

Station: Berlin

Report No: 84

L WK-69
7 Mar 46

Reference: AB7

Report Date: 26 February 1946

Source: Zigzag

Information Date: October 1945

Sub-Source: Klose

Date Info. Received: October 1945

Evaluation: B-1

SUBJECT: NKVD AGENTS - SCHWANICKE, HEINZ

1. This report is a supplement to Special Report No. 54 (14 February 1946).
2. Pursuant to our request of 10 October 1945, source had undertaken to investigate SCHWANICKE's activities, availing himself of the services of sub-source, a former Abwehr-employee, who has in the meanwhile been captured by the NKVD. Some of the information contained in this report is, therefore, dated. In view of the fact that it has now been established beyond peradventure that SCHWANICKE is in the employ of the NKVD, it was thought advisable to extract such information from our files as may have a direct bearing upon our assessment of SCHWANICKE as a potential threat to U.S. security.
3. SCHWANICKE came to the Abwehr approximately in the middle of 1942, when he was assigned to the AST Berlin as Hilfsoffizier. He remained with the Abwehr, working in the counter-intelligence branch, until around February 1945.
4. On 6 October 1945, source learned that sub-source had met SCHWANICKE some time ago in a barber shop in the east of BERLIN (Neanderstrasse) which sub-source knew to be owned by SCHWANICKE's father-in-law. SCHWANICKE told him that he had been apprenticed to his father-in-law. Several weeks later, beginning October 1945, sub-source called again. This time SCHWANICKE was not present; a barber-shop employee disclaimed ever having heard the name, which led sub-source to believe that he had been arrested by the NKVD; as it turned out an unfounded belief.
5. On 7 October 1945 source was told by Abwehr Major BRAUN that he had received a visit from SCHWANICKE some time ago. BRAUN, too, surmised that SCHWANICKE had been arrested.
6. On 7 October 1945 sub-source spoke to the wife of one Major BLANK, a former Abwehr officer, who mentioned that shortly after her husband's arrest she had received a visit from a young man answering the description of SCHWANICKE. The visitor conveyed greetings from Major BLANK whom he claimed to have met in a Soviet prison; he told Frau BLANK that he had been discharged from prison. On 22 September 1945 the visitor called a second time, this time in the company of his wife.
7. On 10 October 1945 sub-source had a talk with SCHWANICKE's father-in-law, Herr SCHOENBORN, and learned that contrary to rumor SCHWANICKE was not under arrest. According to SCHOENBORN he had been arrested by the Soviets as a former Army officer and been released after 11 weeks imprisonment on the score of ill health (after-effects of head injury).

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At the time source surmised that SCHWANICKE most likely concealed his Abwehr status from the Soviets, whereas ABL6 commented (12 October 1945): "Does this make it appear that SCHWANICKE is a double of Russians?"

8. On 22 October sub-source wrote to source that he had dropped by to see SCHWANICKE. The latter was out and he spoke to his wife instead, who told him among other things that SCHWANICKE had been detained in WEISSENSEE together with Major BLANK. She also mentioned that her husband was very anxious to meet source (a former Abwehr officer), and that he would like to know source's address.

9. SCHWANICKE is between 22 and 23 years old. Height: Approximately 1.60 meter. Youthful appearance. Oval-shaped face. Color of hair: Brownish/blond, combed back.

SSU COMMENT:

1. Savoy, who confirmed ABL6's suspicion that SCHWANICKE might be working for the NKVD, tells us (Info. Date: 17 Feb. 1946), that SCHWANICKE originally worked for Captain SKURIN (See Special Report No. 41).

2. When SKURIN was transferred from the NKVD section of the Weissensee Kommandatur to the Zentralkommandatur in Luisenstrasse, SCHWANICKE was retained by Weissensee and it must be presumed that he is now being run by an NKVD officer other than SKURIN.

3. Savoy visited SCHWANICKE on 20 February 1946 in the barber-shop and asked him to drop by at his office when he can spare the time.

4. For the time being Savoy and SCHWANICKE cling to the pretense of not knowing that they both work for the NKVD. What makes it more than likely that SCHWANICKE is aware of Savoy's NKVD affiliations, is the circumstance that his cover-story happens to be the same as Savoy's, who also claims to have been released from prison for reasons of bad health.