

AIR

BITSCHNAU, Wolfgang

File No 7039

Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

1 December 1950

Chief, Foreign Division H

Attn: Pullach

Operational

Wolfram BITSCHNAU

Reference-- HAYA-6804 (not to Pullach)

1. The following biographical sketch on Wolfram BITSCHNAU was provided by Wolfgang von PFANDLER to the Vienna representative of HJOAFFE, who then passed it on to the Vienna station:

a. *Wolfram BITSCHNAU, Innsbruck Erbersog Eggenstr. 17, age about 50, native of Voralberg, married and a professional lawyer. BITSCHNAU was arrested by the Gestapo in 1939 because of his connection with the escape into Switzerland of Max GERSHWEIN, but was released two months later. He was in the German Wehrmacht later and received special training at the Wehrmacht school in Weissen. He was then sent to an interpreter company and later seems to have joined the Abwehr. Source has seen him wear Spanish decorations and believes that he was in Spain during the war. (Source sees BITSCHNAU three to four times a year but not on arrangement, only accidental meetings or street encounters). Source met BITSCHNAU through Source's God-father, a lawyer in Innsbruck called Dr. POLACZEK, who became BITSCHNAU's Father-in-law in 1946. At about that time, BITSCHNAU was connected with French intelligence and wore a French Lieutenant's uniform. In 1947, he had some differences with Communist elements in the South and was fired. He then started a semi-official information service to supply anti-Russian information to all Allied intelligence services and also to counteract an information group which was working with the Communist elements in the South and which was headed by former Major SACHS, who had been in the Abwehr. In order to set up his information service, BITSCHNAU approached Source and asked to be put in contact with Austrian officials. Source obliged and established contact for BITSCHNAU with the Director of Security (Austrian) in Innsbruck, State Secretary GNAP of the Ministry of Interior in Vienna and with officials of the Bundespresidentschaft of the Austrian Government Press Department. This activity of BITSCHNAU was well-known to all Allied services at that time. At the founding of the VDU BITSCHNAU played a leading part in Tyrol, but he had to retire from political activities because he was energetically attacked by the Democratic Union for having been

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a French officer. He resigned from VDU through the means of a very dramatic open letter. At the present time, BITSCHNAU is working in the law office of his father-in-law and is running, on the side, an information service supplying local news to South German and South Tyrolean newspapers."

2. We attempted to determine what interest, if any, HJCAPE had in BITSCHNAU, whether or not they had on file any other information which might be of interest on both BITSCHNAU and von PPAUNDLER, and what their relations were with von PPAUNDLER. The upshot seems to be that the above material constitutes all of the information which is held here in Washington by HJCAPE, and that no further interest was taken by them in BITSCHNAU after they ascertained that we had an operational interest in him.

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