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APO 757

CI-FIR/120
18 Jul 46

XX-12469

CI FINAL INTERROGATION REPORT (CI-FIR) No 120

PRISONER: WENTZEL, Erika

Erika WENTZEL, a confidential secretary, first served under Hans FRISCHKE in the Propaganda Ministry and later with SD Ausland in VI-F/3, RSHA. Her last position was with the Grunewald Institute.

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1. REFERENCES: USFET MISC CI-PIR/86 dtd 20 Oct 45, O20 Report on NAUJUCKS

2. PERSONAL DATA:

- a. SURNAME: WENTZEL
- b. CHRISTIAN NAME(S): Erica
- c. ALIASES: none
- d. DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: 22 Jan 06, BERLIN
- e. NATIONALITY CLAIMED: German
- f. OCCUPATION: confidential secretary
- g. RELIGION: Protestant
- h. DESCRIPTION:

- (1) HEIGHT: 1.86m
- (2) WEIGHT: 156 lbs
- (3) BUILD: tall
- (4) FACE: oval
- (5) HAIR: blond

(6) PHYSICAL PECULIARITIES OR
DISTINGUISHING FEATURES: none

- i. LAST PERMANENT ADDRESS: BERLIN-ZEHLENDORF, Eggepfad 9
- j. LANGUAGES: some school English and French
- k. FATHER: Paul WENTZEL
- l. MOTHER: Marie WENTZEL, nee GHISSLER
- m. BROTHER: none
- n. SISTERS: none
- o. HUSBAND: none
- p. CHILDREN: none
- q. IDENTITY DOCUMENTS: Kennkarte, passport

3. ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

- a. SOURCE OF PRISONER, INCLUDING ARRESTING AGENCY:
XX GIC Det.
- b. ACCEPTED ON RECOMMENDATION OR REQUEST OF:
G-2 (CIB) USFET
- c. DATE OF ARRIVAL: 3 Oct 45
- d. RESUME OF ANY REPORTS AND/OR DOCUMENTS SENT IN WITH PRISONER:
none
- e. RESULTS OF NAME CHECK AGAINST PERSONALITY CARD INDEX:
Negative
- f. BRIEFS UPON WHICH PRISONER WAS INTERROGATED:
PIR 86, USFET MIS Center
- g. NAME AND UNIT OF INTERROGATOR: 1st Lt Max SILTEN, MIS Center, USFET
- h. PRISONER'S ATTITUDE AND REACTIONS: Violent and fanatical Nazi.
- i. EVALUATION OF PRISONER'S RELIABILITY:
Reliable
- j. DATE, PLACE AND AUTHORITY FOR DISPOSITION OF PRISONER:
Application for disposition has been made.

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4. INTERROGATION RESULTS

WENTZEL joined the Nazi Party in 1932 because of her deep admiration for HITLER.

a. Propaganda Ministry

WENTZEL served in the Radio Dept under Hans FRITSCHÉ and later the Magazine and Art Section of the Propaganda Ministry, 1935-1940. She was then transferred to SD Ausland where she worked under BAUJOCKS.

b. RSHA

At Gruppe VI-F WENTZEL was employed in the office of SS Stufab KENIGER, a department which handled forged passports and foreign currencies. After a short stay in this office she worked on Unternehmen OTTO in Schloss Friedenthal (1943).

After the reorganization of Gruppe VI-F under the joint command of DOERNER and BEST, WENTZEL was assigned to Forschungs Institut (Research Institute) Gränewald, of Annex I.

5. CONCLUSION

WENTZEL's position with the RSHA enabled her to observe preparations for sabotage missions. She was acquainted with V-Leute employed on various operations, and knew a good many members of the RSHA and the Propaganda Ministry.

6. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

WENTZEL is completely indoctrinated with the National Socialist ideology and is immune to anti-Nazi arguments. She has voiced her intention of playing the convert if necessary, for opportunistic reasons.

MS/RCH,hb

For The Commanding Officer,

George Wenzel
GEORGE WENZEL
1st Lt AUS
Chief, CI Section

Distribution "D" plus CI War Room and AC of S, G-2
(Attn CI) US Forces, European Theater

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ANNEX I

GRUNEWALD RESEARCH INSTITUTE (VI-F/3 A)

PRISONER: WENTZEL, Erika

1. Purpose

The planning and execution of sabotage missions by Gruppe VI-F were frequently hampered by the lack of suitable and reliable information. Available information was often incomplete or out of date. The procurement of necessary material through departmental channels of the SD or Abwehr consumed too much time.

SS H/Stuf Karl Georg WELHOENER suggested in 1943 the creation of a separate reference library which would contain information needed for sabotage missions. The idea met with the approval of the chief of VI-F/3, Stufab Karl LASSIG (cf Annex II) and was given joint authorization by the chief of VI-F, O/Stufab Herrmann DOERNER and the chief of Amt VI, Brig SCHLIEBENBERG.

WELHOENER was appointed head of this reference institute (Forschungs Institut Grunewald). He selected the engineers Walter FLORET (as a railroad expert) and Franz PERSCHMANN (as a power supply specialist) for his staff.

It was planned that the Forschungs Institut should not only provide detailed descriptions as well as available illustrations and technical information concerning installations designated as sabotage objectives, but should also suggest valuable targets which its own research disclosed. To make these reports as complete as possible WELHOENER desired to include the specifications of the implements necessary for the destruction of the objective and the type of sabotage required. When V-Leute of the SD were selected to carry out the missions, WELHOENER wanted to supervise their practical and theoretical training. It was intended that the schooling should be under the direction of the appropriate Sachgebiets Leiter (chief of the special section in question). This training was to be augmented with training films.

Although DOERNER supported the plan, it later became apparent that Amt VI had no intention of entrusting WELHOENER with the control of such a large project. The ruthless, energetic and ambitious H/Stuf PAULHABER soon pushed WELHOENER into the background (cf Annex III). By 1944 PAULHABER and VI-F/3 b were responsible for the training of V-Leute and the determination of the types of sabotage to be utilized.

2. Organization

At first the institute was located at Delbueckstrasse 6a, BERLIN, but as it expanded, WELHOENER had to seek new quarters for the organization. Although he desired to remain in BERLIN, he began to move the first part of the institute in December 1943 (FLORET and PERSCHMANN with their secretary, Annaliese WENNER) to MARIANSKE LAZNE, Czechoslovakia, where Amt VI had previously rented the Park Hotel Waldmuele. Constant air raids soon made it imperative to move the entire institute out of BERLIN. By June 1944 the entire institute was located in MARIANSKE LAZNE.

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The institute was organized in six depts which dealt with various subjects (Sachgebiete):

- (1) General Subjects (Allgemein) FLEMING; Secretary, Frl HAAKE
- (2) Power (Energie) FRESCHMANN; Secretary, Frl SEIDEL
- (3) Resources (Bodenschaeetze) SWIFERT; Secretary, Frl MUELLER
- (4) Traffic (Verkehr) FLORET; Secretary, Frl WERNER
- (5) Commerce (Wirtschaft) ELBEL; Secretary, Frl PAOLI
- (6) Radio and W/T was under the control of MARTITSCH. Because of his missions to Hungary for Amt VI F, he never came to MARIANSKE LAZNE.

The institute also had a technical drawing dept directed by Ing Robert SZYMANSKI, whose assistant was Johannes SCHAEFER. The Archive, supervised by U/Stuf Frans MAHEL, consisted of a reference library, and a colored card index, which was catalogued according to subject:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------|
| (1) General Subjects | White |
| (2) Power | Pink |
| (3) Resources | Brown |
| (4) Traffic | Green |
| (5) Commerce | Yellow |
| (6) Radio | Blue |

Translators working in the library under O/Geff Alois BILL (Polish, Russian, Ukrainian) were Helene SCHIEJAJEW (Russian), O/Geff HAESLEEF and later O/Geff BIRMUELLER (English), Geff Dr UFFERHURNER (Italian), Paul PAIN (Spanish), and Erika WENTZEL (French).

MATERNA operated the photo lab while Uifs Karl WINTER was in charge of photo interpretation.

In addition to the regular staff, the institute had several civilian consultants:

a. Geheimrat WERNEKE who cooperated with ELBEL. WENTZEL does not know in what advisory capacity he acted.

b. SCHWERZ, an industrialist and authority on the USSR (probably came from RIGA), advised the institute on matters related to traffic and supply within Russian territory. In MARIANSKE LAZNE he checked SCHIEJAJEW's translations of reports pertaining to Russian railroads.

c. Oberbaurat OSTMANN of BERLIN was an active co-worker and consultant on questions involving geology, geography, river conditions. He prepared most of the data for the projected flooding of N Italian rivers.

d) Dr FRANK of DRESDEN, an army engineer who had lived a number of years abroad and had extensive knowledge of foreign installations, contributed to the publication VdI (Verein deutscher Ingenieure). He placed his large technical library at the disposal of the institute.

e. Dr MAASS of HAMBURG, a close friend of ELBEL, supplied a great deal of information related to Allied war economy.

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f. Stuf O'GILVIE of Amt VI and H/Stuf Freiherr von KORDHEIM were consulted on the technical problems of sabotage missions.

3. Operation

Though a great many sabotage projects were planned (some ordered by the Rheda Institute), few were carried out.

4. End of the Institute

When the military situation became grave in April 1945, WELHORNER furloughed his staff until July 1945, at the same time destroying most of the secret files. At the last moment, however, he ordered that a copy of every sabotage plan be placed in one of 4 strong boxes which were then buried in the woods. nr MARIANSKE LAZNE (no other details).

The plans for the sabotage of the following installation are believed to be contained in the boxes:

Flood control construction on the RO River
Water-power plant at LHA and TARSOS
Railroads in Morocco, Algiers, Tunisia
Power supply in Morocco, Algiers, Tunisia
RAEU waterworks
Railroads in the Caucasus
Trans-Siberian RR
Power supply in Iran
The Bagdad Railroad
Turkish Chromium and coal railroad
Railroads in the Middle East
Petroleum supply in Iraq
Harbor installations in ALGECIRAS
Panama Canal
Power supply in the Low Countries
Railroads in Switzerland
Locks of the Albert Canal, Belgium
Power supply in Finland

Incomplete plans:

Power supply in Sweden
Power supply in Switzerland
Power supply of PARIS
Electric railroads of France
Industry of Switzerland
Highways in the Caucasus.

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ANNEX II

VI-F/3 SABOTAGE

PRISONER: WENTZEL, Erika

VI-F/3 was the workshop of Gruppe VI-F. It repaired weapons, handled explosives, and constructed special sabotage implements. The workshop was moved to FRIEDSTHAL in 1945 and placed under the command of U/Stuf Josef WESTZEL. WESTZEL was succeeded by U/Stuf Albert (Martin) FRASEL, who was aided by Pri KARZINSKI and SS Mann Emil FRIEDRICH. The function of this department was to handle and register all sabotage material.

Within the workshop was a laboratory under the direction of Dr Friedrich SCHAMBERGER (of IG Farben) and Pri Sigrid STAEHLIN. Because the laboratory was off limits to most personnel, WENTZEL does not know exactly what went on there.

The photo laboratory of VI-F produced training films, photographs for sabotage missions, pictures of foreign personalities and V-Leute. The laboratory was operated by U/Stuf Hans WIGT, H/Scharf Theo BOCH and H/Scharf ZAPP. The training films were made by a civilian employe, Ernst SCHIEBER.

EUGEN PAUL, and a goldsmith named NIEPER worked in the passport department. Their work was secret. WENTZEL surmises that they were working directly for VI-F/4, Stubai Bernard KRUEGER.

The financial affairs of the V-Leute of this Abteilung were handled by H/Scharf HEYSON.

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ANNEX III

VI-F/3 G: SABOTAGE TRAINING.

PRISONER: WENTZEL, Erika

The organization of Amt VI-F/3G paralleled that of VI-F/3 A and was commanded by H/Stuf PAULHABER, who was assigned to VI-F in the Summer of 1943. PAULHABER had instructed V-Leute on the E Front for SD Ausland. The function of this office was to supply data on explosives and Allied material which was necessary for the carrying out of the plans prepared by the Grunwaldt Institut.

The V-Leute lived in the Linieneck Restaurant, BERLIN GROENALD, where they were trained. The restaurant was operated by J.A. COMBONCH, a Dutch national who had been in Schloss Friedenthal with Unternehmen GFM in 1943 and later on a mission in Greece.

PAULHABER was assisted by Reg Rat Maj Dr LANGHANS (of the Speer Ministry), U/Scharf ANTWERBER, and U/Scharf ENGELWICK. There was another U/Scharf whose name WENTZEL does not recall, and two secretaries, Fräulein AUGERMANN (until July 1944) and Fräulein EILY ZEHLER.

ENGELWICK had lived in Canada, but returned to Germany at the beginning of the war. He made frequent trips to The Netherlands for VI-F/3 G and, together with ANTWERBER, supervised the training of V-Leute.

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ANNEX IV

PERSONALITIES OF GRUPPE VI F

PRISONER: NEPTZEL, Erika

1. Dr. BIEMUELLER, Wilhelm O/Gefr Interpreter, Research Institute,
MARIANSKE LAZNE, 1944-45

lives MAGDEBURG now in MARIANSKE LAZNE, Park Hotel born 1905 1.83m
muscular dk brown hair pale complexion brown eyes glasses

Career: Previously in Interpreter Co, BERLIN.

2. FLEMING, Carl SS.H/Schrf Techn rep, Chief Research Institute,
MARIANSKE LAZNE, 1944-45

lives BERLIN W 30, Jenaerstr 15 now DESSAU or MARIANSKE-LAZNE BRISLAD
glasses for work

Career: Cld SD man. In Sign and inf, France 1940.

GPI Pink Card: 132007

3. FLORET, Walter. Employs Traffic Sec, Research Institute, MARIANSKE-
LAZNE, 1943-45

lives METZ now BRAND-ERBISDORF (Erz), Am Markt 3 blue eyes

Misc: Married, 1 child. Wife lives BRAND-ERBISDORF. Speaks English,
French

GPI Pink Card: 460092

4. BERSCHMANN, Franz Employs Research Institute, MARIANSKE LAZNE, 1943-45

lives BERLIN-ZEHLENDORF, Mindesteinerweg, fair complexion blue eyes
glasses for work

Career: Previously Sdf in Greece and Africa

GPI Pink Card: 152160

5. SZYMANKI, Robert Engr-draftsman, Research Inst, MARIANSKE LAZNE,
1944-45

lives BERLIN-ZEHLENDORF, nr Potsdamer Chaussee, now in BRAND-ERBISDORF
(Erz mts), Am Markt 3, with FLORET blue eyes

Misc: Married. Wife lives BRAND-ERBISDORF. Water-works engr in BERLIN

GPI Pink Card: 132226

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