

CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBJECT: HECKEL, Ernst (Matroso)

Information Date: 21 May 1945

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CONFIDENTIAL  
OATP 93 (CI)  
NINTH UNITED STATES ARMY  
APO 339

21 May, 1945

SUBJECT: HECKEL, Ernst (Matroso) No. 2451

1. Subject, a German national, was arrested in DELITZSCH, Germany, on 4 May 1945, as an SD member and as being on a sabotage mission. Interrogation revealed that Subject was a member of SS-Jagdverband SUEB-OST, and had been sent on a mission by SKORZENY on 22 April 1945 to let himself be overtaken by British troops in HAMBURG, to sabotage ships in the port of HAMBURG, and to take care of other members of the Jagdverband that SKORZENY left behind there.

BACKGROUND

2. Subject was born in HAMBURG on 5 May 1920. After graduating from high school he attended the Ingénieur-Schule of HAMBURG, from where he graduated in the fall of 1941. He then was employed at the Nordorwerft as a construction engineer until 1 July 1944, at which time he was assigned to Betriebsingenieur. On 18 September 1944 Subject was drafted into the Navy and sent for training to ESENS, Ostfriesland, to the 2/10 Marine Ersatz-Abteilung.

V-MAN FOR SD, HAMBURG

3. Subject was personally acquainted for the past few years with the SD and Sipo Inspector HERBERT of HAMBURG, for whom he wrote confidential reports while working at the Nordorwerft. Subject was particularly interested in ship sabotage so that, not long after his induction in the navy, he was recommended by HERBERT to SKORZENY as a research man in the field of harbor and river sabotage.

SERVICE IN BERLIN, MAY VI SA

4. On 4 December 1944, thanks to HERBERT's intervention, Subject was transferred to ERICHMULLER, SKORZENY's Headquarters, where he was to report to Obersturmfuehrer GME. Subject was interviewed by Hauptsturmfuehrer BEST, deputy chief of VI SA, and assigned the task to do theoretical research work on shipbuilding sabotage. For that purpose he was sent to WERNA, where he arrived on 7 December. In WERNA Subject was assigned to Hauptsturmfuehrer WELTIG, who commanded both the W-Company and the Kampfschwimmer school (Sabotage Schwimmer). Subject worked on a project for sabotaging the GERMANIA oil pipeline bridge at GOSMUDA, Romania. The project, however, was not carried out. In January, 1945 Subject was assigned to a sabotage mission in Hungary, where he helped blow up several bridges on the DANUBE near BUDAPEST.

- EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
- (2)(A) Privacy
  - (2)(B) Methods/Sources
  - (2)(G) Foreign Relations

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5. Early in February 1945 Subject received the mission to return to HAMBURG to continue research on shipbuilding sabotage. Subject studied all the papers relating to British sabotage of German vessels in Danish and Norwegian ports. He obtained these papers through HERBERT of the SD. On 17 March Subject returned to VERMIL and was ordered to report to BESILOW in MUECHENBERG, to which locality the larger part of the HAMBURG personnel had moved. He arrived in MUECHENBERG on 12 April and learned there that BESILOW was in S.L.ZBURG. He was told, more over, that he had been transferred to the SS, Jagdverband SUEB-OST. Subject arrived in S.L.ZBURG on April and reported to BESILOW.

LAST MISSION

6. BESILOW told Subject and other members of SS-Jagdverband SUEB-OST that they were to return to their respective haunts, let themselves be overrun by the Allies there, and then commit acts of sabotage. Subject's specific instructions were to return to his job in the Nordwerft and to sabotage Allied shipping and also to take care of other saboteurs who might subsequently report to him. No more specific instructions were given him, except that he was to pick up the necessary explosives (chiefly Placitit and British Pencil Detonators) in FRIEDLAND from a capturer named GERHARD. Subject stated that at that moment he still believed in an ultimate German victory and was given to understand by his superiors that German troops would soon return to HAMBURG. No instructions, Subject claims, were given him that would have covered the eventuality of an armistice. He took it for granted that in case of cessation of hostilities he would surrender himself to the Allies.

7. Subject arrived in LINA on 22 April and, upon hearing that SKORZENY was there he went to see him in order to obtain travel papers that would facilitate his trip. Subject discussed his mission with SKORZENY for about fifteen minutes, and was given papers by him that authorized him to obtain any transportation available. He left LINA on the same day and proceeded by train via AUSSIG TO PIRNA, Saxony. In AUSSIG he met Luftwaffe Regierungsrat ENGEL, not also at this camp, to whom he confided his mission as he wanted ENGEL to obtain false papers for him. ENGEL, who has been questioned on the matter, stated that he helped Subject obtain his false papers with the secret resolve that he would denounce him to the Allied authorities at the first opportunity, which he did. Subject and ENGEL continued by car from PIRNA to REISSEN, via REISSEN, and from REISSEN continued on foot. They crossed the MULDER by boat and proceeded to IELITSCHE, where they reported to MG in order to obtain travel permits. MG referred them to the 104th CIC Detachment, where they were interrogated separately. During his interview, ENGEL denounced Subject as a Saboteur, which Subject admitted to be true after some questioning.

COMMENTS

8. Subject has an intelligent and pleasantly frank character. He stated that although he always had firmly believed in the Fuhrer and a National Socialist Germany his action was motivated only by thirst for adventure. He also expressed his surprise at not having been shot immediately after his apprehension. Throughout interrogation he showed himself extremely cooperative and willing to furnish to the Allies whatever information he possesses on the technical aspects of ship and harbor sabotage. Subject is by ideal of the adventurous sort of young people who have fallen under the influence of SKORZENY, who he characterizes as a "swell guy".

T/3 JEAN C. HEROLD

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