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OSS Form #001

OSS SECRETARIAT - ROUTE SLIP

Date

To: Mr. Cheston

*Hand in way
also work
W.J.D.*

*Take this up
with Col. Robinson*

30 April 1945

*Office has
Section*

Director's Office

C.S.C.

OSS Form #001
(1908)

To	Name	Initials
	O. C. Doering, Jr.	
	C. A. Rane	
	J. B. Donovan	
	D. C. Lee	
	G. S. Platt	
	P. F. Pugliese	
	E. J. Putzell, Jr.	
✓	A. W. Sulloway	
	R. Thrun	
	Files	

(23695)

*This is to be filed. I think
whether merit this report
and was hidden by Hunt's
lack of consciousness and
consequently it was probably
a mistake to use it in the
file*

SECRET

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
Schools and Training Branch
2324 F Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

23 April 1945

SUBJECT: Report of Lt. Hunt on West Coast Training

TO: The Director, OSS.

1. The report of Lt. E. H. Hunt, Jr., AC, of the Secretariat, on the west coast training has been analyzed and the statements made therein thoroughly investigated.

2. The report will be discussed by paragraphs:

A. (1) The complaint of lack of coordination in arrivals at the west coast cannot be laid at the door of Schools & Training. Branches are notified when and where personnel must report and arrangements for transportation are made by them.

(2) & (3) At the time of Lt. Hunt's arrival at the west coast, there was a certain amount of confusion. This has now been corrected and clothing is issued to students on Friday night if they arrive in time for this to be done.

(4) & (5) The situation referred to in these two paragraphs is a difficult one. With the boat crews presently available, it is not possible to run a boat on Sundays. It may be possible to send departing students to the mainland on Saturday afternoons after they complete their course. This would necessitate getting rooms for them for Saturday night in Los Angeles, which is complicated by the fact that the Los Angeles office closes at three o'clock on Saturday afternoons. It is desirable that new students arrive at the island on Saturdays in order to get oriented over the week-end and be ready to start training on Monday morning. The crowded conditions over the week-end referred to by Lt. Hunt were not due to the fact that departing students do not leave until Monday, as the turnover is not great enough; the crowding is caused by the fact that the school is running at full capacity and because shortage of station complement personnel makes the allocation of quarters to new arrivals difficult. A hotel locator system has now been instituted which has to some extent remedied the situation.

B. (1) Lt. Hunt's suggestion that the basic course could be cut by several days gives no specific recommendations. An examination of the schedule of the course shows that the training is as concentrated as possible. We prefer to accept the judgment of the training officers of the various branches on this point rather than a general statement by one junior officer of a non-operational branch.

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(2) It is not felt that the school was unprepared to receive and handle Lt. Hunt's class. It had previously handled a class of 37 in a satisfactory manner and no complaints were received on this score from any other member of his class.

(3) It is true that on two occasions instructors failed to meet their classes because of a mix-up caused by splitting the class into two sections. Steps have been taken to prevent a repetition of this occurrence.

(4) On checking with another member of the same class, it was ascertained that no classes were dismissed after ten minutes. The shortest period given was about 45 minutes.

(5) It is not clear just what Lt. Hunt means by this paragraph. He complains that training films broke up leisure time in the evening and then says that because of this many students wanted evening classes. In any event, because of the concentrated schedule, the evening hours after the showing of the films must be used for study, not leisure.

(6) Physical training is now given regularly every day.

(7) The cipher course has been much improved by the advent of two new instructors. Organization takes only four hours out of one hundred and four, and is at best a dry though necessary subject.

(8) & (9) It is necessary to have both officers and enlisted men in the same class and it is obviously impossible to design a course to meet all intellectual levels. Every effort has been made to strike a happy medium that will do the greatest good to the greatest number. We feel it only fair to the school to say that Lt. Hunt has demonstrated himself to be very rank conscious in these and other comments in his report. It should also be noted that in this class there were a number of Jedburghs (both officers and men) who had lived together at school and in the field for many months. Naturally there was a camaraderie among officers and men, which apparently Lt. Hunt could not understand. It has also been reported that he was subjected to a good deal of "kidding" by the S.O. and S.I. members of the class because he was non-operational. His complaints about the conduct of officers and men and his objection to associating with enlisted men doubtless spring from these sources.

C. (1) It is admitted that the recreational facilities are limited but there is not much time for recreation and what facilities there are are used to the best advantage. Schools & Training feels that we were very fortunate in being able to establish (after long negotiations) a branch of the Army Motion Picture Service at WA. This service is normally available only in large camps where attendance can be measured in thousands. The fact that this service is only available three nights per week is due to AAPS policy and not to any arrangement on our part.

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The PX can hardly be called such. Every effort has been made to obtain a regular branch Post Exchange on the island but so far without success. The result is that a small store is maintained of whatever necessities can be purchased in the market.

There are ample reading facilities for all personnel with a sufficient supply of newspapers and magazines.

(2) The situation with reference to the condition of the barracks has been remedied by daily inspections. Offenders are required to climb the mountain in off hours.


(3) This paragraph again reflects Lt. Hunt's rank consciousness, his lack of understanding of the relationship of officers and men who have been on operations together, and his discomfort at the "kidding" he received.

(4) It is the policy of the school that there be no saluting within the area. The area is small and too crowded for any benefit to accrue from the continuous arm waving which would be necessary if saluting were required.

(5) This complaint is definitely just. Steps have been taken to insure the privacy of mail in the future.

3. In conclusion I wish to state that the Schools & Training Branch welcomes any constructive criticism and regularly receives reports from other branches prepared by their students. We then sit down with the branch representatives and endeavor to iron out difficulties and improve courses and conditions at the school in line with constructive suggestions.

4. I would like to suggest that in the case of any future reports, Mr. Sulloway take them up first with the Schools and Training Branch as is the custom of the other branches.



H. L. ROBINSON
Colonel, FA
Chief, Schools and Training

1 Incl. (Lt. Hunt's Rpt)
cc: Lt. Col. P. K. Allen

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To Col. Robinson
Will you let me know
what you propose doing
to remedy the attached
D.

to: COLONEL ROBINSON

Will you let me know
what you propose doing to
remedy the attached.

W. J. D.

Director's Office

OSS Form 305a
(3308)

SECRET

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : General Donovan
FROM : Secretariat
SUBJECT: Report on West Coast Training Center

DATE: 3 April 1945

16.589
People's Coast Learning
X Hunt, reviewed

I think you may be interested in the attached report on the West Coast training center which was prepared by Lt. Howard Hunt, one of our Secretariat men who will leave shortly for China where he will act as Reports Officer.

This report was written on his own initiative and contains his observations based upon the two-week course which he recently took at Santa Catalina.

It is suggested if you approve that the report should be forwarded to Colonel Robinson after you have had an opportunity to read it.

CORRECTION

Written at request
of Lt. Bone

A. W. Sulloway
A. W. Sulloway

Ans.
7/25/45

Attachment

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SECRET**Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**

TO : Chief, Secretariat

DATE: 30 March 1945

FROM : Lt. E. H. Hunt, Jr., A.C.

SUBJECT: West Coast Training Center

1. The memorandum covers transportation to and from the WCTC, the curriculum at Santa Catalina (Detachment WA), and general comments concerning the Detachment.

A. Transportation

1) There seems to be a lack of coordination concerning the arrival and departure of officers and EM at Los Angeles, Newport Beach, and WA. Navy enlisted men (5 in number) were flown to Los Angeles from Washington while the majority of Army and Navy officers made the trip by slow train (Monday-Friday). NOT
L.T.

2) Upon arrival in Los Angeles on Friday, it is SOP to travel in the early afternoon by Army truck to Newport Beach, where arriving students are barracked in standard EM quarters without regard to rank.

3) Clothes and equipment are issued Saturday morning from 0700 until departure of the boat at approximately 0900, causing crowding and confusion at a difficult time. Friday evening would perhaps be a better period for such issue.

4) Although classes are not scheduled to begin until Monday, student groups spend the weekend on Catalina under crowded conditions, because previous student groups do not leave until Monday. This situation is brought about by absence of boat transportation to and from the island on Sunday.

5) Upon return to the mainland Monday afternoons, (although academics end on Saturdays) it is necessary to spend an additional 24 hours in Los Angeles waiting for scheduled train departures Tuesdays. By scheduling a boat on Sundays, an estimated 6 days of student time might be saved the government.

B. Curriculum

1) Based on my experience with the "14 day" basic course, it appears that a re-examination of the student schedule, aimed at a more concentrated schooling and a decrease in the overlapping nature of subjects taught, could cut the basic period by several days.

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2) The Detachment (WA) was totally unprepared to handle my particular class (#26) which numbered 42. The maximum number of students handled and anticipated had in the past been 18.

3) This resulted in a splitting of the class into sections, and confusion of schedules among the instructors, causing their non-appearance at scheduled hours - not an infrequent occurrence. *Times*

4) On several occasions, instructors spoke for as little as 10 minutes of a scheduled hour, dismissing the class for the remainder of the hour. (This lecture material might be coordinated with other lectures, thus cutting down on the number of training hours scheduled on paper.) *No.*

5) Training films, shown each evening, broke up student leisure time to such an extent that many students expressed a desire to attend classes in the evenings as well, perhaps from 1900-2100 or even later. *?*

6) The physical hardening program came abruptly and then was abandoned for as much as two days, only to be undertaken again with greater vigor. Many students suggested that the hardening phase be administered every day in the form of a scheduled hike or climb. *No.*

7) Specifically, the courses in Demolitions, Weapons, Foreign Background, and Fieldcraft were the most competently handled and the most consistently well presented. Cipher, Organization and Security were given apathetically and with little attempt to evoke student interest and/or participation. *Original*

8) Mixed classes of EM and officers prevented lecturers from aiming at a definite level of comprehension. Officers were bored in many cases by elementary methods of presentation, while EM became restless from lack of understanding. *U.S.A. 10/1/54*

9) This restlessness caused a disciplinary problem in the classrooms where EM cursed, shouted, copied each other's work at will, without interference by the civilian instructors.

C. General Comments

1) Recreational facilities were at a minimum with WD Movies only three nights a week, a thoroughly inadequate PX, and a lack of reading facilities for both EM and officers. *No.*

2) Barracks were maintained by students and instructors at an absolute minimum of sanitation, physical appearance and comfort. *No.*

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3) Upon arrival, many officers were quartered indiscriminately with EM, which had a deleterious effect upon the already low standard of military discipline.

4) Saluting and/or regard for rank was absolutely unknown. This is either a result of Detachment policy, or lack of concern on the part of the responsible officers. *no saluting*

5) Censoring of officers' mail had an adverse effect upon most officer students, which became heightened considerably when the censor (as OD) punished a group of officers who had written their wives that they were avoiding PT in the mornings. This information was used by the officer as OD from his position as Detachment Censor, and was considered as "not quite cricket" by the officers who knew of the incident. ?

E. H. Hunt, Jr.

E. H. Hunt, Jr.
2d Lt., A. C.

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