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XAAZ-8797
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August 6, 1945

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
COUNTER INTELLIGENCE WAR ROOM
LONDON

MICROFILMED
JUL 29 1962
DOC. MICRO. SER.

WAR ROOM NOTE

SUBJECT: Von SARTORIUS, Friedrich

Our ref: PF 601,996/WRC5B

EAK

Further to War Room signal VAR 5474 of 2 June 45, are now enclosed copies of the following documents received from A.F.H.C.

- A) Preliminary interrogation report undated
- B) Second preliminary interrogation report undated
- C) A.F.H.C. report ref: GBI-389.701/PF/1164, of 21 May.
- D) BSM report No.4405 of 20 May on BERGER.

These reports, particularly the second preliminary interrogation report shed further valuable light on PANNWITZ's ROTE KAPELLE Organisation, upon which a War Room summary was issued on 5 June under reference SF52/4/20(1)WRC5B.

The delay in publishing the present reports from A.F.H.C. is due to an administrative error which occurred before the reports reached the War Room and it is regretted.

WRC. 5B.
876/45

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2006

INDEX

BERGER, FRIEDRICH MATTHIA

COORDINATION WITH ARMY

200	6	1	101
INTELLIGENCE			
DEC 28 1950			
6 Aug 1945			
INTEGRATION DIVISION			
ABSTRACT	X	INDEX	X

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6 Aug 45

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PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION OF SARTORIUS, Friedrich von

1. Introduction

*Source - source Dave
Honey - 7 July 50
H. M. S. S. S.*

PW served from Jul 40 until Apr 45 as interpreter with the SD organization known as "Rote Kapelle" or "Sonderkommando PANWITZ". He deserted from the unit on 29 Apr 45 after it had withdrawn to the TIROL-VORARLBERG as he did not want to get involved in the activities it was planning to undertake. He gave himself up to the Allies in MILAN on 7 May 45. PW is cooperative although not very intelligent. The reliability of the information he has so far given can be assessed as good.

2. Recent Moves of Sonderkommando PANWITZ

Until Summer 44 the Sonderkommando PANWITZ operated in FRANCE and BELGIUM with HQ's in BRUSSELS, PARIS and other French towns. After the Allied victories in FRANCE and BELGIUM it withdrew to BADEN/BADEN and subsequently to KLOSTER REICHENBACH and HEILIGENBERG. It moved to the TIROL-VORARLBERG at the beginning of Apr 45, being first located in the BREGENZ area. On arrival there the unit consisted of some eight SS Officers and NCOs including PANWITZ and about 20 French and 10 Flemish agents.

3. Future Plans

According to Source PANWITZ intended to go to ground in the mountains of TIROL-VORARLBERG and to continue the struggle against the Allies even after the defeat of GERMANY. He mentioned as one of his aims the assassination of such arch enemies of the Germans as General PATTON and Winston CHURCHILL. How these assassinations were to be carried out was not disclosed to PW and he believes that no definite plans had been made but they were merely mentioned as among the aims for the future. PANWITZ also hoped that eventually they would be able to stage a come back when the Allies had ceased vigilant control of German territory.

4. Other Groups in TIROL-VORARLBERG

Apart from the Sonderkommando PANWITZ other SD units had assembled in the area before PW deserted. These included units under Sturmbannfuehrer KIEFER, Sturmbannfuehrer BEUMELBERG, Hauptsturmfuehrer GUDEKUNST and Standartenfuehrer BICKLER. Other high SS personalities were also due to arrive and on the day of the desertion PW knew that PANWITZ sent a W/T message from BLUDENZ to SALZBURG to inform KALTENBRUNNER and STEINLE that accomodation was ready for them. PW does not know if these two eventually joined up with PANWITZ.

5. Locations and Contact Addresses

a) PW last saw PANWITZ with two other members of his staff - WENGER and BUERGLE in the house of HUETTER, the former Kreisleiter and Burgermeister of BLUDENZ on 29 Apr. The address he gives as Ferdinand Gasser Strasse 15. It was from this house that the W/T message was sent to SALZBURG (see para 4). The W/T operator was BUERGLE. PW believes that PANWITZ did not intend to stay in BLUDENZ but to move to the mountains to the East of the town in the area RUNGELIN off the road to BLUDENZ-LANGEN. He understood that a hide-out had been prepared there with provisions sufficient to last for eight months although he never saw it himself and does not know the exact location.

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6 Dec '45 200-6-1-107-1

b) Another of PANWITZ's staff was living in LAUTERACH, Haus 346 near BREGENZ. This was Untersturmfuehrer' MAYER. PW shared the house with him. PW does not know where the others were living.

c) As far as PW knows the unit of BEUMELBURG was located in the FELDKIRCH area.

d) PANWITZ was engaged on setting up contact addresses (Anlaufadresse) so as to be able to maintain contact with the various members of his unit and with the other units. One of these contact addresses was the house of HUETTER in BLUDENZ (see para 5a). Others were home of MAYER's father in RANKWIL (exact address unknown) and the house of a waitress of the Hotel HIRSCHEN in BREGENZ who lived in DORNBIERN. The Christian name of this waitress was Maria but PW does not know her surname.

6. Personalities

BEUMELBURG, Kark
* CE

SS Sturmbannfuehrer. Formerly SD LO to VICHY. Subsequent function unknown. Came to TIROL-VORARLBERG with staff and a number of Frenchmen early Apr 45. Last known location was FELDKIRCH.

Age about 55.
About 1.75m tall, black hair going grey, thin face, rugged complexion. (Cf CSBIS UK Report: S.I.R. 1018).

BICKLER

SS Standartenfuehrer. Believed to have been formerly head of Abt VI in FRANCE. Age about 40, native of STRASBOURG. About 1.60m tall; stout build, full round face. Speaks French and English. Last seen: BREGENZ - mid Apr 45. (Cf CSDIC UK Report: S.I.R. 886)

BUERGLE

SS Untersturmfuehrer. W/T operator of PANWITZ. Age about 36-38. About 1.70m tall, strong build, fair hair, cleanshaven. Last seen: As for PANWITZ.

GUDEKUNST

SS Hauptsturmfuehrer. Formerly in FRANCE (function unknown) PW first met him in HELLIGENBERG where he was in charge of the W/T school for the tng of agents for FRANCE. About 1.75m tall, well-built, fair hair, cleanshaven. Last seen: BREGENZ - mid Apr 45

HUETTER

Leading Nazi in BLUDENZ. Housed PANWITZ and some of his staff as at 29 Apr 45. Believed to have been enrolled as contact address. Age about 42, married. About 1.70m tall, black hair going grey, thin face. Last seen: BLUDENZ, Ferdinand Gasser Strasse 15 on 29 Apr 45 (his home address) (Cf : CSDIC/CMF/RT 154 where he is given as former Kreisleiter and Buergermeister of BLUDENZ).

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KIEFER SS Sturmbannfuehrer. Said to have been engaged formerly on playing back captured agents sent over from ENGLAND.
Age about 45
About 1.70m tall, well-built, round face.
Last seen: BREGENZ - mid Apr 45.
(Cf CSDIC UK Report: S.I.R. 1018-

MAYER SS Untersturmfuehrer. Joined staff of PANWITZ after the move to TIROL-VORARLBERG at beg Apr 45. Formerly on staff of WANDEL OC SD Hauptausstelle BREGENZ. Presumed to have joined PANWITZ because of his local knowledge and contacts. His father living in RANKWELL was to be one of the contact addresses of the group (see para 5d)
Age about 35, married, one child
About 1.70m tall, slim build, thin face, cleanshaven, black hair.
Last seen: LAUTEPACH, Haus 346 on 29 Apr 45.

123697 * PANWITZ, Heinz
SS Hauptsturmfuehrer. Head of the Rote Kapelle, otherwise known as Sonderkommando PANWITZ. Holds Police rank of Kriminalrat.
Age about 36, married, no children.
About 1.68 - 1.70m tall, well built, full fair hair with parting, round face, pink complexion, blue (?) eyes, one gold tooth, cleanshaven.
Home address ; PRAG
Last seen: BLUDENZ, Ferdinand Gasser Strasse 15 on 29 Apr 45.

SCHMIDT SS Untersturmfuehrer. On staff of PANWITZ
Age about 40
About 1.75m tall, strong build, fair hair with parting, round face, blue (?) eyes.
Last seen: BREGENZ - mid Apr 45.

SCHMITZ, Ungers SS Untersturmfuehrer. On staff of PANWITZ
About 45 yrs old.
About 1.80m tall, very slim, pale pinched face, black hair going grey, cleanshaven.
Said to be of American extraction but to carry Dutch papers. Speaks English and Dutch. Last seen: BREGENZ - mid Apr 45.

WENGER SS Hauptsturmfuehrer. 2i/c to PANWITZ. Formerly served with Standartenfuehrer BICKLER in FRANCE. Joined PANWITZ late 44.
Age about 40, married.
About 1.75 - 1.78m tall, strong build, full face, hair going grey, cleanshaven.
Speaks French, some Dutch and some English.
Last seen: As for PANWITZ

WILD SS Obersturmfuehrer. On staff of PANWITZ.
Age about 42.
About 1.78m tall, slim build, thin face, black hair.
Last seen : BREGENZ - mid Apr 45.

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WOLF

SS Untersturmfuehrer. On staff of PANWITZ.
Age about 38
About 1.65m tall, slender build, black hair,
pale complexion, clean shaven
Last seen: BREGENZ - mid Apr 45.

? ?, Maria

Waitress at Hotel HIRSCHEN in BREGENZ.
Offered her home address in DORNBERN as
contact address for the PANWITZ group.
Age about 35.
About 1.70m tall, well built, fair hair.

Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.

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C O P Y

SECOND PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION OF SARTORIUS, Friedrich von

1. Introduction

Further details have now come to light on the identity of the PW who still insists that his real name is von SARTORIUS. This is considered to be extremely doubtful. Since his association with the RSHA he has always gone under the name of BERGER. He came to ITALY under this name at end of Nov 44 in charge of a group of French agents sent by PANWITZ and the B.d.S. STRASSBURG and reported to HUEGEL, the head of Abt VI B.d.S. ITALIEN. HUEGEL was shown a photo of the PW and immediately identified him as BERGER. Subsequently a meeting was arranged between the two and the identity was firmly established.

HUEGEL confirmed that BERGER was a civilian interpreter and held no SS rank. He knew very little about his past and could supply no information of interest on him. HUEGEL passed BERGER and his French group over to SS Sturmbannfuhrer GOHL as soon as possible and the whole group moved to SAN REMO. Here trouble ensued between BERGER and GOHL as a result of which GOHL had BERGER arrested and put in prison in MILAN. He remained there until the end of Mar 45 when he was released through the intervention of SS Hauptsturmfuhrer RUEDIGER, a former member of Abt IV in PARIS. BERGER returned to GERMANY and rejoined the PANWITZ group at KLOSTER REICHENBACH a few days before the move to TIROL VORARLBERG. HUEGEL confirmed the story of the arrest of BERGER but did not know that he had been subsequently released.

BERGER's subsequent desertion now appears to be due to a lust for revenge at the treatment he received and a desire to leave the sinking ship before it is too late. He repeated to HUEGEL the story of the personnel who he claims have gone to ground in the TIROL VORARLBERG and there seems little doubt that this part of his story is true. It is further confirmed by pieces of paper found in his pocket book which gave HUETTER's address in BLUDENZ as Ferdinand Gasser Strasse 15 and the address of MAYER as LAUTERACH Haus 346.

PW has a muddled brain and although attached for a long time to the Rote Kapelle organisation does not seem to have been let fully into the secrets of its activities. Consequently a lot of his information is incomplete and disjointed. The basic facts are however believed to be true.

2. The Rote Kapelle

BERGER joined the Rote Kapelle in Jul 40 in BRUSSELS as civilian interpreter, his languages being French, Flemish and Dutch. At this time the organisation was commanded by a certain Dr. LENTZ with a Dr KURFUERST as his assistant. PANWITZ did not join until late 40 or early 41. At first their task seems to have been the penetration of political parties in BELGIUM and HOLLAND with particular emphasis on the communist party.

In Sep 42 BERGER moved to PARIS with PANWITZ who set up his HQ in the Rue Sausse, later moving to the Rue Royale. PW does not seem to have a clear idea as to whether the PARIS unit was an offshoot of the BRUSSELS one or if it became the main HQ, he believes the latter. PW claims that PANWITZ was very successful in penetrating the Communist Party in FRANCE and succeeded in arranging and maintaining contact with MOSCOW - exactly how this was done he does not know.

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In the course of time PANWITZ set up an elaborate organisation with his own agents in communist cells and groups in FRANCE, BELGIUM and HOLLAND and according to PW, was able to control their activities fully. He claims, too, that directives for these groups emanating originally from MOSCOW and passed either direct or via SAPIN or ENGLAND were brought first to the PANWITZ organisation through his controls in the cells before they reached the members of the cells themselves. In this way the directives could be altered first by PANWITZ to suit the requirements of the G.I.S. and then passed on as the directives from MOSCOW.

BERGER maintains that this elaborate network built up over a period of years is still in existence and it is intended that it should still be controlled from PANWITZ's hideout in the TIROL, VORARLBERG. The present aim of those gone to ground is to use this network to cause dissension and distrust between RUSSIA and the Western Allies and ultimately conflict. In this way they see their only hope of a come back and the resurrection of the Nazi Party in some form or other in GERMANY. PW was told by PANWITZ that one of the activities would be to arrange the assassination of leading Allied personalities such as General PATTON and Winston CHURCHILL by the communists, thus creating a basis for distrust and dissension between the Great powers. PW believes that this would be only one of their forms of activity but could provide no information on others.

PW believes that it is possible for the network also to be controlled from SPAIN in the event of the capture of the people hiding in the TIROL, VORARLBERG. He states that early this year the two original leading members of the organisation LENTZ and KURFUERST came to ITALY to see RAHN who was to arrange for their passage to SPAIN through diplomatic channels. He does not actually know that they arrived there. A number of the French agents brought to ITALY by BERGER in Nov 44 (see para 1 above) were also to be infiltrated into SPAIN by GOHL and to work there either on behalf of PANWITZ or of ISELHORST. PW is 90% certain that these agents never left North ITALY. A list of these agents giving descriptions and other details will be supplied as soon as possible.

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7 July 50
Wm. B. ...

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2

GBI-389.701/PF/1164

21 May 45.

SUBJECT: Friedrich von SATORIUS @ Friedrich BERGER

TO : SHAF (Rear) C.I. War Room

1. With reference to your VAR 5392 PF 59 of 17 May, enclosed as requested are two copies of each of the preliminary interrogation reports on the above-named.

2. The identity of SATORIUS is still not completely clear at the time of writing, but the following are possible traces:-

a. EGGENBERGER, @ Louis BERGER. A Louis BERGER was reported by DSM sources in Nov 43 as being of Swiss origin, and an interpreter at No. 11 Rue des Soussaiez, PARIS, the offices of Abt IV and Abt V of SD PARIS. In Feb 44 the same sources reported that this man's real name was in fact EGGENBERGER, FNU, probably an ex-legionnaire and a former recruiter for the "S.R. français". (sic). This man is described as approx 50, 1m60-65, rough appearance, speaks French with slight accent, persona grata with Abt IV and V.

b. The DSM office in NAPLES, as a result of its vetting of refugees from N. ITALY, has today by a coincidence asked us to trace one BERGER, @ Bergero Redy; a copy of their report, which is self-explanatory, is attached. This seems a more probable identification.

c. It is perhaps also worth noting that the DSM also reported one BERGER @ REDDY as being a SD man, status not clear, at PARIS and TOULOUSE, who may be identical with (b) above. REDY may well be an abbreviation for Friedrich or Frederick.

3. With regard to the persons mentioned in the report, the following traces are available here:-

BEUMELBERG Evidently id. with Stubaf. or Oberstubaf. BEUMELBERG, reported from French sources in May 44 as head of Abt IV Sipo and SD PARIS.

BICKLER Evidently id. with Oberstubaf. BICKLER, reported from French sources in Aug 43 as formerly head of Abt VI Sipo and SD PARIS, and in touch with the Japanese Embassy.

BUERGLE No trace.

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GUDEKUNST

Evidently id. with Hauptstuf. GUTEKUNST, reported from French sources in Aug. 43 as member of VI-N-2 or VI-N-3 Sipo and SD PARIS. Tall, thin, lanky, casual. Probably from SD DIJON.

HUETTER

Already known to you

KIEFER

Evidently id. with Stubaf. KIEFER, born 1897. An important member of Abt. IV - E Sipo and SD PARIS, according to British sources, since Nov 42, and a C.E. expert. According to French sources, dated Mar 44, he was then head of Abt. V. Described as 45, 1.67, thin, dark hair, wears glasses, a harsh voice with an abrupt and halting manner of speech.

MAYER

Cannot be traced here, but circumstantially accurate.

SCHMIDT

Not identifiable

SCHMITZ

Possibly id. with Hptmann SCHMITZ, an officer of Abw III F in FRANCE, reported from British sources to have visited LYON in Sept 42 in connection with an illicit W/T transmitter. But more probably Hptstuf. SCHMITZ, reported by captured member of ROTE KAPELLE in Apr 45 as chief of Krimin-alaussendienststelle LUXEMBOURG in Mar 43. Description: born 1912, 1.74, slender, athletic, erect posture, oval, haggard face with duelling scars, brown hair, blue eyes.

WENGER

Probably id. with Stuf. WENGER, reported from French sources at the end of 1943 as attached to the German Embassy in PARIS. There is also a SHAEF card for a WENGER, Krim. Komm. S.S., Einsatzkdo IV PARIS (Oct 41), with an office at 72 Avenue Foch.

WILD

Not identifiable here

WOLF

Possibly id. with Krimobsek. and Ustuf. WOLF, reported by captured member of ROTE KAPELLE in Apr 45 as having worked at RSHA in Abt IV-2, and then in BELGIUM on ROTE KAPELLE. Transferred back to BERLIN in May 43. Fanatical Nazi. Well-liked by his superiors. Age 45, 1.72, fat, but well-built, full face, brown hair, grey eyes.

4. The above traces are no doubt all available to you, but are sent to save duplication in any reply you may send.

5. Any assistance you can give in identifying SARTORIUS would be appreciated. He insists that he was born in AACHEN in 1907, and that SARTORIUS is his real name.

6. Chief of Staff, G-2

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6. RAHN is being asked to enquire into the alleged journey of LENTZ and KURFUERST.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2

S.S. HILL-DILLON
Colonel, G.S.
G-2 (CI) Section.

Encls.

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