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Special Activities of SKORZENY Group

In December 1943 Untersturmfuehrer Otto SCHWERDT alias PETER organised a special mission including Unterscharfuehrer GFOELLER to go to Copenhagen. They had passports made out in the names of commercial travellers and were equipped with 9 mm. Colts, with revolvers with English silencers and with blackjacks.

The party left 28 December 1943 for Flensburg and at Flensburg they were joined by KARSTENSEN of the Flensburg Gestapo who acted as interpreter. JENSEN, the head of the Ast at Flensburg, took them across the frontier to Roeterkrug where they took the train to Copenhagen.

At Copenhagen the group was received by Obercharfuehrer Ludwig HUF of the SD, a Viennese. They stayed in HUF's flat at Floridsvej 6 on the island of Amager. A meeting was held on 29 December at the Bds with two Gestapo chiefs, one the Regierungsrat ZECHENDER, the other a Hauptsturmfuehrer WAESCHE. The meeting was held to decide on counter-terrorist activities against the Danish Resistance. It was agreed that the first action was to be taken against a Danish newspaper man Christian DAMM.

On 30 December a party including SCHWERDT, KARSTENSEN and GFOELLER broke into DAMM's office and after a few words with DAMM, SCHWERDT shot him and when DAMM was down, SCHWERDT shot him again in the temple. The group left thinking that DAMM was dead but it was learned later that he recovered.

On the same night, a group of men belonging to SCHALLBURG attempted to kill a well-known Danish politician Ole Bjoern KRAFFT but the attempt was not successful.

On 1 January 1944 instructions were issued to kill the pastor Kai MUNK, a well-known member of the Resistance. On 2 January SCHWERDT, GFOELLER and KARSTENSEN went to Odensee to meet the chief of the SD of Eiceberg whose name is unknown and whose rank was Untersturmfuehrer. From Odensee the group went on to Ringkoepping and the next night they raided MUNK's house and arrested him. On their return to Aarhus about

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60 kms. from the city, SCHWERDT told MUNK to leave the car and when he did, SCHWERDT shot him in the back.

These raids lasted for several months. In addition to killing people, the groups committed acts of sabotage on students' quarters, movies, department stores and cafes. From twenty to thirty people took part in these activities under the command of SCHWERDT who changed his name toward the end to Kriminalkommissar Peter SCHAEFER.

These activities were known to the Danish Bds represented by Standartenfuehrer MILDNER as well as to Standartenfuehrer von BOWEN-SIEPEN and Dr. BEST. SCHWERDT was congratulated by HIMMLER for his part in this work.