THE TECHNICAL SECTION OF THE NAVAL INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

ΒY

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When an officer is appointed to the Naval Intelligence Division, his friends in their imagination, tend to see him undergo some subtle metamorphosis. To their eyes he starts to sprout a small, black, pointed beard, some unseen hand places around his shoulders the metaphorical black cloak and into his grasp the indispensable dagger. His voice sounds clipped and his conversation seems enigmatic. He disappears for two years or so, during which time they think of him, if not exactly crawling under barbed wire entanglements outside Moscow in the dead of night, cracking innumerable codes, or in the arms of Olga Palovski's female descendants, at least on a nodding acquaintance with those who do these things. When, finally, he is dragged away to be placed in a slightly more prosaic appointment, they expect him either to be promoted immediately or relegated for ever to outer darkness, depending probably on the particular individual's personal reaction to Q.I.R.

Happily or unhappily, there is, of course, hardly a grain of truth in all this. It is true that office doors are fitted with Yale locks and that, after a time, guarding one's conversation becomes almost second nature, but apart from that, many officers in N.I.D. and indeed all the technical staff, lead a very average office-bound Admiralty life, the greater part of which is spent in paper work.

The Naval Intelligence Division forms part of the Naval Staff and exists mainly for the purpose of collating and evaluating raw information fed to it on foreign naval matters, and on matters which might affect the Navy, and then issuing considered reports and briefs, and lecturing to those who require to have the knowledge. The Director of Naval Intelligence works in close conjunction with the Director of Military Intelligence and the Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Intelligence) and they, together with members of the Joint Intelligence Bureau, the Director of Scientific Intelligence, the Foreign Office, and others, form the Joint Intelligence Committee, whose job it is to brief the Chiefs of Staff. Each Service Intelligence Director is of course responsible for keeping his own Service staff fully briefed on intelligence matters appertaining to that particular Service.

Each of the Service Intelligence agencies has within it a Technical Section, and the Heads of these sections, in conjunction with members of the Directorate of Scientific Intelligence, form the Joint Technical Intelligence Committee who brief the Joint Intelligence Committee on technical matters. It follows that a very close liaison between the various agencies is necessary and, so far as the technical sections are concerned, this is certainly achieved at all fevels, a contributory factor in this case being that a number of the officers concerned are situated in one building outside the confines of their Service Ministries. On the technical side, also, there are various inter-Service Working Parties whose duty it is to cover certain specialized fields of intelligence.

The sizes of the Service technical sections vary. The R.A.F. has the largest (D.D.I.Tech), then the Army (M.I.10), and finally the Navy (N.I.D.6). The Head of the latter is the Assistant Director of Naval Intelligence (Technical) a Captain (E), and working under him, on a world wide basis, are:—

- 1 Commander (E), Deputy Head of the section, and responsible for Marine Engineering and Shipbuilding.
- 1 ,, (TAS) responsible for A/S and underwater weapons.
- 1 ,, (E) O/E responsible for gunnery and guided weapons.
- 1 Commander (Retd) responsible for all technical security matters.

In addition, affiliated to the technical section are the Technical Attachés: Commanders (E), one in Rome, one in Paris, one in Stockholm (O/E), and one Lieutenant-Commander (E), technical assistant to the Chief Staff Officer (Intelligence), Germany, their duty being to forward overt reports on matters of technical interest in the countries to which they are accredited. A.N.A. (T) Rome covers Italy, Switzerland and Czecho-slovakia, A.N.A. (T) Paris covers France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Spain, and A.N.A. (T) Stockholm covers Sweden, Denmark and Norway.

Various publications are issued by the Naval Intelligence Division; those with which the technical section are associated are as follows:—

- (a) C.Bs 01815 and 03187.
- (b) General Circulation Reports (G.C. Reports)—These are comprehensive reports on particular subjects for Admiralty departments only.
- (c) Supplementary Naval Intelligence Papers (S.N.I.Ps)— These are versions of the above and are issued to Cs-in-C and certain other authorities. These papers are available to sea-going personnel.
- (d) Technical Intelligence Notes (T.I.Ns)—These take the form of short notes on current intelligence and are issued approximately weekly to Admiralty departments concerned. Material in these reports is included in the Naval Intelligence Division Weekly Notes and the Quarterly Intelligence Report, the latter being a publication issued to the Fleet.
- (e) Technical Intelligence Guides (T.I.Gs)—These are issued for the use of collecting agencies only, and are really nothing more than simple guides to various technical subjects.

To conclude this short article, it cannot be too strongly emphasized that liaison between N.I.D. (Technical Section), and indeed the whole of the Naval Intelligence Division, and the Navy as a whole, must be close. Yet in some respects the fallacy conveyed by the first paragraph of this article is all too frequently believed. It goes without saying that there must be a mutual bond of understanding between those who are planning and using our technical equipment and those who are trying to find out and estimate what the other chaps in the same line of business are doing. Those in the Naval Intelligence Division like to think that they are doing something useful, and they are not by any means unapproachable.