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SUBJECT: Arrest of Marcel ZSCHUNK & Marcel ZONNEBERG.

X-2 TS 1617

See attached memo from Capt GOIRAN.

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25th SCI DETACHMENT
QH, CHANOR, G-2 SFC
AREA 1 APO 562
U.S. ARMY

22 August 1945

REPORT #S-2116

To: SAINT Paris, Washington

From: CO 25th SCI Detachment, Brussels

Subject : Arrest of Marcel ZSCHUNKE & Marcel ZONNEBERG

1. Attached herewith report on the Arrest of Marcel ZSCHUNKE & Marcel ZONNEBERG, SD spymaster of British run DA FRANK. MARCEL contacted FRANK on or about June 9, 1945 and had been living with him in hiding up to date of arrest. In this manner he was indirectly controlled.
2. It was proposed to send MARCEL to Spain via France with the aid of FRANK in an army truck with the assistance and connivance of the truck driver under notional black market conditions. However, as a result of information received that MARCEL is a war criminal and also that differences between the French and Spanish governments would make a clandestine crossing of the Franco-Spanish frontier very difficult, it was decided that MARCEL should be arrested.
3. C.S.D.I.C. Interrogation report of MARCEL will be forwarded as soon as available. See our previous report, subject: Marcel ZSCHUNKE, date 27 June 1945.

Roger Goiran
ROGER GOIRAN
Captain, Infantry
Commanding

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21 August 1945

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Report on the Arrest of Marcel ZSCHUNKE
@ Marcel ZONNEBERG

Introduction:

1. As a result of the information received that MARCEL is a war criminal and that differences between the French and Spanish governments would make a clandestine crossing of the Franco-Spanish frontier very difficult, it was decided that MARCEL should be arrested.
2. Plans had already been made to enable MARCEL to escape to Spain. British S.C.I. had obtained through Belgian Surete a false Belgian identity card in the name of DEHYCKE, bearing the genuine official stamp of Tournai and through British Mission to Belgium, a genuine SHAEF travel Permit to Pau in the same name. These documents FRANK had sold to MARCEL, explaining that he had been able to obtain them clandestinely through Black Market acquaintances. British S.C.I. had also arranged for a military lorry, laden with empty wine bottles, to go to Bordeaux. FRANK had told MARCEL that he knew the driver of a military lorry going to Bordeaux who was prepared to take MARCEL as a passenger.
3. It was agreed to continue with the escape plans, modified to allow for the arrest. British S.C.I. would arrange for a special traffic control check near the Franco-Belgian border on the Tournai Lille road. For this purpose H.Q. L. of C provided two L/Cpls of C.M.F. and a Provost jeep and Belgian Surete lent a Marechal de Logis of the Gendarmerie.
4. The arrest had to satisfy the following conditions:-
 - a) MARCEL must not have the least suspicion that he had been betrayed by FRANK.
 - b) None of MARCEL's relations or friends must know of the arrest.
 - c) His arrest must appear to be purely incidental and the natural result of a routine check.
 - d) He must be arrested as a Belgian and must be given no indication that he was known to be of German nationality.
 - e) He must, in some way, be made to admit that he was German within 24 hours of his arrest. If the period were longer than the Belgian police authorities would be forced to take a proces verbal which would cause difficulties for them over the false identity card.
 - f) The SHAEF travel permit must be taken from MARCEL at the time of arrest in what would seem to be a perfectly normal manner.
5. All personnel concerned were briefed on 9 August 1945 and the operation was rehearsed at the place selected for the traffic check. The C.M.F. were to concentrate on the irregularities committed by the driver of the vehicle, i.e. carrying a civilian, wine bottles, and petrol jerricans without authority, and then to arrest him. They were to find in order the documents carried by the civilian but pass him to the Belgian gendarme, who would find some small irregularity in the documents. If MARCEL did not admit (a) that he was a German or (b) that he wanted to see a Belgian officer, he must be taken to Tournai as a Belgian for further investigation. The Commissaire de Police of Tournai was briefed on the role he might have to play. He must interrogate MARCEL purely on the irregularities of his Identity Card and try to force a confession of German nationality.

The Arrest

1. At 0830 hours on 10 August 1945, a military lorry (driven by Staff Sergeant WALKER of 106 S.C.I. Unit) was waiting outside Etterbeek station in Brussels. FRANK and MARCEL were waiting and MARCEL was introduced to the driver "JOCK". MARCEL wished to ride with the driver, but in sign language and pidgin English he was told to ride in the back. He tipped the driver 500 francs and was then closed in in the back of the lorry, which drove off in the normal way on the journey. About 1050 hours the lorry arrived near the Franco-Belgian frontier on the road to Lille. A traffic control was in operation and a military staff car was held up and being checked by the Belgian gendarme. The lorry was stopped and the driver's documents examined by one of the C.M.P.s while the other looked into the back of the vehicle. A civilian was inside waving identity documents. He was made to get out of the truck, and his SHAEF pass was examined and returned to him as being in order. The Gendarme was then called back from the car he was examining, and he took over the examination of the civilian identity papers. In the meantime, the driver had been brought to the back of the vehicle to explain why he was carrying a civilian, cases of wine and jerricans of petrol without authority. As he had no explanation, he was put under arrest and his vehicle impounded.
2. The Gendarme had found a small fault in MARCEL's identity card and asked him if he would mind going to Tournai, which was near by, so that the matter could be cleared up. MARCEL was taken in a military jeep to Tournai, where he was left in the Gendarmerie waiting room for a period of about 1/2 hour while checking was going on.
3. MARCEL was then summoned to see the Commissaire de Police, who quite gently and politely explained that there seemed to be no record of a person named DEHYCKE in the city register. MARCEL persisted for some twenty minutes that he was a Belgian living in Tournai, but naturally his answers to questions were so illogical that he was at last forced to confess that he was a German Sgt. who had deserted from the German army in May 1945. He gave a few particulars of his life in the army, until the Commissaire, having said 'It is no crime to be a German', said that he must turn MARCEL over to the British authorities. He was placed in a locked room during the lunch hour and at 1430 hours was manacled to a jeep and taken to Brussels, where he was delivered to C.S.L.O.(B) and by him to 50 F.S. Section.
4. After a decent interval, MARCEL was called for interrogation and told that as he was a German wearing civilian clothes, he would have to have an intelligence interrogation to discover his exact identity before he could be passed to a P.O.W. cage. He was therefore taken normally through his life story, with special attention paid to his military career. The story was so impossible that the interrogator asked for permission to show his disbelief of the story and tried to break MARCEL.
5. This he did quite easily at about 2030 hours, when MARCEL admitted that he was Marcel ZSCHUNKE of the S.D. For the sake of appearances, the interrogator continued to take down MARCEL's story, but had made no report. On Monday 13 August 1945, MARCEL was handed over to Det. C.S.D.I.C. at Diest (Captain McAllister), where he will be treated as an ordinary S.D. officer.
6. After MARCEL had been arrested and taken away, a packet containing jewelry and money was found hidden in the lorry. These articles have been passed on to C.S.D.I.C.
7. At the time of the arrest the SHAEF travel permit was taken away by one of the C.M.P.s and it has now been returned to the issuing authority.

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Conclusion

1. The actors in the comedy played their parts extremely well, and it seems from the evidence so far received that MARCEL has no idea that his arrest was framed and that he believes it to have been the sequence of a normal road check by the British and Belgian police. It is hoped that confirmation of this will come from the C.S.D.I.C. interrogation report.

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