

Germany 7295

Memorandum on Saboteurs

German 7295
x Scholastic

July 20, 1942

MEMORANDUM

1. The training school attended by the eight German saboteurs who were recently apprehended in the United States following their landing from German submarines, was known as the Ausbildungslager Quentz and was located on Quentz Lake, Brandenburg, near Berlin, Germany. This was the only school attended by these Nazi agents.

2. The sabotage school was formerly a private estate. The main building had been remodeled into separate rooms as quarters for the instructors and students. This building also contained an office, dining rooms, and a reading room. A laboratory was located nearby, one-half of which consisted of a small lecture room with benches sufficient for about twenty men. Next to this lecture room was the laboratory itself which was reported to be fully equipped for all types of chemicals, equipment, and electrical apparatus.

There were sixteen students in the class attended by the eight saboteurs apprehended in the United States, four of whom were officers of the German Army who apparently were unable to speak English and had no contact with the other twelve men. Three of the other twelve dropped out for one reason or another prior to the completion of the course, and a fourth man, who was scheduled to come to the United States with the other eight, was not permitted to sail because of illness.

3. The course at this school continued for three weeks. The following is an outline of the subjects in which the students received training:

- a. General chemistry
- b. Light burning mixtures
(saltpeter, sulphur, flour,
sugar, etc., the mixtures
of which are easily ignited)
- c. Methods of igniting light
burning mixtures
- d. Hard burning mixtures (thermit,
aluminum powder mixed with iron
oxides, plaster of Paris, etc.)
- e. Methods of igniting hard
burning mixtures
- f. Explosives
- g. Primers
- h. Fuses
- i. Timing and electrical devices

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- j. Adoption of background, personal history, etc. to conceal identity in United States
- k. Practical sabotage training
- l. Secret writing
- m. Inspection of industrial plants, railroads, bridges, and canal locks

4. Lieutenant Walter Kappe, Intelligence-2, German Army, was the officer who selected the students for this course and appeared to be in charge of the school and gave some lectures. The two instructors were Dr. Walter Schultze and Dr. Helmut Koenig, who were reported to be connected with the Scientific Department of the German High Command.

5. The subjects considered the most important, although the time spent on each is not known, were explosives and how to detonate them, incendiary materials and how to cause their ignition, and instructions in various forms of mechanical and chemical delayed timing devices.

6. The selection of the students who came to America, to a great extent, was decided by Lieutenant Walter Kappe. In addition to his duties at Intelligence-2, he also appears to have been an executive officer of the Deutsch Amerikanische Kameradschaft (German-American Friendship Circle), part of the Auslands Organization of the Nazi Party. This organization held periodic meetings in Berlin at Hanes Restaurant, as well as meetings in other parts of Germany, of those Germans who had previously lived in the United States. Several of the saboteurs were obtained through their contacts with Kappe in this organization. Some of the saboteurs were also drawn from the German Army as a result of their ability to speak English and their former residence in the United States. There appears to have been no coercion to force anyone to engage in this work.

7. There appears to be no specific qualifications for selecting the sabotage agents. The only specific qualifications appeared to be a former resident in the United States and the ability to speak English. An investigation was apparently made of the individuals selected to determine their loyalty to Germany.

8. The students at this school consisted of both civilians and Army personnel.

9. All of the students in the class attended by the eight saboteurs were Germans. There was some evidence to indicate the school was approximately one year old. The saboteurs coming to the United States were furnished with American magazines and it was noted that periodicals from other countries foreign to Germany were available in the reading room. The school may have been used to train groups sent to other countries besides the United States.

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10. The saboteurs sent to America were well supplied with funds in American currency. Each saboteur was furnished a money belt containing \$4000. They each received approximately \$400 in small bills to be used by them immediately upon their landing. The leader of each group of saboteurs was entrusted with the sum of \$50,000, together with \$5000 additional for each of the members of his group. This money was to be used by them for expenses and to carry on their sabotage activities in the United States.

In addition to the money brought with the saboteurs to the United States, each man was obliged to sign a contract for Lieutenant Kappe in which they agreed to accept as their pay sums from two hundred fifty to six hundred marks per month, part of which was deposited to their credit in a German bank, and if they had families, part of this sum was to be paid monthly for the maintenance of their dependents. None of the saboteurs were supposed to know the amount of salary received by the others. A member of the Army, in order to obtain a salary, had to obtain a discharge from the Army and become an agent or "S-man" for Intelligence-2.

11. A. EXPLOSIVES

Only one ready-made explosive was used at the sabotage school and supplied to the saboteurs. This material was TNT in the form of blocks, approximately two pounds in weight and was reported to be immune to shock. A large quantity of this explosive was brought to this country by the saboteurs.

They were also instructed in how to camouflage this explosive to look like blocks of coal into which was placed a primer charge which detonated when subjected to intense heat, thus causing the explosive to detonate.

B. TIME DELAYED DEVICES

The saboteurs were trained in the use of high quality sabotage devices such as incendiary pencils camouflaged to look like pen and pencil sets, sulphuric acid and chlorate of potash capsules, and clockwork mechanisms which could be used with both explosives and incendiary material.

Several simple mechanical devices were described. One of them consisted of filling a glass test tube with dried green peas over which water is poured. When the peas expand, due to the absorption of the water, a loose cork in the test tube is pressed upward making contact with a second cork, completing an electrical circuit.

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Another device consisted of an ordinary tin can in which had been put a small hole. The can was filled with water. As the water escaped, a floating cork descended into the can and when it reached a certain point, contact was made between a metal attachment on the cork and the can.

Another simple mechanical device was the use of an ordinary pocket watch of cheap construction with an unbreakable crystal. One wire is connected to the case of the watch and another wire is attached to a small screw inserted through the unbreakable crystal. When a hand of the watch touches the screw, an electrical circuit is completed.

Another device which could be used in railroad sabotage was described as being composed of two bare wires, one coiled about the other but not touching. The wires are held in this position by a mixture of rosin and paraffin. Any heavy pressure on these wires would grind away the insulation and force the wires together, thus completing an electrical circuit.

C. INCENDIARIES

The saboteurs had difficulty recalling the formulas they were instructed to follow in preparing incendiary material. It appears that they were instructed in the use of light burning substances and hard burning substances. The first appeared to be various mixtures of saltpeter, sulphur, flour and some instances, powdered sugar or saw dust. The hard burning substances used were aluminum powder mixed with iron oxide, iron cinders or plaster of Paris. No written instructions were permitted to be taken from the school by the students.

D. POISONS

Apparently no instructions were furnished to the saboteurs in the use of bacteria, poisons or poison gases. One of the agents in custody is reported to have inquired about this type of warfare and was told that Germany did not contemplate using bacteria or poisons and no plans had been made for this type of warfare, inasmuch as it was not believed that the United States intended to use such methods.

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E. FIREARMS

No regular course of training in firearms was given to these men and they carried no firearms with them when they landed in the United States. A pistol and rifle range was located at the school at Quetz Lake and some of the students had some pistol practice.

12. See answer to 11-D.
13. No information was received to indicate that any time was spent studying poison gases.
14. The saboteurs received their forged credentials, which consisted of Social Security cards and Selective Service registration cards, following the completion of their training, and at the office of Lieutenant Kappe which is located in an apartment building, Ranke Strasse 6, Berlin, Germany. Lieutenant Kappe apparently was the individual responsible for having these documents prepared. The source of the documents is unknown.
15. All of the students were informed, at the time of their recruitment, by Lieutenant Kappe that they were to be sent to the United States on a secret mission. Some of them did not know the nature of this mission until after their training had actually started.
16. Lieutenant Kappe and an assistant, Reinhold Barth, gave the instructions relative to the objectives of the saboteurs in this country.
17. The saboteurs apparently were not instructed in the use of any secret codes.
18. The two groups of saboteurs were not given any instruction in radio transmission.
19. None.
20. The saboteurs were furnished with the name and address of a mail drop in Lisbon, Portugal, which was to be used to communicate with Germany. They received instructions in secret writing and in writing to the mail drop at Lisbon were to write their secret messages on the back of ordinary appearing business letters.
21. The leaders of the two sabotage groups suggested places along the American Coast, with which they were familiar, to the Captains of the submarines. Plans were thereafter worked out with these officers to land them as close as possible to the place selected by the group leaders.

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22. In the preparation for the landing, the saboteurs were furnished with German Marine uniforms so that if they were apprehended in landing they would be treated as prisoners of war. Those uniforms were to be returned to the submarine if the landing was successful and after the saboteurs had changed into civilian clothes which they had brought with them. Care was taken that the civilian clothes worn by the saboteurs were made in America. The landings were made from submarines by small rubber boats during the night. The submarines approached as close to the shore as possible after which the rubber boats were launched. In one instance, the submarine touched the bottom in making its approach. Sailors from the submarines accompanied the saboteurs on the landings and returned to the submarines with the small boats.

It was not expected that any additional supplies for these groups of saboteurs would be sent to them in the future. They brought sufficient equipment with them estimated to last them two years when considered in conjunction with their training in the manufacture of sabotage materials.

23. No specific arrangements were made for the return of the saboteurs to Germany. In the event of difficulties, it was suggested to them that they endeavor to make their way to Chile or the Argentine.

24. At least one group leader was specifically instructed that if any of the members of his group disobeyed instructions or became dangerous to the successful completion of their mission, he should kill them.

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JN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

*German 7295
x Saboteurs
x Questionnaire
x att. gen.*

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.**

JUL 22 1942

dot

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Colonel William J. Donovan
Director of Strategic Services
25th and E Streets, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bill:

Reference is made to your recent memorandum to Major General Frank R. McCoy entitled "Questions to be Submitted to the German Saboteurs." The questions were referred by General McCoy to the Attorney General, who in turn has handed them to me.

I am at this time attaching hereto a memorandum answering, in detail, the questions propounded by you. The answers to these questions are based upon the results of the investigation conducted by this Bureau in connection with eight saboteurs who were recently apprehended after their landing from German submarines.

Sincerely yours,

Edgar

Attachment

XX

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

2/1/42
X *Att. [unclear]*
X *Questionnaire*
X *Att. [unclear]*
Duplicate in
Col. Burdine's safe

July 23, 1942

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Edgar:

Thank you very much for your letter enclosing memorandum relative to the German saboteurs, and the useful information which it contains. As soon as you have finished your labors with them, I would appreciate the opportunity of having our men study the material to see how it compares with that which we have.

Thank you again for your courtesy.

Sincerely,

William J. Donovan
Director

7295
German
x Saboteurs
x Questionnaire
x all attorney General
file

July 8, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL WILLIAM J. DONOVAN:

With respect to your memorandum entitled "Questions to be Submitted to the German Saboteurs," I wanted to advise you that this memorandum has been handed to the Attorney General for his appropriate attention.

Very truly yours,

Frank McCoy

Frank R. McCoy
Major General, U.S.A.

Per memo 72
x Saboteurs
x Questionnaire
x att. Jaws

July 8, 1942

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Very truly yours,

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