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AGAM 322.06 Army
Courier Service (8 Sep 45)

WAR DEPARTMENT
The Adjutant General's Office
Washington

ARH/jsp/1B436
8 September 1945

Subject: Instructions to officer-couriers

To: Officer-couriers

1. Army courier transfer officers are authorized to designate commissioned officers of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard as officer-couriers. The following instructions will be observed by officers so designated:

a. When the number and size of the courier pouches placed in custody of the officer permit, these pouches will be retained by the officer in the cabin of the airplane under his personal control from the time of receipt until custody is relinquished to the authorized courier transfer officer at point of destination, except under conditions described in b, c and d below. If it is necessary to have the courier material locked in a cargo compartment of the airplane because of the amount of material involved, the officer will check the material as it is loaded to see that it is properly stored and that the compartment is locked. Also, the officer will be present each time the cargo compartment is opened to insure that no courier material is offloaded en route except at proper destination where the material will be checked as it is being removed from the airplane.

b. In case of accident which interrupts travel the officer-courier will maintain personal control of the pouches until delivery can be made to an authorized courier transfer officer. The officer-courier will remain as near the airplane as possible until such time as an armed guard can be posted to prevent removal of pouches or contents except by order of and under the supervision of the officer-courier. Care should be taken to prevent remnants of the courier mail from being scattered about. The courier transfer officers at points of origin and destination should be notified of such interruption of service by the most expeditious means.

c. When stopping for short periods at intermediate points on the line of travel, the officer-courier will not leave the pouches unguarded. When an armed guard is furnished, the officer-courier will personally point out the pouches to the guard and instruct him not to permit the removal of any of the pouches except under the personal supervision of the officer-courier. The guard should also be instructed not to leave the courier pouches unguarded and to prevent dispatch of the pouches without the officer-courier. When stops are made for long periods at points where there is no courier transfer officer, the officer-courier may place the pouches temporarily in the custody of the security officer at a military or naval post or a United States Embassy, Legation or Consulate. Receipts will be exchanged when pouches are temporarily placed in the custody of such officials.

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d. If the airplane carrying the officer-courier and pouches is grounded in occupied, liberated or neutral territory and capture is imminent, the officer-courier will destroy the pouches and their contents, by burning. If not subject to burning, they will be destroyed by such other means as are necessary to render them beyond recognition. If the airplane is forced down at sea, the material will be sunk by the most practical method. Detailed instructions on destruction of courier material may be found in letter, AG 386.1 (29 Aug 45)OE-S-B-M dated 30 August 1945, Subject: Destruction of Classified Communications Matter in Emergencies on Land, Sea, and in the Air, copy inclosed.

e. Receipt for the pouches will be obtained from the authorized courier transfer officer to whom delivery is made.

2. In this connection the attention of all officer-couriers is directed to the "Espionage Act," and particularly to the following extract therefrom:

69. Espionage Act.--a. Unlawfully obtaining or permitting to be obtained information affecting national defense.

* * * * *

d. Whoever, lawfully or unlawfully having possession of, access to, control over, or being intrusted with any documents, writing, code book, signal book, sketch, photograph, photographic negative, blue print, plan, map, model, instrument, appliance, or note relating to the national defense, wilfully communicates or transmits or attempts to communicate or transmit the same to any person not entitled to receive it, or wilfully retains the same and fails to deliver it on demand to the officer or employee of the United States entitled to receive it; or

e. Whoever, being intrusted with or having lawful possession or control of any document, writing, code book, signal book, sketch, photograph, photographic negative, blue print, plan, map, model, note, or information, relating to the national defense, through gross negligence permits the same to be removed from its proper place of custody or delivered to anyone in violation of his trust, or to be lost, stolen, abstracted, or destroyed, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than ten years and may, in the discretion of the court, be fined not more than \$10,000. Sec. 1, Title 1, act June 15, 1917 (40 Stat. 217); 50 U.S.C. 31; M.L., 1939, Sec. 2181; sec. 1 act March 28, 1940 (Public No. 443, 76th Cong.).

3. Letter AG 322.06 Army Courier Service (2 Aug 43)A4-AT-C, dated 2 August 1943, subject as above, is rescinded.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

EDWARD F. WITSELL
Major General
Acting The Adjutant General

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Ltr 30 Aug 45

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