Ottawa GRU – Moscow Center Cables
Cables Decrypted by the National Security Administration’s Venona Project

Transcribed by Students of the Mercyhurst College Institute for Intelligence Studies

To the Director.

[75 groups unrecoverable, 3 groups unrecovered]

[C% men.][2 groups unrecoverable][C% began to fall sharply]. At the end of 1944 the construction of ships will be stopped.

2. On the Italian front the troops of the FOREST[LESNOJ][i] army consist of the 1st and 2nd Infantry Divisions.

3. [According to][a] GREEN's[GRIN][ii] data production of the Tank Buster [TANK BUSTER][b] is proceeding at the rate of [1 group unrecovered] a month and [1 group unrecovered] tanks over and above the plan for [2 groups unrecovered]. The grand total on 1 January 1944 [16 groups unrecoverable]

[C% A]1" are supposed to be delivered [1 group unrecovered] vehicles of which at the beginning of 1944 only [D% 178] had been delivered and sent overseas. The remaining [1 group unrecovered] will be delivered in January, 1944. Now being tested is an "Anti-aircraft" [sic![c] which will fit on the M3A1 and will have three guns (possibly Bofors) instead of six 3-pounder guns. Testing has been going on since summer last year.

4. ECONOMIST[EKONOMIST][iii] up to now has not obtained detailed data on the Buster for handing over to us.

No. 16

GRANT[iv]

Distribution [Continued overleaf]
To the Chief Director.

[1 group unrecovered] 1944 was[d] sent/you [8 groups unrecovered] [D% package] (books) there was [C% a note about the sending] [7 groups unrecovered], because it proved impossible to send the typewriter[c] with [D% the package], and together with the typewriter[e] the books will remain as well. (See our No.11).[f]

No. 17

GRANT

Notes: [a] Supplied by the translator.

[b] Or the Buster Tank. It is not clear whether this is meant to refer to a type of tank or an anti-tank weapon.

[c] In Latin letters.

[d] Or "were".

[e] Or "swing-machine".

[f] Not available.

Canadian; in a NEW YORK message LESOVSKIJ was used.

Comments:[i] Forest: Both are adjectives associated with the invented name LESOVIYa, meaning "Canada" formed from LES "forest, wood".

[ii] GREEN : 

[iii] ECONOMIST: Ivan I. KROTOV, Soviet Commercial Attache in OTTAWA.

(iv) GRANT : Colonel Nikolaj ZABOTIN, Soviet Military Attache in OTTAWA.
REPORT PREPARED BY ZABOTIN (1944)

From: OTTAWA
To: MOSCOW
No.: 51 25 Jan. 44

To EVSTIGNE[EV][i].

1. In reply to No. 194[a]. ZABOTIN[ii] is preparing a report and we shall send everything by the regular mail. I have made all orders for equipment on the basis [2 groups unrecovered] that my request will be allowed for in the fourth quarter. We shall send a detailed explanation by the regular mail.

2. On [1 group unrecovered][b] you were sent a package [3 groups unrecovered].

[6 groups unrecoverable][c]

Notes
[a] Not available.
[b] This group represent a date in January.
[c] The internal serial number and signature would be in this stretch of unrecoverable text.

Comments: [i] EVSTIGNEEV: Maj. Gen. V.N. EVSTIGNEEV, Head of Foreign Relations Department [OVS].
[ii] ZABOTIN: Col. Nikolaj I. ZABOTIN, Soviet Military Attache in OTTAWA.

DISTRIBUTION:
From: OTTAWA
To: MOSCOW
No: 52 25 Jan 44

To the DIRECTOR

Reference your No. 512[a].

1. The session of Parliament will

[96 groups unrecovered],

who[b] were [B% selected] by us.

[1 group unrecovered]
[30 groups unrecoverable]

The most expedient will be [1 group unrecovered] proposal. Please [1 group unrecovered].

No. 19 GRANT[i]

To the DIRECTOR.

1. [1 group unrecovered] Red Army [1 group unrecovered][mentions][c] the work of DAVIE [DEVI][ii], LEON[LION] [iii] and MARTIN[iv]. I consider that DAVIE and LEON have done a great deal for the country and the Red Army and that therefore the first two ought to be recommended for a government award, while MARTIN [4 groups unrecovered].

2. Please [2 groups unrecovered] promote[c] DAVIE.

No. 20 GRANT.

Distribution [Continued overleaf]
To LANOV\[v\].

1. In our No.18[d] I transmitted the figure text of another party’s cipher telegram. To ensure there is no difficulty [3 groups unrecovered] 18, here are the first and last groups of the figure text: 74389 and 48817. The figure text begins with the hundredth group of telegram No. 18.

2. [2 groups unrecovered] [C% telegrams] [3 groups unrecovered] pad 1471, although in [3 groups unrecovered] pad 68**[e]. In order to keep the sequence after using pad 1471 please [1 group unrecovered] to pad 68**[e].

No. 21

CLARK[vi]

Textual notes:
[a] Not available.
[b] or “which”
[c] The tense of the verb is uncertain.
[e] This is the same four digit number in both occurrences. The last 2 digits are unidentified.

Comments:
[i] GRANT: Colonel Nikolaj I. ZABOTIN, Soviet Military Attaché, OTTAWA.
[ii] DAVIE: V.S. SOKOLOV of the Commercial Section, Soviet Embassy, OTTAWA. He is reported to have been a Captain in 1943 and an Engineer Major in 1944.
[iii] LEON: Sergei N. KUDRYaVTseV, 1st Secretary of the Soviet Embassy, OTTAWA.
[iv] MARTIN: ZhEVEJNOV, TASS correspondent, OTTAWA.
[v] LANOV: Col. BALTEHKO, Director of the Special Communications Division of the GRU, MOSCOW.
[vi] CLARK: Igor GOUZENKO, GRU code clerk at the Soviet Embassy in OTTAWA.
From:  OTTAWA
To:    MOSCOW
No:    53                                     25 Jan 44

To the DIRECTOR.

Herewith the cipher text of a telegram which was addressed to the Polish
[1 group unrecovered][a] in OTTAWA, but which came to us by mistake. It is
possible that in the [C% appropriate] department [2 groups unrecovered] cipher
[5 groups unrecovered].

[8 groups unrecovered]

MOA [1 group unrecovered] [C% 8] CABLE XCI MO LONDON POLGOVT LONDON 136.
[2 groups unrecovered]. [3 groups unrecovered] the text in order to be
[C% quite sure] here are the first two groups: 74389 and 13376.

The cipher text of the telegram follows, consisting of 134 five-
digit groups]
No. 18 GRANT[i]

Note:  [a] Possibly corrupt for "Military Mission".

Comment: [i] GRANT: Colonel Nikolaj I. ZABOTIN, Soviet Military Attache in
OTTAWA.

Distribution
From: OTTAWA
To: MOSCOW
No: 62 29 Jan. 44 M699

To: The CHIEF DIRECTOR.

Reference your No. 157.

1. I did not start[a] the [B% discussion] about the trip to VANCOUVER. Rear-Admiral JONES[DHJONS], Chief of the Naval Staff, suggested to me [C% at a luncheon] that I should go to VANCOUVER [1 group unrecovered], where I [1 group unrecovered] with a [C% courier].

2. On [1 group unrecovered] journey I plan to travel [via][b]:
   (a) WINNIPEG - training centres for infantry, artillery and parachute troops.
   (b) KINGSTON: the largest officer training centre[,] the OTTAWA area - the air training centres - for ROGOV's[i] trip.

3. [1 group unrecovered] the General Staff invited us to inspect an aluminium combine. I decided not to refuse since this is a trip which does not involve work [EKSUKSIONNYAYa POEZDKA]. Latterly we have not [C% strictly]

   . EVSTIGNEEV[ii] intends to arrange for LEFEVBRE [LEFEB] to visit the front and I was asked what I thought about this. If a trip like this were granted him, we could get greater opportunities [C% for trips]. I consider that it is [B% perhaps] not worth turning down VANCOUVER just because we do not study the West, and the trip is proposed for April-May.

No. 23 GRANT[iv]

Distribution [Notes and Comments overleaf]
Notes:  
[a] Or: 'It wasn't I who started the ...'
[b] Inserted by translator.
[c] Possibly a date in January.
[d] Possibly: 'refuse'.
[e] The next words could be 'the front'.

Comments:  
[i] ROGOV: Maj. V. M. ROGOV, Soviet Assistant Military Attache for Air in OTTAWA.

[ii] EVSTIGNEEV: Brig. Gen. V. N. EVSTIGNEEV was head of Foreign Affairs Section of the People's Commissariat for Defence 1941-45.

[iii] LEFEBVRE: Probably Brigadier H. LEFEBVRE, Canadian Army, who was seconded to the Dept. of External Affairs 31st March, 1943.

An intelligence summary of the Department of National Defense announces the return of the troops of the FOREST[LESNOJ][i] Army who took part in the capture of KISKA Island. Most [a] of the soldiers [C% recently went on] a long spell of leave. After returning from leave, they will be dispersed to garrisons in LESOVIA[LESOVIYa][ii] and some of them will be sent overseas.

The force consisted of:

- An infantry regiment, called LE REGIMENT DE HULL ([C% a contingent]).
- A ranger [LESNIChIJ] unit - The ROCKY MOUNTAIN RANGERS.
- A company of the ST. JOHN FUSILIERS, NOVA SCOTIA.
- 24th Field Artillery Regiment.
- 46th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery.
- 24th Field Engineer Company.
- [1 group unrecovered][b] Field [1 word unrecovered].
- A medical unit and also attached artillery and administrative sub-units, military police and a postal section.

All the units were formed from conscripts. The officer commanding the force -- Brigadier FOSTER. Only American troops will remain on KISKA. Details about the composition of the force of KISKA were released to the Press by mistake.

To EVSTIGNEEV.[iv]

1. On [1 group unrecovered][c] I introduced ROGOV[v] to the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal LECKIE[LEKRI].

2. The Director of Intelligence, Air Staff, Group Captain (equivalent to colonel) STEWART[STIVART]

[51 groups unrecoverable]
could not do [D% in OTTAWA]. [D% Please send] artillery, air and combined-unit [D% shoulder straps] by the next pouch.

No. 25                                               ZABOTIN

Notes:  [a]  Or:  many.
         [b]  Certainly an ordinal number, but possibly garbled.
         [c]  Probably a date.

Comments:  [i]  FOREST:  Canadian
         [ii]  LESOVIA:  CANADA
                 in OTTAWA.
         [iv]  EVSTIGNEEV:  Brig. Gen. V.N. EVSTIGNEEV, Head of Foreign
                 Affairs Section of People's Commissariat for Defense, 1941-45.
         [v]  ROGOV:  Maj. V.M. ROGOV, Soviet Assistant Military Attache
                 for Air in OTTAWA.

29 July, 1968
1. Two regiments of the FOREST[LESNOJ][i] Army, called the PERTH REGIMENT and the CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDERS, have arrived on the Italian front in the region of the river ARIELLI. The regiments belong to the 11th Infantry Brigade of the 5th Armoured Division. The regiments [B% saw action] for the first time [C%17-18 January].

2. On [C% 29 January] it was announced by the Minister of National Defence, RALSTON[ROLSTON], that Major-General SIMONDS[SIMENDS] had been appointed to command a corps with the rank of lieutenant-general. Brigadier POULKE[SFUKS] has been appointed to command a division with the rank of major-general. Lieutenant-Colonel CURRIE[KARRI] has been appointed to command an infantry brigade with the rank of brigadier. According to information in the Press, SIMONDS has been appointed to command the corps in ITALY, while Major-General CRERAR[GRIRAR] has taken over command of the 1st Army in ENGLAND from Lieutenant-General McNAUGHTON[MAKNAUTON]. (C% This information is being checked).

3. The population of the island of NEWFOUNDLAND is 280,000. [4 groups unrecovered], half of whom are serving in the British Navy and the FOREST Army

[25 groups unrecoverable]

[38 groups unrecoverable]

[42 groups unrecoverable]

[25 groups unrecoverable]

Comments:  
[i] FOREST: Canadian


[iii] LANOV: Col. BALDIENKO, Director of the Special Communications Division of the GRU.

28 March 1968