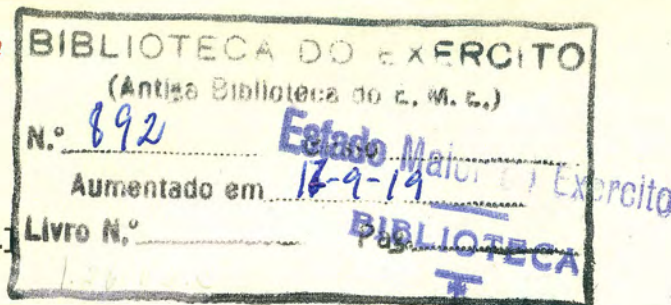


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## TRANSLATION OF A GERMAN DOCUMENT.

C.G.S. OF THE FIELD ARMY.  
Ia No. 8626 Secret op.

G.H.Q.  
10.6.18.

### INFORMATION GIVEN BY GERMAN PRISONERS.

From a captured document, issued by the II. French Corps and dated the 26th May, it has become known that two German soldiers belonging to the 7th Jäger Regt. (197th Div.), who were captured north of the Chemin des Dames during the night of the 25th/26th May, betrayed to the enemy the fact that we were about to make an attack. Apparently they told all they knew of the preparatory measures taken in their own sector and in the sectors on their flanks. By these means the enemy succeeded in ascertaining valuable details in regard to the time and method of our attack, the artillery preparation, the units engaged, and so forth.

Another document, dated the 26th May, shows that the enemy, in anticipation of our attack, gave the gas alarm, and that he brought into position on the high ground between the Aisne and the Vesle the reserves which he had at his disposal at this part of the front (the 13th French Div.). It is true that this division was defeated and overrun, but the resistance it offered none the less cost the lives and health of a large number of German soldiers.

But for the treachery of these two prisoners, the attack of the 27th May would have been a complete surprise, and might have resulted in a victory even greater than was actually achieved.

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We have ascertained further that, in the case of our attack on the 9th June, the enemy was forewarned by prisoners' statements and was prepared for it solely owing to these statements.

It is not known whether the prisoners made their statements voluntarily, or under the pressure of forcible measures. It has been proved, however, that our enemies do not shrink from employing such measures to the most extreme degree, and it is remarkable how exact and detailed the information is which they obtain from German prisoners.

I must request that orders be issued to the effect that the disgraceful nature and harmful consequences of such behaviour are again and again to be explained to troops in the field and in the depôts. Further, periodicals issued by the Armies are to publish this order in full and print articles of similar purport.

Most of those who are unlucky enough to be captured (as distinguished from deserters) probably have no idea of the extent to which their statements, even about trifles, imperil not only the lives of their comrades but even the success of our attacks and raids. The dishonourable conduct of a few may react very seriously on our chances of victory and thus do the gravest injury to the country as a whole.

The soldier who refuses to speak does honour to himself, has a clear conscience before himself, his Commander-in-Chief and his Country, and in the end gains the respect even of the enemy.

(Signed) LUDENDORFF.

GENERAL STAFF (INTELLIGENCE),  
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS.

12th August, 1918.

Issued down to Brigades.