

FOR COORDINATION WITH ^{ed} DOJ/OSI

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2003 2006

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional) ROBERT JEAN VERBELEN			Executive Registry 88-6261	
FROM: C/EUR		EXTENSION	NO.	
			DATE 29 DEC 83	
TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
	RECEIVED	FORWARDED		
1. DDO			J	<p>John -</p> <p>I have reviewed the files we hold (name traces mostly), and the attached memo accurately reflects file contents.</p> <p>Para 3 of memo is not applicable - it is clear to me that Subject fled to Austria in 1945 (first to Zell am See) and then was taken on by CIC Vienna as an informant. He was terminated in 1956 by CIC because there was no interest in Austria on the part of CIC after the occupation ended in October 1955.</p> <p>In 1956 the BND ran across him, but our traces waned then off.</p> <p>In a word, we were lucky - it's CIC all the way</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Bill</p>
2.				
3. SHC				
4. WDE	04 JAN 83		J	
5.				
6. C/EUR/DDO			g	
7. C/E/G		SSA	8	
8.				
9. A/C/EUR/SA	6/1		R	
10. JAG				
11. TO BOB A. + PWG + FIVE SOMEWHERE				
12. R				
13. SENT AVAILABLE COPY				
14.				
15.				

S E C R E T

28 December 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Robert Jean Verbelen

1. Robert Jean Verbelen, [REDACTED] AKA Richard Becker, Peter Meyer, Van Martens Verbelen, Erich Diel, Herbert Charpentier, Joseph Pollack, and Alfred H. Schwab. Born 5 April 1911 in Gerent (near Loewen), Belgium.

2. Verbelen was a member of the Flemish SS and held the rank of Obersturmfuehrer. He was also the leader of the Devlag Sicherheitskorp established to combat the Resistance Movement in Belgium. Verbelen fled to Vienna at the end of the war leaving his wife and two children behind who were reportedly murdered by the Resistance Movement. On 14 October 1947 he was sentenced to death in absentia by the Belgians who accused him of taking part in or directing political murders during the war.

3. Two unsubstantiated reports allege that Verbelen was the leader of a training center for Soviet agents located at Schneidermuehl, DDR at the end of the war, and was employed by "Soviet censorship" in 1946.

4. Verbelen was in contact with CIC and/or CID in Austria from 1946 to 1956 under the alias, Alfred Schwab. CIC contact was apparently broken in 1956 due to lack of access.

5. In April 1962 Verbelen was arrested by Austrian authorities for his wartime activities. He was held for three years before his trial in December 1965. The case received wide-spread publicity in the Austrian press which stated that Verbelen worked for the American military as a secret agent as well as for the Austrian State Police. According to a high-ranking Viennese police official, Verbelen was one of the best informants of the Austrian police on the activities of rightist extremist groups in Austria. (The case received little publicity in the States. See attached.)

6. There is mention in his file of some interest in him on the part of the German Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND). NFI.

7. Verbelen was alleged to have obtained political asylum in Algeria following the trial but Austrian liaison reported he was unable to leave Austria for lack of identity documentation. Liaison reported he was living in Vienna and working extensively on a series of espionage novels.

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8. A 29 October 1969 66th MIG report states that Verbelen remarked at a gathering of friends that he was contacted by the KGB through an agent to recruit him for intelligence work. At the same time he reported that the KGB was well aware of his "present work for the U.S. Intelligence Service." Also in October 1969 a Bavarian LfV covert source reported that Verbelen claimed to be working for the KGB. In their recruitment pitch the KGB allegedly stated that they were well aware of his former employment with AIS but were prepared to give him better protection. Verbelen allegedly claimed that KGB protection was in fact better. According to the report Verbelen's cover was a journalist/stringer for the Salzburger Volksblatt and his prime target was rightist organizations in Austria. NFI.

9. Hqs files also contain [redacted] for one Alfred H. Schwab who appears identical with Verbelen. DPOB given as 30 November 1914, Apia, German Samoa which is identical to information contained in Verbelen's file under the alias Schwab. Information contained within states that Subject was a casual contact of CIC agent in the Fall of 1946 and was slowly developed over a period of time by the Vienna CIC. Subject also made application for employment with Radio Free Europe under the name Herbert Mayer.

[redacted]
[redacted]
EUR/SAA
x9108

TOP SECRET COPY