

SECRET

DEPT-DEPO

APR 6 1956

Chief of Station, Frankfurt  
[ ]  
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INFO: [ ]

REPRODUCTION/COPIES

Supervising of [ ]

1. Attached herewith are the results of [ ]'s debriefing performed by [ ] The first attachment represents the information obtained during the debriefing. The second attachment reflects [ ]'s comments, and the third represents an index of the documents, letters, etc., obtained from [ ]

2. Despite the fact that this was only a one day debriefing session, [ ] was able to obtain considerable amount of information which can be profitably utilized in any further effort to establish source's bona fides. On the basis of the data obtained so far, however, it would appear that the source is deliberately withholding information to further arouse our interest in him. In fact, it is quite obvious that he would like to work with the KGB, and if we accept him, he would ostensibly then be willing to give us further operational data. This is hardly worth the price, particularly when there are glaring contradictions in his story, and strong indications that he had been recruited by the KGB and may even now be working under their control.

3. Although source is willing to come up to Frankfurt for further discussions, we feel such interviews will not be productive from our point of view. We have, therefore, told him that if we feel it necessary to see him again, we will get in touch with him.

Approved: [ ]

9 April 1956

Attachments: 2/3

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Attachment A to  
EGFA-9650

### INTERVIEW WITH SARTORIUS

Source was born on March 20, 1911, in Schoenefeld, near Aachen. In 1934 source graduated from the Hotelschule, a school giving instruction in hotel management, in Zurich, Switzerland, and subsequently returned to Schoenefeld, Germany. In Schoenefeld he came into contact with a certain Joseph SCHMIDT, who gave source the assignment to join the Foreign Legion and there find German citizens who had left Germany in 1933.

In August 1935 source left for France, joined the Foreign Legion in Marseille as a private, and was sent to Sanda, Algiers and Marakesh, Morocco.

In the summer of 1936, through a "lady" German intelligence woman source was ordered to leave the Foreign Legion under any pretext and return to France. At that time, source was suffering from an inflammation of the ears. He bribed the medical staff of the hospital to operate on him, and as a result was relieved from his Foreign Legion duty. In March 1937 he received permission to leave for France.

Beginning April 1937 source lived in Paris, where he was in contact with an unofficial member of German intelligence, a certain DEUMELBURG who also lived in Paris. Source under the name of BERGER organized with DEUMELBURG's assistance an ice-cream factory in Paris, and used it for their agents' network. Source does not remember the names of the French agents, and maintains that this network had assignments in connection with military matters.

Source worked in this fashion until 1939 when source left for Munich, and was ordered by the Supreme Command of the German Armed Forces to report to the Wiesbaden Branch (Ast-Leitstelle) Fieldpost No. 21476. According to source, his main duty there was to transport reports of the agency along the Koeln, Luxemburg, Paris route.

NOTE: Source refused to give details of his work there, stating that he will do so at a later date, i.e., after he has established closer contact with us.

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In June 1940, source came to Paris as a special commissioner, and took up residence in the Hotel Litetsia. Source's indirect chief was Colonel SEYLE (Perhaps RYLIE) from the Wiesbaden Branch. Source was given the assignment to screen Frenchmen who were being recruited by German intelligence. Source talked to these people, and later submitted his conclusions in regard to the usability of one or the other of these individuals.

On December 13, 1940, a German intelligence agent, a certain (Captain) HERMAN gave source the assignment to go to Vichy, where the quarters of PETAIN's government were located, and to establish contact with the 2nd Bureau of the French intelligence. HERMAN specifically directed source to get in touch with (Captain) BAUMAIN.

On December 16, 1940, source was arrested in Vichy by French authorities, and sent to some camp in Algiers. There, the French military court sentenced source to death for espionage. In the summer of 1942, source was taken from under arrest thanks to the efforts of Baron von KIRSTEN, Chairman of the Franco-German armistice commission, and sent to Paris, where he started to work for the Main Office of the German State Security. His work consisted of offering resistance to the Communist organizations and to the partisan movement.

Source was asked to give details of his activities during this period, however, source denied a direct answer, and disclosed that only for a period he had been involved in the Rote Kapelle. He added the following in connection with the Rote Kapelle.

*from X PAN WITZ?*  
Toward the end of 1943, the criminal investigative official (Kriminalrat) PANVIZ (or PANVITZ)-PAULSEN of the 4th Branch (Amt) of the State Security Main Office (Reichssicherheitshauptamt) came to Paris from Brussels, and source was told by the (SS Major General) MUELLER from the Berlin SS Main Office to give, if necessary, some of his agents to PANVIZ for the Rote Kapelle operation. Source followed the instructions, however, maintains that he knows no details about the operation itself. Source remembers that some of the agents he put at the disposal of PANVIZ were sent to Grenoble, where they were instrumental in the arrest of "a certain number of Communist agents", and those who remained in Paris under PANVIZ's supervision were performing in a similar fashion. Source maintains that during his imprisonment by the Soviets he had heard from a fellow-prisoner named

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*full*  
NACHTKAMP that PANVIZ had been arrested by the Soviets, and subsequently shot in Lubyanka, Moscow.

In September 1944 source was a member of the "I-Z" group of the Tank Division commanded by von MANNTROFEL, which at that time was located in Hovald near Strassbourg. In November 1944 source was sent with the group to Italy, where he was to perform intelligence operations at the rear of the retreating Italo-German troops. His operation was headed by one of the German intelligence chiefs, *my* SHELLENBERG.

On May 8, 1945, source was captured by the Allied troops in the vicinity of Milan, and taken via Florence to a British intelligence center in Rome. There source was interrogated about his past activities in the German intelligence.

On November 1, 1945, source was transferred to Camp Ancona. From there, on December 18, 1945, was transferred to the special British camp in Rimini, and subsequently, due to his illness, to a hospital in Chersonatico. In the beginning of 1946 source was transferred to a camp in Venice, and then, in the first part of November 1946, to Bremerforde, Germany, via Muenster.

In February 1947 source was handed over to the French authorities, and sent to the French interrogation center in Wildbad, Schwarzwald. Wildbad, as source claims, is under the command of the French intelligence organ in Baden-Baden. Upon his arrival there, source was placed in a villa that was named Haus Carola, where he, together with fifteen other former German intelligence agents, was being guarded by the French Gendarmerie. On June 30, with the help of a woman, source succeeded in escaping the villa.

During his French captivity, source was permitted by the camp authorities to repeatedly visit the private home of a woman friend of his, his present wife, Didie, nee Gretchen ZINSER.

After his escape from the French captivity, source went illegally to the Soviet Zone of German via Frankfurt/Main. He explains this by the fact that he had to get to Shverin, Mecklenburg, at any cost in order to obtain some secret documents that he had at one time hidden in the Wendendorf Castle in Bena, and which, if discovered, would disclose the treacherous activities of some French agents of the German intelligence. In Shverin source succeeded in destroying the above-mentioned documents, and went thereupon to Berlin-Falkensee, where he

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stayed with some friends of his for two days. During this stay in Berlin, someone informed on him to the Soviets, source was arrested by a Soviet (lieutenant-colonel) named PAVLOV, and taken to a military prison in Hoenschenhausen.

There source remained in solitary confinement from July 14, 1947, until June 1950. He was interrogated by several Soviets who were interrogators about his past activities in the German intelligence and about other agents known to him. The long term of imprisonment (three years!) source explains by the fact that he had three different interrogators, and that each interrogator investigated his case completely anew.

In July 1950, source was sentenced by the Soviet military court which was located in the building of the former women's prison in Lichtenberg, Berlin, to a life sentence. On August 1, 1950, source was sent with a large group of prisoners to the transfer camp in Tayshet, via Orsha, Chelyabinsk, Kuybyshev, and Novosibirsk.

In the middle of October 1950, source was sent to camp 019, located along the Tayshet-Bratsk highway, on the 198th kilometer mark, where he stayed until December 2, 1950. There was a total of about 1200 prisoners there, Russians, Germans, Poles, Hungarians, Czechs, Koreans, Japanese, and Chinese, who worked on timber exploitation, and at the small saw-mill there.

On December 2, due to his emaciated state, source was sent to the "Central Hospital" located along the same Tayshet-Bratsk highway on the 51st kilometer mark, and remained there until the first part of January, 1951.

From the hospital, source was transferred to camp No. 045, an invalid camp for handicapped prisoners doing various types of light work, located in the vicinity of the hospital. Source remained in this camp until March 29, 1951, when he was again sent to the Tayshet transfer camp for further interrogation. The interrogation lasted only a day, and in the course of it source was questioned about a certain Otto SCORZENI, some of whose activities were known to source. At the same time, source was given a physical examination, and due to his emaciated state, was declared an invalid. After this, he was taken to the invalid camp 021, located on the 46th kilometer mark along the Tayshet-Bratsk highway.

Source claims that while he was being registered in the camp, he was able to detect the words "particularly dangerous" on the

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folder containing his case. That is why, he further claims, immediately upon his arrival in the camp, he was again given a physical examination, and this time, in spite of his poor state of health, declared healthy. After having stayed in this camp for three days, source was again transferred, first to camp 026, the location of which source does not remember, and immediately after to camp 020, whose location source also does not remember. In camp 020, source was placed into the intensified regime barracks, which practically amounted to being put into the camp prison, and source believes that this was done because his case folder was marked "particularly dangerous". While in the barracks, source was interrogated several times, since he was suspected of having made attempts to escape. The interrogator, whose name source does not remember, tried to force source to sign a report which stated that source had the intention to escape from the camp and had talked other prisoners into doing the same thing.

Toward the end of May, 1951, source was transferred to camp 07, located along the Tayshet-Bratsk highway, on the 128th kilometer mark, and again placed into camp prison, for no reasons known to source. Source maintains, that during his whole stay in camps, he refused to work because he did not want his work to serve to strengthen the Soviet regime, and believes that his frequent imprisonment in barracks of intensified regime were due to his refusal to work.

On June 13, 1951, all the prisoners of the camp prison were transferred to camp 048 in the town of Tayshet. The camp had some 1500 prisoners who had all come from camps located along the Tayshet-Bratsk highway, and was one of the best-organized camps that source had ever been. The food and the general treatment here was much better than in any of the other camps. Not far from the camp was the Central Automobile Repair Plant, where source has worked as a subsidiary worker for a short time, though most of the time he had refused any work.

On June 13, 1952 (as source put it, "exactly a year later") source was sent back to camp 026, and was immediately put into camp prison for refusing to work. Subsequently, source was placed in the camp hospital due to his emaciated state. There source succeeded in persuading a Russian doctor whose name he does not remember to send him to the hospital in the town of Bratsk.

In August 1952, source was sent to camp 052 at the Vikharevskaya station, and from there to the nearby camp 013, where source remained for almost two years. In December 1955 German

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prisoners were given the permission to correspond with their relatives in Germany. Source immediately wrote a letter to his present wife, who was then at Wildbad, and received a reply. However, when source was given his first letter from Germany, he was warned by the camp administration that should he in the future continue refusing work, he would be deprived of the right to write to anyone in Germany. This warning forced source to accept work, and from May, 1954 until August 15, 1954, source worked in a brigade producing wooden crates for string ammunition.

On August 15, 1954, source was taken to the central hospital of the 052 camp. Source does not remember its exact location.

On March 26, 1955, all German patients at the central hospital went to the assembly camp in Reshetnoye settlement (translator's note, source is not sure about name of this settlement, however, it is most probably Reshety). For no reason known to source, he and three other prisoners had to remain in the hospital, and on May 1, 1955, the whole hospital was transferred to camp 040 at the Tukshka (source is not sure about the name) settlement, located on the 360th kilometer mark of the Tayshet-Bratsk highway.

In the middle of August 1955, source was ordered by the political instructor of the camp to be transferred to camp 040, located ca. 5 km from the Tukshka settlement. From there, source was transferred to camp prison No. 04 and on September 27, 1955, source was sent to Camp 013, in which there were about 250 Germans, Manchurians, Poles and Spaniards.

On October 4, 1955, all Germans were sent to the Reshety settlement for final release. Before their departure, a Soviet officer made a brief speech in which he expressed the hope that the released Germans would be grateful to the Soviet government for the generous amnesty, and that, when they returned to Germany, they would tell their countrymen that the Soviet people want to live in peace with everybody.

At the Sverdlovsk station, 27 Germans to be sent in the special transport were separated from the rest for no reason known to source. On October 20, the transport arrived in Herlehausen, and on October 22, the released prisoners arrived in Camp Friedland.

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COMMENTS ON INTERVIEW WITH SARTORIUS

Due to limited amount of time spent with source, the following material does not encompass all his life. It is necessary to note that source attempts to give only superficial data about himself, trying to omit details wherever possible.

Source is definitely interested in establishing and maintaining contact with the Americans. According to him, the Germans and their intelligence service at present do not work efficiently, and therefore he is not interested in working with them. Source expressed the wish to organize a network of agents and to improve the counter-espionage effort. Source added, that if the Americans would support him financially, he would be able to establish clandestine contacts with the USSR "within a matter of a few months", since, according to source, he has sufficiently studied the Russians during his stay in camps. Source is certain that the majority of Russians are anti-Communist. Source said the following: "I have spent much of my own finances to establish contact with several individuals who could be used for intelligence work in Western Germany. At present my finances are low. Should the Americans help me financially to start with, I would be able to establish the necessary contacts. However, I would like to have a specific job. For instance, if you would ask me to cover the Hamburg-Munich line, I would know that that is my particular duty, and would try to spot all suspicious individuals in that section".

Source made a great effort to be asked to collaborate with us. He described self as an idealist, interested only in the struggle against Communism. This pose of source's was obviously discrepant with source's demands for financial support.

In the course of the interview, the following contradictions came forth.

1. Source maintained that in 1935 he went to France, and joined the Foreign Legion there as an assignment of the German intelligence. This is not very likely; source probably actually was there, but not on a job for the German intelligence, but rather to cover up a crime that he himself had committed, using the German intelligence assignment story as a cover.

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2. Source is reluctant to speak about his work in France before the beginning of the war, avoids giving facts and details. Several facts source refused to explain, stating that that was a "professional secret". However, source seems to be afraid to mention certain facts for fear of getting mixed up (he refused to name any French agents).
3. According to source, he was connected with the "Rote Kappelle". However, source was not able to describe the operation in detail and finally admitted that he was not directly connected with it. His contact amounted to sending several agents on jobs in the "Rote Kappelle".
4. Source stated that in February 1947, he was taken to Wildbad, Schwarzwald, "a French interrogation center", from which he escaped on June 30, 1947, in spite of his villa being surrounded by guards. From source's statement, one could conclude that the French probably considered him to be a "war criminal" (worked with agents in occupied France and fought against the resistance movement to the German occupation). However, source was not imprisoned during that time, but was rather kept in a villa by the French. As he stated himself, he had the right to leave the villa at pleasure. So his statements in this connection do not seem to be true to fact.
5. Source maintains, that after escaping from the French, he went to the Soviet zone in Germany, to Schwerin in Mecklenburg, since he wanted to destroy some documents which if found would compromise his agents in France. This reason for going there does not ring true either, for it is doubtful that source could be brave and noble to the extent of going to the Soviet Zone for that reason only. Arrival of source in Berlin sounds also untrue, as well as contrary to logic. Obviously source had other reasons which forced him to go to the Soviet Zone.
6. On July 14, 1947, source was arrested by the Soviet Lieutenant-Colonel PAVLOV, and was placed into the military prison in Hohenschoenhausen, where he remained until June 1950. Source was interrogated for this whole period of three years, and explains this extensive interrogation by the fact that in the process of questioning, he had three different interrogators who started his case anew each time. This part of source's statement does not ring true at all. To finish a case of his kind, a maximum of 12-15 months are needed.

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It is possible that source is giving false data in regard to his being under interrogation. It is probable that source's arrest took place at some other time (perhaps much later). It may be that source was being used for a certain period of time by the RIS as a spotter for individuals who were in contact with German intelligence, for RIS was very much interested in such individuals, and source is now giving false facts to cover up his real activities in the Soviet Zone.

7. Source was asked whether he had been questioned in the camp, to which he replied affirmatively, saying that he had been interrogated in several camps.

- a. In camp O45, Tayshet, in March 1951, he had been ~~interrogated~~ for a whole day in regard to his connections with Otto SCORZENI, by a certain (Major) YAKOVLEV.
- b. In the Central Automobile Repair Plant camp in Tayshet he was interrogated in 1952 for one day in regard to a certain Russian named VICTOR, who had been in Wildbad in the French organization. The interrogation was conducted by some Soviet civilians, who introduced to him two French officers whom source did not know.
- c. In camp O13, source was summoned several times by various officials. This time he was questioned as to whether he had ever been in Poland, and whether he had known any individuals of Polish nationality. Source had never been to Poland, so his replies were in the negative. In the camp senior lieutenant ZHURAVLEV questioned source several times as to source's reasons for refusing to work, to which source each time replied that he was sick.

Description of ZHURAVLEV: Looks between <sup>40-45</sup> 30 and 35 years old; is ca. 172 cm tall; has very black hair, an oval face, gray eyes; wore a mustach periodically.

These interrogations were the only ones to which source had to submit.

8. It does not follow from source's statements that he was performing heavy work in the Soviet camps. Source has spent much time in hospitals, refused work repeatedly, and was officially recognized as an invalid. As source states, he had an opportunity to learn Russian in the camps, and now speaks the language satisfactory. However, if source actually repeatedly refused to work, he would have been placed by camp authorities in isolation barracks (which he was) and therefore would not have had the opportunity to study Russian.

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When asked why he refused work repeatedly, source answered that he did not want to work out of principle, and in order not to strengthen the Soviet government through his work.

9. According to source, in July 1950, "after three years of solitary confinement", he was sentenced by the military court of Berlin-Lichtenberg to a "life sentence". The most severe sentence in the Soviet Union, however, is 25 years of camp. Therefore, source's statement as to a life sentence obviously contains little truth. Furthermore, source maintains that he noticed on the folder containing his case the words "particularly dangerous". This again is not very likely, since such labels are not openly displayed on the outside of folders. Source is probably trying to build himself up as a fierce opponent of the Communists, and one who was regarded by the Soviets as a very important criminal.
10. In the course of the interview, it became apparent that many prisoners considered source to be an informant for the MVD. Source explains this by the fact that the "political officer" of the camp issued an order to spread such rumors about source in order to compromise him. One of the individuals who used to spread these rumors about source was a prisoner who was a former colonel of the German Army, a certain von RANDOW, who currently resides in Cologne. See attached copy of a letter to RANDOW from source.

Source probably was an agent of Soviet intelligence, and many of the prisoners knew that. Now source is probably attempting to cover up this fact with his clumsy explanation.

11. In February 1955 source wrote a Red Cross postcard from the camp to a certain Dr. RENEY, Hamburg, Goethestr. 1, who had been one of the fairly important German intelligence agents. Source wanted to let him know of his own existence, and wrote him the postcard, in which he made hints of the weakening of the Soviet government: "the heart is still working, but the other organs are slowly withering away". In the same postcard, source asked Dr. RENEY about his former co-workers in the German intelligence: "what is REGUS and your other boys doing?". This postcard was not delivered to the addressee, however, and returned to source. (Refer to attachment.) The postcard incident arouses suspicion for the following reasons.

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- a. Each prisoner had the right to write only one postcard a month, and it is doubtful, that any one of the usual prisoners would risk losing a chance to write home, which source did in sending his postcard to Dr. REMY.
- b. The postcard is written in such a style that even the most mediocre individual would be able to guess that it contains a double meaning, so that it is not very likely that the Soviet censors would have let it through.
- c. A postcard addressed to the intelligence agent REMY, about whom source had already given facts to the Soviets, would have immediately aroused the suspicion of the Soviet Intelligence.

Taking all above facts into consideration, it may be concluded that the postcard was written by source at the instigation of Soviet Intelligence, who were interested in finding out more about Dr. REMY's activities, as well as in establishing a contact between Dr. REMY and source.

#### GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

The above-mentioned statements of source do not deserve our confidence. Evidently source was recruited by Soviet Intelligence and agreed to collaborate with them. It is quite possible that source has an assignment here in the West from the Soviet Intelligence. In order to check source's statements, it is necessary to get facts as to his activities in France, which source is not ready to reveal unless a concrete offer of cooperation with AIS is made.

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ATTACHMENT LIST WITH COMMENTS

1. Postcard to Dr. REMY with translation.
2. Copy of letter to RANDOW from source, dated Munich, February 14, 1956.  
Letter states that source cannot visit RANDOW in Cologne before March; that source visited Dr. DANDT in Hamburg, and hopes to see RANDOW in Munich should he come there.
3. Copy of source's registration in Camp Friedland, dated October 20, 1955, including statement of physical condition of source, and of his destination: Munich, Thierstr.
4. Also record of DM 300.- that source received as war prisoner.
4. Copy of document from Landesversorgungsamtsamt, dated Feb. 21, 1956, No. 1543, listing the financial aid source has received since entering the Federal Republic of Germany.
5. Copy of document recognizing source as Heimkehrer under Article 1, para 3 of the Heimkehrer Law; from Landesversorgungsamtsamt Bayern, dated February 21, 1956.
6. Copy of source's letter to the Red Cross in Hamburg, asking Red Cross to discontinue search of Dr. REMY, since source was returning home to Germany; dated Rimsting, October 22, 1955.
7. Marriage certificate of source and Gretchen Didie ZINSER, dated Wildbad, March 7, 1956.
8. Copy of a partnership contract (Gesellschaftsvertrag) between Korbinian MEYER and source, to accept source into the Liquor Store (Weingrosshandlung) as a partner.
9. Copy of a statement of Willie SCHMIDT, a friend and co-prisoner of source, dealing with Willie's life as a prisoner in Soviet camps. Also translation.
10. Copy of description of source's visit to Munich, where he visited a certain Frau HERMANN, and was introduced to a Mr. NOVAK, a Russian working for Radio Liberation. Also translation.