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Interrogation Report

~~TOP SECRET~~

CSDIC/SC/15AG/SD 6.

on

Copy No: 6

SS Hauptsturmfuehrer SCHOENFLUG, Egon
=====

This report contains information on the activities and post-occupational plans of the German Security Service in North ITALY and on personalities connected with such plans.

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R.O.W. Schmidt, Major

R.V. WEDEKIND, Major, I.O.
O.C., CSDIC Sub-Centre.
HQ 15 Army Group, CME.

CSDIC SC,

CME,

22 May 45.



1. SOURCE

(a) Personal Details

Name: SCHOENFELG, Egon
Alias: -----
Rank: SS Hauptsturmfuehrer
Unit: ABT VI, B.d.S. VERONA
Id No: Not known
EP No: 13563
SS No: 472,267
Party No: 7,199,420
Home Address: 121, SCHWABHAUSEN, near GOTHA
Surrendered: 9 May 45, in accordance with Armistice conditions
Interrogated: 17 May 45, CSDIC Sub-Centre, 15 Army Group, CMF.

(b) History and Career

Source was born at INNSBRUCK in 1913, the son of a regular army colonel. After studying at MUNICH and INNSBRUCK, where he attended elementary and secondary schools, Source read law at INNSBRUCK University and from 1936-38 he was employed as a motor oil salesman in MUNICH. After training two months with Waffen SS DEUTSCHLAND, he joined the KRIPO and trained nine months in BERLIN, from Nov 39-Jul 40.

Source was then posted as Kriminalkommissar to BRNO where he remained till beg 1941; he was then allowed to continue his training at FRANKFURT-on-MAIN and BERLIN and in Nov 43 was posted as Regierungsreferendar to OPPELN.

On 9 Mar 44 Source was posted to B.d.S. VERONA (Abt VI).

(c) Assessment

Source is a punctiliously minded Austrian who shows a feeling of resentment against the Germans on personal grounds. On his own admission he was "shelved" by HUEGEL, a fact which was confirmed by SS Gruppenfuehrer HARSTER, and his activities were confined to office work. He believes that Stubaf WOLFF put in a report to BERLIN to the effect that he was not suitable for Abt VI work.

What he does know he has told truthfully, but can add little to that given in the HUEGEL Report (cf CSDIC/CMF/SD 3).

Reliability: Good

(Interrogated by J.H.B.)

2. FOUNDATION OF ABTEILUNG VI IN ITALY

At a meeting of SD officers at Villa d'ESTE at CERNOBBIO in Mar/Apr 44, Stubaf HUEGEL explained the working of Abt VI and asked all Aussenkdos to establish contact with Allied Occupied ITALY through Italian industrialists who had connections both sides of the line, or through wealthy Italians who also had personal connections on both sides. At the same time he asked them to find suitable agents for an espionage school which he was opening shortly.

In Apr 45 Oberstuf ZIMMER was transferred from GENOA to MILAN to start Abt VI. Hptstuf CLEMENS was later transferred to Abt VI CERNOBBIO and Ustuf MOELLER first to FLORENCE and then to BOLOGNA Abt VI.

/Source accompanied

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Source accompanied HUEGEL shortly afterwards on a visit to MILAN or GENOA and presumes that discussions on the lines of the talk at Villa d'ESTE took place but he was not allowed to be present. Later HUEGEL and Source visited TRIESTE to liaise with Adriatisches Kuesterland and Brigadefuehrer GUENTHER made it clear that in matters of Abt VI they in TRIESTE were competent to work on their own.

3. FOUNDATION OF THE SCHOOL AT 2, VIA PASUBIO, VERONA

In May 44 Ustuf BANDORF arrived at VERONA from a neighbouring Waffen SS unit (under command of Standaf ELFENAU) and had a conference with HUEGEL.

HUEGEL told Source afterwards that BANDORF was going to look after the school at 2, Via PASUBIO and asked Source not to interfere in any way.

BANDORF reported to STEIMLE in BERLIN and returned after a fortnight to take up his duties with Abt VI.

Source was not concerned with the school in any way except for being asked in Aug 44 by HUEGEL to find a suitable location for the school. Later in Oct/Nov 44 he was asked by BANDORF to sign the identity cards of the agents as Source could sign with a higher rank.

Source can only remember one instance of an agent of the school in Via PASUBIO returning from Allied Occupied ITALY. This occurred in Feb/Mar 45 and the agent, "LIVIO", was taken by BANDORF to visit MUSSOLINI. Subsequently "LIVIO" was sent to a propaganda office in MILAN.

About 10-15 Jan 45, HARTMANN Mariana left the school and was transferred to Abt IV (?), B.d.S. VERONA. Her place was taken by Frl STUEDEMUND.

While the WT instruction section of the Via PASUBIO school left for Colle ISARCO in Nov 44, the school itself left only in mid Mar 45 and the remaining two or three pupils were sent by BANDORF to an hotel.

At beg Apr 45 BANDORF told Source that he was arranging with Ustuf LECHNER for the two remaining pupils in the WT section to be brought down from Colle ISARCO and put into an hotel in VERONA.

4. WT INSTALLATIONS

Source knows that a consignment of WT sets arrived at VERONA in Jan 45. Subsequently Ustuf Dr MAYER together with Oberscharfuehrer GIFFEY made a tour through BOLOGNA and VENICE returning at end Feb or beg Mar 45 to VERONA.

On returning Dr MAYER reported to HARSTER, saying that they had tried to contact the control station BAMBERG five days running and had failed. They had then tried to contact the alternative station MARLENBAD and had also failed. If MAYER's network was to operate at all, the new sets would have to have special crystal.

GIFFEY had already left by air from MILAN to procure the new sets in BERLIN and HARSTER told him to signal GIFFEY to return to VERONA immediately with the new sets.

GIFFEY replied that he would arrive by rail and on 28 Apr HARSTER, while at BOLZANO, received a signal that GIFFEY and the sets had arrived somewhere between WCERGL and INNSBRUCK.

HARSTER then despatched MAYER to INNSBRUCK to contact GIFFEY and Ustuf BANDORF to TEGERN SEE to contact Standaf STEIMLE or Oberleutnant HOHMANN of Referat VI B (i) and find out where the new control station was to be.

Up to Source's departure, 9 May 45, neither had returned.

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5. SPECIAL MISSION IN BOLZANO

About two days after Source's arrival in BOLZANO (28 Apr⁴⁵), while acting as Adjutant to Gruppenfuehrer HARSTER, he was asked by HARSTER to report to Ostubaf ARLDT in the castle and deputise for Stubaf HUEGEL.

On reporting, Source was told by Ostubaf ARLDT that a man was required who spoke Serbian, Croat and/or Rumanian, to go on a mission to SWITZERLAND where he would go to an address in ZUERICH and ask for a man named MISCHA. He would tell MISCHA that "the group at THUERINGEN" had been overrun but that they were all doing well. The agent would then have to make his way to the KLAGENFURT area and ask for ARLDT who would be with the "Oberkommissar fuer das Adriatisches Kuestenland".

Source returned to his office and almost forgot about the matter. On 2 May a Sonderfuehrer BALOG, who had been interpreter at GENOA, reported to Source and asked for payment of salary. Source asked him if he could speak any Balkan language and BALOG replied that he knew of somebody who would suit Source's requirements.

Source told ARLDT that he had found somebody and ARLDT gave him four sheets of note-paper containing instructions, which Source claims not to have read. Source gave these to BALOG for the man he had found. Source saw the man only for a few minutes and never spoke to him.

BALOG asked Source for the money he had spent on the man and with HARSTER's approval Source gave him 15,000 Lire and 1,000 Swiss francs.

Source attempted to communicate once more with ARLDT but found that he had left for an unknown destination.

Source did not see BALOG or the agent again.

6. INSPECTION FROM BERLIN

In Jul 44 HUEGEL received a visit from Stubaf WOLFF, sent from Referat VI B (1), with whom he had conversations together with Stubaf HASS from PARMA.

HUEGEL told Source afterwards that Referat VI B had decided that HASS's network of agents was considered useless. HASS had thereupon asked to be allowed to carry on and prove that this was not so, to which HUEGEL had agreed and HASS returned to PARMA.

Source was not present at any of the conversations.

At about the same time HUEGEL was visited by Ustuf Dr MAYER. Source does not know from where Ustuf Dr MAYER came. He knows, however, that Dr MAYER visited COMO, MILAN and GENOA with Stubaf WOLFF in Aug. 44 and that in Jan-Feb 45 he travelled round NE ITALY with Oberscharfuehrer GIFFEY. Dr MAYER told him that he was on the look-out for potential line-crossers or agents suitable for training by Einheit "IDA" or the school in Via PASUBIO for post-occupational duties.

7. MOVEMENT OF SD OFFICERS

After Source had been appointed Adjutant to Gruppenfuehrer HARSTER on 21 Apr he met the following SD officers in BOLZANO:

Hptstuf FRIEBKE and his staff from BRESCIA.

As far as Source knows, FRIEBKE remained in BOLZANO on 10 May. FRIEBKE was accompanied by Ustuf KANT.

Oberstuf GOLD and Ustuf MOELLER and staff from BOLOGNA. These were sent to MERANO on 3 or 4 May to assist the Allies in policing the area.

Stubaf ALBERTI from PARMA and Hptstuf LEIBOLD from REGGIO nell'EMILIA and their staffs. These were sent to BRAXER WILDSEE on 4 or 5 May, where according to Source, they were to protect the former Austrian Chancellor SCHUSCHNIGG who was in the concentration camp.

Stubaf HASS and Oberstuf SCHUEBERNIG from Einheit "IDA". Source saw them driving into the town of BOLZANO on 29 Apr 45.

(17)

BALOG

Sonderfuehrer. Former interpreter at Aussenkdo, GENOA.
Age about 55.
About 1.80 m tall, slim, grey (?) hair - brushed back,
wears spectacles (?). Speaks Italian and possibly a
little Croatian. (BOLZANO - 3 or 4 May 45)

CLEMENS

Hptstuf. Abt VI Grenzbefehlstelle "WEST". Now FW.

DITTKES (?)

Hptstuf. From unknown unit.
Age about 35.
About 1.70 m tall, slim, dark hair.
Record: Reported to Source at BOLZANO. Told by HARSTER
that as he could not go back to his unit he had
better stay there.

(BOLZANO - 10 May 45)

ELFENAU

Standaf. OC Italian Waffen SS unit in CALDIERO.
Age 40-45.

Tall and fair. Only seen once by Source.
(CALDIERO - Jun 44)

GIFFEY

Oberscharfuehrer or Funkleiter. Assistant to Dr MAYER.
Age about 35.

About 1.80 m tall, well-built, black hair, round face.
(Almost certainly identical with "KIEFEL" - CSDIC/CMF/Z 140)
(VERONA - 10 Mar 45)

GOHL

Stubaf.
Age about 40.
About 1.80 m tall, strong build, black hair, round face.
Record: Reported to HUEGEL in Dec 44 from BERLIN (?).
Responsible for 70 French refugees arriving at
VERONA from INNSBRUCK at that time. Later
travelled to MILAN, GENOA and SAN REMO. Source
told by HUEGEL that GOHL was responsible for all
French persons.

(VERONA - Jan 45)

GOLD

Hptstuf. Aussenkdo BOLOGNA.
Age about 50.

About 1.74 m tall, stout, chestnut hair, round face.

(Maj. General) (BOLZANO - 3 or 4 May 45)
Gruppenfuehrer. Head of B.d.S. in ITALY. Now FW.

★ HARSTER

HARTMANN Mariana

Fraulein. Assistant at Via PASUBIO school, VERONA.
Description well-known.

Record: Transferred to Abt IV (?) in mid Jan 45.
(VERONA - mid Mar 45)

HASS Dr

Stubaf. Head of Einheit "IDA".
Description well-known. (BOLZANO - 29 Apr 45)

HOHMANN

Lieut. Head of Referat VI B (i) BERLIN.
Never seen by Source.

HUEGEL

Stubaf. Head of Abt VI, B.d.S. VERONA. Now FW.
(of CSDIC/CMF/SD 2 and 3).

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