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I. GERHARD VON MENDE, @ Georg METRIVELLI

Born: 25 December 1904, Riga, Latvia

Citizenship: Became a naturalized German citizen in 1924.

- Languages: German
 Russian
 Ukrainian
 White Ruthenian
 Polish
 Czech
 Serbian
 Bulgarian
 Norwegian
 French
 Swedish
 Danish
 English
 Turkish
 Turk dialects
 Spanish
 Italian
 Latvian

Employment and Professional Experience:

- a. June 1923-October 1927, worked as an office clerk, then as a shipping clerk for the shipping and dispatching company of F. H. Bertling in Lubeck.
- b. 1934-1937, advisor ~~for the Kulturpolitik~~ for the Kulturpolitik in the German Academic Exchange Service, Berlin.
- c. 1935-1937, advisor in the foreign section of the Education Ministry.
- d. In December 1935, became instructor of Russian Affairs at the College of Economics, Berlin.
- e. In April 1936, was recognized as unsalaried teacher for Russian National Affairs at the College for Foreign Affairs in Berlin.
- f. In October 1939, was appointed university lecturer for Foreign Affairs at the University of Berlin.
- g. In October 1942, he became full professor at the University of Posen and in 1943, at the University of Berlin.

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- h. In June 1941, ordered by the Wehrmacht to report to the Ostministerium. Not given any responsible assignment but served in various minor assignments where an intimate knowledge of Eastern affairs was needed. Eventually became head of the Caucasus section which was later changed into Section for Foreign i.e. non-Russian, Nations. In this capacity maintained contact with most of the Eastern nationalities through national control offices of the Ostministerium and through ~~national control offices~~ the national liaison committees. His office also directed activities at the Ostministerium camp of Wustrau, a training camp for collaborators of Eastern nationalities. His contact with the RSHA was allegedly limited to requests for clearance of non-Germans with whom he intended to work. Also helped organize the propaganda program for Veneta of the Propaganda Ministry.
- i. His Ph.D. dissertation, Studies on the Colonization of the Soviet Union, was published as a book in 1933 by Briebsatsch in Breslau. In 1936, he wrote a paper entitled 'National Struggle of the Turks in Russia'. In 1938 'Die Volker Der Sowjetunion' was published and used as a standard work in the Ostministerium. All the first editions available were later destroyed and a second edition published entitled, 'Die Volker des Ostens.' In addition he collaborated with three other Georgians, all being held in a US interrogation center, on thirty-six papers dealing with national groups in Russia, Nazi administrative problems and methods in Eastern Europe and the organization of the Ostministerium.(45).

Education:

Secondary school, Pforta, 1923
Seminar for Oriental Languages, Berlin
Diploma for Russian, 1928
Diploma for Turkish, 1930
University, Berlin, 1927-29 and 1931-32
La Sorbonne and School of Living Oriental Languages, Paris, 1929-1930
University, Breslau, 1932-33, Dr. Phil.
Higher School of Economics, Berlin, 1933-35, Dr. Phil.

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Physical Description:

175 cm.
blue eyes
oval face
average height
male
erect posture
70 kg.

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irregular, badly
aligned teeth
blond hair
no scars
quiet, well-poised

Political Affiliations:

No party membership, no membership in related organisations. Written statement on unblemished political record issued by British Military Govern. in 1946.

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In his diary, von MENDE expressed hope of gaining American confidence. He complained about special privileges accorded former Nazis and SS personnel by the Allies. He condemned completely BERGER and ROSENBERG, head of the Ostministerium. He apparently felt that he was being mishandled by the Americans at the interrogation center and protested the check made into his past activities. He felt he had something to offer the Americans and complained of indecision about his case. He was also fearful that the Allies did not appreciate the time element involved in the East-West struggle and that the Bolsheviks would triumph.

7. Opinions and Prejudices

In his diary, von MENDE said that the characterization (presumably Nazi) of the Poles was perhaps not unjustified. He wrote that the Poles he had met at the I.R.G. camp in 1945 were the most undisciplined people he had ever met. He expressed a dislike of Poles and Hungarians (bad manners). By contrast, Germans are decent and active. At Wiesbaden, he noted that Americans, with the exception of sergeants, were very polite and friendly. Later he complained about American treatment saying that he had not met a single American who keeps his promise.

In his diary he betrayed his German nationalism. He stated that the German solution must be a national solution. A new Versailles would herald in the ruin of Europe. The breaking up of Germany means eternal chaos. A strong Germany is necessary to fight off the Eastern danger.

During an interrogation on 8 August 1945, he warned against the Russian emigration. Felt that the Russian emigres had the political concepts of the 18th. Century and no idea of modern social institutions. Their idea was to return to St. Petersburg and be reinstated in their antiquated functions. On 11 August 1945, he said that the plan for German colonization of Russia as far as the Dnieper was sheer nonsense. Said that the Caucasians, White Ruthenians and Ukrainians were even more highly individualistic than the Russians and therefore originally more opposed to the Soviet system of collectivisation.

8. Operational Suggestions

During interrogations, in his diary and in written reports submitted during the interrogation period, von MENDE frequently discussed the success and extent of German operations into Russia. Details of these operations and projects such as the ZEPPELIN Project, with which von MENDE was particularly well acquainted, are already known. There was some information of a more general nature which might be interesting.

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In view of the total mobilization of Soviet manpower, the Germans found that a civilian cover for an agent was not safe. The Russians did not share the German craze for documents and any person in Soviet territory was subject to a detailed interrogation about his business, his movements etc. Only a very few agents could be expected to pass such interrogations safely. Von MENDE did not recommend the use of emigres as agents because they were not acquainted with recent developments, are easily discovered in view of their ignorance of the recent slang and can not be given an up-to-date briefing because of constant changes in local Soviet administration. According to von MENDE a German was never used for a long range mission. Because of the distances involved, radio contact from within Russia was difficult.

Von MENDE said that the route taken into the Caucasus, particularly by the Azerbaidjans, was; Teheran-Tebris-Basht (port)-Baku. A good deal of transit trade moved along the Basht-Baku line. There was also an over-land connection into the Caucasus by way of southern Azerbaidjan. Turkestan went primarily by way of Meshed. Germans could not easily check these routes as there was no direct information chain between Teheran and Germany.

Von MENDE mentioned Tartar groups in Finland which did good service for the Finnish Intelligence during the first Russo-Finnish War (1936). Most of the Tartars live in Helsinki and Tampere. Von MENDE said that even salesgirls in fur shops in Stockholm had acted as intermediaries between Constantinople and the Finnish groups of Tartars. The route used was Harbin-Turkey-Germany-Stockholm-Finland. Von MENDE indicated that the Tartar group in Finland was very loyal to the Caucasian cause and were successful in their attempts to evacuate some Caucasian members of the Red Army, taken prisoners by the Finns, to the U.S.

Von MENDE considered the Tartars definitely interested in an intelligence work directed against the U.S.S.R. though would offer their services only to those who could make concrete offers to them in terms of their own political plans.

9. Friends and Acquaintances of Von MENDE.

ALCHIBAJA, Michael Born: 12-11-08. Georgian
(also ALSCHIBAJA and ALSCHIBAYA, Michael)
@ ALMANADZE Jr. Last known address: Munich, Monnalvatstr. 7.
Discharged from service to an American intelligence agency for security reasons. With von MENDE at U.S. interrogation center in 1945. Considered cleverest of the four Georgians there at that time.

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GABLIANI, Civi Dr.

Born 19 December 1929 in Russia. Cossack. Married to ALCHIBAJA's sister, Russudan. With von MEHDE at U.S. interrogation center.

FRANZEL, fm
GRASHOV, General

In charge of the Wostruz camp. Old, popular Cossack general. Involved in plans of the Ostministerium.

HROPY, fm

Director of Vozvta, a part of the Propaganda-ministerium.

KAYUM-KHAN

Von MEHDE believed he could be of use in Eastern operations and made a report to this effect at the interrogation center, 1945.

KNEUPFER, Dr.
KIBIJA

An assistant to von MEHDE at the Ostministerium. With von MEHDE at the interrogation center 1945. Probably has the most influence in the Georgian group. Helped in formulation of plans for Russo-German war and establishment of the Cossackian components of the Wehrmacht.

KOGE, Hans Professor
LANGE, Captain

Advised Ostministerium on Ukrainian questions. Head of an Abwehr project to train and dispatch Cossackian sabotage units.

NEUBACHER, fm

A Cossackian, at interrogation center with von MEHDE in 1945.

POHNER, Oberstlt.

Assigned Abwehr III (a/1). Worked with the General of the Volunteer Units.

STANLEBURG, Count

Friend of von MEHDE. Possibly sent to a "concentration" camp 20 July 1945.

TROSKA, fm

Handled von MEHDE at the Wiesbaden center.