

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

8

REF ID: A66703
CLASSIFICATION **SECRET** *N* Doc No. HRG-1993

TO : Chief, IS DATE: 6 DEC 1955

FROM : Chief of Base, Pullach ZRO: 008

SUBJECT: Operational

Summary - Development in Herbert BURNHARDT Case

1. On 20 November 1955 @ EITZING informed the undersigned of the following development in the Herbert BURNHARDT case. This report, incidentally, is being handled by the EITZING III staff and was only informally relayed by @ EITZING.

2. In Fall 1955 (approximate-1953), @ SCHNEIDER has a brother living in Chemnitz who has been in touch with the EIC. Fall 1955 itself is considered dead by EITZING since the case was well known to Gerd BURNER and therefore is presumed entirely blown. Recently @ SCHNEIDER's brother from Chemnitz showed up in West Germany carrying a letter. The letter had been given to the brother by an EIC man who fled to his farm Berlin. The EIC man had taken the letter out of an envelope and in the brother's presence sealed the letter in an envelope tightly, obviously without any security device, almost as if he purposely intended to facilitate to the brother that the letter could be opened without danger. The brother had been instructed to deliver the letter to @ SCHNEIDER, who was to take it to Pullach (RETURNED TO PRESIDENTIAL for delivery to Herbert BURNING, @ BURNHARDT. Through @ SCHNEIDER, EITZING copied the letter. It was signed GILBERT, the known cover name for BURNHARDT's latest assignment. The letter expressed some mild surprise that BURNHARDT had been able to get himself released, stated the assumption that BURNHARDT had conspired himself well as he would not have been released, expressed complete confidence in BURNHARDT, and stated that his letters had been received. (In the very best of EITZING's knowledge, believed accurate, BURNHARDT had not sent such such letters.)

3. EITZING had @ SCHNEIDER deliver the letter, but @ SCHNEIDER merely left it at the address, as Julius REICHARDT was not there. Naturally, EITZING then talked with some interest to see whether BURNHARDT would report the letter. BURNHARDT told his case officer that he had written a letter to EITZING. (Presumably in order to cover up the reference in the letter to letters(s) received from BURNHARDT.) Then a proper number of days later BURNHARDT told his EITZING case officer he had received a letter, and it was waiting for him in Frankfurt. EITZING had the Security Group take BURNHARDT up to get his letter. While the Security Group was called.

Remarks:

3 - IS
3 - OCS

1 December 1955

EGLA-16939
6 Dec 55

Form No 51-28A

SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

RI COPY

SECRET

REF ID: A6739
Page 2

outside, BURNHAMPTON must be, some back end, indicating that he had developed the actual letter (for security reasons), but providing the SO with a copy of the approximate text. This copy did not at all correspond with the original text in the copy. BURNHAMPTON built himself up as an much more legitimate source with CIA, and generally changed the text to cover BURNHAMPTON's story that he had written a letter recently. Asked how the letter was delivered, BURNHAMPTON did tell the truth, i.e., that it had been brought by G. SCHNEIDER.

4. Although the objective(s) of the SOG in writing the letter is, of course, not entirely clear, it would appear that they purposely made sure EITZLER later copied the letter, presumably in order to undermine the validity of BURNHAMPTON's testimony. They presumably thought to do this by referring to previous letters, not by expressing confidence in him. Then the SOG supposedly used the letter actually to get to BURNHAMPTON, and their purpose in this was perhaps to begin to prepare him for some kind act, or for eventual reevaluation. It cannot certainly be said that BURNHAMPTON has actually been in previous contact with the SOG, but EITZLER does not believe he has been. EITZLER points out that if the SOG really wanted to carry on a secret correspondence with BURNHAMPTON, they would not have chosen this man, and this seems a reasonable assumption. Regardless of SOG purpose in sending the letter, there are not had the very favorable (to EITZLER) side effect of providing an excellent and specific cross check of BURNHAMPTON's reliability.

5. Unfortunately, no further details were available through G. SCHNEIDER. He will follow up on this point as we can make opportunity.

SECRET