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I. Under SKORZENY (Contd.)

SKORZENY, Otto, (Lieut. Colonel) in S.S. CIT: GERMANY - DOB: 6.1901

German - from Vienna; aged 44; broad and big build; height 2m. light brown hair; long and wide face; reddish complexion; cleanshaven; robust appearance; wore uniform; deep voice; scar on left cheek; languages: German.

SIS [illegible] - PARAGGA, ANNA MARGUERITE

Seen: Friedenthal, October/November 1944.

Note: SKORZENY freed MUSSOLINI. Took HORTY prisoner and wanted to capture EISENHOWER. He is in command of various S.S. Jagd Verbaende and agents.

STOCK.

German, from Thuringen; aged 46; slim build; height 1.73 m.; black hair, with grey at temples; dark eyes; pale complexion; false teeth; small moustache; thin hands; delicate appearance; dressed in S.D. uniform and dark blue civilian clothes; languages: German.

Seen: Friedenthal, late 1944.

Note: One of BEHKOW's men. Concerned with the clothing, provisioning and payment of groups of agents.

WETZ, S.S. Hstuf.

German, Viennese; aged 33; tall, slim build; height 1.65 m.; dark blond hair; blue eyes; pale complexion; cleanshaven; slim hands; distinguished appearance; dressed in uniform; pleasant voice; speaks with Viennese dialect.

Seen: Friedenthal, late 1944.

Note: Army doctor and works mostly in laboratory.

WINTER, S.D. Oberstumfuehrer.

German (North); aged 28; small, slim build; height 1.62m.; dark blond hair; blue eyes; fresh complexion; cleanshaven; slim hands; good appearance; dressed in uniform; languages: German, a little French, English.

Seen: Friedenthal, Neu-Strelitz, late 1944.

Note: Sabotage Instructor.
PRELOGAR states that she was told by HOYER that the plan to assassinate Hitler in July 1944 was exposed by a girl named MEYER, a fiancee of WINTER and secretary of one of the Generals involved, working at the office in Kalckreuzstrasse, Berlin. This same office, 5 Kalckreuzstrasse, Berlin, was visited by PRELOGAR when it was afterwards used by the S.D. for their agents.

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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
(2)(A) Privacy ☐
(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☑
(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

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Date:

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

2001, 2005

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ORIGINAL ACCOUNT OF HERSELF GIVEN BY PRISONER

PRELOGAR maintained that when she made contact with HOYER she did not know that she was making contact with the G.I.S. and that she would be required to go on a mission; that the first time she had been told that she was to go on a mission was 20th December 1944. The story extracted at Camp 020 shows that she was aware of this at an earlier date.

ULTIMATE STORY TOLD UNDER INTERROGATION

I. FIRST CONTACT WITH AND RECRUITMENT BY ENEMY

1944 15/20th Sept. PRELOGAR, MORAEL and their party had reached the village of Soltau when a message from Lüneburg reached them in the evening to go to a certain Hotel in Lüneburg at once. Accordingly, MORAEL with PRELOGAR and the two Flemings drove into Lüneburg which was reached in the darkness.

They drove to this hotel which was near the station, and MORAEL went inside leaving the other three outside. After a while he came down and explained briefly to PRELOGAR that he and she would now do something else, and would work for the Germans behind the Allied lines in Belgium; he gave her no further details. They now both went into the hotel, leaving the two Flemings to spend the night in the car outside.

PRELOGAR was taken up to a room where she was introduced to Hauptsturmführer HOYER and a Fleming OP DE BEECK, neither of whom she had met before, although MORAEL had known the latter for a long time.

HOYER was an S.S. Hauptsturmführer serving under SKORZENY who was in charge of special operations, in one of which he had captured MUSSOLINI. OP DE BEECK was assisting him in recruiting men and he it was who had recommended MORAEL to HOYER.

PRELOGAR was offered a bath which she gratefully accepted as she was feeling cold and dirty and tired. They all spent the night in HOYER's room, PRELOGAR sleeping on a sofa in her clothes with a blanket, while the other three chattered to each other in whispers, lying fully clothed on HOYER's bed.

The next day they found accommodation at the Gasthof Hennes where they stayed until they left Lüneburg, MORAEL paying the bill for the two of them although PRELOGAR had 20,000 Belgian Frs. of her own which she later changed into 1,000 RM. MORAEL and OP DE BEECK went off to the local Barracks to recruit Belgians for HOYER. PRELOGAR saw HOYER at luncheon and dinner, and learnt that she would be joining S.S. Jagdverband 502, which was under the command of SKORZENY. She learnt that HOYER had recruited a number of Flemish girls to be Nachrichtenhilferinnen in this organisation, and they were at the moment quartered in the Schliefenkaserne in Lüneburg.

PRELOGAR states that she hardly saw MORAEL as he went away again for the whole of the next day with OP DE BEECK recruiting in the villages round about and particularly in one called Luchow. PRELOGAR waited for him at the Devlag offices.

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I. FIRST CONTACT WITH AND RECRUITMENT BY ENEMY (contd.)

1944 Sept. She saw TORGA and discussed the proposition made to her; he counselled her against carrying it out, but reassured her that HOYER was a fully accredited member of the S.S.

18/22nd Sept. On MORAEL's return a day or two later, PRELOGAR discussed the matter with him, and suggested that they go to Munich where she had friends who would provide for them. This was not pursued, as MORAEL threatened PRELOGAR that if she did not accept the proposition, he would see to it that she was put in prison.

PRELOGAR states that MORAEL was employed by HOYER for these few days to discover the activities of Jef van der WEIDE, the leader of Devlag, and of VERBEEKEN, one of his most active lieutenants.

24th Sept. PRELOGAR finally accepted and said definitely that she would carry out a mission on the day HOYER left for Oranienburg with the whole party of Flemish girls and men who had been recruited in this district.

II. SUBSEQUENT MOVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES GENERALLY

The following account may not be in a strictly chronological order as PRELOGAR has the greatest difficulty in remembering dates and the sequence of events.

PRELOGAR and MORAEL stayed on two days after HOYER's departure under the wing of OP DE BEECK. MORAEL continued his investigations on HOYER's behalf.

26th Sept. On approximately the 26th September, PRELOGAR was driven by MORAEL and accompanied by OP DE BEECK in a car to Oranienburg. They ran out of petrol on the way and MORAEL left a typewriter in pledge to obtain enough petrol to enable him to reach Friedenthal.

They reached Oranienburg at night and reported to HOYER whom they found to be most displeased with a certain BESEKOW for having made no arrangements for the accommodation of the women although he had warned him that he was bringing them. BESEKOW was a Hauptsturmführer who appeared to be on the planning staff of SKORZENY.

HOYER showed them their quarters at once, and he locked PRELOGAR in her room as a precaution, and because nothing was properly organised.

PRELOGAR states that the establishment was referred to as Oranienburg or Sachsenhausen or Schloss Friedenthal. They were all adjacent and contained together a transit camp, a training school accommodation in huts and the H.Q. itself which was actually in Schloss Friedenthal; the whole belonged to the S.S. and came under the command of SKORZENY. There was also a concentration camp for political prisoners nearby. PRELOGAR is unaware of the exact subdivisions or nomenclature of the various components of this establishment; she states that their names were changed frequently for security reasons.

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1944
End Oct./ early Nov. PRELOGAR states that a number of changes took place at the end of October or in early November, although she cannot remember the exact date. HOYER departed to Neu-Strelitz with all his staff and instructors, leaving but the minimum of personnel behind. Those leaving included Uschf. HENGST, who had been the N.C.O. to whom PRELOGAR reported administrative demands, Uschf. WINTER and MORAEL. The women were split into two groups; twelve remained to continue with W/T: twenty-five, who were considered unfit for W/T work, were sent to learn sabotage at Neu-Strelitz. This was known as "Kampfschule Flandern", although PRELOGAR does not know whether this name applied to the whole or only to part of the establishment. The twelve who remained were moved from their hut outside Friedenthal into another one, actually inside the grounds.

1-10 Nov. The instruction in Morse continued under Uschf. RAABE and a Czech Stur'mann whose name PRELOGAR cannot remember. They were now also taught codes by these two instructors. RAABE replaced HENGST as the N.C.O. to whom PRELOGAR reported administrative trifles concerning the group of women remaining. PRELOGAR states that she was uncertain who was in charge of them from this date onwards, as it seemed to change: first it was BESEKOW, then "Papa" STOK, the senior administrative officer at Schloss Friedenthal, and when HOYER came over now and then from Neu-Strelitz he appeared to be in charge.

They continued to attend classes in some hutments set aside for training, and two Frenchmen named JEANJEAN and PIRE (ANDRE) came for a while to polish up their Morse before departing on a mission to France in December. They told PRELOGAR that they had already done two missions.

Some fifty airmen came in and used the hutments allotted to the girls with the result that the girls had to do their training in their own rooms, in which ear-phones and buzzers were set up. These airmen wore yellow collar-patches and were mostly senior N.C.O.s and a few privates, but there were no officers amongst them. They came to do a short course in W/T and were issued with S.S. uniform before being sent off elsewhere. PRELOGAR is unable to state either where they went, or what for.

In early November PRELOGAR went to Neu-Strelitz with the other girls to attend the ceremony of the men taking the oath. This took place at night in the open before an open fire, and HOYER led the ceremony. The men swore fidelity to the Fuehrer but PRELOGAR can remember nothing further about the terms of the oath. On this occasion speeches were made in Flemish; one in particular was by a man called POPPE, a Fleming who had just returned from Belgium. PRELOGAR understood but little of it, her knowledge of Flemish being imperfect.

15 Nov. In the middle of November SKORZENY came to Oranienburg and at a special parade, he commissioned some N.C.O.s and distributed gold "Kriegsverdienstkreuze" to some men who had been on the HORTHY mission. The girls who were still there attended in uniform and PRELOGAR states that this was the only occasion on which she wore uniform. A photograph was taken of everybody, and she states that she stood behind a tall girl so that she should not appear on it. HOYER was reprimanded by SKORZENY for issuing these uniforms to the girls without permission, and he gave orders that they should be provided with civilian clothes. Accordingly, the next day all the girls went off to Berlin with Frl. KRUGER, and were allowed to choose a complete set of clothes at the "Kaufhaus des Westens" (details are given in Appendix VII).

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1944 15 Nov. PRELOGAR stated that she was only too pleased that MORAEL had gone off to Neu-Strelitz for a time. She explained this attitude by saying that although she was grateful to MORAEL for having protected her from the Germans, she hated him for being a Nazi, and was quite indifferent to him as a man. During his stay at Neu-Strelitz MORAEL came down to Oranienburg to spend the weekend with PRELOGAR two or three times. On one of these visits he was summoned to BESEKOW, with whom he stayed some time. Dec.

He returned, a little gay from drinking, and fetched PRELOGAR and Adrienne VOLCKE. Several others were there, one STEENS, an N.C.O. instructor on MOYER's staff, Ostuf. MAYER, one of BESEKOW's subalterns, and a man and woman who had just come back from a mission for BESEKOW. PRELOGAR was given copiously to drink, and she is of the opinion that it was arranged purposely to see how she would behave under the influence of drink, and whether she would talk. PRELOGAR assures us that she acquitted herself honourably.

In early December MORAEL returned to Oranienburg and was quartered in some barracks outside Schloss Friedenthal. At the same time the OP DE BEEK group returned from Neu-Strelitz where they had worked hard at an intensive sabotage course. They stayed two or three days during which they handed in their uniform and were issued with civilian clothes: after that they left, and though PRELOGAR does not know where they went, she surmises that it was either to France or Belgium.

5-10 Dec. Shortly after MORAEL's return, PRELOGAR put in a request for an interview with BESEKOW and an appointment was arranged by his secretary, Frl. KRUGER. PRELOGAR told BESEKOW that she did not want to continue her W/T training. She said that she did not like being at Oranienburg, that she did not see what useful purpose her presence there served, that she suffered continually from colds there, and that she would do no more W/T training. BESEKOW calmed her down: he told her that she need not continue with her W/T training and that something would be arranged.

About this time, MORAEL was taken by MOYER with some others to another training establishment at Inselhof. This appears to have been a harum-scarum party which started in the evening, and lasted until morning. PRELOGAR states that she heard about it from MORAEL afterwards and that they took a photograph of PRELOGAR with them, and tried to persuade MORAEL that she was untrustworthy, and advised him to break with her.

10 Dec. On about December 10th SKORZENY came to inspect the girls, who were being trained in Oranienburg. He came into their quarters where they were practising their Morse, accompanied by RADL, who deputised for him at Friedenthal in his absence. He brought a large Alsatian dog with him and enquired of the girls whether they were satisfied. He asked RAABE about their progress, and RAABE gave a grossly exaggerated account of their speed, mentioning 60/90 l.p.m. SKORZENY suggested that they should be given some technical wireless instruction and RAABE said that that would be given them later. Whether it was or not PRELOGAR does not know, as she did not continue with the training.

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