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Processing of captured materiel for intelligence purposes, Para. II of War Department Training Circular 81, 6 Nov 1942

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Title:

Processing of captured materiel for intelligence purposes, Para. II of War Department Training Circular 81, 6 Nov 1942

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Summary:

This circular gives guidance to the Army pending revision of relevant field manuals.

The circular lists four purposes for the evaluation of captured enemy equipment:

- a. Prompt development of effective counterweapons and countertactics.
- b. Prompt exploitation of new ideas for our own benefit.
- c. Early deductions as to the state of enemy resources for war.
- d. Speed in providing literature and other aids to assist in the training of United Nations troops in the use and maintenance of enemy equipment when captured in sufficient quantity.

The circular tells forces in the field and in the continental United States what do with captured equipment. The chiefs of the army technical services, such as the Chief of Engineers and the Surgeon General, were given responsibilities for:

- a. Expert analysis as to the characteristics of the materiel.
- b. Final deductions as to the state of enemy resources for war is evidenced by a thorough laboratory analysis of the materiel.
- c. Preparation of a final type of operator's Technical Manual, similar in form and content to our own. The number will be the same as the that of the nearest like item of American issue with the letter "E" proceeding the number. Full instructions will be included respecting suitable fuels, lubricants, ammunition, tools, accessories, spare parts, etc.
- d. Preparation of a final maintenance Technical Manual, with numbering and contents similar to those described in c above.
- e. Preparation fo such visual training aids as may be desirable.
- f. Submission to the Training Division, Service of Supply, through the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department, of manuscripts and of outlines for visual training aids.

Point C above resulted in the publication of "enemy" manuals like Technical Manual, TM E9-803, 1944, for the German Volkswagen. TM 9-803 was the manual for the famous jeep. Similarly, TM E9-369A, 1943, is the technical manual for the German 88-mm Antiaircraft Gun materiel.

According to Field Manual, FM 21-6, *List and Index of War Department Publications*, 10 May 1945, Para II of Training Circular, 6 November 1942, was still in force.

Training Circular)
No. 81.

War Department
Washington, November 6, 1942.

11. Processing of captured materiel for intelligence purposes. ---Pending revision of FM 100-5, May 22, 1941; FM 100-10, December 9, 1940; FM 101-5, August 19, 1940; FM 30-15, July 22, 1940; and the appropriate Field Manuals of all the arms and services, the following procedure is outlined for the guidance of all concerned with a view to the maximum exploitation of the intelligence that can be derived from captured materiel:

1. Objectives.---There are four major objectives to be achieved in the proper handling of captured materiel for intelligence purposes:

- a. Prompt development of effective counterweapons and counter-tactics.
- b. Prompt exploitation of new ideas for our own benefit.
- c. Early deductions as to the state of enemy resources for war.
- d. Speed in providing literature and other aids to assist in the training of United Nations troops in the use and maintenance of enemy equipment when captured in sufficient quantities.

2. Responsibility.---All personnel are responsible that captured or abandoned enemy materiel is properly handled for intelligence purposes, as indicated herein. (See chart.)

3. Combat personnel.---In general, combat personnel will capture enemy materiel or encounter it. Any items which appear to be of new design must be promptly started rearward through normal recovery channels (quartermaster-type items through quartermaster recovery and maintenance channels, chemical warfare items through chemical warfare maintenance and recovery channels, etc.) Care must be exercised to prevent deterioration or damage through mishandling. The materiel should be sent rearward accompanied by accessories, ammunition, and any information which will assist in analysis. Report will be rendered simultaneously through command channels, as would be done in the case of any other combat intelligence. In the event the materiel is too large to transport to the rear (as in the case of aircraft) or if for any reason it cannot be moved, report will be made through command and maintenance channels describing the materiel and its location.

4. Maintenance and supply service personnel.---a. Personnel of supply arms of services will be on the alert to recognize and pick out new enemy types. Such items, as complete with accessories as possible, and with no maintenance other than the application of preservatives, will be delivered direct to the special staff officer of the same arm or service on the staff of the theater commander, or to his designated establishment (such as a base shop or base depot). Report will be made simultaneously to the G-2 of the command served by these service troops.

b. The theater special staff officer of the appropriate service will treat the materiel as described in paragraph 5.

c. Personnel of the services finding a sample of a new type of enemy materiel which is of a class supplied by another service will deliver it promptly to the nearest organization of the appropriate service.

5. Theater special staff officer.—Upon receipt of new types of enemy materiel, theater special staff officers will be responsible for the following:

a. Preliminary expert analysis as to characteristics of the materiel.

b. Preliminary deductions as to state of enemy resources for war, as evidenced by the materiel.

c. Preliminary operator's manual for use within the theater. This should include all available information of value in the operation of the materiel by the United Nations troops. (For example, United Nations ammunition, fuels, lubricants, spare parts, accessories, and tools, which can be used with the materiel.)

d. Preliminary maintenance manual, to include information as to United Nations fuels, lubricants, spare parts, accessories, and tools which can be used with the materiel, as well as instructions concerning modifications that should be made to enhance the usefulness of the materiel. (For example, instructions as to the field or local manufacture of lunettes to permit enemy guns to be towed by our own vehicles.)

e. Delivery of samples of the materiel (in cooperation with the G-2 of the theater staff) to the chief of his arm or service in the United States for final analysis and report.

f. Transmission of copies of the information described in a through d above to the chief of his arm or service or to the establishment named by him.

g. Complete report to the G-2 of the theater staff.

h. Necessary arrangements to exploit fully the enemy materiel when it is captured in large quantities. (For example, the supply of proper ammunition to those units which may be armed with captured anti-tank guns of a given model.)

6. Theater G-2.—The Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, of the theater staff will be responsible that technical information of enemy materiel is transmitted promptly to the appropriate special staff officer of the theater staff.

7. Chief of each supply arm or service.—The chief of each supply arm or service in the zone of the interior will be responsible for the following:

a. Expert analysis as to the characteristics of the materiel.

- b. Final deductions as to the state of enemy resources for war is evidenced by a thorough laboratory analysis of the material.
- c. Preparation of a final type of operator's Technical Manual, similar in form and content to our own. The number will be the same as that of the nearest like item of American issue with the letter "E" preceding the number. Full instructions will be included respecting suitable fuels, lubricants, ammunition, tools, accessories, spare parts, etc.
- d. Preparation of a final maintenance Technical Manual, with numbering and contents similar to those described in c above.
- e. Preparation of such visual training aids as may be desirable.
- f. Submission to the Training Division, Service of Supply, through the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, War Department, of manuscripts and of outlines for visual training aids.

8. Each agency charged with preparation of Training Manuals.---Each agency charged under existing War Department policy with the preparation of Field Manuals and related visual training aids will initiate at once the changes in those publications necessary to implement the provisions of section II of this training circular.

(A.G. 062.12 (11-2-42.)

By order of the Secretary of War:

G. C. MARSHALL,
Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

J. A. ULIO,

Major General,

The Adjutant General.

