

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

No. 960

22 May 1950

TO: 31
FROM: 27 (27.2)
SUBJECT: Public Opinion Survey Detachment

1. On 1 March 1950 the Bavarian Border Police informed the COBURG CIC Field Office that they had apprehended an illegal border crosser who gave his name as MORGENROTT, stating that he was supposed to contact a Mr. GRUNERT in COBURG. MORGENROTT stated that both he and GRUNERT worked for the Americans. He stated that GRUNERT could be reached at Hotel ANKER, COBURG.

2. When contacted GRUNERT stated that he had already been notified by the Bavarian Border Police and that he had cleared MORGENROTT. GRUNERT stated that he was awaiting his chief Guenter BAER from KRONACH. GRUNERT identified himself with a Kennkarte number 498441, issued in Frankfurt on 31 January 1949. His birthdate was listed as 11 May 1917, in PLAUE. He later stated that his true name was Walter GEIPEL and produced an identity card issued in REHAU on 10 November 1949. He stated that his identity card from the American Information Office had expired on 31 December 1949, and has not been returned.

3. GEIPEL's chief arrived at the Hotel Anker and identified himself as Guenther BAER, Kennkarte number WB V 48556, issued 8 July 1949 in STUTTGART. His birthdate was listed as 12 October 1917 in LIEGNITZ. He later stated that his true name was Hans Guenter BERNAU, born 30 March 1917 in GOLDBERG. He was issued Kennkarte number WB IX 17109 on 14 December 1949 in STUTTGART. He was driving a 1947 Volkswagon. His letter of authorization by buy gasoline from EES was signed by Colonel Robert C. PIERCE, Headquarters Public Opinion Survey Detachment, APO 403, US Army, Munich. BERNAU stated that the agents of the Public Opinion Survey Detachment in the COBURG area have the responsibility of procurein military information on the 4th Soviet Elite Army Area.

4. According to our records, GEIPEL was dropped in December 1949 because of his illegal smuggling activities in the SELB area. GEIPEL, however, is still maintaining files and when apprehended March 1950 had with him a large briefcase full of information on his agents, activities, reports, etc.

5. We are interested in any information you may have on these persons, their probable connection with this organization and this incident.

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