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HEADQUARTERS  
Office of Strategic Services  
India Burma Theater  
APO 432

16 June 1945

SUBJECT: R&A/SEAC Outpost Letter #44

TO: Director, Office of Strategic Services, Washington  
Attention: All Staff members of the Far East Division/  
R&A/ Washington

This is a letter which we hope all of you will have a chance to see. We are mimeographing it and sending you 20 copies to make sure it will go the rounds. Lt. Cmdr. Taylor's report, Neal Bowers' letter, and Dillon Ripley's comments are unanimous in their astonishment that you know so little about this outpost. We feel chagrined at the situation because we expend what seems to us a great deal of time trying to tell you about ourselves and at the same time carry more work than can be reasonably expected of even our hard working staff.

Do you see our Outpost Letters regularly? Do they tell you what you want to know? How many persons have access regularly to the monthly reports of the IBT Detachments? They are brief by instruction from the Chief of Mission, but we do manage to list work completed and in progress. As a recapitulation of sorts, we are appending the Kandy output to date. It should give you some idea of the range and variety of our responsibilities and production. It also shows shifts in the direction of work over the last year.

In addition to the "K" Reports and memoranda put out by Kandy, there is a comparable "D" series from New Delhi. Do you all know about the "ZB" reports from Bhamo which have been largely the product of the R&A group there? In recent months there has been an appreciable increase in the volume, and in the type of subjects handled. The "ZA" reports from 101/Arakan Field Unit are also in considerable part the product of the R&A group which was in the Arakan attached to the XV<sup>th</sup> Corps. This group has also produced a few APO Reports and memoranda. We expect more of them as the Rangoon situation settles down to its stride.

The "Z" and "ZB" reports deal of course primarily with Burma. There are however also "ZM" reports from Kandy in which R&A has a finger. These are mostly on Thailand, but there is also a sprinkling from the rest of the Southeast Asia area.

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We assume you know that the "Z" reports represent operationally procured data. That means that endlessly detailed planning (in which R&A participates) and men's lives have gone into procuring this information for you.

Are you all aware that biographical material has started to flow in your direction from IBT due to Mrs. Hastings' good offices. Have you tried to follow up on the very fine collection of books, newspapers and magazines on India which Major Nordbeck and his IDC staff have been sending back to Washington? Do you see either the originals or the microfilm of captured documents we have been sending home?

Were the Series of Joint Studies we suggested for Outpost and Washington collaboration of any use? Mr. Martin wrote appreciatively on the subject but said you were all so engrossed in J&AIB and CAD work that collaboration was not feasible at present. Have you, however, had ideas from it for the excellent Situation Reports you prepare? Are you all seeing the Delhi memoranda which Lt. Deak makes for your needs from POW interrogations?

We have been asking you questions about just how much of our production you see in the Home Office. It is perhaps our turn now to give you some brief descriptive excursions. Perhaps the composition of our staff may interest you. We have the following:

	New Delhi (303)	Kandy (404)	AFU (Rangoon) (101)	
Analysts	6	11	3	
Administrative	-	1	-	
Air Intelligence	-	2	-	
Map Division	3	3	1	
IDC	5	-	-	
CID	1	3	-	
Secretaries	5	4	1	
	<u>20</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>5</u>	Total 49

Bhamo/101 is omitted because it was ours only briefly - from February until now. The unit is being shipped to the China Theatre. We never really had time to know, or amalgamate with, that group.

Since we are on the subject of staff, it may interest you to know that 25 percent of the people now with us were recruited locally rather than sent us from Washington. Our staff losses are the Bhamo group, Major Stark who will go to China, Lt. Calhoun and Sgt. Doss, who are to go on operations which cannot be considered of the R&A variety, and of course the four recalled by you. With the loss of Doss, all R&A participation in Battle Order work is at an end.

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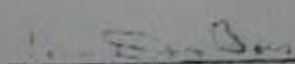
Since we are launched on statistics, you may want to know that an average of about 400 "five by eight" cards have gone out to you monthly for about eight months. In the last four months we have sent you from Kandy alone 69 pouches representing 670 items. This does not include pictures or the Biographical Records cards.

You may be interested in knowing who some of our local customers and colleagues are. The intelligence and operational needs of the OSS/IBT Mission itself is only a fraction of our work. Many S&A intelligence and operational Agencies work closely with us. Within the Supreme Allied Command, South East Asia (SACSEA) we have worked closely with P Division, the Director of Intelligence, E Group, PW Division, etc. In Delhi we are closely affiliated with the Combined Photo Interpretation Center (CPIC), with SEATIC and with the American mission. We have done a considerable amount of work for the air arms - Eastern Air Command, IX Bomber Command, and 10th weather. Immediate and valuable tactical service has been given by our R&A staff to the Northern Combat Area Command, to the XVth Corps and to the XIVth Army. IBTD/S&A and our staff collaborate closely to our mutual advantage.

We haven't begun to exhaust the list and it is frankly a random one. But the subject must be beginning to bore you.

Needless to say we consider the Home Office one of our important obligations. Unfortunately your program is so centered on China, Japan and the Pacific that you seem to have little staff or energy to spare for Southern Asia. This is perhaps natural in view of overall American war strategy. But sometimes we wonder just how long range your long range is? Southern Asia contains almost a quarter of the world's population and an extremely dynamic quarter at that. We can't expect the China - Japan wallas to be excited about our area. We should appreciate, however, an effort to understand and follow our situation.

For the CHIEF:

  
CORR DU BOIS  
Chief, R&A/IBT

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