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17 April 63

USAREUR Central Registry (Prov), 513th INTC Group, APO 154, US Forces

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MERZ, Hans (C)
DOB: 7 April 1910
POB: HARBURG

WARNING NOTICE-SENSITIVE
SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

(C) Information on file indicates Hans Hermann Alwin MERZ, born 7 April 1910 in HARBURG, served an apprenticeship in a machine shop in HAMBURG-Harburg as a tool maker and engineer assistant, dates not recorded. From 1928 until 1929, SUBJECT worked as a machinist on various ships of the Woermann Line of the German Merchant Marine. In 1929, SUBJECT went to ROTTERDAM, Holland, where HE worked as an apprentice in a tool and die shop and attended technical college, graduating in 1933. From 1933 until 1934, SUBJECT worked as a technician in various large German machine manufacturing concerns. In 1935, SUBJECT became head of the Manual Trades School in PLAUE. In 1936, SUBJECT was employed as a policeman by the Criminal Police in HAMBURG. In 1938, HE was transferred to the Hamburg Gestapo and placed in Amt III (Ausland Abwehr) as criminal assistant, where HE was used as a leg man. Late in 1938, SUBJECT was transferred to EMMERRICH for duty on the border as representative of Amt III, which included apprehension of illegal border crossers and interrogation of espionage agents and suspicious persons. In 1939, SUBJECT was recalled to HAMBURG and worked for a short period in the "Czechoslovakia Referat" of Amt III. In August 1939, SUBJECT was transferred to OPPELN, on temporary duty with the IV Army Corps, as a counter intelligence agent. In October or November 1939, SUBJECT was transferred from Amt III to Amt VI, RSHA, for operations and was moved to KRAKAU, Poland, where, for administrative purposes, HE was placed under the Commanding General of the SIPO and SD. SUBJECT began vetting and handling Polish informants. Although HE operated in Russia in 1942, Polish informants were HIS main source of information. SUBJECT succeeded in penetrating the Armia Krajowa (Home Army - AK) central coordinating headquarters. Allegedly, in 1941 or 1942, SUBJECT succeeded in recruiting and vetting, as an informant, a Colonel fnu Albrecht, not further identified, formerly with the Polish Army, later chief of staff of the underground partisan movement, Zwiasek Walki Zbrojny (Union of Armed Battle - ZWZ), within the AK. It was further alleged that SUBJECT and Albrecht worked out a plan whereby AK would cease its partisan activity in return for a German guarantee of Polish national independence, a larger proportion of Poles in the central government of Poland and easing of the occupation costs and restrictions placed upon the Poles. However, the plan

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was never realized. In 1942, SUBJECT was ordered to the SIPO and SD school in BERLIN-Charlottenburg where HE took a course for Kriminal Kommissar. Immediately upon completion of the course, SUBJECT was arrested by Amt IV, and charged with violation of General Orders of the SS and SD Reich Leader pertaining to collaboration with other nationalities; maintaining too close contact with Polish nationals; and private relations with a Polish national, one Renate Basilinski, not further identified. Subsequently SUBJECT was transferred to the labor education camp at HAMBURG. During an interrogation concerning the charges, SUBJECT pointed out to the Amt IV interrogators that HIS seemingly close relationship with Polish informants was necessary in order to achieve the best results in HIS work. In May 1943, after two-months' imprisonment, SUBJECT was released on orders of one Herbert Eilitz, chief of the Polish desk of Amt VI, not further identified, and without the knowledge of Amt IV. Subsequently SUBJECT was given the mission of effecting contact with one General Anders, not further identified, in the Middle East; however, the reason for the contact is not indicated. After HIS release, SUBJECT was bereft of rank and status and was working as a paid informant of Amt VI. SUBJECT traveled to ATHENS, ANKARA and CAIRO, in an attempt to complete the above mission. However, shortly after arriving in ANKARA, SUBJECT was compromised by the British when two RSHA Amt VI officials who were known to the British attempted to contact HIM. Ultimately, SUBJECT was picked up in CAIRO on 6 November 1943, and, was never able to fulfill HIS mission. British authorities held SUBJECT in a CAIRO internment camp from 1943 until 1945. On a subsequent unspecified date SUBJECT was tried and found not guilty of espionage and placed on FW status. In June 1947, SUBJECT was repatriated to Germany and interned in NEUENGAMME until April 1948, when HE was released. Upon release, HE returned to HAMBURG where HE was tried by the denazification court and cleared of charges of belonging to a criminal organization. On 20 December 1948, the prosecutor of the same court appealed the verdict, charging that SUBJECT had been a member of the Gestapo and SD. As a result of this charge, SUBJECT was given eight-months' internment, charged off due to time already served. Subsequently, SUBJECT filed an appeal to clear HIS name; however, the results of the appeal are not recorded. (F-6) No further information available.

COMMENT: (C) The above information is releasable to the BND. Additional information indicates SUBJECT was employed by the 66th INTC Group from an unspecified date until 25 November 1949 at which time HE was dropped without prejudice for an unspecified reason. (B-2)

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