

Classification
S-E-C-R-E-T

INFORMATION REPORT
Office of Naval Intelligence

Serial No. 176-C-50

Date of Report
24 November 1950

From
COMNAVFORGER, AFO 742

Source
As noted herein

Evaluation
B-2

Subject
GERMANY/ARGENTINA. Subversive Elements.

SUMMARY: Supplementary information bearing on the suspicious activities of Oberst RUDEL, ex-Luftwaffe ace, in Western Germany (October/November 1950).

REFERENCE: (a) COMNAVFORGER Berlin despatch 101437Z of November 1950.

1. The following is supplementary to the information reported in reference (a) concerning the suspicious activities carried on in Western Germany and Switzerland by Oberst RUDEL, former Luftwaffe ace, now back in Argentina where he is allegedly employed by the Argentine Government: (Source is the same referred to in reference (a), i.e., a former ranking German naval flag officer who has been associated with COMNAVFORGER intelligence organization over the past several years).

"Oberst RUDEL, ex-Luftwaffe ace, distinguished himself particularly in the destruction of Russian tanks in aerial support of German infantry, despite the loss of one leg in combat. He has been in Argentina since 1948 and is officially employed by the Argentine Government as test pilot and inspector of all planes purchased by or operated by that government. However, his employment is limited in scope due to the fact that Argentina does not have the financial means to purchase many aircraft nor the industry with which to produce and develop planes.

"RUDEL arrived in Germany along about early October 1950 and spent about four weeks touring Western Germany; he left Germany about 8 November for Switzerland.

"RUDEL is very idealistic and possesses strong fascist tendencies and beliefs. During his tour through Western Germany he made a number of speeches to selected groups of influential friends, acquaintances and students, directed at encouraging the Germans not to offer any resistance to any aggression from the 'East', arguing that it would require at least one hundred well-equipped and trained divisions to repel any such aggression and that the Western Powers were not in a position to supply adequate protection for Western Germany. He also expressed views to the effect that it was no longer possible to attack Russia proper from the air in daylight raids, and that the Russians were well equipped with many short-range jet fighters capable of gaining 15,000 meters altitude within four minutes after takeoff.

"RUDEL appeared to be well supplied with money - far above that which he could be expected to draw from the Argentine Government in his present position. He professed to be non-communist but it is strongly suspected that he is being financed and used by undercover communist organizations.

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COMNAVFORGER Serial 476-8-50 of 24 November 1950.

RUDEL exhibited a very strong antipathy for the following named Germans, now also residing in Argentina, merely because they were not in sympathy with his views:

Professor TANK - former builder of F-W planes and now engaged as aircraft constructor for the Argentine Government.

Ex-General GALLAND - former Luftwaffe ace, now employed in Argentina as pilot instructor.

Ex-Oberst LAUMBACH - former Luftwaffe ace, now engaged in civil employment in Argentina.

2. Intelligence Officer's Comment:

(a) With regard to RUDEL's statement that at least 100 divisions would be required to safeguard Western Germany from Soviet aggression, members of COMNAVFORGER's Naval Historical Team have heard this same estimate from various other sources in Schleswig-Holstein which they believe to have been originated by RUDEL. NHT considers that RUDEL - who used an assumed name in Germany, unknown to them - has started a dangerous trend of thought in influential circles in Western Germany.

(b) The person responsible for arranging a meeting between RUDEL and this office's source, was advised by the latter of the destructive influence of RUDEL's propaganda and that, if possible, the influenced groups of people be informed of that fallacy and apprised of the danger of RUDEL's views.

(c) This office has instituted action with a view towards determining the individuals and groups RUDEL may have contacted during his recent tour of Western Germany, the results of which will be forwarded upon becoming available.

(d) It is hardly conceivable to the undersigned that President PERON of Argentina would appreciate RUDEL's acting as a Soviet "missionary" to Germany (whether out of idealistic or pecuniary reasons), especially in consideration of the sanctuary afforded this German renegade in that country.

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