

POSITIVE INTELLIGENCE REPORT

*Category: *Dossier No.:
Subject: REINTERROGATION OF BERGER, Gottlob, General of the Waffen SS
Country: Germany Coordinates:
From: Team 11, 7020 AF Counter Intelligence Unit, USAF.
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No. Inclosures: 2 Prepared by: HENRY NELSON
Source of Information: General Gottlob BERGER
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1 copy Detachment #11, File

1. On 1st and 2nd September 1949, General Gottlob BERGER was reinterviewed at the Prison in LANDESBRO/Lech(4805M-1055E) in compliance with Specific Request #685, dated 22 August 1949.
2. In reference to paragraph #3, Specific Request #685, the following details were obtained from BERGER:
 - a. General BERGER definitely verified a previous statement that he has several thousand of his former officers and men, who are loyal to him and who are now situated in the Russian Zone and in positions to funnel back all kinds of information. In regard to this question, BERGER offered the following outlined suggestions for the establishment of an intelligence organization: (His views on the subject are literally translated from BERGER's notes, attached to this report as inclosure #1).
 - b. In his opinion, the basic question for any intelligence work is the problem to have either paid professional agents or patriots. He stated the Russians employ mostly patriots, who are superior to the paid agents. Patriots render their services without pay, only actual expenses are compensated which must be kept on a moderate scale, with the exception of individual cases.
 - c. However the patriot must have a goal, even if it is still hanging in the stars. For German patriots the aim could be the restitution of the Eastern German provinces to the WARTHE river, EASTERN PRUSSIA, the FREE PORT of DANZIG and the internationalization of the WEICHEL river. Out of nothing, nothing will be forthcoming! Further rehabilitation of the German combat soldier (Frontsoldaten)! Unification of the German combatants i.e. Waffen SS, Armored Divisions of the Army, paratroopers, Air Force flying personnel (so ground crews) and Navy. The preliminary stage is further advanced as it is usually taken for granted. However no firm organization exists as yet. If a goal is given, there will be plenty of people, who will strive earnestly towards this aim.

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REF: 11-131-0949, Detachment #11, 7020 IG SIV, APO 637, USAF, SUBJECT- REINTERROGATION OF BERGER, Gottlob, General of the Waffen SS, dated 12 September 1949 cont'd.

The seat of the organization should be BERLIN (52708-13251) and VIENNA (48143-16218). Without the latter, work in the Southeast BALKANS would be impossible. Branch offices are to be established in GRAZ (87052-19278) and LUBECK (53503-10438). LUBECK would be important for the coverage of SWEDEN and FINLAND. Besides a sole Intelligence Service for gathering and transmission of information, it is also suggested to prepare an active Intelligence Service, that is an organization which in case of need would be willing and able to commit sabotage and fight. Necessary equipment: time fuses, ductile explosives (Ketsprengstoff), shortwave transmitting and receiving sets, code and cypher system, radio facilities. It depends upon two (2) to three (3) personalities who would organize the matter.

d. Establishment of an unsuspecting commercial cooperation, i.e. a mail order house, for the purpose of sending foodstuff for the patriots and other necessary items as outlined above. Establishment of another unsuspecting society with a well sounding name, i.e. "Friends of Peace" (Friedensfreunde) for the purpose of gathering the "patriotic" elements.

e. Strongest commitment of women, recruited from former signal communication women auxiliaries, who are today again in influential positions in the German telephone and telegraph service. Unification of those on a professional basis to be facilitated through the existing Postal Employees Union. According to BERGER all this are minor details.

f. However two (2) important points should be clarified according to BERGER:

(1) Are the rumors circulated by the Russians about a secret pact between the USA and the USSR correct? Will the USA defend EUROPE or is EUROPE's mission considered closed for the USA? Will Russia receive a free hand in EUROPE and is this decision only put off for the moment out of prestige reasons?

(2) BERGER refuses any cooperation with SECRETLY. He is considered to be unreliable and supposed to be a coward.

3. BERGER's own statement explaining his position and attitude is attached to this report as inclosure #2 in the German original and English Translation thereof.

APPROVED:

Philip V. Howell, Jr.
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2 Inclosures:

- 1 - Berger's notes
- 2 - Berger's Statement and English Translation

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STATEMENT.

At the time when I prevented Adolf Hitler's laying hands on the two highest American officers in German captivity, I did this not with an eye on recompense, but because I could reconcile no other behavior with the principles of honor I had laid down to my SS men. However, I had the simultaneous idea that the two gentlemen could draw the attention of the President of the United States to the enormous danger threatening from the East. My plan was wrecked by the intervention of Himmler (Agents remark: Himmler held the two officers three weeks in Constance).

When Mr. Spivey came to see me at Landsberg, I realized that the principles of honor still held good in America and within its Army. I did not want Colonel Spivey to have any difficulties on account of his attitude and therefore, as a warning and for verification, gave him important information which had reached me even through prison walls. This information came to me through men and women whom I knew as unobjectionable and absolutely devoted to the truth.

In doing this I had no intention whatever to give myself undue importance or to obtain release from Landsberg by devious ways. I am held here unjustly and I know that the day of my release will come. On the other hand, I was influenced by my concern about Germany as well as the entire Western World. I neither underestimate, nor exaggerate the danger from the East.

For inner-political reasons Russia is a giant on feet of clay, but these feet are quite solid. Through the German invasion Russia was enabled to identify the greater part of the anti-communist forces, and to destroy them. To this must be added the greatest political imprudence of the Western Powers: the extradition of about 150,000 men who fought in separate all-Russian divisions of the Waffen-SS; the extradition of Vlassov and the Kossack Corps. What remains of it now should be shifted - but everything can be done if the will of the American Army to hold the West is stronger than Stalin's will to dominate the World. In Russia itself America must begin to regain the confidence which was lost through the extradition.

My present situation is quite outside of the matter under discussion and has not influenced the above statement.

(signed) Gottlob Berger.

Translation of Inclosure # 2 to PIR-11-131-0949.

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