



10-16-1943

## Evidentiary Document: NOKW 2380

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OFFICE CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES  
APO 696A U. S. ARMY

STAFF EVIDENCE ANALYSIS

By: Steven, Fred R.  
Date: 26 May 1947

Doc. No. NOKW-2380

Title and/or general nature: From CG 207th Sich. Div. to subordinate units, passing on orders by CG Sich. Troops and Commander in Rear Area H.Gr. North on "Evacuation". (Panther line)

2 pp (photostat)

Date: 16 October 1943

Source (Location of original, etc.): German Document Center, MID, Rm. 1B-863, The Pentagon, Washington, D. C. WB-1395 207th Sich Div. 44225/3

PERSONS, PLACES OR ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED:

KULCHLER, Georg, v., Genfldm., C in C., H.Gr. North  
BOTH, Kuno Hans, v., Gen. d. I.C., C in C., Rear Area H.Gr. North.  
HOFFMANN, Erich, Genlt., CG 207th Sich. Div.

TO BE FILED UNDER THESE REFERENCE HEADINGS:

V B 1 c V D 1

NOKW - Atrocities against civilian population and Spolitation.

SUMMARY (Indicate page nos.):

WB 1395 16 October 1943

(from CG Sich. Troops to 207th Sich. Div.)

p.1 "It has been experienced in some places that when the evacuation starts, the population moves into the woods overnight, taking all cattle and horses. The troops will. . .secure cattle and horses by guide action. If the population flies all the same. . .the cattle will be moved away."  
"In all other areas (not essential for billeting of retreating German troops, Editor), any shelter can be destroyed completely. When a village is destroyed, it will be seen to it, that this is done completely."  
. . ."I think it advisable that in the area of each Sich. Div. . .some few examples are stated to make the population realize that taking to the woods has certain disadvantages."

p.2 (CG 207th Sich. Div. to subord. units) 19 October 1943.

"Above copy for information and action. . .When villages are destroyed, it should be noted that "certain villages should not be burned down, but the houses broken up and the material used for the Panther line.

Edited by: G. R. Halkett

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TRANSLATION OF EXCERPTS FROM DOC.NOKV.-2380  
OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES  
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Rubber Stamp: Top Secret

Ia K.T.B. (War Diary)

Copy.  
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Commanding General Headquarters, 16 October 1942  
of the Security Units and  
Commander in Rear Area Army Group North  
Section Qu./Ia No. 474/43 Top Secret  
Subject: Evacuation

6 copies

1. copy

To Security Division 207

Rubber Stamp: Enclosure 262 to War Diary Ia.

It was experienced in a number of places that the population runs away to the woods with all the livestock and the horses overnight whenever the evacuation starts. The troops are forced, therefore, to secure livestock and horses in the villages which have to be evacuated by seizing them speedily, and to return them to their assigned places only after the marching column takes off. If the population flees to the woods notwithstanding, the livestock must be taken away anyhow.

The divisions will receive maps in the near future showing the march routes for the retreat of the armies. Villages, situated along these routes must be spared under all circumstances to provide billets for the troops. In addition those regions are marked where the command authorities, responsible for the construction of the positions "Panther", are cutting wood. Here again those localities must not be set on fire which are necessary, to provide shelter for the workers.

All quarters in all other areas can be destroyed without exception. Care must be taken, when a village is destroyed, that it is destroyed completely. Any brick houses, cellars, potato cellars, wells and other subterranean constructions must be demolished for this purpose engineers can be requested as demolition squads from Corps Headquarters TIEFANN and the Senior Commander of the Engineers 3. The destruction of villages must be reported here and either to Corps Headquarters TIEFANN or to the Senior Commander of the Engineers 3 according to their

Page 1 of original cont.

competency. I consider it right to set some few examples at the outset of the evacuation in the district of each Security Division, to make the population realize that the flight to the woods also has its disadvantage. As far as localities or individual houses within the "Panther" Zone are concerned, the consent of the following command authorities must be requested in advance:

Page 2 of original

Panther Zone in the area of the I. A.K. (now Senior Commander of Engineers 3)

Zone Narwa	Senior Engineers
" Fleskau	Engineer Leader 32, Narwa
	Fortress Staff 25, Fleskau

Panther Zone in the area of Corps Headquarters TIE MAN.

Northern Parts	Fortress Engineer Staff 1, Opotschke
Southern Parts	Engineer Regimental Staff for special purposes

Ostroff

The Commanding General

Signed; von BOTH

Lt. General of the Infantry.

-----  
Security Division 207

Dorpat, 19 October 1943

Section Ia File 37 Nr. 268/43 Top Secret  
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Rubber Stamp: Top Secret

Subject: Evacuation

11 copies

11th copy

above copy for information and implementation.

When villages are destroyed, care must be taken that villages, favorably located in regard to communication to the position "Panther" or situated on rivers or waterways on the Peipus

Page 2 of original cont.

peninsula must not be burned, but should be utilized by dismantling them for construction of the position "Panther" and for shelters in the rear of it. Boards and beams are in extremely short supply. It would be irresponsible to burn down these houses as long as there is still time.

Initials: v.B. (?)

Distribution:

Standortkommandentur Pleskau

Feldkommandentur 611 Gdo

with copies for Ortskommandenturen.

by order

Signature

Brigadier General

(Generalmajor)

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TRANSLATION OF EXCERPTS FROM DOC. NOKW-2380  
continued  
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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION  
-----

11 December 1947

I, Alfred Rabl, GO B 398081, hereby  
certify that I am a duly appointed trans-  
lator for the German and English languages  
and that the above is a true and correct  
translation of the document NOKW-2380.

Alfred Rabl

AGO B 398081.

- 4 -

"END"

Stempel : Geheime Kommandosache

---

I a K.T.B.

A b s c h r i f t .

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Kommandierender General  
der Sicherungsstruppen u.  
Befehlshaber i. Heeresgebiet Nord  
Abt. Qu./Ia Nr. 474/43 geh. Kdos.

H. Qu., den 16.10.1943

Betr. : Evakuierung.          6 Ausfertigungen  
   1. Ausfertigung

An Sich. Div. 207

Stempel : Anl. 262 zu K.Tgb. I a

Es liegen Erfahrungen aus einigen Orten vor, dass die Bevoelkerung beim Anlauf der Evakuierung ueber Nacht mit allem Vieh und den Pferden in die Waelder abwandert. Die Truppe hat daher in den zu evakuierenden Doerfern durch schnelles Zugreifen Vieh und Pferde sicherzustellen, und sie erst beim Abmarsch wieder in die Trecks einzugliedern. Flicht die Bevoelkerung dennoch in die Waelder, so ist das Vieh abzutransportieren.

Es werden in naechster Zeit den Divisionen Karten zugehen, aus denen die Rueckmarschstrassen der Armeen ersichtlich sind, an denen zur Unterbringung der Truppe Doerfer unter allen Umstaenden geschont werden muessen. Ferner sind die Gebiete eingezeichnet, in denen die fuer den Ausbau der Pantherstellungen verantwortlichen Kommandobehoerden den Holzeinschlag taetigen.

( Seite 1 des Originals )  
Fortsetzg.

Auch hier sind die Ortschaften, die fuer Unterbringung der Arbeitskraefte notwendig sind, nicht abzubrennen.

In allen uebrigen Flaechen koennen alle Unterkuenfte restlos vernichtet werden. Wird ein Dorf zerstoert, so ist dafuer zu sorgen, dass dies restlos geschieht. Etwa vorhandene Steinhaeuser, Keller, Kartoffelkeller, Brunnen und andere unterirdische Bauten sind zu sprengen. Hierzu koennen beim Gen.Kdo. Tiemann und beim Hoeh. Pi.Kdr. 3 Pioniere als Sprengkdos. angefordert werden. Zerstoerte Ortschaften sind hierher und gleichzeitig je nach Zustaendigkeit dem Gen.Kdo. Tiemann und den Hoeh.Pi. Kdr. 3 zu melden.

Ich halte es fuer richtig, dass bei Beginn der Evakuierung im Bereich jeder Sich.Div. in entsprechend gelagerten Faellen einige wenige Exempel statuiert werden, damit die Bevoelkerung erkennt, dass auch die Flucht in die Waelder ihr Nachteile bringt. Soweit es sich hierbei um Ortschaften oder einzelne Haeuser innerhalb der Panther-Zone handelt, ist hierzu vorher die Zustimmung folgender Kommandobehoerden einzuholen:  
( Seite 2 des Originals )  
Pantherzone im Bereich des I.A.K. ( jetzt Hoeh. Pi.Kdr. 3 )

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Zone Narwa	Hoeh.Pi.Fuehrer 32, Narwa
" Pleskau	Fest.Pi.Stab 25, Pleskau.



( Seite 2 des Originals )  
Fortsetzg.

Pantherzone im Bereich Gen.Kdo. Tiemann

Suedteile                      Fest.Pi.Stab 1, Opotschka  
Nordteil                        Pi.Regts.Stab z.b.V.Ostroff.

Der Kommandierende General

gez. von Both

General der Infanterie

Sicherungs-Division 207      Dorpat, den 19. Oktober 1943  
Abt. Ia Az. 37 Nr. 268/43  
g.Kdos.

Stempel : Geh.Kommandosache

Betr. Evakuierung

11 Ausfertigungen  
11. Ausfertigung

Vorstehende Abschrift zur Kenntnis und Beachtung.  
Bei Vernichtung von Doerfern ist zu beachten,  
dass Doerfer, die zur Pantherstellung verkehrsgun-  
stig oder auf der Peipushalbinsel an Fluessen  
und Wasserlaefen liegen nicht zu verbrennen sind,  
sondern durch Abbau fuer den Ausbau der Panther-  
stellung und fuer Unterkuenfte hinter derselben  
verwertet werden muessen. Bretter und Balken sind  
ausserordentlich knapp und es waere unverant-  
wortlich, so lange noch Zeit vorhanden ist, die-  
se Haeuser einzuaeschern. ( handschriftl.Namensz.)

I.V.

gez. Unterschrift unleserl.  
Generalmajor

Verteiler :  
Standortkdt. Pleskau  
Feldkdt. 611 Gdo  
mit N.A. fuer die O.Ks.

" A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY "

- 3 -  
E N D