

## Delta Green and the Office of Strategic Services (1940s)

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

WASHINGTON D.C.

13 February 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR OPERATIONAL DISSEMINATION LIST:

I wish to call to your attention the following, effective 12 February 1942 under ACTION 109101 (inline):

- a. By order of the President, all resources, personnel, equipment, and intelligence from the Office of the Navy P4 intelligence division is brought under control and command of the OSS.
- b. This operational group has been redesignated DELTA GREEN. All aspect, intelligence and reporting of this group is classified SECRET and all intelligence generated by it is hereby classified DELTA GREEN. It should only be circulated within the DELTA GREEN DISSEMINATION LIST (inline).
- c. Command of this group has been granted to Commander Martin Cook USN, indefinitely detached for intelligence work with the OSS. The designation is DELTA GREEN PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE DIVISION. Commander Martin reports to me.
- d. This psychological warfare intelligence group is to discover and exploit the fascination with the outré and occult exhibited by the Axis powers.
- e. It is hoped DELTA GREEN can force the enemy to expend resources, personnel and equipment in far-flung locales to "gain control" of non-existent myths, reducing their combat efficacy.

<signed>

Major General William Donovan

Director, Office of Strategic Services

Washington, D.C.

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### **DISINFORMATION: (1940s) DELTA GREEN, THE OSS AND THE AXIS THREAT**

The late 1930s bore witness to the rise of Fascist ideologies in Europe and Japan, the architects of which harbored ambitions that would propel the world towards another devastating war. Yet, in 1940, the average American citizen saw themselves as safely isolated from such horrors. Despite the fact that America's ally,

England, was already at war since 1939, and both Nazi and Japanese war machines had been mobilized to terrible effect, the majority of the U.S. populace held the belief that this wasn't their war — at least not directly.

Within the confines of P Division, international operations aimed at combating the Deep Ones had effectively ground to a halt. Although red flags were raised by P4 concerning Nazi exploration in Antarctica in 1938 and 1939, these attempts at opening official inquiries amounted to little. Numerous memos were circulated annually, authored by Lt. Commander Martin Cook, the head of P4, addressed to various U.S. military leaders. Each memo hinted at a concern regarding the overt and public interest exhibited by Nazi and Japanese factions in the occult. However, Cook remained cautious, and never asserted his certainty in the existence of such phenomenon.

With these memos, Cook piqued the interest of Major General William J. "Wild Bill" Donovan, the commander of the recently inaugurated Office of Strategic Services (OSS). A mere two months after the U.S. plunged into the chaos of World War II, Cook was summoned to brief Donovan on how to exploit the Nazi and Japanese beliefs in the occult for Allied advantage. Only later and over time, was Donovan read-in on the absolute reality of the unnatural.

By April, Donovan had been initiated into an array of classified operations, including PUZZLEBOX, REDOUBT, TALCUM, BAKELITE, and THIMBLE. He was also briefed about all intelligence unearthed by the Pabodie Expedition. Exposing Donovan to a vast array of classified materials, including films, samples, artifacts, and more, had an earth-shattering effect on shaping the clandestine strategies the U.S. was poised to employ in the world war. By the time P4 emerged as the DELTA GREEN PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE DIVISION in the OSS, set to manipulate the pervasive belief in the occult among Fascist powers, Donovan was a total believer who understood that the truth of the unnatural must be kept secret.

Donovan was convinced that harnessing these secrets would not only dismantle the enemy powers but also elevate America to an unparalleled position of global dominance, rendering it immune to all forms of harm.

Throughout the 1940s, Delta Green locked horns with several adversaries in their quest for dominance over intelligence pertaining to the world's unnatural secrets. These adversaries included the Nazi's enigmatic *Karotechia*, the Soviet's secretive SV-8, and even their supposed allies, the British PISCES organization.

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CONFIDENTIAL  
DELTA GREEN

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES  
DELTA GREEN PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE DIVISION  
INTELLIGENCE SECTION

DISSEMINATED 21 OCTOBER 1942

REF.NO. DE 34/DIS 201.

SUBJECT: ACTIVITY OF AH PHENOMENA IN NAZI-OCCUPIED FRANCE

I. INTRODUCTION:

Operative EMIL has reported a highly concerning development from within occupied France. A recently built Nazi fortification linked to the AH phenomena (see PUZZLEBOX ii.) is situated on the Cap de la Hague, in the Gourey Region, occupied France. This information has been independently corroborated by

our contacts within British Allied Command, who have also provided a detailed list of personnel known to be operating within this facility.

## II. THREAT ASSESSMENT:

If the Nazis succeed in harnessing the AH phenomena, it will pose an unprecedented threat to the upcoming Allied invasion as well as conventional Allied naval activity. The potential for a catastrophic outcome cannot be understated. Given the gravity of the situation, immediate action is required.

## III. RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. OPERATION NAME: The proposed mission has been designated as Operation LIFEGUARD. The operation is planned to commence no later than 12 DEC 1942.

B. Operation Objectives: The primary objectives of Operation LIFEGUARD is threefold:

1. Destruction of the Nazi fortification at Cap de la Hague.
2. Neutralization of key personnel within the fortification. A list of targets is attached (I).
3. Identification, neutralization, and possible dispersal of the AH present at the location.

We will coordinate with the British forces to execute a larger operation simultaneously. After achieving the aforementioned objectives, the site should be "salted" using the procedure developed under Project TALCUM.

C. PERSONNEL: Due to the urgency of the operation, it has been deemed necessary to deploy DELTA GREEN personnel from CAMP X before the completion of their training. Nine of the sixteen operatives have already been relocated to London command to prepare for deployment. The method of insertion, whether by sea or air, remains to be determined.

D. AUTHORITY: In light of the critical nature of this operation, all necessary resources from U.S. and Allied forces should be made available, irrespective of their branch or affiliation. This directive is supported by Presidential Order (restricted) 9262-A, which grants this operation the highest level of access and authority.

Given the high stakes of Operation LIFEGUARD, it is essential that we act swiftly and decisively to prevent the potential exploitation of the AH phenomena by Axis forces. The fate of our invasion, and indeed the future of this conflict, may very well hinge on our success.

Lt. Commander M. Cook  
Office of Strategic Services  
Delta Green Psychological Warfare Division Desk  
Intelligence Section  
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**OPERATIONAL BRIEFING: LIFEGUARD (14 OCT 1942 - 8 DEC 1942)**

In SEP 1942, following credible intelligence from British intelligence about strange activities at a Nazi-controlled facility code named SCHWARZES WASSER ("black water"), Delta Green's attention turns to Cap de la Hague, occupied France. Initial covert investigations and fly-overs attribute these anomalies to military experiments, yet undercover agents and local French partisans uncover the more unsettling realities of the site. Prisoners are often moved into the small camp by train, but they never leave.

By OCT, covert surveillance of the facility reveals ritualistic events connected to the mythical entity, Dagon and the Deep Ones (referred to in intelligence reports as AH, or "Aquatic Humanoids"), as well as the coming and going of Nazi personnel of "occult interest".

That winter, General Donovan approves a clandestine operation, dubbed LIFEGUARD, to disrupt what is believed to be an impending summoning (or what, Delta Green is unsure) and retrieve any classified intelligence present at the facility.

LIFEGUARD is the inaugural mission for the newly formed group called DELTA GREEN. Their crucial mandate is daunting – to prevent at all costs the formation of a disastrous alliance between the Third Reich and the ancient beings known as the Deep Ones. The mission is not just about winning a battle, but about defending the world from a potentially devastating supernatural alliance.

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**ROLE**

- Δ Agents might sneak into the SCHWARZES WASSER facility to gather crucial information and sabotage its defenses just before the raid. These agents will be adept at stealth, disguise, and subterfuge, using these skills to avoid detection while completing their tasks.
- Δ Agents might liaise with the French partisans, plan the attack, and ensure smooth communication between all parties. Their task will require leadership, strategy, and diplomacy skills.
- Δ Agents might be tasked with finding and safely extracting the persons of interest from Lt. Commander Cook's "hit list". These agents must be skilled at identifying and capturing high-value targets without causing harm, while also navigating a hostile environment.
- Δ Agents might lead the night raid on the facility. These agents will need to have advanced combat training and a firm understanding of tactical maneuvers. Their primary objective will be to neutralize enemy forces and provide cover for the other agents carrying out their specific tasks.

**HOOK**

- Δ Agents hear rumors of a hidden blueprint within the SCHWARZES WASSER facility that details plans for a new super-weapon harnessing the power of the Deep Ones. Extracting this blueprint becomes a critical secondary objective.
- Δ Agents receive intelligence that a known ally has been acting as a double agent, potentially jeopardizing the mission. The agents are tasked with identifying and apprehending this traitor before their betrayal can cause irreparable damage.
- Δ Agents learn that a key French partisan contact, possessing vital knowledge of local Nazi operations, has been captured and held within the SCHWARZES WASSER facility. Rescuing this contact becomes an urgent side mission.
- Δ In addition to their main objective, the agents are informed of an ancient artifact believed to be stored within the facility. This artifact, of great interest to Delta Green, could be a powerful tool against the Deep Ones and needs to be secured.

**RED HERRING**

- Δ Agents intercept strange radio signals emanating from SCHWARZES WASSER. Upon investigation, it turns out to be mundane coded communication between two Nazi officers about their personal affairs, unrelated to the facility's operations.

- Δ Agents stumble upon a network of underground tunnels that appear suspicious. While seemingly intricate and suspicious, they merely serve as a shelter system for personnel during air raids, unrelated to the occult activities at the facility.
- Δ Intelligence suggests a high-ranking Nazi officer frequently visits the facility, potentially linked to the occult rituals. However, upon further investigation, it's revealed that the officer is merely there for routine inspections and is unaware of the facility's true purpose.
- Δ Agents receive reports of a train arriving at the facility late at night, possibly for delivering something critical. However, it turns out to be a routine supply train carrying food and medical supplies, irrelevant to the mission's objectives.

#### THREAT

- Δ Agents must contend with heavily armed Nazi personnel present at SCHWARZES WASSER. These personnel are not only seasoned soldiers but also privy to unnatural knowledge and might employ unconventional, arcane tactics against intruders.
- Δ The summoning of the mythical entity Dagon and the Deep Ones by the Nazis poses a significant risk. If the summoning goes as planned, the Deep Ones could form a catastrophic alliance with the Third Reich, bringing about untold horrors where a Nazi ally controls the world's oceans.
- Δ The Karotechia members and engineers on Lt. Commander Cook's "hit list" could potentially resist extraction. They may be prepared for such a scenario and might have set deadly traps or have contingency plans in place to prevent their capture.
- Δ Agents must also be wary of potential counterintelligence efforts by the Nazis. If their plans for SCHWARZES WASSER are discovered prematurely, Delta Green might have to face a much more well-prepared enemy ready for any attack.

#### DISINFORMATION: DELTA GREEN KNOWLEDGE OF ENEMY (AND ALLIED) UNNATURAL INTELLIGENCE

In 1942, when Delta Green initiated operations, other groups were discovered with a familiarity with the unnatural, both privately operated and government-sponsored. Over time, the secrets surrounding this matter were surrendered by each major power involved in the conflict.

During Delta Green's debut operation, known as LIFEGUARD, they exposed the *Karotechia*, a German group committed to conducting unnatural research under the Nazi regime. In that same year, upon recognizing Delta Green's practical experience in dealing with the unnatural, a British intelligence group known as PISCES (MI-13) decided to engage Delta Green, and a knowledge exchange ensued.

Soon after the collaboration with PISCES, Delta Green was alerted to the existence of the Soviet GRU-SV8 and the outré research they were conducting. This information was shared through their newly established network with PISCES.

Finally, towards the end of 1943, as the Marines were advancing in the Pacific, intelligence teams tailing them collected evidence that led OSS DELTA GREEN to discover an unusual semi-official Japanese group of higher-ups in the Kempeitai, the Gen'yosha ("Black Ocean Society"), a group of what might best be termed sorcerers with access to unnatural techniques. The intelligence teams' findings paved the way for the unearthing of the Gen'yosha's existence and their peculiar research endeavours.