

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
Joint Intelligence Committee
Washington 25, D. C.

In reply refer to:
SU-959-MSI

ENEMY OIL COMMITTEE

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Major James Luke
Major Robert R. Munoz
Lt. Comdr. Paul L. Hopper
Dr. Harold G. Carlson
Mr. W. D. Crampton
Mr. Walter Levy
Mr. Norris G. Wood

From: B. H. Grove, Executive Secretary
Enemy Oil Committee

Subject: "Concealment of German Oil Plants"

B. H. Grove

Herewith enclosed is copy of a memorandum Mr. Kilbey recently received from Oliver Thompson covering the formation of a small working party to investigate the possibility of the Germans going underground with parts of the oil industry.

Enclosure - 1

FOREIGN OFFICE AND MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC WARFARE.
CONCEALMENT OF GERMAN OIL PLANTS.

The most drastic measures are being taken by the Germans to maintain oil production and to remedy the damage being done to their oil plants. In addition to the rapid repair work being carried out, there have been an increasing number of reports of the attempts being made to minimise the effects of the attacks by means of the dispersal of producing plants and the placing of plants underground.

The Combined Strategic Targets Committee wish an investigation to be made to establish the probable limits of the enemy's capacity to set up concealed plants, and to define the probable nature and location of such plants. It has therefore been suggested that a Working Party comprising the organisations listed below be invited to examine this question.

Nature of Enquiry

It is suggested that the problem should be studied from the following angles:-

1. Hydrogenation of Fischer-Tropsch Plants.

- (a) The practicability of placing these plants in sub-surface workings or in other places of concealment.
- (b) Possible modifications in equipment to facilitate (2).
- (c) The length of time necessary to construct plants in these conditions and the quantities of equipment required.
- (d) Any considerations which might facilitate a systematic search for such plants by reconnaissance aircraft.

2. Crude oil distillation and cracking plants.

- (a) The size and nature of mineral oil processing plants most likely to be erected.
- (b) The equipment required for the provision of such plants and the time and resources required for their construction and erection.
- (c) The probable locations for such plants.
- (d) Any considerations which might facilitate a systematic research for such plants by reconnaissance aircraft.

Composition of the Working Party.

Air Ministry: A.C.I.U.
War Office - M.I.10(c) (Capt. Pollack)
U.S. Embassy: Economic Warfare Division - E.O.U.
Economic Advisory Branch: F.O. & M.E.W. - (Mr. O.L. Lawrence and
Mr. O.P. Thompson)

Asiatic Petroleum Co. Ltd. - (Mr. L.A. Astley-Bell)
Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd. - (Dr. Holroyd)
Sir Robert McAlpine & Sons Ltd. - (Sir Malcolm McAlpine)

Meetings.

It is hoped that this study can be completed before the end of the month. It is suggested that the first meeting should discuss the points to be investigated, after which a report will be drafted for approval at a second and final meeting. It is intended to hold the first meeting, in Room 825 at M.E.W., Lansdowne House at 3 p.m. Tuesday, December 12th.

Economic Advisory Branch 6
(F.O. and M.E.W.)
7.12.44.