This booklet has been prepared for use within OSS, particularly by OG Branch for the general orientation of its own personnel. Its primary purpose is to define the basic organization of the Branch, its functions, doctrine, and purpose. It is not intended either as a technical training manual or an historical record of actual accomplishments.

— December 1944
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

is an agency of the Joint Chiefs of Staff charged with collecting and analyzing strategic information and secret intelligence required for military operations, and with planning and executing programs of physical sabotage and morale subversion against the enemy to support military operations.

OPERATIONAL GROUP COMMAND

selects foreign-language speaking Army personnel and trains them to operate as military units in enemy or enemy-held territory. OGS organizes resistance groups into effective guerrilla units, equip them with weapons and supplies, and lead them in attacks against enemy targets.
**OG OBJECTIVES AND TECHNIQUES**

**FUNCTIONS**
Operational Groups have a dual function. They serve as the operational nuclei of guerrilla organizations which have been formed from resistance groups in enemy territory. They execute independent operations against enemy targets on orders of the theater commander.

**METHODS**
OG works with individuals unfamiliar with military operations as well as insufficiently-equipped quasi-military organizations. The former are organized and trained in military techniques of resistance. The latter are provided with supplies and their tactics are coordinated with allied military plans. Leadership is normally kept in the hands of the native people, though OG may select leaders and unify opposing groups.

**AIMS**
The aim of OG activity is to aid actual and planned Allied military operations by harassing the enemy behind his lines, by disrupting his lines of communication and supply, and by forcing him to divert troops to protect himself from guerrilla attacks and wide-scale uprisings.

**OG RECRUITING AND TRAINING**

**RECRUITING**
Because of the hazardous nature of the work, all OG officers and enlisted men are selected from Army volunteers. All recruits must meet the physical standards demanded for parachute jumping, preferably should have combat training, and must give evidence of stability and good judgment as well as daring. They should speak the language of the area and be acquainted with the territory in which they will operate.

**TRAINING**
Six weeks preliminary training is given in the United States on the following subjects:
- Map reading
- Scouting and patrolling
- Close combat—armed and unarmed
- Physical conditioning
- Fieldcraft and equipment protection
- Hygiene and first aid
- Military tactics
- Demolition
- Weapons—Allied and Axis
- Operation and repair of enemy vehicles
- Enemy espionage organizations
- Organization and training of civilians for guerrilla warfare
- Identification of aircraft and vehicles
- Security
- Logistics

Advanced training is given in the theaters of operation. Personnel is oriented to the locale while rehearsing military tactics, parachute jumping, and amphibious operations, but does not undergo a set curriculum.
Overall plans and programs are submitted to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for approval before being sent to the field.

Plants are based on intelligence furnished by OSS Intelligence Sections.

- Topography, industrial targets, enemy military organization and morale.
- Location of enemy units and installations, and strength and disposition of guerrilla groups.
- Enemy espionage agents and networks.

The Operational Group is the basic field unit.
Each group must be self-sufficient because operations are aimed at special isolated objectives. Further decentralization within the group command is also necessary because component parts may have to split from their group, each to organize, train, or take command of a different native force.

Each section and each squad is capable of independent action. The smaller the unit, the more mobile and inconspicuous, two leading requirements in operations conducted behind enemy lines and in constant danger of separation from a base or supporting forces.

All OG operations in southern France were coordinated with Allied plans for the invasion. Their purpose was to destroy the enemy's lines of supply and communication and force him to divert troops for their protection, to protect the flanks of the Allied forces driving in from the beaches, and to report on enemy strength and movements. To this end OGs were introduced throughout the area, organizing or equipping guerrilla forces and guiding them in operations.

Operations in Italy have been conducted from OG headquarters on Corsica and bases in Italy. Independently and in collaboration with Italian Partisans and British and French forces, OGs have harried the enemy by raids on military installations and lines of communication, as well as by occupying islands to establish observation posts.

Missions against the islands and mainland of Yugoslavia have been made from the OG base on Vis. With Partisan and British troops, OGs have engaged small German forces, ambushed a naval convoy by shore fire, and rescued many American aviators.

OGs have penetrated Greece by sea and air to cooperate with guerrilla forces in attacking German supply lines and destroying enemy headquarters.
OG operations in France were based on England and Algiers. The former worked closely with the Maquis to harass and ambush enemy units, driving Germans from vital hydroelectric plants and protecting American lines of communication. The latter coordinated the resistance movement in support of the invasions from England and North Africa. In cooperation with Maquis units that they organized and trained, these OGs killed 461, wounded 467, and captured 10,021 Germans; demolished 11 power lines and cables; mined 17 roads; shot down 3 aircraft and destroyed 2 trains and 3 locomotives. They also rescued downed Allied fliers, gathered intelligence, selected and prepared landing strips, and assisted the FFI. For security purposes, each team in the field had its own code name used in communications and command.

OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN FRANCE, OCTOBER 1944

OPERATIONS IN NORTHERN ITALY, OCTOBER 1944

1. OGs parachuted into Sardinia at the time of the German evacuation and operated throughout island.
2. Landed on Corsica; OGs fought with French troops through the entire campaign that drove Germans from the island. Established headquarters at Bastia.
3. OGs with British troops were landed by sea and dropped by air in the Chieti area to aid escaped American and British prisoners of war. They also killed Italian Fascist informers.
4. Occupied island of Capraia and established a permanent naval and air operation post with radio communication to headquarters on Corsica. Executed downed American aviators.
5. Occupied island of Gorgona and established a permanent naval and air observation post with radio communication to headquarters on Corsica.
6. OGs landed with the 7th Army in the invasion at Anzio and used to gather intelligence.
7. Damaged a highway bridge just south of Leghorn and withdrew successfully.
8. OGs landed by sea to demolish tunnel entrances and the road 401 of a railroad. An enemy convoy forced the withdrawal of OG boats and attempts at rescue proved unsuccessful. Enemy radio later announced a Commando-type unit had been wiped out.
9. Landed with a French force on Pianosa, surrounded barracks and isolated the local prison to seize 24 Italian guards for intelligence purposes.
10. Personnel and supplies flown from Brindisi were dropped by parachute to aid Italian Partisans. OGs were attached to the Third Garibaldi Brigade which controls the road from Torriglian to Bobbio and the surrounding country.
11. Four small teams were dropped in northern Italy to assist local Partisans and to transmit intelligence.
OG OPERATIONS IN YUGOSLAVIA AND GREECE, OCTOBER 1944

Operations against the islands and mainland of Yugoslavia were based on Vlora, to which troops returned after each action. Missions included:

- Destruction of the entire German garrison on Solta and capture of the town of Grohote by OGs and British Commandos.
- Attack on Brac. AOGs with British troops forced part of the enemy into an inner defense ring.
- Destroyed several German garrisons on Solta and captured the town of Grohote by AOGs and British Commandos.
- Attack on Korcula. AOGs and Partisans cleared two-thirds of the island of Germans.
- Dung a German patrol on the island of Hvar.
- Attack on Korcula. AOGs and Partisans cleared two-thirds of the island of Germans.
- From a cove on the Peljesac peninsula, AOG troops and a small British naval detachment shelled three passing German ships.
- Reconnaissance on Mljet, Lopud, and the Yugoslav mainland.
- Rescue of American airmen. More than 1,000 fliers of the Fifteenth Air Force have been safely brought to Vlora.

All action in northern Greece was part of the NOAH’s AOG operation which infiltrated by sea and air to aid the guerrilla Andartes in harassing German forces.

1. Indirect action.
2. Attacked German headquarters in Yannitsa.
3. Attacked a train, small arms fire causing many enemy casualties.
4. Ambushed a truck convoy.
5. Slew up railway track and attacked a repair train.
6. Attacked a small convoy.
7. Aided by Andartes and British, AOGs shelled a train and set it alight.
8. Destroyed eight vehicles of a large German convoy.
9. Derailed six boxcars and destroyed a locomotive.
10. AOGs parachuted into the Peloponnesus and made contact with an Allied Mission. They destroyed two strategic railway bridges.