

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.5 AND 735017

By *EB/ack*

NARA, Date

8/3/93

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AFTER ACTION REPORT
STOOTTROEPEN N.B.S. LIMBURG

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MONTH OF OCTOBER 1944

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The Stormtroops of the Netherlands Interior Forces are mainly formed out of the former underground organisations :

- K.P. (Knok Ploeg) ;
- L.O. (Landelijke Organisatie) ;
- R.V.V. (Raad van Verzet) ;
- O.D. (Orde Dienst).

The K.P. and L.O. were in close contact with each other all through the war. Both aimed in the first place at providing hiding-places for people who had to hide from the Germans. It was the K.P. who furnished the material by burglaries and robberies, the L.O. worked this material up. Besides the K.P. was a sabotage organisation.

The R.V.V.'s purpose was sabotage, such as blowing up railways and bridges, cutting cables etc.

The O.D. chiefly occupied itself during the war with organising the government apparatus, that was to come into action immediately after the liberation. For this purpose they appointed persons for leading functions.

These four organisations have now been united in the Stormtroops. The O.D. however went for the greater part to the Guard Troops of the Netherlands Interior Forces.

The transition period of the four organisations to the Stormtroops and Guardtroops was relatively short. Immediately after the liberation K.P. and L.O. combined under the name of: Royal Patrol (Koninklijke Patrouille). The task of this Royal Patrol was principally the arresting of dangerous individuals, such as armed S.S. men.

It soon turned out that all illegal workers, both organised and not, wanted to unite. This was the rise of the Royal Stormtroops. The origin of these Stormtroops has been chiefly the work of Mr. van Kooten, Provincial Leader of the L.O.. He at once sought to come into contact with H.R.M. Prince Bernhard at Brussels, this also by order of the leader of the O.D. in Limburg, and very soon he got H.R.H.'s consent to combine all illegal workers into one organisation: the Royal Stormtroops. The Royal Patrol joined at once. The R.V.V. too, immediately declared itself willing to cooperate, so that this organisation was also soon embodied.

When the Guardtroops were instituted, the name Royal Stormtroops was changed into Stormtroops Netherlands Interior Forces (STOOTTROEPEN N.B.S.). Together with the Guardtroops they are under the Chief Command of H.R.H. Prince Bernhard.

DEVELOPMENT

The best men of the organisations have been selected, entirely voluntarily, and formed into companies, organized similarly to U.S. Army infantry companies. Each company has four platoons having three squads of twelve men each.

On 31 October 3 Bns of three companies were formed. The Commander in Chief of the Stoottroepen N.B.S. is Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands. A peculiarity of the organisation is that the commanders hold no military rank.

Because of the Stoottroepen N.B.S. lack of essential heavy weapons and the training which would fit them for offensive operations against a well-organised enemy, they can be best used as border patrols to prevent the infiltration of the enemy and counterpatrols to negate fifth column activities on the part of the enemy.

ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATIONS OF THE STOOTTROEPEN N.E.S.

During the first week of October the volunteers for the Stoottroepen N.E.S. were tasted and the leaders selected. Companies were formed and the days were spent in training.

On the 6th of October there had been formed, though not yet quite complete, the companies are located at Maastricht, Bunde, Geleen, Sittard, Hoensbroek and Heerlen.

On the 7th of October instructions reached us from Hq 29th Div concerning the first activities of these cos. These activities consisted of supporting the 29th Div by operating security patrol in the rear of the Division front line elements.

Co 2 was located at JAHEEK and maintained guard there.

Co 3 was located at BORN and put in action:

- a. 1st platoon at NIEUWSTAD with 3 MG nests and patrolling behind American tanks;
- b. 2nd platoon vicinity of GEBROEK west of SUSTEREN patrolling and maintaining guard;
- c. 3rd and 4th platoon at BORN maintaining guard alternately.

Co 4 was located at SITTARD and went into action at BROEKSITTARD and TUDDEREN, patrolling and guarding. In case of a German breakthrough the cos 3 and 4 would have to fight delaying actions.

Cos 5 and 6 were attached to the 115th Inf Reg. Co 5 is located at GANGELT and went into action at EIRGDEN. Co 6 is located at SCHINVELD, a reconnaissance patrol will always be in the rear of the forward elements.

Co 1 was located at WAUBACH and is attached to the 175th Inf Reg, one platoon is located at TEVEREN, actively patrolling along the roads TEVEREN - GILRATH and TEVEREN - PRELENBERG. The other platoons are patrolling border roads and continuing training.

The cos 7, 8, 9 were established at BUNDE, SITTARD and AMSTENRADE, men were tasted and trained. Whenever the tactical situation permitted, one company from each Bn would be withdrawn to reserve and receive training, disciplinary drills and marksmanship drills.

On the morning of ¹² October the Germans fires at a patrol of the 3rd Co with automatic weapons from a house between NIEUWSTAD and ISENBRUCH. One Dutch sergeant was killed and one Dutch soldier wounded.

The 13th October the Commander Limburg received from Prince Bernhard, the Commander in Chief, the allowance to go into action in Germany. During the day one platoon of Co 2 is located at GANGELT.

On 18 October the situation was:

Co 2, located at JAHEEK, guard-duty at JAHEEK and clearing the sector HASTENRATH;

Co 3, located at BORN, 1st platoon at NIEUWSTAD with 3 MG nests patrolling behind tanks, 2nd platoon in vic. GEBROEK, patrolling and guard, 3rd and 4th platoon at BORN, guarding bridges and roads alternately.

Co 4, located at SITTARD, 1st platoon at BROEKSITTARD-TUDDEREN, patrolling and sentry-duty, 2nd and 3rd platoon maintaining guard. On these day one soldier was killed by a German sniper. In case of a German counterattack in the direction of SITTARD 3 MGs will be placed by the 4th Co, together with 3 American MGs to fight delaying actions until reinforcements of American tanks have arrived. The places were fixed.

Co 5, located at GANGELT, one squad employed in KREUZRATH, two squads employed at EIRGDEN, patrolling lines of communi-

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cation, one squad available as help for M.P. and escort for civilians from NIEDERBUSCH to HIRGDEN Co 6, located at SCHINVELD, one section at GANGLT and another at GILRATH, guarding the road GANGLT - GILRATH.

Co 1, located at WAUBACH and TEVEREN, patrolling the road GILRATH- GROTERATH, 20 men at BRUNSSUM, guarding the Div Kitchen.

On 19 October Co 4 reported at 1930 hours that they have seen a group of civilians, probably a German patrol. Several shots were fired in the Villapark at SITTARD. Investigation had no result.

Co 2, searching houses at MASTENRATH, found an apparatus to tap in on a telephone line in one of the houses. Co 3, one German sniper in a tree was shot down by a MG at the post at the Rijksweg.

On the 20th October a MG gunner of Co 3 killed another German sniper.

21 October Co 4 put some extra patrols in action in connection with signaled German patrols.

22 October the Stoottroepen N.B.S. did security patrols in the 125th Cav Ren Sqdn zone of action and in the vicinity of the Div Art emplacements, thus restricting their activities to Dutch territory. Co 5, 3 platoons at SCHINVELD, 1 platoon at ETZENRADE; Co 6 at EINIGHAUSEN, BEEK, GUTTECOVEN and LIMBRICHT.

26 October Co 4 had its 1st and 4th platoon at ROOSTEREN, holding outposts, 2nd platoon at BROEKSITTING maintaining guard, 3rd platoon at SITTARD in training.

27 October Co 4, platoons at ROOSTEREN transferred to ELLIKHOVEN, patrolling along JULIANA-CANAL. Co 2, 3 men of the 4th platoon with 4 Americans have ~~not~~ returned from patrolling.

29 October Co 2 transferred to HULSEBERG for training.

At the end of October the cos 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 were in training and getting ready for new action.

G - 2 NARRATIVE

Month of October 1944

FIRST PHASE , 12 - 31 October 1944

On the 12 of October the G 2 work started.

The telephone lines were examined with the help of an American Officer, especially in the area of the 115th Inf Reg - 29th Division.

Further all automatic telephone-stations and telephone-communications were examined in the sector of the 29th Div. We found several subterranean cables and were able to certify if they were still in use, for instance the cable STAHE - HIRGDEN. A few days later this cable was made use of by the signal-corps of the 29th Div to obtain communications with the artillery because military lines above the ground were often hit by shell-fire. The population of STAHE had, in spite of the fact that the Americans had occupied the town for several hours, still telephoned with the German-troops. To prevent this in future a chart was made of automatic telephone-systems. For this purpose drawings are made of all automatic telephone-stations and their telephone-lines, which can be found on the sketch of scale 1 - 100,000, coord. 27 - 68 and 10 - 80 (about). By further advance it will be possible to cut of all telephone communications and to use them afterwards for the American troops.

During the month of October we have questioned some 30 people for military informations. The reports of this have been sent to the 29th Div G-2 sector Hg. This informations went also further than the area of the 29th Div. For example on the 15th October a message about the fortifications of Zwolle and the neighborhood and on the 20th October a report about the situation in Roermond.

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We rendered assistance between civil authorities and the military government of the 29th Div. for the repatriation and handing over to the police, people staying in Germany without valid documents.

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By RB/scl

BATTLE CASUALTIES OCCURRING IN OCTOBER 1944

Killed in action

Officers : 0
Enlisted men : 4

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ROSTER OF COMMANDERS

Commander of Limburg	:	Mr B van Kooten
Chief of Staff	:	R.M.E.F. Sevenstern Lt.
Adjutant	:	J. Kuyer, ensign
I Bt	:	Mr. P. Driessen
1 - I	:	J. Bruere Lt.
2 - I	:	J. Meijnders Lt.
3 - I	:	Mr. F. Blaas
II Bt	:	Dr. J. de Witt Puyt Lt.
1 - II	:	C. Groeneveld Lt.
2 - II	:	J. van Griethuizen Lt.
3 - II	:	Mr. Kortes
III Bt	:	J. Debey Lt.
1 - III	:	Mr. Ebben
2 - III	:	A. Hochstenbach, ensign
3 - III wnd.	:	Baron C. van Hovell tot Westerfliet.

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