Section 5, which is in parenthesis, are omitted.

The corrected attached document is initialled by Keitel on the front page and signed by Warlimont.

Its distribution was as follows: Chef OKW through Stellv. (Deputy) Chef WFSt - 1st copy; Gu (Entwurf-Draft) - 2nd copy.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION
OF DOCUMENT NO 1279-PS

23 October 1945

I, FRED NIEBERGALL, 2nd Lt Inf, O-1335567, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the English and German languages; and that the above is a true and correct translation of document 1279-PS.

FRED NIEBERGALL
2nd Lt Inf
O-1335567