

CONFIDENTIAL.



(B/6679.)

INSTRUCTIONS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF ALL OFFICERS.

The following points should be brought confidentially to the knowledge of all officers.

The E.E.F. is in occupation of a country in which a large proportion of the population, especially in the towns, is exceedingly mixed. There is good reason to believe that a certain number of persons are, by reason of their birth or political connections, by no means unwilling to intrigue against the British or Allied Forces if the opportunity should offer.

In consequence, the work of the Intelligence Branch of the General Staff is exceedingly complex; where the arrest of undesirable or dangerous characters is in question, it is often a matter of difficulty to obtain evidence which will justify an arrest or detention in custody. Information of a reliable nature is difficult to procure; in all these matters secrecy is of the most vital importance, and secrecy must be maintained until the object with which it is imposed is finally and completely attained.

It is within the experience of all who have had to deal with intelligence work of this nature (a) that the most carefully considered operation may be defeated at the last moment by the action of an individual who, knowing little of the circumstances of the case, accidentally obtains information of what is going forward, and thereupon either communicates his knowledge to all and sundry or takes action, almost invariably in the wrong direction, upon his own responsibility; (b) that much information, which, if promptly reported to the right quarter would be invaluable, never reaches an Intelligence Officer, because of the natural desire to avoid the accusation of raising a false alarm.

All officers, in whatever position they may be, should therefore remember that—

- (1) When information of a secret nature comes to their knowledge whether officially or by chance, it is their duty to repeat this information to no person to whom its communication is not essential, and to take no action unless definite orders are received to do so.
- (2) Should an officer become possessed, in the course of his duty or otherwise, of information which he considers may be of importance to the Intelligence Service it is his duty to report the matter promptly to the nearest Intelligence Officer, Gen. Staff Officer or A.P.M., and to refrain from discussing the subject of his report either before he has made it or afterwards.
- (3) When called upon to assist the Intelligence Service the instructions received by an officer should on no account be exceeded or departed from without immediate reference to the officer from whom the instructions were received.
- (4) No conversation of a confidential nature should be permitted in the presence of Civilians, whether European or native (responsible Civil Government Officials excepted); an instance has already occurred of information of a secret nature being given away by a native interpreter.

It should never be assumed that any native, to whatever social grade he may appear to belong, is entirely ignorant of the English language.

- (5) It is most undesirable to indulge in sweeping assertions and general statements on questions of espionage. For instance, to state openly, as is frequently done, that "So and so is a spy," or that "Such and such place is a hotbed of espionage," is strongly to be deprecated. For, if the accusation be true, the matter should be reported as explained above without comment. If nothing more than suspicion exist about the person or place in question, such a statement serves but to warn the persons suspected and to put them on their guard, thereby increasing the difficulties of the Intelligence Department.
- (6) When any matter is to be kept secret the fewer individuals who are in the secret the longer the secret is likely to be kept.

A. LYNDEN BELL, Major-General,
Chief of the General Staff, E.E.F.

20th June, 1916.

A.M.S.
491/3