

21 September, 1945

TO: SAINT, Washington  
FROM: SAINT, Stockholm  
SOURCE: ✓ A-349 *Ced*  
EVALUATION: B-2  
D of I: Aug. 1945  
SUBJECT: Nazi Estonians in Germany and Denmark

1. We are attaching reports from above source on the following pro-Nazi Estonians, known or believed to be in Germany & Denmark.

(a)	✓ Colonel Louis JAKOBSON - Germany	
(b)	✓ Captain HOLDT VARES	"
(c)	✓ Colonel Johan SAARSEN	"
(d)	Dr. Hjalmar MÅR	"
(e)	Professor Ernst EIN	"
(f)	Colonel J. SCODLA	"
(g)	✓ Professor Mart NURK	"
(h)	Colonel TUULING	Denmark or Germany
(i)	Johannes LIRE	Denmark
(j)	✓ Johan WASAR	"
(k)	✓ August OTNAS	"

Att: Reports as noted (a) thru (k) above.

Distribution:

✓ Saint, Washington (2)  
Saint, London (1)  
Saint, Germany (1) - Attachments (a)-(h) only.  
Saint, Denmark (1) - Attachments (h)-(k) only.

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SOODLA, Colonel J.

- At present at Klaussen's Farm, Barderup Feld Flensburg.
- Was Inspector General of "Estonian Armed Forces" during German occupation.
- Organizer of "Estonian SS Brigade".

1. Colonel SOODLA was the officer of the Estonian General Staff in charge of the conscription (scheme). He went to Germany in 1940 as an "Umsiedler". In 1941, he returned to Estonia and stated to Source that he had refused to join the Wehrmacht because he hoped to get (from the) German permission to organize an Estonian Army of two divisions. By autumn 1942 the Germans had not accepted his scheme for this project and SOODLA was acting as Assistant Landesdirector for Internal Affairs (under Director ANGELUS, an old-line Estonian Fascist). This post corresponded to that of a minister of a quisling government.

2. In 1943 SOODLA's scheme was accepted by the Germans (but was also taken over by them). The Germans started the "Estonian Legion" SS Brigade (consisting of Estonian soldiers). The leading persons in this brigade (were all) was German. The commander (of the brigade) was Oberst AUGSBERGER (killed in 1944 in the German retreat). Estonians did not show any enthusiasm for "their own SS Brigade", the Germans organized a committee (called) "The Friends of the Estonian Legion" (which created) propaganda on national lines. (in favor of this brigade) SOODLA was put in charge of the whole scheme of conscription of Estonians into the Wehrmacht and (He) was made Inspector-General, and as such organized the conscription (1) into the SS Brigade (and (2) into the regular (ordinary) Wehrmacht units. (He) also became chairman of "The Society of the Friends of the Estonian Legion" which issued several proclamations calling upon Estonians to join the SS Brigade. (The SS Brigade was always referred to as the Estonian Legion.) It was through the work of SOODLA that the general mobilization of Estonians was conducted in 1944. (He) promised the Estonians the best (of) German equipment, but results were that (those who were) conscripted were sent against the Russians with the minimum of necessary equipment.

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(SOODLA'S 1013...)

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3. <sup>3</sup>SOODLA's role in the German occupation was rather fateful -- ~~It was he~~ who set the example for the younger <sup>officers</sup> in their relations with the Germans. He <sup>SOODLA</sup> was at one time known to be pro-Allied <sup>any</sup> during the period of Estonian independence (he spent some years in French Military Academy and his outlook and opinions at that time were democratic. However, ~~he was~~ soon known to change. He became (definitely) convinced <sup>the Nazis would win</sup> (and) threw all his ability and position <sup>to accomplish</sup> (that end, thus causing (the lives of) thousands of (young) Estonians to be sacrificed <sup>in</sup> the German army. (His sudden friendship and cooperation with the Germans came as a surprise to many of his associates.)

4. In 1944 <sup>SOODLA</sup> evacuated his "staff" to Flensburg, Germany. He and his <sup>associates</sup> (friends) are now reported to be (living on) Klauspen Farm, at Barderup Feld. (His) <sup>these</sup> associates (with him) <sup>are</sup> <sup>include</sup> Rittmeister HOLLBERG, former Estonian cabinet minister and pro-German politician (who refused to participate in underground work because he was convinced the Germans would win the war) Captain NEGGO, an <sup>Estonian</sup> (former) fascist, SS Officer MAITLA, Colonel SAAL (and others.)

5. It is <sup>expected</sup> (stated) that <sup>S. would</sup> SOODLA may try to <sup>gain</sup> ~~regain~~ political control over the Estonian (elements) in the area in which he <sup>may be</sup> located.

(Source: A-349)  
(Date: 17.8.45)

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