

PAPER 1

D.F.(a) through D.D.S.D.(S).

As a result of discussion on Cabinet level it has been decided to create a special Signal unit.

This unit will carry out a certain role which it is highly undesirable to place on record except to a very limited number of people.

2. The establishment - see LA - has been discussed with D.D.R.O.(B) who has authorized me to say that he considers it reasonable, and that he agrees that it should not be brought before the War Establishment Committee and it should not be published.

3. The unit will be under the control of the D.M.I.

Personnel will be found partly from M.I. civilian employees, partly from outside civilian sources, and partly from Royal Signals.

4. As far as ultimate <sup>financial</sup> ~~cost~~ provision is concerned, it is understood that Mr. Brittain of the Treasury has been put into the picture by Lord Hankey, and it is presumed that you will deal with him.

I shall be glad, however, if immediate authority can be given to enable us to go ahead with the creation of this unit, as a considerable amount of preparatory work and training is involved.

J. Beauman *Woolley*

15.6.40.

D.M.I.

2.

This question was discussed with Col. Stuart Pringle  
(M.I. 5) Gen. Perry, Command. Lykes, & Mr. Portier  
at D.P.C. & D.P.A.

It was agreed that as regards  
personnel, there was no objection to the  
establishment proposed. Any serving personnel  
transferred to this unit will be secured or  
absorbed & their pay etc will continue to be  
charged to Army funds. Personnel already  
paid from S.S. funds or employed in a  
"civilian" capacity will be paid from  
S.S. funds.

DAILY ORDERS PART I

by  
Colonel R. Gambier-Parry.  
Comd., S.S.U. No.1.

Issue 20 dated 25 Jul 40.

96. POSTINGS.

(a) The following personnel have been enlisted at Whaddon and are posted as shown :-

N.Y.A.	Signn.	Holden. G.B.	Workshops.	18 Jul 40.
"	"	Sweet. C.F.	H.Q.(S.O(SS)).	"
"	"	Kempton. H.A.	Workshops.	"
"	"	Norrow. I.A.	H.Q. Tailor.	"
"	"	West. C.W.	Workshops.	20 Jul 40.
"	"	Hill. J.	"	"
"	"	Roberts. J.G.W.	"	"
"	"	Pidgeon.H.E.C.	H.Q.(S.O.Tech).	"
"	"	Castleman.H.J.	Workshops.	"
"	"	Ord. J.T.	"	"
"	"	Lax. D.	"	"
"	"	Bromley.K.A.	Trg Group.	22 Jul 40.

(b) The undermentioned Officer arrived in the Unit :-

Lieut. C.M. Harrison. Signal Officer. 24 Jul 40.

(c) The undermentioned are posted to ~~Head C~~ ~~Group~~ today's date :-

2585609 Signn. Hooper. K.W.J.  
2308091 " Thompson. C.

The undermentioned are posted as operators to Training Group :-

2091512 Signn. Parrish. J.C.  
4742065 " Hodgson. A.  
4445433 L/Cpl. Wilkinson. R.

The undermentioned are posted to Transport w.e.f. today's date :-

2337575 Signn. Dally. W.B.  
2337797 " Calvert. W.

97. ATTACHMENTS.

The undermentioned are attached to the Scottish Command, w.e.f. today's date :-

2321782 A/U/L/Cpl. Nisbet. I.S.  
2580926 Signn. Cullen. W.W.  
T/131018 Dvr. Howie. W.

The undermentioned are attached to the Admiralty, w.e.f. 26 Jul 40 :-

2308091 Signn. Thompson. C.  
2585609 " Hooper. K.W.J.  
T/66188 Dvr. Broadfoot. J.

Daily orders Part 1. SSU No.1 Comd. Colonel R. Gambier-Parry. 25th July 1940

8.

PAPER 3

~~Sigs.~~  
 D.D.  
 D.F. (b).  
 D.R.O.  
 D.Sigs.  
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You will remember the formation of Special Signal Unit No. 1 which was agreed in Minutes 1 - 5 of this file.

At 8A is attached a memorandum by Col. Gambier Parry containing two requests

- (a) That the title Special Signals Unit No. 1 be changed to Special Communications Unit No. 1.

This calls for no comment.

- (b) That approval may be given for the formation of Special Communications Unit No. 3 to cover the requirements of the Radio Security Service.

The reasons for forming such a Unit are given in full in 8A and you will see that the proposal has the highest backing. The commitments of the Army would be small.

Financially we are asked only to meet the cost of feeding, clothing, and supplying certain stores (personal equipment and barrack stores) but excluding technical radio and signal equipment.

From the point of view of man power which is fully explained in paras. 4 and 5 of 8A it will be seen that 113 skilled men are released to the Nation for other forms of service but that the Army is asked to find 10 Officers, and 60 O.Rs. the majority of whom are unskilled and who could all be of comparatively low medical categories.

For security reasons this War Establishment cannot be placed before the War Establishments Committee but if you wish to discuss details I will arrange for Col. Gambier Parry to meet your representatives. If not will you give your agreement in this file.

3.7.41.

*J. M. I.*  
 D. M. I.

P.S. In view of the C.I.G.S's directive regarding economy in man power, I have discussed this establishment with Colonel Gambier-Parry and I am satisfied in view of the great importance of the work of the R.S.S. and the need to develop it to the full, the additional 8 Intelligence Officers which the Army is to be asked to provide are necessary. They need not be of military age or of a medical category suitable for the Field Force. The remainder of the personnel that the Army is asked to supply (see para 5 of 8A) are unskilled and can also be over age and of low medical category.

*J. M. I.*  
 3.7.41.

The D.M.I. was instructed to hand over the R.S.S. "lock, stock and barrel" to the Home Defence (Security) Executive. This transfer has been done and the R.S.S. is now administered by M.I.6. ~~WE~~ now being asked to sponsor the militarisation, at any rate in name, of a unit for which the War Department own no responsibility.

I have, however, made enquiries, and the answers to minutes 9, 10, and 11 are:-

- (a) The complete R.S.S. establishment counts against the Home Defence (Security) Executive, and not against the army ceiling or any category thereof. I understand Lord Swinton is prepared to take full responsibility in this respect.
- (b) R. Signals will not be deprived of any personnel. The men in excess of the original establishment of 97 are already reserved to the Home Defence (Security) Executive on a civilian basis under arrangements made by the Lord President of the Council. It is merely desired to give them military status for operational purposes. The army is, however, being asked to provide 70 all ranks to assist in the proper administration of the unit. These will not count against the army ceiling.
- (c) With particular reference to the first paragraph of minute 10, the proposal is that the War Office should have no responsibility whatever for the unit beyond the provision of Q.M. and Barrack stores (which are unobtainable by other means) and for the provision of ordinary rations. If considered desirable payment will be made for these supplies.
- (d) It is possible to carry out certain work with female labour. It is hoped that these women might be members of the A.T.S. However the matter is not important and the women can remain civilians if their enlistment causes difficulties.
- (e) Reference minute 11. The voluntary interceptors for whom Sir Herbert Creedy wished to secure exemption from Civil Defence duties are those who are not liable to be called up for army service in any case on account of their age, physical disabilities or being in reserved occupations. These people do valuable work for many hours a week and it is desired to put them on the same footing as Air Raid Wardens and other part time Civil Defence workers. These voluntary workers must not be confused with those mentioned in para 5 of 8A.

30.7.41.

*Renewal* / *Hol. 68*  
for D.D.M.I.(O).

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Copy of 2/10 letter from R.S. to Lord Swinton to  
Col Gambier Parry ——— 13 A.

Copy of 2/10 letter to Lord Swinton from  
Ministry of Labour ——— 13 B