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OG

OPERATIONAL GROUP COMMAND

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

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This booklet has been prepared for use within OSS, particularly by OG Branch for the general orientation of its own personnel. Its primary purpose is to define the basic organization of the Branch, its functions, doctrine, and purpose. It is not intended either as a technical training manual or an historical record of actual accomplishments.

— December 1944

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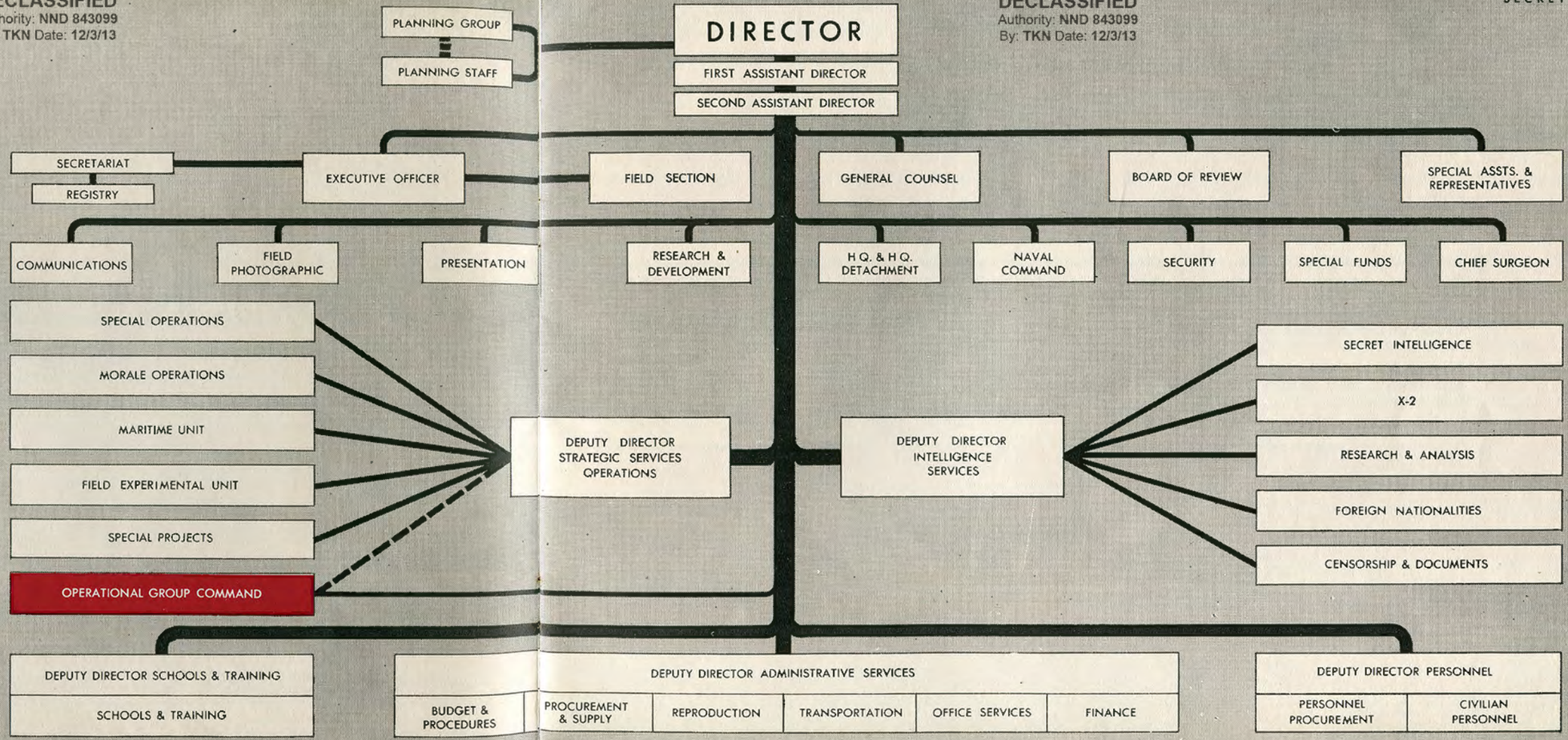
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

is an agency of the Joint Chiefs of Staff charged with collecting and analyzing strategic information and secret intelligence required for military operations, and with planning and executing programs of physical sabotage and morale subversion against the enemy to support military operations.

OPERATIONAL GROUP COMMAND

selects foreign-language speaking Army personnel and trains them to operate as military units in enemy or enemy-held territory. OGs organize resistance groups into effective guerrilla units, equip them with weapons and supplies, and lead them in attacks against enemy targets.

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OG OBJECTIVES AND TECHNIQUES

FUNCTIONS

Operational Groups have a dual function.

They serve as the operational nuclei of guerrilla organizations which have been formed from resistance groups in enemy territory.

They execute independent operations against enemy targets on orders of the theater commander.

METHODS

OG works with individuals unfamiliar with military operations as well as insufficiently-equipped quasi-military organizations. The former are organized and trained in military techniques of resistance. The latter are provided with supplies and their tactics are coordinated with allied military plans. Leadership is normally kept in the hands of the native people, though OG may select leaders and unify opposing groups.

AIMS

The aim of OG activity is to aid actual and planned Allied military operations by harassing the enemy behind his lines, by disrupting his lines of communication and supply, and by forcing him to divert troops to protect himself from guerrilla attacks and wide-scale uprisings.

The activities, mode of operation and personnel of OG differ from those of the Special Operations Branch. OG personnel activate guerrillas as military organizations to engage enemy forces. They always operate in uniform as military units and are not primarily concerned with individual acts of sabotage.

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OG RECRUITING AND TRAINING

RECRUITS

Because of the hazardous nature of the work, all OG officers and enlisted men are selected from Army volunteers. All recruits must meet the physical standards demanded for parachute jumping, preferably should have combat training, and must give evidence of stability and good judgment as well as daring. They should speak the language of the area and be acquainted with the territory in which they will operate.

TRAINING IN THE U.S.

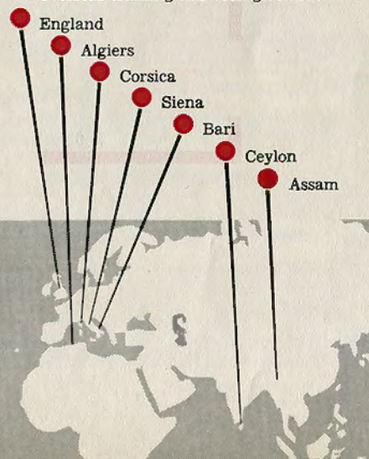
Six weeks' preliminary training is given in the United States on the following subjects:

- Map reading
- Scouting and patrolling
- Close combat — armed and unarmed
- Physical conditioning
- Fieldcraft and equipment protection
- Hygiene and first aid
- Military tactics
- Demolition
- Weapons — Allied and Axis
- Operation and repair of enemy vehicles
- Enemy espionage organizations
- Organization and training of civilians for guerrilla warfare
- Identification of aircraft and vehicles
- Security
- Logistics

TRAINING OVERSEAS

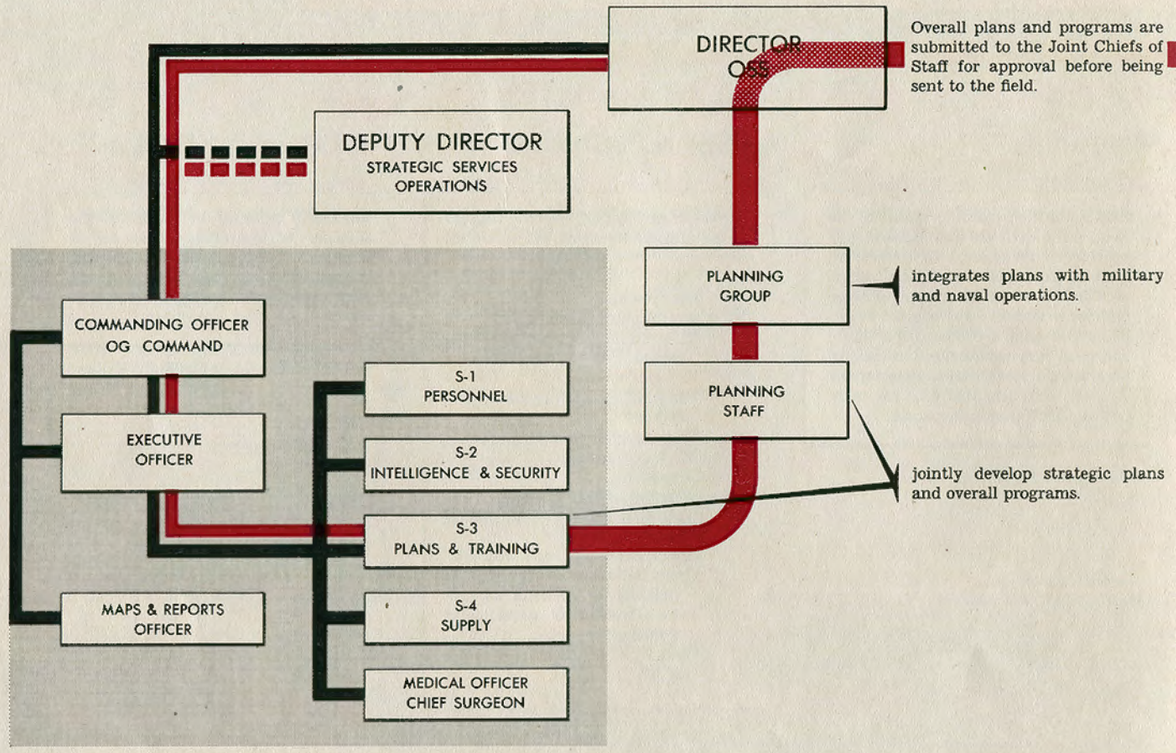
Advanced training is given in the theaters of operation. Personnel is oriented to the locale while rehearsing military tactics, parachute jumping, and amphibious operations, but does not undergo a set curriculum.

Overseas training has been given in:



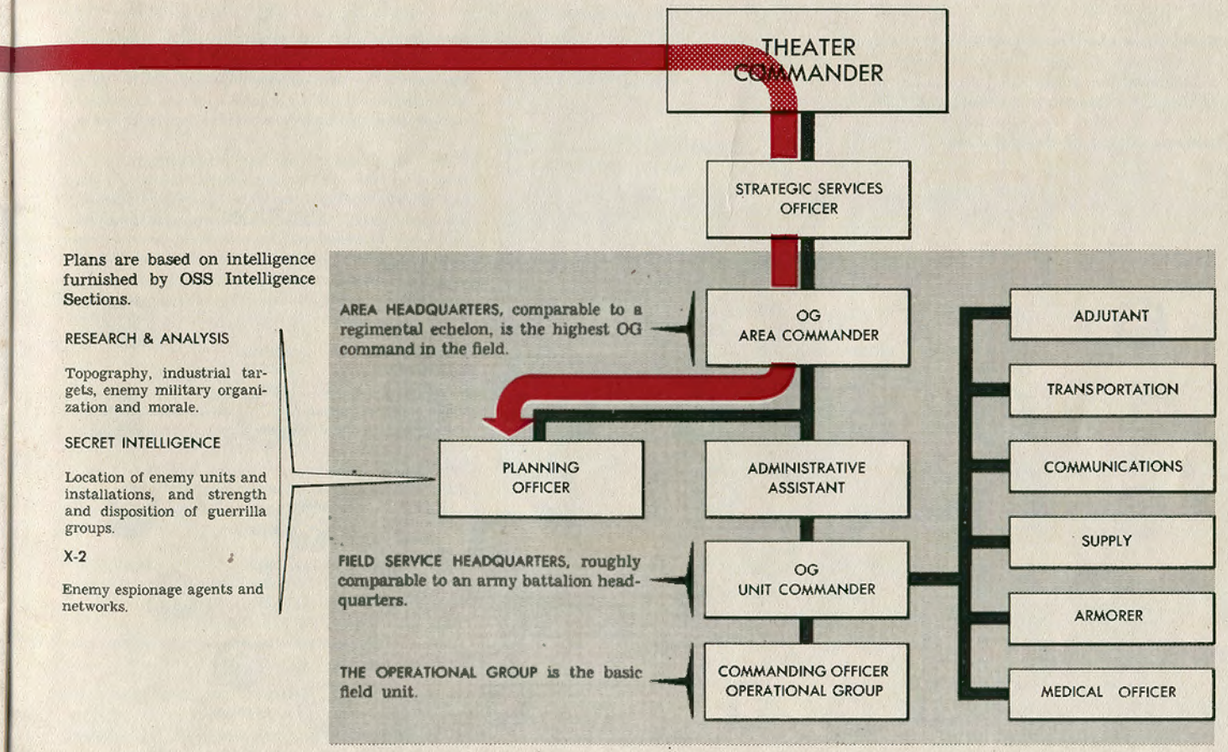
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OG HEADQUARTERS: STRATEGIC PLANNING



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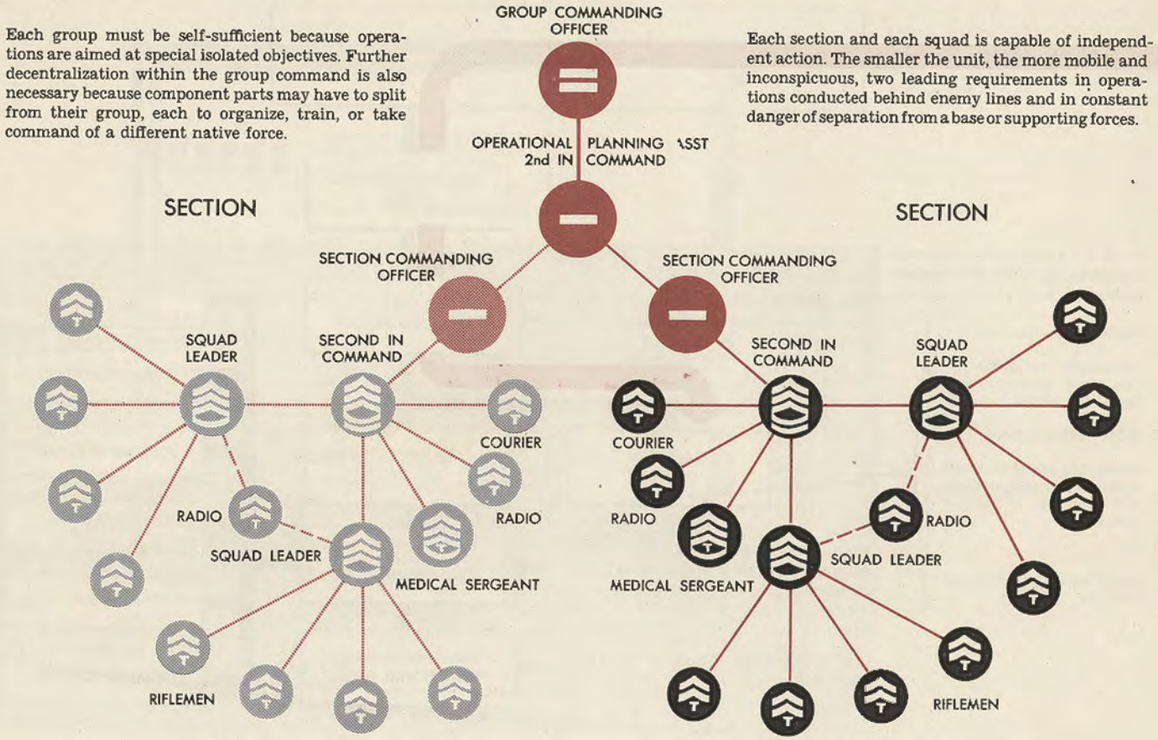
OG FIELD ORGANIZATION: TACTICAL PLANNING



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THE OPERATIONAL GROUP IS THE BASIC FIELD UNIT

Each group must be self-sufficient because operations are aimed at special isolated objectives. Further decentralization within the group command is also necessary because component parts may have to split from their group, each to organize, train, or take command of a different native force.



Each section and each squad is capable of independent action. The smaller the unit, the more mobile and inconspicuous, two leading requirements in operations conducted behind enemy lines and in constant danger of separation from a base or supporting forces.

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OG FIELD HEADQUARTERS AND OPERATIONS: ETO-MEDTO

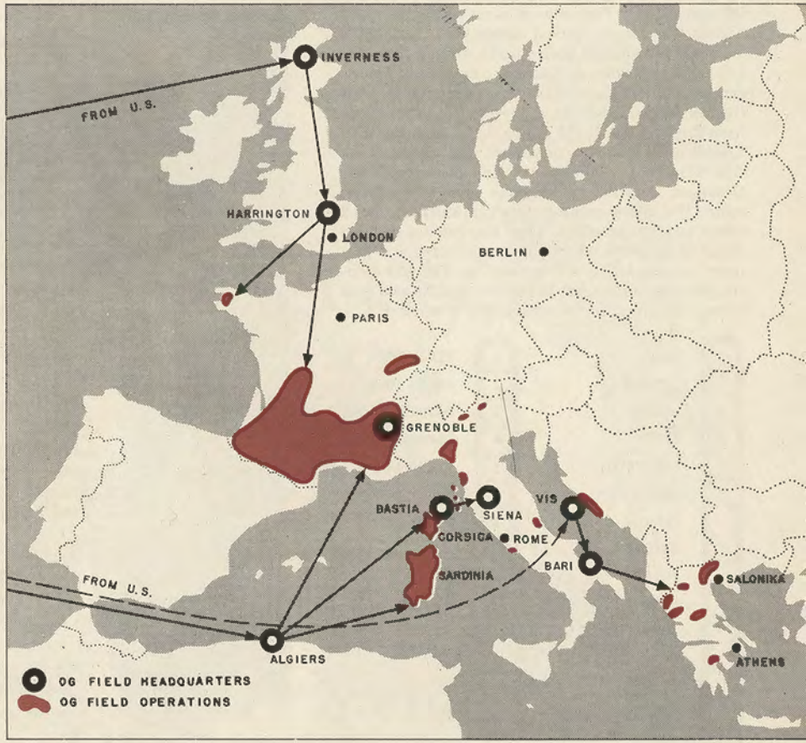
SEPTEMBER 1943
OCTOBER 1944

All OG operations in southern France were coordinated with Allied plans for the invasion. Their purpose was to destroy the enemy's lines of supply and communication and force him to divert troops for their protection, to protect the flanks of the Allied forces driving in from the beaches, and to report on enemy strength and movements. To this end OGs were introduced throughout the area, organizing or equipping guerrilla forces and guiding them in operations.

Operations in Italy have been conducted from OG headquarters on Corsica and bases in Italy. Independently and in collaboration with Italian Partisans and British and French forces, OGs have harassed the enemy by raids on military installations and lines of communication, as well as by occupying islands to establish observation posts.

Missions against the islands and mainland of Yugoslavia have been made from the OG base on Vis. With Partisan and British troops, OGs have engaged small German forces, ambushed a naval convoy by shore fire, and rescued many American aviators.

OGs have penetrated Greece by sea and air to cooperate with guerrilla forces in attacking German supply lines and destroying enemy headquarters.

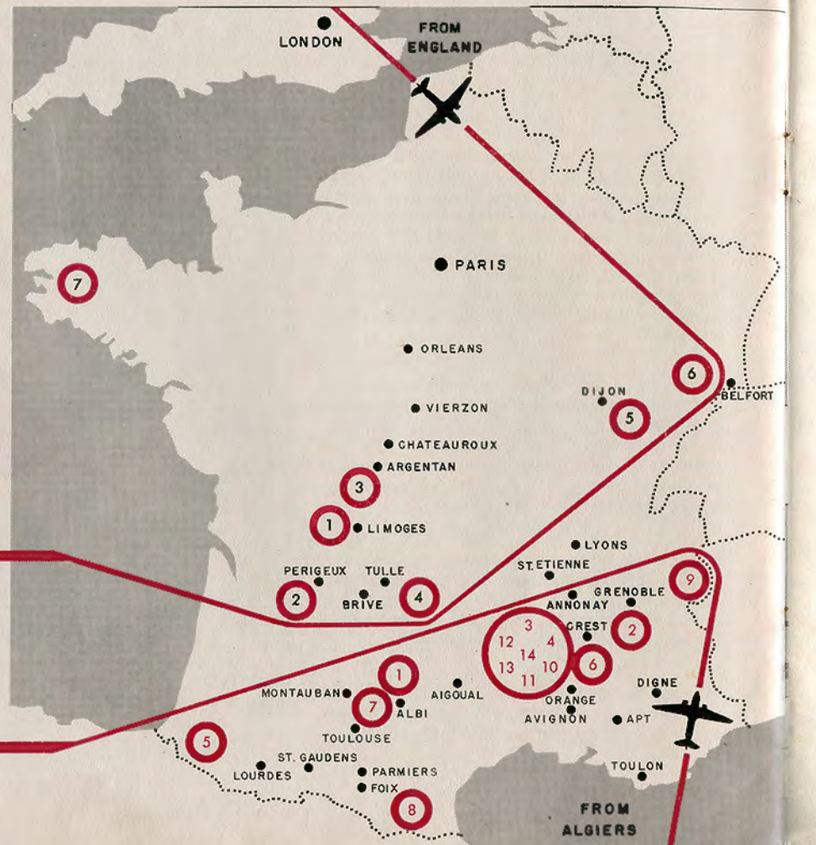


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OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN FRANCE, JANUARY 1944 – OCTOBER 1944

OG operations in France were based on England and Algiers. The former worked closely with the Maquis to harass and ambush enemy units, driving Germans from vital hydroelectric plants and protecting American lines of communication. The latter coordinated the resistance movement in support of the invasions from England and North Africa. In cooperation with Maquis units that they organized and trained, these OGs killed 461, wounded 467, and captured 10,021 Germans; demolished 11 power lines and cables; mined 17 roads; shot down 3 aircraft and destroyed 2 trains and 3 locomotives. They also rescued downed Allied fliers, gathered intelligence, selected and prepared landing strips, and assisted the FFI. For security purposes, each team in the field had its own code name used in communications and command.

	ETO	MEDTO
1	EMILY	PERCY RED
2	JUSTINE	PERCY PINK
3	LOUISE	PATRICK
4	BETSY	LINDSEY
12	LAFAYETTE	ADRIAN
13	WILLIAMS	CHRISTOPHER
14	LEHIGH	DONALD
10	SIMON	
11	HELEN	
5	RUTH	
6	ALICE	
7	PAT	
8	PEG	
9	NANCY	



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OG OPERATIONS IN NORTHERN ITALY, SEPTEMBER 1943 – OCTOBER 1944

1 OGs parachuted into Sardinia at the time of the German evacuation and operated throughout island.

2 Landed on Corsica, OGs fought with French troops through the entire campaign that drove Germans from the island. Established headquarters at Bastia.

3 OGs with British troops were landed by sea and dropped by air in the Chieti area to aid escaped American and British prisoners of war. They also killed Italian Fascist informers.

4 Occupied island of Capraia and established a permanent naval and air observation post with radio communication to headquarters on Corsica. Rescued downed American aviators.

5 Occupied island of Gorgona and established a permanent naval and air observation post with radio communication to headquarters on Corsica.

6 OGs landed with the Fifth Army in the invasion at Anzio and were used to gather intelligence.

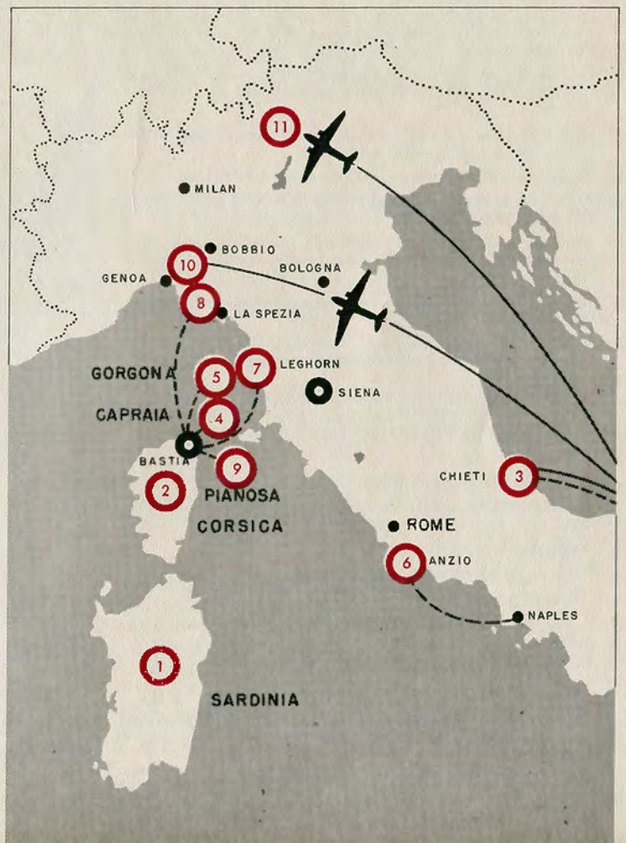
7 Damaged a highway bridge just south of Leghorn and withdrew successfully.

8 OGs landed by sea to demolish tunnel entrances and the road fill of a railroad. An enemy convoy forced the withdrawal of OG boats and attempts at rescue proved unsuccessful. Enemy radio later announced a Commando-type unit had been wiped out.

9 Landed with a French force on Pianosa, surrounded barracks and isolated the local prison to seize 24 Italian guards for intelligence purposes.

10 Personnel and supplies flown from Brindisi were dropped by parachute to aid Italian Partisans. OGs were attached to the Third Garibaldi Brigade which controls the road from Torriglian to Bobbio and the surrounding country.

11 Four small teams were dropped in northern Italy to assist local Partisans and to transmit intelligence.



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JANUARY 1944

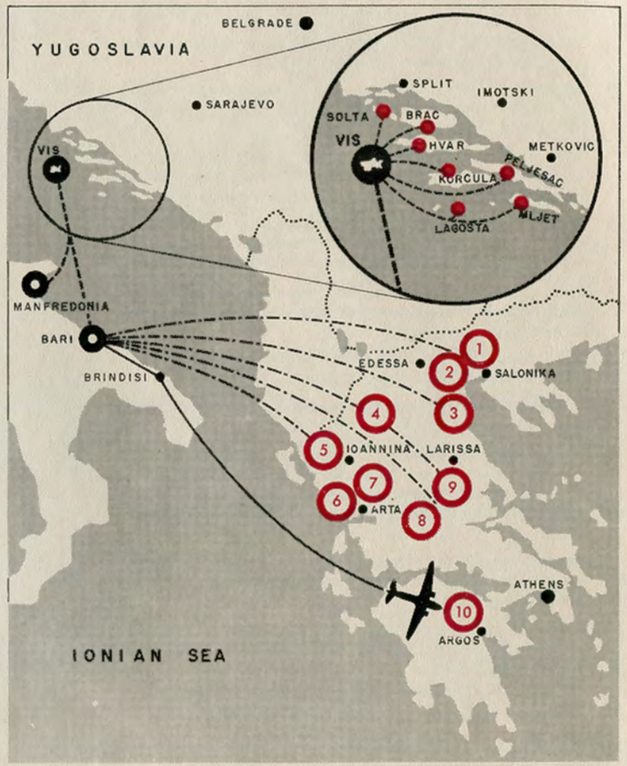
OG OPERATIONS IN YUGOSLAVIA AND GREECE, OCTOBER 1944

Operations against the islands and mainland of Yugoslavia were based on Vis, to which troops returned after each action. Missions included:

- Destruction of the entire German garrison on Solta and capture of the town of Grohote by OGs and British Commandos.
- Attack on Brac. OGs with British troops forced part of the enemy into an inner defense ring.
- Destruction of a German patrol on the island of Hvar.
- Attack on Korcula. OGs and Partisans cleared two-thirds of the island of Germans.
- From a cove on the Peljesac peninsnla, OG troops and a small British naval detachment shelled three passing German ships.
- Reconnaissance on Mljet, Lagosta, and the Yugoslav mainland.
- Rescue of American aviators. More than 1,000 fliers of the Fifteenth Air Force have been safely brought to Vis.

All action in Northern Greece was part of the NOAH's ARK operation which infiltrated by sea and air to aid the guerrilla Andartes in harassing German forces.

1 Infiltration.
2 Attacked German headquarters in Yannitsa.
3 Attacked a train, small arms fire causing many enemy casualties.
4 Ambushed a truck convoy.
5 Blew up railway track and attacked a repair train.
6 Attacked a small convoy.
7 Aided by Andartes and British, OGs shelled a train, and set it afire.
8 Destroyed eight vehicles of a large German convoy.
9 Derailed six boxcars and destroyed a locomotive.
10 OGs parachuted into the Peloponnesus and made contact with an Allied Mission. They destroyed two strategic railway bridges.



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