

Report on Interrogation of German Deserter
28th September 1944
TOP SECRET

1. German deserter interrogated, together with four others, all from 2 Bty/622 Arty Regt, 118 Division, left their Bty in area north of MAKARSKA late evening 27 Sept, crossed from there to BRAC by rowing boat, landing east end of BRAC 280230. They then lay up and slept until daylight and gave themselves up to Officer Commanding III Btn 1 Partisan Brigade and were sent to Brigade HQ for interrogation. Deserter looked about 20 years old, of clean appearance and was of a high standard of intelligence.
2. The Battery is located at 433177 (North and West of the position shown on the captured German map) and comprises of 4 x 105mm SKODA guns (NOT gun/Howitzers) with maximum range of 18000 metres. About 2000 rounds of ammunition are dumped immediately behind the Bty position, and on the seaside of the road. Deserter did not anticipate any further ammunition supplies.
3. The other two Btys of 622 Regt are: 1 at PLOCA (V.7891) and 3 at OMIS (Q 1633). The latter having three 150mm guns. Regimental HQ at TUCEPI (4914).
4. The guns of Deserter's Bty are sited near the coast in a CD role for direct fire. When asked why the guns had not fired he said that they were not covered by a crest and would immediately disclose their position, but that the red road house at 434185 was being constructed as a command post for indirect fire control so that the guns could be moved to covered positions. He expected the command post to be completed and guns moved to new positions in about four days time, and suggested that any destructive fire by our guns should be carried out immediately.
5. Deserter stated that they had seen sky reflections of guns flashes in the SUMARTIN area and estimated that we had a Bty position at Pt 160 (310146). (NOTE: Actual position of E Troop 268 Bty is 319151). The shelling of Deserter's Bty mainly passed over them (due to inaccurate plotting on our captured map).
6. The men of 2 Bty 622 Regt are 70% Poles (PoW interrogated was a native of BERLIN). The Officers are all Nazis and are prepared to

fight to the last man. Informant said that they were all amused by the Nazi propaganda talks delivered regularly by their officers. They had deserted "because they could not endure it any longer. It was no Soldier's life". They had been in the same position since December 1943 and had not received any mail for the past six weeks.

7. MAKARSKA area. There are few Germans in Makarska apart from Gunners. The majority of Germans have gone, leaving only a small Garrison of Ustachi (No Chetniks or Domobrans). There are two 20mm AA MGs at 417197. 1 searchlight is situated 300 metres south of the battery position at 433174 (212 Bty OP reported this searchlight illuminated for one minute at 222120). The coastal area is not patrolled by day or night. Some road movement takes place after dark. The transit camp and ammunition and stores dump have now been closed down and ammunition and stores removed. The next coastal bty is at BASKA VODA (3823) but deserter knew no details except that it belonged to an SS Regt.
8. Deserter said that there were no complete German divisions in that part of Yugoslavia but only odd remnants, all trying to make their way to Romania via IMOTSKI. He did not think that their guns would be handed over to the Ustachi, but that the Germans would man them until the end then destroy them. They were modern German guns, but the majority of the local guns were old Italian ones.
9. General
 - a) PoW's:

Deserter said that it was the practice of German SS Troops to shoot all Partisan PoW's outright. Ustachi, similarly, shoot all British PoW's.
 - b) Germany:

15-year-old boys of Hitler Youth movement were now manning Berlin AA defences.
 - c) Neither Britain, Russia nor Germany, in the deserter's opinion would win the war..... America would!