

Simple Sabotage PDF (Limited Copy)

U.S. Office Of Strategic Services

SIMPLE SABOTAGE

Instructions for the common citizen on how to
obstruct an occupation

Prepared by the Office of Strategic Services

17 JANUARY 1944



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Simple Sabotage Summary

Empowering Everyday Citizens to Undermine Enemy Operations

Written by Books1

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About the book

In the midst of World War II, as the Allies fought against the Axis powers, a unique strategy emerged from the shadows of the U.S. Office of Strategic Services (OSS)—the art of Simple Sabotage. This groundbreaking guide, designed for ordinary citizens living under enemy occupation, empowered individuals to engage in subtle acts of disruption that could significantly hinder the war efforts of their oppressors. With clever tactics that ranged from the mundane to the mischievous, Simple Sabotage showcases how even the smallest acts of defiance—such as jamming machinery or wasting time in factories—could orchestrate a symphony of chaos. As you delve into its pages, you'll uncover the ingenuity of resistance on a grassroots level and the profound belief that every person, no matter how seemingly insignificant, can play a pivotal role in the fight for freedom.

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About the author

The U.S. Office of Strategic Services (OSS) was a pivotal intelligence agency established during World War II, serving as the precursor to the CIA. Founded in 1942, the OSS was created to gather intelligence and conduct covert operations against the Axis powers, leveraging unconventional warfare tactics to disrupt enemy operations and support resistance movements in occupied territories. The agency's innovative methods and strategic foresight laid the groundwork for modern intelligence practices, employing a diverse team of spies, analysts, and operatives who played a crucial role in shaping the course of the war. Among its initiatives, the OSS developed the infamous "Simple Sabotage" campaign, which encouraged ordinary citizens to engage in subtle acts of sabotage to hinder enemy war efforts, demonstrating its understanding of psychological warfare and grassroots participation in the larger war strategy.

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Summary Content List

Chapter 1: Possible Effects

Chapter 2: Production. Metals

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Chapter 1 Summary: Possible Effects

Chapter 2: Possible Effects of Simple Sabotage

Throughout Europe, acts of simple sabotage are being employed as a means of undermining the enemy's war effort. The intention is to enhance the effectiveness, reduce the likelihood of detection, and multiply the instances of these acts by mobilizing countless citizen-saboteurs. Simple yet disruptive actions—such as slashing tires, draining fuel tanks, and short-circuiting electric systems—serve to waste the enemy's resources, manpower, and valuable time. When executed on a massive scale, these acts not only impede the enemy's operations but also serve to harass and demoralize enemy officials and police forces. Furthermore, citizens engaging in such sabotage may become increasingly identified with the Allied powers, potentially aiding in larger sabotage efforts during moments of invasion or occupation.

Chapter 3: Motivating the Saboteur

To encourage citizens to engage in and sustain acts of simple sabotage is a challenging endeavor, as these actions often provide no direct incentive to the saboteur. Citizens are generally inclined toward conservation and often



lack the motivation to destroy property without a compelling reason. Thus, it is crucial to create an environment where people anticipate indirect benefits, such as the removal of an oppressive government. Clearly articulated goals and collective narratives about successful sabotage can stir a sense of belonging among citizens, encouraging them to partake in sabotage as part of a larger, hidden community.

Encouragement is essential. Citizens should be made to feel that their actions are acts of self-defense against the enemy. Use of humor can help mitigate fears associated with these actions. Saboteurs are advised to reevaluate their everyday behaviors—becoming careless rather than meticulous—to discover new opportunities for sabotage within their environments.

While non-technical individuals require explicit instructions on methods and tools for sabotage, trained technicians can be motivated to think destructively about their existing skills. Various mediums—such as freedom stations, leaflets, and propaganda—can effectively disseminate practical suggestions for simple sabotage.

Safety concerns weigh heavily on potential saboteurs; hence, the methods should ensure anonymity and shared responsibility. Suggesting that acts could be falsely attributed to others or disguised as accidents can reduce individual risk and bolster participation.

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Chapter 4: Tools, Targets, and Timing

Given the unpredictability of citizen-saboteurs, it is impractical to direct sabotage efforts towards specific military objectives. Instead, contextually tailored sabotage suggestions should be adequately communicated through underground networks to align with specific circumstances and opportunities.

General sabotage should prioritize actions that disrupt the enemy's material and personnel. Citizens are encouraged to use everyday tools ingeniously to inflict damage. They should focus their efforts during periods of military inactivity on industrial targets, aiming to hinder the flow of supplies to the enemy. However, during active military campaigns, sabotage efforts should be immediate—targeting transportation and communication infrastructures for optimal impact.

Suggestions for sabotage encompass a wide range of targets:

1. **Buildings:** Warehouses and other key facilities are susceptible to fire; methods for igniting fires using common items should be disseminated to recruits.
2. **Industrial Production:** Simple tactics involving dulling tools, misusing



machinery, or contaminating lubrication systems can effectively impair production processes.

3. **Utilities:** Disrupting essential services like water and electricity by introducing common materials can cripple a facility's operational capacity.

Specific techniques include the manipulation of fuel sources, electrical systems, and mechanical components to cause failures that, while appearing innocuous, result in substantial disruption to enemy activities.

Combining these acts of sabotage with psychological warfare—spreading misinformation about the frequency of sabotage and creating an atmosphere of fear—will further deter the enemy and encourage the involvement of more citizens in the resistance effort.

In conclusion, organized sabotage, no matter how simple, when multiplied across a population, has the potential to create a significant impact against the enemy, empowering ordinary citizens to partake in the fight for freedom through resourcefulness and cunning.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Engagement in collective action: Ordinary individuals can make a difference

Critical Interpretation: Imagine your daily existence transformed by the belief that even the smallest acts can contribute to a greater cause. Just as citizens were encouraged to embrace simple acts of sabotage to undermine an oppressor, you too can tap into the power of collective action in your life. By participating in community initiatives, advocating for social justice, or supporting local causes, you can ignite change in your environment. The message is clear: individual contributions, no matter how small, can ripple outwards, creating a wave of collective impact that challenges the status quo and empowers those around you. Embrace the idea that your actions—however simple—can be a part of something larger, inspiring you to take that first step toward meaningful change.



Chapter 2 Summary: Production. Metals

The chapters presented depict a systematic approach to sabotage with a focus on production, transportation, communications, and creating confusion. The content is structured methodically to offer suggestions for undermining enemy operations, particularly during wartime, thereby providing a strategic playbook for those seeking to hamper the productivity of adversary industries and infrastructures.

Production

Metals: Iron and Steel

1. **Blast Furnaces:** Ensure that blast furnaces are frequently shut down for repairs by manufacturing fire-proof bricks with excess tar for rapid wear, improperly casting cores filled with air bubbles, and failing to support cores properly during casting.
2. **Tempering Steel** Apply excessive heat to steel or iron to produce substandard quality bars and ingots.

Mining and Mineral Extraction

- **Coal:** Introduce delays in lighting Davy lamps, ensure pneumatic picks become dull by inadequate hardening, and disrupt the functionality of picks



through water or poor lubrication. Strengthen failures by damaging chains on coal conveyors and creating obstructions to derail mine cars.

- **Wasting Resources:** Introduce rock and debris in coal shipments to waste resources.

Agriculture

- In agriculture, sabotage involves destroying crops and livestock, particularly in surplus areas, through mismanagement in feeding schedules, water damage to stores, and premature harvesting.

Transportation

Railways

1. **Passenger Discomfort:** Make enemy train travel inconvenient by issuing erroneous tickets, creating misinformation about schedules, and ensuring bad service to degrade passenger experience.
2. **Operational Interferences:** Tamper with switchboards, loosen signals, and switch point mechanisms for disastrous delays and misdirection.

Automotive Transport

1. **Road Disruption:** Alter road signs to mislead enemy vehicles, harm



road surfaces to create ruts, and scatter debris to puncture tires.

2. **Vehicle Sabotage** Infiltrate repairs by using wrong materials and causing battery failures through deceitful methods, promoting breakdowns in enemy vehicles.

Water Transport

- **Navigation Manipulation:** Spread disinformation about waterway conditions, delay operations at locks and bridges, and misdirect cargo handling to promote inefficiencies.

Communications

1. **Telephone Systems** Interfere with enemy communications by causing delays, providing erroneous connection information, and damaging equipment to create static or lost calls.

2. **Postal Services:** Disrupt mail services to delay troop movements and intelligence.

3. **Radio:** Engineers can distort enemy broadcasts to render their communications ineffective and utilize electrical disruptions in urban settings to hinder transmission clarity.

General Interference in Organizations

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1. **Bureaucratic Delays:** Instigate excessive procedural adherence, creating unnecessary meetings, prolonging correspondence, and requiring excessive clarifications for tasks to slow operational efficiency.
2. **Manipulating Production Work** Ensure instructions are misunderstood or poorly executed intentionally while providing excessive promotions to inefficient workers to lower morale among competent personnel.
3. **Disrupt Communication Channels:** Fill forms incorrectly, misroute materials, and huddle important documents in bureaucratic systems to hinder the flow of vital information.

Sabotage Practices

- Strategies extend to general sabotage, including generating confusion among enemy ranks by fostering fear, miscommunicating, and misdirecting operations through deceptive practices across a wide range of military and industrial sectors.

The above summary presents a comprehensive overview of sabotage tactics, organized by sector, maintaining logical flow and clarity to facilitate understanding of the strategic objectives. Each section links back to overarching themes of disruption and confusion, painting a picture of warfare that is not only physical but engages deeply with the psychological and operational dimensions of conflict.

Category	Key Tactics
Production	Metals: Blast Furnaces: Manufacture poor quality bricks, improperly cast cores. Tempering Steel: Apply excessive heat for substandard output. Mining: Coal: Delay operations, damage equipment, obstruct transport. Wasting Resources: Introduce debris in shipments. Agriculture: Destroy crops and livestock through mismanagement.
Transportation	Railways: Inconvenience travelers with misinformation and bad service. Interfere with signals and switchboards for delays. Automotive Transport: Disrupt roads with misleading signs and harm surfaces. Sabotage vehicle repairs promoting breakdowns. Water Transport: Misinform about waterway conditions to delay operations.
Communications	Telephone: Cause delays and static in communication. Postal Services: Disrupt mail to hinder troop movements. Radio: Distort broadcasts to impede clarity.



Category	Key Tactics
General Interference	Instigate bureaucratic delays and unnecessary meetings. Manipulate production work by miscommunication. Disrupt flow of information through misrouting and incorrect forms.
Sabotage Practices	Generate confusion and fear among enemy ranks using deceptive practices.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Bureaucratic Delays

Critical Interpretation: Imagine applying the lesson of instigating bureaucratic delays in your own life by recognizing that not every procedure or guideline needs to be followed rigidly. In our fast-paced world, it's essential to identify and cut through the red tape that can bog you down, allowing you to operate more efficiently and divert your energy towards your goals. By prioritizing effective communication, making decisions swiftly, and embracing flexibility in your actions, you can increase your productivity and foster a more dynamic environment whether at work or in personal endeavors.

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