

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

In reply refer to:
SU-952-MSI

ENEMY OIL COMMITTEE

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Rear Adm. Andrew F. Carter (Att'n. Major Gates)
Brig. Gen. H. L. Peckham (Att'n. Lt. Col. Hake)
Lt. Comdr. Paul L. Hopper
Major James L. Luke (Att'n. Major Stark) ✓
Major Robert R. Munoz
Capt. H. L. Klein
Mr. W. D. Crampton
Mr. Morris G. Wood

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

Subject: "The German Black Oil Position"

We are enclosing herewith for your information a copy of a letter from G. F. Thompson, on the subject of the German black oil position, which has been made available to us through the courtesy of Mr. Kilbey.

Enclosure - 1

Economic Advisory Branch,

(FOREIGN OFFICE & MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC
WARFARE),

Landdowns House,
Berkeley Square, W.1.
2nd December, 1944.

SECRET

AO 220/2

Dear Garner,

THE GERMAN BLACK OIL POSITION

The quite substantial damage that has by now been inflicted upon German oil production is resulting in the Germans embarking upon what might be termed a battle of improvisation and I am wondering if we can seek your advice, in your capacity as leader of the Black Oil Panel, upon the extent of possible achievements in this direction.

There have recently been an increasing number of reports that the Germans have been using unrefined oils for both under-boiler purposes and for the fuelling of Diesel engines. Their principal sources of unrefined oils are as follows:

- German crude oil
- Austrian crude oil
- Hungarian crude oil
- H.T. tars
- L.T. tars

In regard to Austrian and Hungarian crude oil, I am attaching a copy of a letter we have had from the Shell on this subject which says, in effect, that the Germans are unlikely to use crudes from these two countries for high speed Diesels, although they may use them for low speed Diesels. However, I am not confident that we should rule out the use of such products in high speed Diesels if there is any chance of the raw product making the wheels go round at all, especially as it is now a life and death matter. We have, for example, had reports on petrol being mixed with lubricating oil to produce Diesel fuel and that such improvisation has served its purpose, even if it meant mechanical breakdowns.

P.T.O.

Professor F. E. Garner, O.B.E.,
Dept. of Oil Engineering and Refining,
University of Birmingham,
Birmingham.

WASHINGTON D.C.

BOARD OF ECONOMIC WARFARE

To what extent do you think that the unrefined products, if any, could be used as Diesel oil?

In this connection, we have had one vague report possibly implying that the oil industry was requiring large sized centrifuges. Could these possibly be employed in any way as a simple means of upgrading raw oils?

In regard to under-boiler fuel we are confronted with a problem that seems to point to rather an anomalous position. During the past few months there should have been a surfeit of tar feed-stocks, made homeless by damage to the synthetic plants. Could, or could not, these raw feed-stocks be used for marine bunker purposes?

During October, the German Navy has been committed to a much higher consumption of fuel oil than for many months, this being due to extensive naval operations in the eastern Baltic, where a major part of the German surface fleet has been engaged in active operations. There are now indications, but at present not more than indications, that the Germany Navy is critically short of furnace oil. If the Germans have been using these feedstocks they should not be as short as intelligence implies and even though recent consumption has been at abnormal levels. If, therefore, there really is a critical shortage, then it points to an inability to use these surplus feed-stocks. If we can establish this point the implications are of some importance.

We have just obtained from the Continent some papers which give analyses of naval fuels that have been in fairly recent usage. I have not yet seen these analyses, but we have arranged for Mr. Eldridge of the Petroleum Board (who is acting for Mr. Chilvers) to send these analyses to you. I would suggest that you withhold an answer to this letter until you have had the opportunity of studying this material.

Any help you can give us on this subject will be duly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ O.F. Thompson