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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES  
MISSION TO GREAT BRITAIN  
APO 413  
U.S. ARMY

3rd October, 1945.

TO : Cmdr. James B. Donovan  
U.S. Chief of Counsel, APO 403, U.S. Army

FROM : Lt. Walter Rothschild,  
Chief, Documentary Research Unit.

SUBJECT: Contribution of the Documentary Research Unit  
to the Work of the U.S. Chief of Counsel.

In compliance with your request I am submitting the following report on the activities of the Documentary Research Unit (DRU):

1. The DRU was activated by R&A, London on 10 June 1945 for the specific purpose of collecting and processing war crimes documents from sources in the U.K. Mr. Allan Evans, Chief of the R&A Branch, personally arranged that the DRU obtained access to all existing channels of document procurement which OSS had already established for other operations. In addition, General Donovan gave the Unit letters of introduction to several newly established document centers in London, notably to Gen. MacDonald of USSTAF and through him to both CIOS and Air Intelligence. Contact was taken up with all these agencies and it was agreed that all documents of War Crimes interest should be submitted to DRU for screening and processing in the interest of the U.S. Chief of Counsel. The undersigned was appointed Chief of the Unit, several analysts from other R&A sections were assigned to him; he was also authorized to employ German speaking legal experts to assist in the work.

2. When you and Col. Bernays arrived in London, DRU had already established all necessary contacts with document centers in the U.K. and, upon investigation, Col. Bernays, in charge of document procurement within the office of the U.S. Chief of Counsel, approved all arrangements made by DRU and appointed the Unit as his sole agent for the collecting and processing of documents in the U.K., with the sole exception of certain naval documents which were routed through a special channel. This

set-up was continued by Col. Bernays and his successor, Col. Wheeler, so that since its inception the DRU has been fulfilling functions which, otherwise, the U.S. Chief of Counsel would have had to carry out through its own staff. Since the office of the U.S. Chief of Counsel has moved to Nuremberg, DRU has continued the same functions. Documents are sent directly to Nuremberg, while copies of interest to the Committees remaining in London, are made available to them separately.

3. Close contact is being maintained with the following document centers in the U.K.:

MIRS, London, the basic source for captured German documents;

ADRC (Air Document Research Center) which is the overall source for air documents captured from the Germans and with whom a member of the DRU staff is stationed permanently for screening purposes;

ADI (K) and AI 12 - special US-British Air Intelligence Agencies which obtain certain documents directly from their forward centers on the Continent;

CIOS (now separated into the British BIOS and the American FIAT) who handle mostly technical documents. Material is obtained directly from them or through the British Document Center at Heddon House;

U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey who collected a considerable number of German documents through their own field teams;

EDS, a special agency formerly under G-2 Shaef, interested mainly in documents on German para-military organizations and the police; recently removed to Berlin as part of the Control Council.

4. For the purpose of coordinating document procurement in the U.K. for both the U.S. Chief of Counsel and the War Crimes Branch of JAGD, an agreement was negotiated in August 1945 which made DRU the sole local channel for both agencies. A member of the War Crimes Branch staff who had been sent to London originally to obtain documents exclusively for the War Crimes Branch, accordingly was assigned to DRU and documents obtained by him thus became available also to the U.S. Chief of Counsel.

5. Individual documents are processed as follows:

All documents are screened for anything of interest to the War Crimes Prosecution and those found pertinent are translated into

English. An analysis is then made on a form originally prepared by Prof. Glueck who based himself on the experiences of the DRU. At present, DRU uses the official analysis form of the U.S. Chief of Counsel, thus covering all phases of document processing within the Unit and submitting all documents in final form to the U.S. Chief of Counsel. In the course of this operation, documents are also photostated.

6. Over 140 sets of documents have been forwarded so far to the U.S. Chief of Counsel, each one pertaining to one or several aspects of the case. Some of the documents obviously will be of paramount importance to the Prosecution. Since a description of many such documents would lead too far, only a few samples shall be mentioned. For instance, DRU obtained from USSBS 71 volumes of Minutes kept by Reich Minister Speer on his meetings with Hitler and with the German industrial leaders. Out of these minutes extracts were prepared by DRU of statements which implicate several defendants. Another document submitted by DRU was the master plan of the German Air Force. This plan, prepared in May of 1938, envisaged a major war against Britain, France and Russia to start in 1942 while the smaller countries, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary and the Baltic States should have been annexed before that time and without involving Germany in war with the three major powers. Another important document was an order by Keitel instructing the German armed forces to use terror methods against the civilian population in occupied territory. Several excellent documents were obtained from EDS out of Himmler's private files.

It should be noted that these sets as a rule combine a number of individual documents on the same subject matter. Quite often, documents obtained from different sources were tied together in one dossier on a specific aspect of the case. For instance, DRU submitted a set of documents on the German policy of killing U.S. and British air crews. The correspondence on the policy itself, conducted between the leading members of the High Command of the German Armed Forces, was connected with statements made by Goering at a meeting of his staff, with an order by Himmler to his police, with police orders on a lower level and finally with reports on actual killings sent out by local air force detachments. These several documents were analyzed and presented to the U.S. Chief of Counsel as integrated dossiers.

7. The staff of the DRU consisted of the following personnel: 9 Professional, 4 Clerical, some of whom were on the budget of the General Counsel's branch of OSS. Some reductions in personnel have taken place recently. It is expected that the work of the Unit will be completed when the U.S. Chief of Counsel terminates the preparation of evidence for the forthcoming trial.

8. In addition to the processing of documents, the staff of DRU and particularly the undersigned, have assisted many officers on the staff of the U.S. Chief of Counsel with information and data on German government, administration and military organization. The Unit also prepared a catalogue of all published laws and decrees signed by any one of the present defendants in the period from January 1933 to May 1945.

9. Attached is copy of a commendation received from Col. M.C. Bernays on the work of the Unit.

  
Walter Rothschild  
1st Lieut, AUS.

Enclosure.