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SECRET
25 January 1945

TO: Chief, SOI

FROM: Lt. Michaelis

SUBJECT: Regums of known activities of BSEKOW - LITT Organization in France.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The arrest on 28 October 1944 and subsequent interrogation of OSTRICH brought to light details of an extensive enemy sabotage program of whose existence we had had no previous knowledge. OSTRICH's story was marked by the appearance of a number of familiar names, notably that of Otto SKORZENY, head of Amt VI/S of the RSHA; but there were also unfamiliar names, such as that of Raymond RICHARD alias MARTIN, the head of a sizeable organization in France which was ostensibly anti-Communist in character, but was potentially a far more serious threat to Allied security than at first appeared.

The RICHARD organization was to be used by SKORZENY in executing sabotage missions against the Allies. It is doubtless not the only one of its kind in existence. We know of at least one other group, that headed by Pierre MOUTON, and although we are not as yet informed fully on its activity, it is probable that the Germans hoped to use it for the same ends.

The pattern of organization, however, from Amt VI/S on down the line, is probably much the same in all existing organizations, and an analysis of the SKORZENY program as laid down for RICHARD will serve as a model for similar organizations in France and other countries.

This report will also discuss other organizations uncovered during the handling of the OSTRICH case, groups apparently designed to furnish information concerning targets. One is directed by Pierre LAGARDEBE from a base in enemy territory, and through what we have learned of it we suspect the existence of another in the South of France, which we are at present planning to penetrate.

2. BACKGROUND

Amt VI/S of the RSHA is today the center of sabotage activity directed against the Allies. SKORZENY himself is extremely capable, and he apparently has an equally able staff. Furthermore, his organization is now in a position to make use of the more than 800 sabotage dumps established in France by Abwehr II during the past year.

It will be recalled that it was through information furnished by JIGGER and SCHAGEN that we have been able to dig up about 40 of these dumps. We know that Amt VI/S hopes to make use of them, because from OSTRICH we have learned that the detailed instructions for locating these dumps (described to us by JIGGER), are now in the hands of SKORZENY's staff. OSTRICH saw them, and he gave copies to WREN and MEY in order that they might memorize the instructions. The dump which was assigned to WREN has subsequently been discovered by our services and it was without a doubt an Abwehr II depot. Since there are over 700 of these dumps still undiscovered in France alone, it is obviously a matter of first importance to locate them, and one of the objects of returning OSTRICH to Germany was to get information which will permit us to find more of them.

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3. HISTORY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEPOTS BY ABWEHR II

JIGGER has given us a full story of the establishment of the depots in France. In this country alone, he told us, there are at least 800 sabotage dumps; there are 300 in Belgium, 80 in Holland, and 50 in Denmark.

The setting up of the depots was called for in two Abwehr II operations which were given the code names of "OSTRICH" and "TALISMAN". They were conceived as early as February 1943, when Oberst LAHOUSEN was the Berlin head of Abwehr II. LAHOUSEN was succeeded by Oberst FREYTAG von LORINGHOVEN (Feb 43 - Mar 44), and the latter was replaced in March 1944 by Major HAUMANN. Both of LAHOUSEN's successors directed the work of establishing the depots, from Berlin. SKORZENY became Berlin chief in August 1944 when the RSHA literally took over the Abwehr, and it is he who directs Amt VI/S of the RSHA today, the former Abwehrabteilung II. ???

The establishment of depots in France was directed by Abwehrleitstelle II Paris. Oberstleutnant BRAMDENSTEIN began the work, and it was carried on by Oberstleutnant von ESCHENGE, his successor. The officer in charge of the technical side of the work was Major BRANDT. It was he who carried with him all the documents pertaining to the depots when the Germans left Paris in August 1944.

4. OSTRICH'S MISSION

OSTRICH is a 32 year old Swiss who crossed the lines into France last October on two missions for Amt VI/S: 1. He was to blow up the pipeline which is supplying gas and oil to our troops; and 2. He was to contact members of the RICHARD group in Paris. OSTRICH had received extensive training in sabotage, and was considered by Arno BESSEKOW, his immediate chief, as his best agent. He holds the rank of Untersturmfuehrer (Aug 44), and has had training at the A-Schule West in Holland, as well as instruction in a special course given in Berlin by Prof. Dr. LANGHANS of the Feuerwerkerschule.

Two other Amt VI/S agents crossed the lines at about the same time as OSTRICH: Maurice ZEBLER (WREN), and Fernand VLIBORAK. Both were arrested before they had a chance to proceed to La Houillee, a country house near Compiègne belonging to Pierre MORAND, which had been given them as a rendezvous point. There they were to meet OSTRICH, who was to supply them with explosives and send them on specific missions of sabotage. He was also to contact RICHARD and to send back to Germany, any news he might pick up, by radio. Because of what he felt was a lack of security in the arrangements for meeting the R/T operators, he did not memorize their names and addresses, and never looked for them.

5. SONDERKOMMANDO HAGENDORF

It later developed that OSTRICH was a member of the Sonderkommando HAGENDORF. This, named after its leader, Charlie HAGENDORF, was a group charged by BESSEKOW with the training of agents destined to enter France on sabotage missions. For details of the set-up, and names of the persons concerned, see Charts I, II, and III

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6. ORGANISATION "JEANNE"

This was the name given to the group organized by RICHARD, which OSTRICH was supposed to contact, and which BESSEKOW hoped to use to carry out his sabotage plans. RICHARD's group was one which developed from a clandestine political organization called the Equipe. This organization was formed by MENETREL, a member of PETAIN's cabinet, shortly after the armistice of 1940. It had two aims: 1. to furnish information of all sorts, but especially political and economic information, during the war, to the Marshal, in order that he might corroborate information on similar subjects furnished him by his ministers; and 2. to recruit people who could be used to govern France after the war under the guidance of PETAIN. MENETREL spent most of his time at Vichy, and one PRADTIER, a police commissioner at Versailles, was his representative in the Occupied Zone. MENETREL occasionally came to Paris and held meetings which were attended by members of the Equipe; on most occasions there were more members of Resistance movements at these meetings than there were collaborators.

RICHARD, who had formed an information service for the Equipe, began handing in reports which were sent to Vichy.

Toward the end of 1943 the Germans began to be suspicious of the Equipe, and at a meeting with PETAIN in Vichy in March 1944 it was decided to create an official organization which would be authorized by the Marshal, because in this way they would be protected from the curiosity of the Germans. It was called the Centre d'Etudes Politiques, but its aims were the same as those of the old Equipe. Its directors were CHEVALERETTE and INGRAND, and by August 1944 there were about 100 members, with an office at 6 rue Anatole de la Forge.

A few months later Les Amis du Marechal was formed, also with offices in the rue Anatole de la Forge, and with Rene DOMENGE and PELERSON as its supposed directors, although MENETREL was its real head. The purpose of Les Amis du Marechal was still to recruit people who supported the policies of the Marshal, and to gather information for him. Its members were recruited from groups which differed widely: followers of Laval, former members of l'Action Francaise, Resistance groups, collaborators, the Milice. Les Amis made its greatest appeal to anti-Communists.

Raymond RICHARD was in charge of the central office of Les Amis du Marechal. RICHARD, who has been arrested, was Mayor of Argency (Seine-et-Oise). He had been an Inspector with the Service de Police Anti-Communiste and had also worked for Abwehrabteilung III F2 and SD IV B during 1942, penetrating a French Resistance group. It was to RICHARD that Rene PONSIN, in charge of recruiting for Les Amis du Marechal, gave all his reports on his trips to the provinces. PONSIN travelled particularly in the North and East, recruiting new members for the organization and collecting information on the activities of members in the provinces.

RICHARD drew on the membership lists of Les Amis du Marechal when he had to furnish BESSEKOW with names of persons who might be used in the Organisation Jeanne. When it is recalled that even in the early days of the Equipe there were more Resistance members than collaborators in the group, it is clear why BESSEKOW was pleased with the names which RICHARD furnished him; BESSEKOW is reported to have said once that it was essential for the Germans to work, as far as possible, with people who were not known as collaborators.

For the relations between the Organisation JEANNE and Les Amis du Marechal, see Charts IV and V.

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Discussion of the Organisation JEANNE is not complete without mention of Gerard LITT, who, with RICHARD, shared responsibility for the French members of the group. It was he who was to provide the liaison between RICHARD and BESIKOW. His relation to other members of the organization can best be seen by referring to Charts I and II.

LITT and RICHARD agreed to accept arms from the Germans for distribution to members of their organization. OSTRICH, in particular, felt that RICHARD took the weapons only to fight the Communists, but this is just one man's opinion. In view of the fact that LITT has gone to Germany there is little doubt that he was ready to carry out any German sabotage program which might be laid down.

Another member of the Organisation JEANNE who deserves special mention is Albert GAVEAU, who was assigned the task by BESIKOW of helping in the distribution of arms, while the Germans were still in France. In case of an Allied occupation of France he was to be in charge of parachuting arms to German agents in France. He is reported to have set up four W/T sets in France, and is said by at least one informant to be expected to return to France on a special mission.

Two traps were made by members of the organization for the purpose of distributing arms, one in the North and one in Brittany.

7. COUNTER-SABOTAGE MEASURES

After thorough interrogation of OSTRICH, WREN, and WILGEM, it was decided to turn OSTRICH. We hoped that if his mission was successful he would bring back to us information on the following subjects:

- a. Exact locations of as many more sabotage dumps as possible;
- b. Names and addresses of stay behind W/T operators in Paris or vicinity;
- c. Any further information concerning German sabotage activity which he might be able to obtain. La Rouillee has been set up as a headquarters and control base in the hope that the Germans will use it for parachute operations.

OSTRICH was given a certain amount of personal freedom, and he began making numerous personal contacts in and about Paris. He located Mme. MORAND, the wife of the man who owns the property at La Rouillee, and leased the house for our use. Shortly after that WREN was installed there in order to give us a contact with anything that happened there. He was shortly joined by two former inspectors of the Surveillance du Territoire, SERADULT and MARCHEL, who are in constant touch with this detachment.

Through a personal friend in Paris he made another very valuable contact. He learned of the presence in Paris of Mme. NEY, wife of Rene NEY whom he had known in Germany. This detachment arranged to have her picked up by the French police, and she underwent lengthy interrogation before she admitted two important facts: first, that she had been assigned the mission of locating the pipeline and gasoline dumps; and second, that she had been in contact with three young girls who had been sent to France on a mission by Pierre LAGARDERE. Further information on the three young girls, their mission, and LAGARDERE will be given later.

Also through Mme. NEY we learned of the presence in Paris of another agent of the Sonderkommando MAGDONN named MOREAU. He too was arrested.

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Again through interrogation of Mrs. NEY, we learned of the fact that the three young girls had taken refuge at the home of CANARY. She, too, was arrested and through her we learned of the existence in the South of France of an information network headed by a man named LEON, whose secretary, Mlle. GABET, is a friend of CANARY'S.

Two other arrests were made through information obtained from Mrs. NEY: TRAL and GULL. Both had been contacted by Mrs. NEY, and both had seen the three young girls.

CANARY was released to return to her Paris home to await an anticipated visit from her friend Mlle. GABET; in this way it was hoped to secure further leads which might permit penetration of the Southern information network. However, Mlle. GABET has not turned up, and this detachment is considering the possibility of sending CANARY South to make the contact on the spot.

TRAL is still in custody, but his mail and telephone calls are being intercepted by the Abbe GLAUDE of the same church. This is being done on the chance that other persons who might be of interest to us may attempt to contact TRAL.

GULL has been returned to his home for the same reason; to date no interesting contacts have been made through him.

KAUTZ, paymaster of the LITF organization in France (See Charts I, III, and V), is to be interrogated by our services, after which further counter-sabotage action may be taken.

The three young girls, mentioned above, have been arrested and are expected in Paris soon for similar interrogation and subsequent action.

C. TRAINING SCHOOLS

a. Badenweiler

Members of the Paris group who left Paris in August 1944 received considerable training at Badenweiler. The subjects taught were: use of explosives, radio, driving automobiles and motorcycles, anti-Communist and National Socialist propaganda, and general instruction of a political and economic nature.

b. Neustrelitz

From interrogation of PALMIERI, another BESSON agent who was parachuted into France during December, we know there was another school at Neustrelitz in November 1944. Some of the persons at this school also attended the Badenweiler school earlier. The use of explosives was also taught at this school.

c. Badenweiler (?) - Arweiler (?)

At one of these places Pierre SAGNIERE is apparently training agents to return to France on missions to secure information. Mrs. NEY reports the location of SAGNIERE as Badenweiler, while CANARY'S information is that the training is being given at Arweiler. Both women got their information from the three young girls, who are to be typical of the agents SAGNIERE is training. More definite information will be available after the three girls have been interrogated here.

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A. CONCLUSIONS

Of the counter-sabotage projects outlined in this report, by far the most important is that involving OSTRICH's return trip to Germany. He crossed the lines on the night of 15 January; we have made arrangements to hear from him through his father in Switzerland on or around February 1. If he is successful we will have in our hands important information not only concerning other sabotage drops which we know exist in France, but also about any future sabotage plans which BREBKOF may have in mind. La Rouilles may even be the scene of German parachute operations; in that event, appropriate arrangements have been made to receive them.

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Senderkommando HAGEDORN (Paris)

SKORZENY Asst VI/8

BESKOW, Asst. to SKORZENY
Stubaf. MEYER, Asst. to BESKOW
Stubaf. LIENHOLZ, Chief en cabinet for S.

Officers

Employees

E

Agents

Offstuf. HAGEDORN

Hilde SCHEITVAL, interpreter
Alicia MACKERT, stenographers

LITT @ GERARD @ GEORGES,
Chief of French Group

KAUTZ, Asst. to HAGEDORN

Offstuf. HACHEL alias LOUIS, instr. of French group

Sturmfuhrer MEYER @ LEO @ HARDI " "

Hermann VALENTIN instr. " " "

Jules GERR " " " "

RICHARD
LAMBERT
LAURENT
Jacques ALBERT
BOBY
JULES
MAX
TOM
JEAN
JEANNOT

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Sender: Commando HAGEDORN (Fischingen, later Badenweiler)

SEBEXOS

Officers

Employees

Agents

HAGEDORN
Capt. Kurt LGRA, director of
the school
Hermann VALENTIN, instructor
Unterf. Leo HAEM, asst. to V.

Scharf, Hans ULBRICH, auto and
motorcycle instr.
Jules GENE, asst. to ULBRICH
Scharf, FINKEL, radio instr.
in chg. of transmitter at
Badenweiler
Scharf, MORITZ, asst. to FINKEL
LITT, instr. in chg. of anti-
Communists and Nat. Soc.
propaganda
Pierre LAMARDERE, in chg. of
political and economic
meetings.
COLOMBANI, in chg. of prop-
aganda.

EMANUELE
ZOLLINGER
Louis MARCHAND
Georges MARONIA
MICHEL
DEMARET
FABRE
MOREL
MOREAU
JUBBIS
HARLE
Chas. GAUDIC
ALBANI
Louise HAZET
Odette REBER
REIZET
MUSSENACH family

CHART II (Source: RAUTZ)

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Sonderkommando HAGEDORN (Belfort) Nov. 1944

BESEKOW

Officers

HAGEDORN
KAUTZ

Employees

Gscharf. Hans ULENICH
Rene SCHMITT (NEY) right
hand of HAGEDORN
MUTTER, interpreter
MIMI
CHAHREL, false papers
Hermann DOBRITSCH, detach.
to Mailhouse
Gscharf. KONIGAK, asst. to
DOBRITSCH

Collaborator

Oberkollekt ZOEHLNER
with SD at Belfort

Agent

VAILLARD
Le Petit JEAN
LOUISETTE
MIREILLE
Marie-Louise
© MALOU

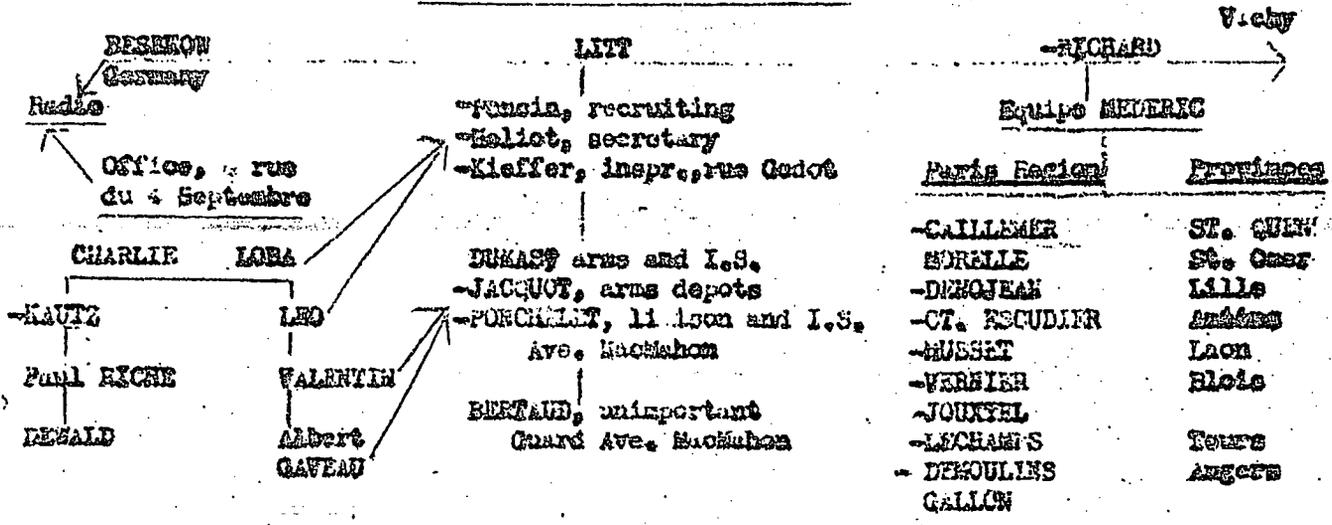
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CHART III (Source: KAUTZ)

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LIST ORGANIZATION IN JULY 1944



* executed
- arrested

CHART V (Source: RICHARD)

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SCHOOL AT NEUSTRELITZ

BEBEKOV

Personnel

Pupils

Ostaf. NIETZ, asst. to BEBEKOV
and in chg. of administration
Ostaf. MEER, in chg. of flying
Ostaf. NIETZ, head of sabotage school
Ostaf. LANE, asst. to NIETZ
Ostaf. ERLIS, instr.
Ostaf. SCHULTZ, instr.

AMICO
ALLEGRAH family
(2 sons and father)
BIBERT
CARLI
COULET @ FRANCIS
FRANZ
GAYEAU @ VAN @ Dr. PAUL
NOYA
JOEY @ PARFAIT
LOUES @ ROUSSELET
LEPENTHUIS
ROLLION @ MICHEL
Michel HARLOPE
Rede MEY
SORDI
Charles GAUDIOT

CHART VI (Source: PALMIRI report R/54)

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