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STATION : Heidelberg REPORT NO. : MGH-1246  
 (HSC-81)

OFFICER : [ ] REPORT DATE : 25 April 1947

SOURCE : Manfred ROEDER INFO DATE : 1942-43

EVALUATION: F-3 DATE INFO REC'D: 7-12 April 47

REFERENCE : MGH-1218 (HSC-77);  
 MGH-1219 (HSC-78) PAGES : 2

SUBJECT : EQUAL: Miscellaneous

NOTE: This is the last in a series of three reports based on information furnished by Manfred ROEDER, chief prosecutor of the Reichskriegsgericht (highest Army court) trial of members of EQUAL's German branch and judge in two trials of members of the Belgian and French EQUAL branches. With the exception of para. 4, the information in this report was obtained by ROEDER from persons concerned in EQUAL after his own professional part in the EQUAL proceedings had come to an end; the information should therefore be treated with a degree of reserve.

1. In the course of a German playback on the set of a captured EQUAL parachutist, Moscow gave instructions that a certain Werkmeister MUELLER in Freiburg/Breisgau be given a W/T set and some money. A Gestapo check revealed that MUELLER was a respected citizen and treasurer of the local NSV (National Socialist Welfare organization). A female Gestapo assistant was equipped with a Russian W/T set and the proper amount of money and despatched to MUELLER. She reported back to the Gestapo that she had been received in a manner indicating that an agent had long been expected. She also described a woman living with MUELLER, whom Amt IV believed to be a parachutist intended for a Communist group in Vienna. Source remembers only that this woman was known as "Lenchen from Vienna" (Lenchen aus Wien).

2. MUELLER and "Lenchen" were arrested. "Lenchen's" equipment was found to be typically that of a Russian parachutist, and she admitted that she was working for Russian Intelligence.

3. "Lenchen" further stated that she was to contact a Frau MUELLER in Switzerland, who in turn was in touch with the engineer AENIS-HANSLIN in Paris. Frau MUELLER also had some connections with the Swiss Corrodi bank, and Source believes, though he admittedly could not remember details, that she made payments to the Marseille EQUAL group, possibly through Corrodi. Source could not furnish any information on the fate of the MUELLERs or "Lenchen".

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Field Comment: The information in paras. 1-3 was probably given to Source by Kriminalkommissar STRUEBING of Amt IV, RSHA. The MUELLERs are apparently identical with the MUELLERs mentioned in MI 5's The Case of the Red Orchestra, Second Report, Appendix A, Part I, Index #152. AENIS-HANSLIN, whom Source called HAENSELEN, is described in the same report, Index #3.

4. In early February 1943 Source presided as judge at the trial in Brussels of DAVIDOV, MAKAROV, a third Russian whose name Source cannot remember, a certain Rita (last name unknown), and Maurice BEUBLET. The three Russians and BEUBLET were sentenced to death, while Rita received a three-year prison sentence.

5. One of the three condemned Russians was said to be a nephew of Soviet Foreign Minister MOLOTOV. He was reportedly not executed, but interned in a concentration camp.

Field Comment: Paras. 4 and 5 represent the only information Source could add to available knowledge of Belgian EQUAL. According to Bavarian CSU chief Josef MUELLER, a nephew of MOLOTOV's named Lt Vasilii Vasilievich KOKORKIN was interned with him during the war in Flossenburg concentration camp. In the summer of 1946 MUELLER asked the assistance of this office in sending a letter to KOKORKIN, whose address he gave as 17 Red Square, (Krasnaia Ploshchad) Moscow.

6. In Paris, Source presided as judge at the first sessions of the trial of Anna and Basil MAXIMOVICH, Anna HOFFMANN-SCHOLTZ, Hans KUPRIAN, three secretaries from the office of the German military governor in Paris, and a German couple from Danzig who apparently acted as couriers for the French CP under cover of theatrical engagements for the Germany Army. Basil MAXIMOVICH and the Danzig couple were sentenced to death; Anna MAXIMOVICH, HOFFMANN-SCHOLTZ, and the secretaries received prison sentences. Source cannot remember KUPRIAN's sentence.

Field Comment: Source, who was briefed by Kriminalkommissar JUNCK of the Paris Gestapo for the trial, could not add any new information on the French EQUAL branch.

7. Source stated that Johannes SIEG had probably arranged the meeting in Switzerland between SCHULZE-BOYSEN and Wolfgang LANGHOFF.

Field Comment: See MGH-1218 (HSC-77), para. 4. The meeting took place in 1938.

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