

SECRET CONTROL

ECLA 650'3  
1 Dec 53

EA #201-24416

NAME: SOMANN, Otto  
(last, first, et al)

TITLES:

LAERKE, Othmar  
ALIAS: SEIDEMANN, Othmar

✓ BORN: 24 Oct 1899 ; Toddin nr Hagenow/Mecklenb.  
(day, month, year, city/Prov.)

App. Age:  
(+ or -# of yrs)

Photo (if yes, date & file):

Religion:

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION:

Ht: 187cm Wt: Eyes: Teeth: Hair: dark

Face-shape: round Complexion: Scars: Build: robust

Pre-nent/ident. features:

FATHER:

(last name, first, et al) (titles) (Birth day-mo-yr.: city/Prov.)

OCCUP:

RESIDENCE:

MOTHER: (maiden name):

OCCUP.:

RESIDENCE:

SPOUSE: Anna nee ?

CHILDREN:

RESID: Hamburg 13, Komsaestr 49 ('53 Hsb tel. dir.) TEL.# 45 44 03

(city-suburb/Province street #/Floor)  
(formerly) Berolina-Steeghitz, Wrangelstr 6 (SS Officers file)

BUSINESS: formerly Schmied, Landwirt, SS-Fuehrer

TTD# issued: for countries:

PASSPORT# issued: for countries:

KK# (true) AT 945 091 EEA issued: Hamburg  
(date city)

KK# (a) ER-162503 @ LAERKE issued:  
By I 180009 @ SEIDEMANN

ORG.: 47-L GV B POS'N:

prior EOD: Sep '51 COVER UNIT: 7949 QM Pro. Team

V# 2950 S#  
(formerly 2877/LAERKE)

Payroll # Cryptonym:

E Card # 03155, 6 Dec 51 ID Card #

Emergency # EEA 682

SPECIAL DOCUMENTATION: Brit. Zone ID card #00229 dtd 21 Feb 52

SUMMARY OF QUALIF., ACTIV.:

GV L: a/o Hamburg; Target: III-Bruderschaft, Polizei and SD, Kreise Stellvertretender  
BV Leiter Nord

GV B: UV 17; Living and a/o: Hamburg; Target: V-Mannfuehr

in '52  
\*Attempted to join BRUDERSCHAFT but they suspected him to be an agent, possibly RIS.

REFERENCES: MGLA-8090, 5 Sep 51; MGLA-9532, 10 Dec 51; MGLA-9948, 11 Jan 52;  
WSMA-1812, 1 Feb 52; FRAMA-1118, 25 Feb 52; MGLA-10657, 6 Mar 52; FRAHF-3079, 15 May 52;  
MGS A-6874, 16 Jun 52; MGLA-12423, 21 Jul 52; MGLA-247, 22 Sep 52; MGLA-842, 5 Nov 52;  
MGLA-944, 12 Nov 52; MGLA-2278, 6 Feb 53; MGLA-4184, 23 Jun 53; MGLA-4677, 24 Jul 53.

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1920-22 Mbr "Freikorps Rossbach"  
since 1922 "Frontbann"  
until 1925 "Deutschvoelkische Freiheitspartei"  
1926 SA-Mann  
until 1931 Held post of "NSDAP-Ortsgruppenleiter"  
NSDAP No. 58 502, entry date unknown  
1931 SS No. 25 638  
Allg. SS since 1 Nov 1931  
1934 Allg. SS units: 2/II/22 Hagenow, SS Oberabschnitt Nord (Stabswache)  
Aug-Oct: in SS-Verfuegungstruppe (rank: Hauptscharfuehrer)  
since ca 1934 served in SS on full-time basis  
1936 Stab SS Sammelstelle: SD Hauptamt (RSHA)  
1944 Inspekteur der SIPO und des SD in Wiesbaden  
26 Feb: appointed "Oberst der Polizei"  
21 Jun: SS rank, Oberfuehrer  
since July: Acting "Befehlshaber der SIPO und des SD in Metz"  
29 Aug: "Inspekteur des Zollgrenzschutzes beim General-  
grenzinspekteur"  
since 1944 Detailed to RSHA, Amt IV ("Gegnerforschung")

Note: from Jun '45 interrogation of Christian BAUMANN: SS Oberfuehrer SOMANN ambitious; formerly Leiter of an SD Oberabschnitt in Hamburg, Deputy General Grenzinspekteur in RSHA Amt IV; last seen 5 May 45 at Flensburg and said he was going to be attached to Regierungspraesident in Schleswig to form a Grenzschutzkorps on German-Danish frontier; was mbr of Nordstab, RSHA formed Apr '45; SOMANN did all the work of General Grenzinspekteur; he and his staff given task of bringing about better frontier control and of creating unified Grenzschutzkorps; instead of applying themselves to task of practical frontier control they spent their time elaborating newer and more complicated procedures for frontier crossings, and thus illegal traffic increased enormously.

**AWARDS:** Golden Party Badge

"Dienstauszeichnung der NSDAP in Bronze und Silber"  
"Kriegsverdienstkreuz I. Klasse mit Schwertern"  
"SS Totenkopfring" and bearer of "SS Ehrenbogen"

(Above fr Berlin Document Center: SS Officers file and Partei Kanzlei corres.)

1951: EOD w/Zipper shortly before Sep '51; worked on clarification of illegal connections of REAL Film Co. (UJ-DROLLERY #1204, case GRETCHEN).

1952: Feb: Otto SKORZENY rpt to [ ] Station "SOMMER (V-2857)...from organisation Gahlen, supplied general news from Bonn to August MORITZ Russian spy net...SOMMER is not to be trusted, he is perhaps more on the Russian side... under SOMMER works SOMANN, former SD chief of Hamburg."  
British rptd UWE WEHLEN claimed ability procure for Otto SOMANN copies of

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1952 cont'd

contractual agreement, which would be in French, and SOMANN to sell to an unspecified agency. British attitude interpreted as belief Zipper bought or obtained such material for passing to Russians for political purposes or D/A build-up.

Apr: British rptd former Oberf SS/SD SOMANN to be contact of suspected d/a MORITZ; SOMANN suspected by BIS of working on behalf FIS; later BfV rptd material they recd indicated Zipper agent SOMANN, involved in MORITZ case, had supplied British with material on RAUMANN case and SOMANN suspected as triple agent working for British, Zipper and LfV Hamburg; MORITZ arrested 11 Apr 52; POB advised Zipper that MORITZ stated under interrogation he had been warned by SOMANN of impending British arrest, so POB suggested Zipper re-assess SOMANN to whom MORITZ handed large batch of material before his arrest; British doubted Zipper's good faith; in Oct, Dr. LAU, investigating judge of Attorney General's office in Hamburg who had been briefed by BfV, correctly interrogated SOMMER and SOMANN but with consideration for Zipper's interest. (Note: POB records indicate SOMMER and SOMANN usually recd duty rr tickets during same periods).

Apr: Rolf Valentine DRUCKER, RIS defector, became sub-agent of SOMANN, but was arrested while carrying out a mission; SOMANN effected his release from Hanau Criminal Police, at which time SOMANN described himself as a former German counter-intelligence officer of field grade rank; subsequently LfV circulated report that SOMANN @ LANGE and DRUCKER were suspected DDR or Sov Russia agents in view their suspicious activities, lack of German documentation but possession of American and English identification.

May: after he fabricated several reports, @ DRUCKER arrested thru BfV assistance.

1953: SOMANN transferred to GV B, UV 17 according to 17 Sep 53 Master List; prior transfer he was to submit proposals for approaching Juergen TROBT, deputy Forestry Minister of Neubrandenburg district, Neustrelitz, DDR.

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③ LANGE, Otmar  
③ SEIDEMANN, Otmar

V-2950



prior 1945



prior 1953

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