

BERNHARDT, Johannes

SPAIN
Madrid

Card 1

SF-5*

While in Tetuan, lived at 14 O'Donnell. German, born 1/1/97; branch manager of H. & O. WILMER, automobile importers and exporters in Tetuan. In 1936 was secretary of the Tetuan Nazi party; one of the most active propagandists in Sp. Morocco; worked with Adolf Langenheim, one of chiefs of German I.S. in Morocco. Is dangerous.

LA 1236
9/2/42

ts/cmb

At Palace Hotel in Madrid. Managing director of SOFINDUS. Is in contact with German I.S.
/cmb

LA 100
British
10/14/42

Sent the following cable to General Faupel: "Glad that you are coming, and request that you notify us through Hisrowak concerning the date of your arrival in Irum and Madrid."
/cmb

LA 739
Madrid
5/13/43

Sent radiogram from Madrid to "Akrobat. Attention Schroeder. Berlin. After examination of local situation I see no prospects for closings (of business or other deals) at this time, wherefore I advise against planned journey." Censor's note shows that the signature, Bernhardt, has appeared on many messages in recent months to the German capital, disclosing subject to be a German official agent engaged in the development of armament works and metallurgical industries in Spain. cc/cmb

LA 1223
7/15/43

BERNHARDT, Johannes

Card 2

There is a German firm in Larache and Alcazarquivir owning flour mills. Although these mills are electric this firm has accumulate large quantities of gasoline as well as stocks of foodstuffs. Subject, a very wealthy German, is the head of this firm. He is said to have made his money buying up lorries, arms, ammunition, etc., in Germany for Franco's account. He enjoys Franco's entire confidence due to the good services he rendered him during the Civil War. This firm is said to be supplying German subs at night by means of small fishing craft. Subject is highly respected by the Spanish authorities and by the public in general on account of his intimate and friendly relations with the Generalissimo which are known.
er/cmb

VT 376a
Raza; B-2
2/4/44

Subject is head of German I.S. in Spain, according to Emil Best. He ordered Best to return to France. Subject also told Best that they had a wonderful agent who could come and go in North Africa and brought back plans of aerodromes, etc.
mjb/cmb

XK 621
XLW 898
British
2/14/44

MAWICK is associated with subject.

/cmb

VX 005-308
EFO01
3/4/44

Declassified and Approved for
by the Central Intelligence Agency
Date: 2001

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- () Privacy
- () Methods/Sources
- () Foreign Relations

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2006

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Radiogram from subject to procure tickets from Frankfurt to Berlin for subject, secretary, Frau Schaefers and Director Saul.
mjb/cmb

H 51614
4/15/44

Subject is about to leave for Germany according to radiogram sent from Madrid to Frankfort. Subject is Oberfuher of the SS in Spain.
dd/cmb

10452-417
4/17/44

Subject sent cable to Hitler on his birthday. "With unshakeable faith."
dd/cmb

10452-420
4/20/44

Subject is the official middleman for the German Government in the purchase of priority materials that are still allotted to Spain. Believed to work with two other German businessmen, BREUER and HEINEMANN.
mjb/cmb

RX 010-506
XMLo-35
4/26/44

Subject left instructions that his address would be the Hotel Furstendorf in Berlin A 26015e during his current visit there. During the Allied bombings recently only a section of this building was left open for business.
dd/cmb

10452-
424B
5/29/44
B-2

Subject frequently sends radiograms from Madrid to Berlin concerning the shipment from Germany to Spain of various war materials and the construction in Spain of armament works. Following radiogram appears to identify him as a head of German secret operations in Spain. "To Reichfuhrer SS Himmler, Berlin. On your birthday sincere wishes and the assurance of unconditional loyalty. Bernhardt."

RI
10/7/43

prf/cmb

Subject sent a cable to Frau Oberst Veltjens, Heerstr, Berlin, wishing her his sincerest sympathy on the tragic death of her husband.
ncm/cmb

H 46194
Censor.
10/11/43

Pablo WIEDENBRUG is subject's son-in-law.

dd/cmb

SJ FIN 9594
Condemned
11/25/43

Subject seems to be oberfuhrer of the SS in Madrid. He sent New Year's greetings to the following people by radiogram: Himmler, General von Faupel, Hitler, Goering, Goebbels, Rosenberg, Rommel, Gen. Sperrle, Gen. Richthofen, Gen. Jeschonek, Gen. Warlimont, Koerner, and Ohnesorge.
ncm/cmb

10452-101
1/1/44

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BERNHARDT, Johannes

Card 3

Cable from HISROWAK, Berlin, to SOFINDUS, Madrid, as follows: "For BERNHARDT your 922 (attached) radio set (?) so far not received."

H 53249
6/26/44

cmb

German; SS Upper Group leader. Political head of Sofindus. Plans to send Luis LLANSO JORNET to U.S. as personal representative to investigate export field for post war. Reported to enjoy the confidence of Germanofiles who are high up in the Spanish Government and is the medium through which are arranged the purchases of priority materials bought by Spain from the Allies. Tel. 61304. Hans HEINEMANN stated that UNICOLOR owns wolfram mines in Spain and that in general, 50% of the capital of the mines is German owned. Subject manages a great part of this business. He sold the first airplane to Franco in 1936.

RX 163
Madrid
8/21/44

cmb

Cable from subject to HISROWAK, Berlin, as follows: "BERNHARDT and SCHAEFERS arrived safely in Madrid today."

XX 988
W/T
8/30/44

hft/cmb

Radiogram from subject and the staff of SOFINDUS, Madrid, to the Fuehrer of the German Reich, Adolf Hitler, Reich Chancellery, Berlin, as follows: "We are sending our Fuehrer Adolf Hitler our heartiest congratulations on his birthday, with unshakable faith."

10452-911
596

cmb

BERNHARDT, Johannes

card 4

Subject is head of SOFINDUS and HISMA. He is also director of MONTANA s.a., estudios y explotaciones mineras, Bilbao, of which Guillermo PASCH is also a director.

XL-5830
1/26/45

hft

Subject is the organizer of HISMA and the president of SOFINDUS and ESTUDIOS Y EXPLORACIONES MINERAS MONTANA and director of TRANSPORTES MARITIMOS, S.A., and VITAL, and is closely associated with all SOFINDUS operations.

XL-5616
Madrid
11/24/44

hft

Subject is listed among "certain prominent Expulsion Candidates" the British requested Madrid to include in the 2/2/45 expulsion list which will be submitted to the Embassy for its consideration in requesting expulsion from Spain. Subject and the other "prominent Candidates" appeared on the British June 1944 list.

RX-406
Madrid
2/2/45

cmb

With regard to RX-406, subject is on previous or forthcoming British expulsion list.

XX-004-2602
2/26/45

cmb

Johannes BERNARDE, listed as Director, arrived in Lisbon from Madrid and stayed at the Hotel Victoria between Sept. 23 and Oct. 1.

XL-2299
ONI
A-2
11/9/44

cmb

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Johannes BERNHARDT, German, Madrid, was granted a Portuguese visa at the Madrid Consulate on 12/12/44; requested for 6 days. Subject was born in Osterode, East Prussia, 1/1/97; bears passport #2031 issued at Madrid 10/5/43. He arrived from Madrid 9/28/44 and registered at the Hotel Victoria; left 10/1/44. Arrived in Portugal through Elvas-Caia, 9/28/44; Portuguese visa granted in Madrid and good for 3 days only. Was in Lisbon again 12/1/44, arriving from Madrid by plane.

HK-350
Lisbon
1/31/45

cmb

Subject applied at the Madrid Consulate for a 3 day Portuguese visa. German director. Passport 2031 issued Madrid 5/10/43, arrived in Portugal via Elvas Caia 5/29/44, registered at the Victoria Hotel the same day. On 5/31/44 he was at the Palace Hotel at Bussaco, left 1/6/44.

HK-214
3/10/44

mrw/cmb

Subject now lives at Avenida del Valle 3, Madrid. He is reported to have left Malaga in 1934 for Tetuan, where he worked as a clerk in the SOFINUS Company. In 1936 he received financial assistance from the German government to form a Lisbon Export and Import Company. In 1937 he was made chief of the Spanish-German claims commission, and since that time has supervised the investing of 24 billion Reichmarks in Spanish industries, factories, commercial companies and real estate; moreover, he has allegedly invested large funds for Hermann Goering, who regards him as a personal friend. He is the key German operator in large scale foreign exchange transactions involving the purchases of dollars and pounds. Two of subject's principal assistants

3-CLJ-A-2
ONI
C-3
1/10/45

Letter of SOFINUS in Madrid; of the Wirtschaftsministerium.

**XXI 1354
XLN 1333
10/23/44

cmb

Subject arrived at the Av. Palace Hotel in Lisbon from Madrid on 11/16/44.

XL 5345
NA; A-2
12/12/44

cmb

Radiogram from Baron von HOYNINGEN HEUNE, German Ambassador to Lisbon, to subject, sending New Year's greeting to subject and SOFINUS.

TR 00146/44
12/31/44

dd/cmb

Nazi Minister, Wilhelm Obnesorge, (Minister for Post and Telegraph), replies to greeting sent by subject, as follows:
"Many thanks for your kind New Year wishes which I most heartily reciprocate. With kind regards and with firm confidence in victory, Heil Hitler, yours," Sig. Wilhelm Obnesorge.

Bellmore
2171
1/22/45

hft

Subject wrote note of sympathy to ROHMEL's widow. Subject's address: Av. Generalissimo I, Madrid; is head of SOFINUS. Sometimes, on Nazi political occasions, he signs messages "Bernhardt, SS Oberfuhrer".

Bellmore
1051
10/20/44

hft

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BERNHARDT, Johannes

Card 5

are Herbert and Oscar WILMER, Madrid. hft

One SCHMIDT, Estoril, Portugal, of the MASSENSTEIN Bureau, German post-war espionage organization in Portugal, has worked in a large transport firm at Frankfurt s>Main. He has directed all transport to Germany with Mr. Bruno LESSER, an accomplice of subject in Madrid. Dr. ECKERT, also connected with this Werwolf organization, has created a solid organization with ZICKERMANN, WIDMER, PORST, WALDHAUSEN, BERNHARD in Spain, Bruno LESSER, LASSEN & Co., GELLWEILER, Dr. JACOB, etc. These firms have worked openly and ECKERT has allowed them to make as much as they wished. ECKERT controls the affairs and finances of his friends. ECKERT, Commercial Attache in Lisbon, is directly connected with HIMMEER.

**HX-466
Lisbon
4/19/46

Subject is on the board of HINGSTE, CORCHOS ZUM. (Firm - q.v.) and of NOVA S.A. (Firm - q.v.) Was a German gov't nominee for jld latter.

XL6436
15 Feb 45
SH Series

Subject is named as a War Criminal by Von GOLDAMMER. Subject is a General and S.D. head in Spain.

20637-112
7 Feb 45
Madrid Emb.

BERNHARDT, Johannes

Card 6

Informer was on subject's payroll. Subject's immediate superior is Ewald KRUSE, head of the skins export section of SOFINDUS. Subject wanted to send informer to South America and told him to study code work.

**X-215-1268
HX-706
5/22/45

Summary of London info on subject:

Johannes Eberhard Franz BERNHARDT (?Sturmfuehrer). German. Born Osterode (East Prussia) 1-1-1907; as managing director in Madrid since at least 1941 of the German firm SOFINDUS he collaborated closely with both the Sipo and SD and the Abwehr; under his direction SOFINDUS, in addition to serving as a purchasing agency, handled foreign exchange transactions for the German government and the German I.S.; provided cover employment for Sipo and SD agents, sometimes paying a part of their salaries, facilitated the granting of Spanish visas to Abwehr agents by promising employment, set up bank deposits (probably in Spanish names) to provide for Abwehr expenses in case of a diplomatic break between Spain and Germany, and assisted the German I.S. in various other ways; reported in April 1944 to be engaged in smuggling wolfram to Germany; helped KdM Spain with customs problems at Irún on Sept 1 44; handled in Nov. 1944, the transfer by SOFINDUS to the German Embassy of Ptas. 16,000,000 for the use of KdM Spain; closely connected from Oct. 1944 to April 1945, in collaboration with the German Embassy, the Naval

XX7873
2 July 45
London

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(con't)

Attache and KDM Spain; with a numb. of attempts, mostly unsuccessful, to ship supplies clandestinely from Spanish ports to German garrisons isolated on the French coast, these undertakings being separate from those being conducted simultaneously for the same purpose by Ast Hamburg; list d for expulsion, out was still in Spain in April 1945; married with at least three children; passports (1) No. 1621/40, (2) No. 01567 issued Madrid 30.1.40, (3) No. 2031 issued Madrid 5.10.43 and (4) No. 1936. Address: (1944, office) Av. del Generalisimo 1, Madrid (tel. 36822, 36821, 32714, 42364, 42365): (1944, private) Av. del Valle 3, Madrid (tel. 44997). (This info sent to Spain)

Name submitted by HOHENLOHE in list of German Nat. Soc. who have been outstanding because of their reproachable attitude. 20637-613 #465 6/13/45

BERNHARDT of SOFINDUS - SD agent. RX 797 REX 179 6/11/45

At Madrid (1 avenida del Generalisimo) is the headquarters of German secret services under the orders of General BERNHARDT. Probably subject. FFX-6114 3/6/45
Under subject's direction, the S.D. in Spain extends its ramifications toward South America and Portugal, while maintaining contact with La Hays and the German I.S.

Subject arrived in Portugal on LUSITANIA EXPRESS 3/21/45. Carried passport #1936/45, issued at Madrid 3/6/45. HX-454 Lisbon 3/29/45

Dr. Heinz JORNES, who in 1940 was head of the Iberian Section of Amt VI of the RSHA, stated that in 11/40 he was asked to go to the Iberian Peninsula to become a director of the transport firm MARION in Salamanca. MARION was an affiliation of SOFINDUS, the owner of which was an SS Standartenfuhrer whose name JORNES could not remember, and who was evidently the German Liaison Officer with Franco. Originally, this Nazi dignitary was sent to Spain in connection with the delivery of Junkers-52 planes. MARTIN was to establish a branch office in Lisbon with JORNES as manager. The possible occupation of Spain and perhaps Gibraltar was thought to be the reason behind all this. XX 7019 5/21/45

(The SS Standartenfuhrer is believed to be subject. --cmb)

Subject is included in list of German holders of safe deposit boxes in Lisbon banks. Described as follows: German director; born Osterold, East Prussia 1/1/87. Holds passport 2031, issued Madrid 10/5/43. Arrived via Elvas-Cais 5/29/44; registered at Hotel Victoria same day. Registered Palace Hotel, Bissaco 5/31/44; left 6/1/44. On 9/22/44 obtained a six day visa for Portugal, issued by the Port. Consulate, Madrid. Entered 9/28/44 by Elvas-Cais. Left Hotel Victoria 10/1/44. On 12/12/44 was granted 6 day visa for Portugal, issued by Port. Consulate at Madrid. HX 416 3/7/45

RECEIVED COPY

BERNEARDT, Johannes

Card 7

LWX-002-707
7/7/45

FOLMER states that financial reserves had been amassed in Spain to supplement Abwehr activities after the cessation of diplomatic relations between Germany and Spain. SS Gruppenfuhrer BERNHARD built up a sizeable mining business in wolfram ore and tungsten. Subject's home is located in Madrid on the Avenue del Generalissimo, next to the Deutsche Bank. Otto BRANDT was involved in the 4-year plan and probably has connections with BERNHARDT. Hptm ENGELKE, manager of the purchasing agency for the Waffen SS in Paris, was in Spain around the end of 1943 and had contacted subject.

cmb

XX-7785

The British have informed us of the following situation which has developed in Madrid 6/28/45 between their representatives and subject, head of the German holding company SOFINDUS. SAINT and the American Ambassador have been kept informed and are participating in the discussions.

Subject has offered to work for Allied interests in the management of SOFINDUS. He has agreed to accept any directives laid down by an Allied advisory committee, which would act as a board of directors of SOFINDUS. Subject estimates the present capital assets of SOFINDUS to be five hundred million pesetas. Subject appears to be the only person in Spain able to establish that the companies are German-owned and the capital provided by the German Government. Subject is prepared to give all assistance and would continue to direct the whole SOFINDUS combine under complete Allied control. He would reveal all assets which SOFINDUS has hidden in Spain.

/over

BERNHARDT, Johannes

Card 8

continued...

Holding Company

SOFINDUS

Trading Companies

LANACO (Cia. Gral de Lanac)
 PIELCO (Exportadora de Pieles)
 CORCHOS DE ANDALUCIA
 TRANSPORTES MARION
 SCHOLTZ HERLANOS
 MINERALES DE ESPANA
 H. GAERTNER S.R.
 AGRO S.A.
 NOVA S.A.

Mining Companies

ARALAR S.A.
 MONTANAS DEL SUR
 BIGREDOS (Sierra de Gredos)
 SANTA FECLA
 MONTES DE GALICIA
 MAURETANIA
 MONTANA S.A.

Mines

SOMAR
 FLORURCS
 IMSAE

/over

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Shippin; Companies

EMCI
TRANSOMAR
NISA
BAU

cmb

XL-12621
7/11/45
elw

Otto CRAWERT was in contact with subject, Standardfisher in the S.S.
6th page from end of doc. description of subject, etc.

FPX-6814
21 June 45
Interrog of
Willy BLEY

hft

Subject has provided the following info re his activities in Spain:
At the outbreak of the Civil War, subject, a German, who was living in Spanish Morocco, offered his services to FRANCO, who was a friend of his. The urgent problem of the moment was transport, and it was decided that subject should see Hitler to arrange for transport aircraft and material to be sent to Spain. Although Hitler was willing to send supplies as a political favor, Goering insisted that they be paid for in Spanish products. In order to accomplish this exchange, subject set up two companies, ROWAK in Berlin and HISMA in Tetuan. As the exportable surplus available to Spain consisted of products such as wines, resins, skins, cork and minerals, subject found it necessary to launch subsidiary companies to deal with each of these commodities. He therefore founded AGRO, EXPORTADORA DE PIELS, C.L., GENERAL DE LANA, HERMANN GAERTNER and LINGUALES de ESPANA, all under the control of HISMA. In the course of time other companies were either bought or acquired. Subject set up a number of mining companies, and SOFINDUS in possession of one of the most comprehensive mineralogical surveys ever made in Spain. HISMA became the largest and probably the most important single factory in the economy of Nationalist Spain. In 11/38 it was replaced by SOFINDUS, an organization virtually controlled by the German Government under the direction of subject. As a condition to his cooperation with the Allies, subject has stipulated that, as he is personally indebted to many persons in Spain in high places, no trouble be caused these persons. Subject reiterated that under no circumstances would he compromise the people who had assisted him in his work. A British expert in Madrid considers that, although a defeated enemy national, subject is still a forceful personality and a potent factor in Spanish politics. He is said to be responsible for Spain's present government, more than any other individual. Has more influence with Franco than the British and American Embassies combined. It is doubtful that the Spaniards would ever agree to hand subject over to the Allies.

The following are the German state-owned enterprises in Spain which are either controlled by subject directly or through SOFINDUS: continued on card

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

BERNHARDT, Johannes

Card 9

RX-825
6/20/45

Upon Germany's surrender, subject's name was presented to the Spanish Foreign office for immediate internment.
cmb/hft

cmb

XL 12762
7/12/45

Page 1, par. 3

XX 7999
7/11/45

cmb

Page 2, par. # 5

XX 7780
6/18/45

cmb

Page 2, par. # 6

RRX 208
6/30/45

cmb

Pages 1 and 2, par. 5,6,7

RX 907
B-2
8/4/45

cmb

BERNHARDT, Johannes

Card 10

XX 8837
8/20/45

cmb

Page 5, para. 3

FPX/6646
D.S. DOC.
18 May 45

Page 6, para. 5

XX 9084
9/1/45

Page 8, para. 2

cmb

Page 4, para. 7,A

XX 8910
8/20/45

cmb

Page 3, #7

HX 621
10/3/45

cmb

Re: Laura

** IN 35795
Madrid
13 April 46

over

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

BERNHARDT, Johannes

XX-8707
no date

German. Oberfuhrer of the SS. Did not belong to the RSHA service. Director general or technical adviser of SOPINDUS. At first was an unimportant employec of the WILMERS firm, During the Spanish civil war engaged in arms traffic to France. Very clever. Has been employed to deal directly with Franco, who likes him. Has made a considerable sum of money. Married a daughter of WILMERS. Within eight years, he has acquired money and titles. He now has a villa at Madrid and two large farms, one at Salamanca and the other at Alicante. His connections are powerful and although he is no. 1 on the list of expulsions demanded by the Allies he has never left the country. Gives the cover of SOPINDUS to the services of the German I.S. About 35 years old.
hft

Page 5, para. 26
cmb

XX 9837-9839
11/13/45

In 1936 subject received financial assistance from the German government to form HISMA Import and Export Co. In 1939 was made chief of Spanish-German Claims Commission and since that time has supervised investing of 24 billion Reichsmarks in Spanish industries. Personal friend of GOERING. His principal assistants are Herbert and Oscar WILMER. Heinrich BAUER, when he was in the Puerta del Sol, wrote his wife and asked her to go to subject and explain to him that he must get him out of jail.
hft

RX-955
8 Sept. 45

BERNHARDT, Johannes

Herbert and Oscar WILMER are two of the principal assistants of subject, who was formerly the representative of their firm, H & O WILMER, in Tetuan. Subject is now head of SOPINDUS, the German holding company which acts as cover for SD operations. Subj. is considered the principal figure in the SD in Spain.
cmb

545 (2)
RX 549
B-3
4/9/45

Document gives list of employees of H & O WILMER. Source is Spanish policerecords dated Jan. 4, 1944. Subject is not listed as an employee, nor does his name appear as connected with this firm.
cmb

RX 586
W/BC; B-3
4/18/45

No additional info.
cmb

XL 10127
Madrid
5/3/45

RX-866
V/BC; B-2
19 July 45

RX-896
V/BC; B-2
1 Aug. 45

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BERNHARDT, Johannes

Card 11

Page 23, #3; page 24, paras. 1,2; page 25, #4,6. App. VI & VII.

XX 9618
10/26/45

cmb

Subject is included in list of Amt VI representatives and agents in Spain. After his name is "comprehensive economic organization). In Spain one of the big tasks was to supply the French Atlantic ports still occupied by the Germans with food. Almost all the sailing boat expeditions succeeded. It was managed by subject and STEINLE.

444TS 1837
SCHELLENBERG

hft

SCHOERER-STOLLE, when he went to Buenos Aires on an espionage mission, was given a firm in Madrid which SCHAEER thought was called BERNHARDT as a cover address.

XX-9771
5 Oct. 45
Interrog of
H. SOMMER

Subject is alleged to have 80 million pesetas, most of it in southern Spain. Frau SCHAEFERS, subject's secretary, went to southern Spain with him. He allegedly has several fincas in the south.

20637-528
#370
5/28/45

cmb

BERNHARDT, Johannes

Card 12

collector and pseudo-official foreign currency, gold and art dealer of the Reich and its former leaders. Became extremely rich in his service in Spain.

Contrary to statement on Interrogation Report to the effect that subject was head of GRILLE and that he was installed as General Manager of SOFINDUS, POW states that MOSIG was head of GRILLE and that BERNHARDT always had been General Manager of SOFINDUS in that he had founded the organization in 1938.

cjd

Info from Karl DEININGER of Starnberg:

SOFINDUS was set up as a big corporation, under the leadership of SS-Obergruppenfuhrer HERRMANN, fnu (believed to be subject), a personal friend of both Franco and Hitler. HERRMANN established a bank account of several million pesetas for DEININGER, whom he had advised to remain in Spain. HERRMANN was further charged with the transport of Spanish Moroccan troops to Germany. He speaks perfect Spanish, and travels in Spain under four different Spanish names. His family lives in a villa at Sevilla. One of his aides is HAMMES, who was chief of the SD in all Spain. Both HERRMANN and HAMMES are still living in Spain, presumably still continuing their activities.

XX-12231
5/16/46

cjd

over

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Federico CARRUNCHO is well known as one of subject's right-hand men. SERRANO SUNER was first contacted by Germany's top agent, subject, who elicited valuable info re Franco's plans. Demetris CARCELLER SEGURA, Spanish Minister of Economy, contacted through subject. Subject also contact of BAU, former Minister of Commerce. Under the influence of subject's clever machinations, General ARANDA served indirectly as a source of info. LUNOZ GRANDES, formerly commander of the Blue Division and later Franco's Adjutant maintained contact through subject. Subject was one of SCHELLENBERG's top agents. SINGER and MOSIG also top. The "Organization Grille" was covered and camouflaged through SOFINDUS. The purpose of "Organization Grille" was to further develop social and commercial leads and connections initiated by subject, and to exploit them from a counter intelligence point of view; to establish new connections and to maintain existing links with sources of info represented primarily in the persons of CARCELLER, BAU, MUNOZ GRANDES and General ARANDA. Subject was SCHELLENBERG's main representative and No. 1 person of confidence in Spain. Began career in GIS in Spanish Civil War. Became the most influential personality and important intermediary between the German Government and Franco. The most important sources of info in Spain were initiated by subject. His preoccupation with matters of economic and commercial nature resulted in neglect of contacts in intelligence. To assist in his tremendous task, to maintain contacts he had established, and to exploit sources of info in Spain, the organization "GRILLE" with MOSIG in charge was created. Subject aged 48; 1.73 m tall; stocky build; black hair; bushy eyebrow. Believed still in Madrid. cjd

XX-11487
4/1/46

One of the wealthiest Germans in Spain.

20637-524
#192
Inter 5/1/45

SS Oberfuhrer. VI Beauftragter in Madrid. Head of German-Spanish firm of Sofindus and Rowak. Arranged for air transport of Spanish Moroccan troops from Africa in Civil War.

IX-3815
Interrog. of
Dr. Klaus
HEGEL
18 Aug. 45

Bernard ROHE said that subject had on hand as of March 19, 1945, so-called personal funds believed to amount to 80,000,000 pesetas, apart from all other assets of SOFINDUS and affiliates. ROHE was an accountant with SOFINDUS.

Econic 00037
Embassy, Madrid
18 Jan. 46

Page 9, para. 2 - no additional info

X-2 30247
1/15/45
Schagen

From Fritz LACKNER Interrog: Liaison officer of the German Embassy Madrid to Cassimo FRANCO, installed as General Manager of the SOFINDUS Co., Chief of the Organization GRILLE of Amt VI of the RSHA, which engaged in interior Spanish problems. Description: 50; 1.68 m; heavy set; glasses; round face; brown eyes; dark hair. Owns great property near Alicante, Spain (in town of Denia) with a private W/T station. (cont)

XXI-187
3/8/46

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

BERNHARDT, Johannes

Card 13

A Mr. SCHEEL, formerly an employee of SOPINDUS, mentioned to a member of the British Trusteeship of the former German Embassy, the existence of a "secret fund" of several millions, and of a camouflaged enterprise called "Anton". The fund of several millions is probably the monies handled personally by subject but there is no trace of "Anton", other than the Christian name of WAHLE. On 2/17/45 it was reported that WAHLE ranked next to subject as the most important organizer of supplies for Germany. In view of the connection of all three subjects, WAHLE, BERNHARDT and SCHEEL, with SOPINDUS, the reported existence of a "secret fund" of several millions and of a camouflaged enterprise called "Anton", there is a possibility that WAHLE and SCHEEL may be implicated with subject in such an enterprise.

RX 1218
2/4/46

cmb
6

Subject worked for the OKW organization, which was interested in buying merchandise, acquiring foreign exchange and circumventing the Allied Blockade.

HX-744
22 Mar 46
Kurt
HAULAZ

hft
Shaef No. 24124. Rank Oberfuhrer. Referat VI. Beauftragter in Madrid. Connected with Sofindus Firm.

XK-9249
9/20/45

cjd

BERNHARDT, Johannes

Card-14

From Final Report of Otto WIEDEMANN:
WIEDEMANN, who was in Barcelona in summer of 44, received instructions to accompany BAU and subject to Berlin.

LMI-358
5/15/46

cjd

Subject was Nazi Party member no. 1572819, having entered the Party on 1 April 1933.

RX-1383
29 Aug 46

st

No new information.

F-8300
25 Aug 46

BC364 reported that subject had sent 21 baskets full of food, cigarettes, etc., to the jail where the Germans were held sometime during the past week and even went so far as to appoint a "Blockwart" (cell leader) among them. Source is of the opinion that subject is still the leader of German resistance groups and morale in general.

RX-1388
29 Aug 46

cjd

HAUSTEIN says he recalls that a certain LENNERTS (phonetic) probably Sustart) LENZ) was the Chief of the German Abwehr in ~~XXXX~~ Madrid. On 20 July 1944, he was supposed to have been replaced by a BERNHARD, the leader of the HISMA. With his two brothers-in-law, he was supposed to have been the head of the S.D. Their names were Herbert and Oscar WILMER.

FRRO 667
22 Oct 46
Interrog of
Martin
HAUSTEIN

hft

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BERNHARDT, Johannes

KSM 1
30 Oct. 46
B-2

NOLTING de la PEÑA was reported in Jun 3 45 to be training W/T operators for future service in a clandestine German organization to promote post-defeat activities in Spain. Subject and MOSIG were said to be part of this organization.

hft

When SOPINDUS heard of the plan to transfer the OTTO Organization's activities from France to Spain, subject started a wild campaign against the project, being afraid of competition. Since ~~had~~ subject had the greater power, being an SS Standartenfuhrer and also an influential personage with the different Spanish Ministries, the Abwehr's request to transfer the OTTO Org. to Spain was turned down.

20637-822
#5761
7/31/46

cmb

SOPINDUS was the Sp. continuation of the firm HISMA founded by subject and CARRANZA in ~~Tetuan~~ Tetuan as cover for the support given by Goering to Franco during the Civil War. SIMROSS states that the Condor Legion later became the official organ and took the place of HISMA, which then became a purely commercial firm under the direction of subject and with German approval and the support of Franco, for the purpose of implementing the GORING 4 year plan as regards ROWAK, Berlin. Subject, chief of Sofindus, was former chief clerk with H & O WILMER & Co.

IX 12391

8/14/46

Interr.

SIMROSS

cmb

A report by the American Military Attaché at Madrid: "Who's Who" ~~Interr.~~ Walther BECKER, former Commercial Attaché to the German Embassy, Madrid, Spain, No. 407-45 of October 16, 1945, setting forth BECKER's own account of his life and career, together with interesting info on his activities in Brazil. BECKER and subject are regarded by Madrid Embassy as the two Germans who were probably most conversant with the economic activities of the Nazi Party and Reich in Spain.

2/21/46

cjd

Fritz HARDER Interrog: FLANZE had just returned from a trip to Salamanca, where he had inspected the station and its personnel, and had come to an arrangement with subject, the manager of HISMA, the German-Spanish clearing firm at Salamanca, regarding a projected loan of about 100,000,000 Pesetas to be made by the German Reichspost to the Franco Government. After the necessary formalities had been completed, FLANZE and POW travelled via Stuttgart, Geneva and Marseilles to Salamanca. Here POW met subject's secretary, Consul-General KOHN, the Attaches KROGER and BOBRICK of the German Embassy in Salamanca...FLANZE and POW had further conferences with subject re suitable wavelengths for use in Spain. A general plan was worked out, but was still incomplete when discussions were interrupted by subject's departure to Berlin on urgent business. Subject's car, chauffeur and an interpreter were placed at disposal of FLANZE and POW.

XXI-40

3/2/46

cjd

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BERNHARDT, Johannes

Card-15

KSM-61

Subject has not been named for repatriation of this list. The Allied Safehaven Committee has requested that subject's name not be included inasmuch as he continues to be in a position to render its valuable assistance, and for that reason they do not wish to jeopardize his collaboration. On numerous occasions, subject has been reported to be the head of an important Nazi resistance group in Spain. He continues to occupy offices in the Allied controlled Sofindus building in Madrid, where he continues to receive visitors. He was recently reported to have held a meeting, in his Sofindus offices, of several well-known Nazis, at which time he is said to have remarked that his office was a most appropriate meeting place inasmuch as he enjoyed what he termed "extraterritorial rights". It has also been argued by the British and American Embassies that any attempt to secure subject's repatriation would meet with failure in view of his intimate relations with Spanish authorities and his former financial assistance to Franco during the Civil War.

cjd

GRIMM stated that SOFINDUS or HISMA was a German government agency and was headed by subject, who is still at large in Spain.

KEL-1005
20 Dec 46
Han GRIMM
Interrog.

BERNHARDT, Johannes E. F.

Card 16.

Report refers to and expands on subject's name is under consideration for Repatriation List to be presented to the Spanish during the current week. The State Dept. wish his name included. The British have asked our State Dept. that they wish to use him for a long-term intelligence project, and also that they believe the Spanish Govt. would refuse to repatriate him. BERNHARDT has not yet been used for any intelligence purpose apart from Safehaven information on German assets. The British consider him qualified to investigate reports that wolfram is being smuggled from Spain and going by clandestine channels to the USSR. British letter quoted in report mentions subject's "present good-will towards us".

WEL-1566
27 Oct. '47

BERNHARD (subj) and others, said Wolfgang Otto FROBERG, to whom he is known owing to his cooperation with the Allied Control Council, continue to make his life impossible in Spain with the assistance of the Nazi friendly Falangists. They have decided to kill him. (Frohberg).

Cable State
15 Jan 48
Madrid

Subj's name was deleted from the repatriation list by the Spanish who gave the following reason: This name does not appear on previous lists; subj. has been in contact with the Allied authorities - Madrid.

State Madrid
no. 378
1 July 48

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BERNHARDT, Johannes E. F.

ESMA-109
15 Sept 48

A new radio station called "Radio Atlantis" was opened in Tangier, having been organized by Mario PIRELLI who is employed by Clarence Oscar Lamberth, Jr., American. Broadcasts are frequently devoted to tracing individuals for the IRO (Internatl. Refugee Org). Recently Lamberth made a trip to Madrid to see one of his business associates, Athanas KEFSISOFF. PIRELLI asked Lamberth to call on BERNHARDT, SALVICCI and AVILA. When Lamberth asked KEFSISOFF about them, K discouraged him from calling on them by explaining that they would ask him to smuggle funds from Spain to Tangier.

hft

Memo to COPS dated 21 Oct 47 written C 65-7-6

Misc outgoing

Col. Roland J. H. MERTZ of the US Army in Germany was assigned by the army to purchase perishable foodstuffs in Spain for the American occupation troops in Germany. He asked the Embassy's assistance. He was a Colonel but was acting in a private capacity without any connection with the army, it was learned. Also, it came out that his Spanish agent was Johannes E. F. BERNHARDT. MERTZ said subj was the only one with whom he could do business on a profitable basis. This is not true, says State. MERTZ later severed his connections with subj.
hft doc in CIA library

State, Madrid
No. 628
3 Nov 48

"Fascist Movement in Spain and other countries". dated 4 August 1948.

WEB-783.

Subject claimed to be a member of movement in Spain. See Document.

Current commercial activities of Johannes E. F. BERNHARDT in Spain.

WSPW-293
8 Mar 1949

Subject is probably German referred to who is still at large, living at Avenida del Generalissimo, and who was one of those who at the beginning of the civil war financed capital necessary and who with his money took a very active part in transferring nationalist forces from Marruecos to Spain.

donn
C
28 Aug 46

cjd

Subject and Oscar WILMER are two Nazis who live undisturbed in Madrid. In 1936, when Franco began activity against the Republic in Africa, subject and WILMER lived in Melilla. They were both high agents of Hitler in Spain. Through them Franco made his first demand for help from Germany. Subject and WILMER went to Berlin to present Franco's proposition. The talks in Berlin were not with Hitler but with Goering. As a result the first help came from German -- men, technicians, war material for the so-called national zone. For all this important and delicate mission of sending troops and arms, subject was designated. Subject often seen at hotel where Hans THOMSEN's wife stays.

0-4422
C
27 Oct 46

cjd
SOBELLENBERG sent Eugen MOSIG to Spain to gather political intelligence, and MOSIG used his assignment to prevent sabotage in the Safindus tungsten mines as a cover. BERNHARDT did not have a high opinion of MOSIG's ability.

MOHA 1087
4 Sept 47

--np--

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BERNHARDT

WSM-344

1 March 50.

Major Fernando SANTAMARIA, Head of Falange network "D", which concerns itself with foreigners in Spain, claims that there are two classifications of Germans in Spain. One is that of Germans who continue to be Nazis, and the other of those who "have sold out to the Americans." He identifies as the outstanding member of the second group, BERNHARDT, "who has close connections of a financial and economic nature with the Allied Control Commission." He claims that BERNHARDT was mainly responsible for the fact that commercial representatives of the Bonn Government went back to Germany empty-handed after having come to Madrid to negotiate a trade arrangement with Spain. The Bonn representatives were disgusted to find that in order to carry out their negotiations, they had to deal with Nazis. SANTAMARIA thinks, however, that the main underlying reason for the failure of the negotiations is the fact that the United States controls the German economy, and does not wish to lose its hegemony.

Subject is reported by one Karl H.A. WITTIG to continue to control SOF1 JUS and to give financial support to Nazis of Western Germany. Lengthy details of a rather general nature are given in the document. Report says that Anton WAHLE is still Subject's assistant.

HICOG-Frankfurt
465
27 March 1950
German external
Assets in Spain

CIA 424363

Subject and Johann W. THER have interests in common.

Q-11911
16 May 50

Subject, after being turned down on his visa application to the States, has changed his route and is believed to have left in mid-July for South America, allegedly on business for his film companies (Sagittaria and Europa). His trip

WSLA-1221
3 Aug 50

BERNHARDT, Johannes

Acc. to QUANK subject has brought a device to Spain which the Sp. Army has been using successfully, called DEZ IMMERGERAT. It sends out micro waves.

WSM-742
9 May 52

(over)

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was to take six or eight weeks. BERNHARDT says he is trying to build up an international advisory bureau with a Flemish refugee lawyer. Offices are called Informaciones Juridicas Internacionales, located at Jose Antonio 43, Madrid.

One Alfred O. PFISTERER, German, applying for work with this Agency in Germany listed subject as a reference, claiming he was chief manager in subject's firm SCFINDUS till 1941.

MCLA-8298
24 Sept 51

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BERNHARDT, Johannes

RUSHCROUD reported that subject unofficial rep. of the Hitler government in Spain in 1937, responsible for supplying the Nationalists. He is of the opinion Subject acquired Spanish citizenship. RUSHCROUD inferred that he suspects that Subject is now working in Spain for the British I.S. OFPA-3977
4 Nov 1953

BERNHARDT, Johannes Eberhard Franz

REFUSED	TO
CONTACT	
GARD	INDEX

Naturalized Spaniard of German origin, personal friend of FRANCO and of Sir Oswald MOSLEY (qv). Food supply organizer for Germans for nationalist Spain during civil war. Contact and intimate friend RUSHCROUD.
(See also OFPA 3977; Spanish Primer)

OFPA 6056
30 Mar 54

in main index

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