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R/51

OSTRICH AND THE BRANDENBURG DIVISION

OSTRICH and HAGEDORN had a conversation in October 1944 with Oberst BEHLE, chief of the staff of the 85th Army Corps at Belfort, who told them that he was working with some groups of the BRANDENBURG Division. A few days later OSTRICH met the officers in charge of these groups: they were Hauptmann TRAEGER, Oberleutnant STIEFFLER (?) and Oberfaehnrich SCHWINN.

Although he is only an Oberfaehnrich, SCHWINN was certainly head of the group. Description: Height about 1m. 74; average build but very athletic; dark brown wavy hair; wore glasses. He has a Swiss mother and was a student in Switzerland, and he has a Swiss dialect. He speaks excellent French, knows France and understands the French people. He was active in the South of France in the area of Marseilles and Nice, using P.P.F. men in German uniform. He is critical of the S.D., and is alleged to have sent a report to HIMMLER on its work in France.

OSTRICH says that SCHWINN is the only really intelligent BRANDENBURG man he has met, and believes that he will be used again in espionage or sabotage in France.

JIGGER comments that SCHWINN was working under Major BANSEN in the 8th Company stationed at Avignon in October 1943 as instructor of French volunteers.

18.1.45

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