

CSDIC (WEA)APPENDIX D TO FR 75SECRETBAOR

28 May 46

SS Stubaf Dr Klaus HUGEL @ Dr. HÜBNERAPPENDIX DOPERATIONS "FELICITAS" and "RODERICH"A. INTRODUCTION

1. In his capacity as Abtsleiter VI (BdS ITALY) Prisoner was in summer 44 ordered to take charge of Ops "FELICITAS" and "Roderich", it being understood that the actual and largely independent direction of both these ops was to remain in the hands of SS Ustuf SEGNA (BdS HARSTER's Adjt).

2. As far as Prisoner was involved, Operation "Felicitas" was the covername for a scheme to establish contact between the Amt VI employee, Frau BEETZ nee BURKHARDT (@ Felicitas) and Countess Edda CIANO, who was then living in SWITZERLAND after her flight from ITALY. Operation "Roderich" was the cover-name for establishing contact between Pater PANCINO and Countess Edda CIANO in SWITZERLAND. "Roderich" and "Frau Roderich" were the designations in the official docs of RSHA for Count and Countess CIANO respectively.

3. For the sake of clarity, it is necessary to set out the earlier history of Frau BEETZ; Prisoner is not sure whether these activities were already then known as operation "Felicitas". He realizes that in several phases his only points of reference are the accounts he heard from the parties concerned, Personal friction between Frau BEETZ and SS Stubaf HÜTTEL on the one side, and the staff of BdS ITALY on the other (see paras 11 and 17), has its bearing on the whole course of Operation "Felicitas".

B. FRAU BEETZ' FIRST MISSION

4. Frau BEETZ was employed in the Referat for ITALY of Amt VI (VI E 1) and subsequently for some time with the German Police Attache in ROME, SS Ostubaf KAPPLER, whence she returned to Referat ITALY (summer 43). She had a perfect knowledge of Italian, and was well versed in Italian conditions generally. The Leiter of Referat ITALY, HÜTTL, held her in high esteem. HÜTTL belonged to the old Viennese circle of KALTENBRUNNER's collaborators, and as such was summoned to BERLIN not long after KALTENBRUNNER's had become Chief d Sipo u d SD. HÜTTL had great "pull" with KALTENBRUNNER, and he was also friendly with two members of the "Viennese School", SKORZENY and SS Ostubaf WANNEK (Gruppenleiter VI E), eventual successor to SCHELLENBERG as Amtschef VI.

5. Because of SKORZENY's close personal relationship with KALTENBRUNNER, the successful execution of one of Amt VI's tasks (MUSSOLINI's liberation) had already brought credit to KALTENBRUNNER. Much to SCHELLENBERG's displeasure, a further equally important task, Frau BEETZ' mission, was therefore entrusted to the direction of the "Viennese School". The whole CIANO affair was set apart and entrusted to the immediate care of HÜTTL, who was to operate from VIENNA, where he was subordinate to KALTENBRUNNER personally.

6. Frau BEETZ was planted on the CIANO couple as a secretary, and in this role soon managed to gain their complete confidence and become their inseparable companion, even after their return to ITALY from BAVARIA, and after she had disclosed to the CIANOs her real identity.

7. KALTENBRUNNER's plan, and the task entrusted to Frau BEETZ, was, first of all, to gain possession of CIANO's much discussed "secret diaries", and secondly to make use of CIANO as an int source with any eye to his international connections, which were still considered valuable. Some of CIANO's diaries were already in German hands. The decisive question was whether, apart from these, other secret diaries existed, the contents of which might compromise German foreign policy and RIBBENTROP personally. For this reason, RIBBENTROP was also greatly interested in the project.

8. Prisoner believes that it was KALTENBRUNNER's honest intention to save CIANO's life, after it had become clear that he was likely to be condemned to death at VERONA. He repeatedly informed CIANO of this through Frau BEETZ, and in the final stages the CIANO couple consequently looked upon KALTENBRUNNER and Frau BEETZ as their last hope. Even on the night preceding his execution, CIANO and Frau BEETZ (who remained with him in prison) still pinned their hopes on a German intervention with MUSSOLINI. CIANO's last present to Frau BEETZ was his watch, which she always treasured.

9. Prisoner cannot recall the exact date on which the Countess with her children fled to SWITZERLAND, after events at VERONA took a menacing turn. He only knows that the flight, and above all its success, came as a complete surprise to all German depts. After CIANO's fate had been sealed, the best move in the question of the secret diaries seemed to be to secure the Countess in person. A search was therefore put in motion with all available means, but without success. Dismissal from office loomed before HARSTER as a result of KALTENBRUNNER's anger.

#### C. FRAU BEETZ' SECOND MISSION

10. At this juncture, the second part of Operation "Felicitas" began, or rather the Operation itself in its narrower definition as known to Prisoner: the mission which KALTENBRUNNER gave Frau BEETZ, to try by every means to establish contact with Edda CIANO in SWITZERLAND. Every possible assistance was promised.

HÜTTL visited ITALY and especially COMO several times, in order to co-operate with Frau BEETZ on the spot, As RIBBENTROP's interest in the matter persisted, it became possible to transfer Frau BEETZ, under cover of asst secretary at the German Consulate-General, to MILAN, thus enabling her to cross the Swiss frontier to LUGANO. But this was as far as progress could be made, and Frau BEETZ had to return to ITALY without having established contact with the Countess. She did, however, find at LUGANO hospital (Mar 44) an Italian Air Force offr by the name of PUCCI, who had assisted the Countess in her flight.

11. Frau BEETZ then went to VIENNA and BERLIN to report, and returned to ITALY (Jun 44) in a further attempt to get to SWITZERLAND. On this occasion, Prisoner made her acquaintance. She waited six weeks in COMO for the Swiss visa, and disregarding all Security, lived in the visitor's hotel of the Sipo and SD Dienststelle. It is not surprising, therefore, that the visa was finally refused. HÜTTL and Frau BEETZ maintained that Dr PRAGER, an agent of Grenzbefehlstelle WEST in COMO, had double-crossed her and warned the Swiss authorities against her; this appeared to Prisoner more a pretext to which Frau BEETZ resorted in an endeavour to justify her failure, for personal reasons vis-a-vis PRAGER.

12. The last Prisoner heard from Frau BEETZ was in Oct 44; she was then engaged in translating the CIANO diaries already in German hands at her home in WEIMAR. HÜTTL and KALTENBRUNNER tried to establish contact with Countess CIANO through other channels.

D. PATER PANCINO'S CONNECTION WITH EDDA CIANO  
AND HIS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST FRAU BEETZ

13. Parallel with Frau BEETZ' activities ran MUSSOLINI's bid to contact Edda CIANO, in order to effect a reconciliation with his daughter and, if possible, persuade her to return to ITALY. To this end, he availed himself of Edda's companion in her youth and subsequent father confessor, Pater PANCINO.

14. With the aid of the Church, PANCINO obtained a Swiss visa. Permission to leave ITALY was, however, dependent on the German authorities, and this is where HARSTER and his Adjt SEGNA came into the picture. SEGNA, being a South-Tyrolese by birth, was in a position to present himself as an Italian subject. He understood how to use PANCINO's ambition for his own ends, since the latter had been neglected by the Church and given a small rural parish near FELTRE. They agreed that in return for any Germany help-financial assistance included-SEGNA would have the right to see the correspondence which passed between MUSSOLINI and Edda CIANO, and that PANCINO would keep him (SEGNA) informed about his negotiations. The fact that MUSSOLINI had commissioned PANCINO to persuade Edda to return corresponded with German interests.

15. No sooner had Frau BEETZ arrived in COMO (summer 44) in order to renew her endeavours to contact Countess CIANO in SWITZERLAND, than a race developed between her and PANCINO, with whom she was acquainted. PANCINO succeeded in penetrating Edda's entourage at once.

16. The MUSSOLINE-Edda CIANO correspondence revealed the picture of the father begging for his daughter's forgiveness, and of the daughter's inexorable hatred of "the murderer of her children's father". Again and again MUSSOLINI tried to convince his daughter that he could NOT possibly have spared his son-in-law's life in the trials instituted "for the purge and to avenge the betrayal of 25 Jul 43."

17. HARSTER, SEGNA and Prisoner gained the impression that PANCINO succeeded in winning Edda's confidence. One cannot rule out the possibility that intimate relations may have played their part. It was only natural that Edda should have decided to remain in SWITZERLAND. Whilst Frau BEETZ was waiting in COMO (summer 44), PANCINO brought the first news that the Countess had in fact taken with her to SWITZERLAND her husband's secret diaries, and furthermore that the flight was successful thanks to Frau BEETZ' assistance. From the German point of view, a charge of treason could have been made against Frau BEETZ. HARSTER and SEGNA now prepared a comprehensive report for KALTENBRUNNER, describing both sides of the Operation (Frau BEETZ and PANCINO). Armed with this report, HARSTER went to KALTENBRUNNER in BERLIN. KALTENBRUNNER upheld Frau BEETZ, considering that PANCINO's report was motivated by personal jealousy against his competitor and by his desire to eliminate her as a German outsider. Frau BEETZ was recalled to GERMANY and made available for other duties; she herself saw the hopelessness of her mission under the prevailing circumstances. Previously she had tried to discover the place in MIRANDOLA, where the secret diaries had reputedly been hidden, but only irrelevant facts came to light, and neither the existence nor whereabouts of the diaries could be established. Frau BEETZ dismissed PANCINO's report as unworthy of credence.

18. In Winter 44/45, PANCINO made further statements to SEGNA, on the part which, in his opinion, Frau BEETZ had played. The Countess had given him to understand that she had been very largely encouraged by Frau BEETZ in her intended flight, and that its success was due to Frau BEETZ. Prisoner believes that PANCINO also reported that Frau BEETZ had carried the secret diaries tied around her body. HARSTER did not act on this infm, since its reliability was patently questionable.