

19 April, 1945

To : Commanding Officer, Hqs. 2077th Regiment, OSS (Prov.),
APO 512, U. S. Army

From : Chief, American Military Unit in Bucharest

Subject : Major Robert K. Bishop

I feel an obligation to tell something of Major Bishop's activities in Bucharest. I am aware of the fact that unfavorable comment may be damaging to his reputation and for that reason, I am reluctant to write. Nevertheless, some things have come to my attention which I feel should be passed on as a matter of information to you.

1. X-2 Operations in Bucharest. The arrangement has always existed in Bucharest that the majority of X-2 reports have not been funneled through the Chief of the Unit but rather they have been pouched directly by the X-2 Chief to various points including Washington, London, Caserta, Cairo, and Istanbul. As a consequence, it has been impossible for me to determine the value of the information and reports obtained by the local X-2 office. Further on this matter is the fact that lack of training and understanding of the X-2 operation would have made it difficult for the Chief of the Unit to pass on the value of the information, even had it been reviewed. On the other hand, no comment on the information gathered by X-2 in Bucharest has been returned to the Chief of the Unit from any of the receiving points. The natural assumption would be, therefore, that it has been of satisfactory value. Whether or not it has been worth the cost from a monetary standpoint is unknown as I do not think anyone able to judge has ever checked the cost against the production.

I am at the present time engaged in completing an analysis of expenditures by X-2 for the months of March, February, January, and December. When completed it will be submitted with appropriate comment. I think it is worth while, however, at this time to mention a single voucher which has recently been presented by Major Bishop for approval. On 15 February 1945 he obtained an advance of \$500.00 against anticipated expenses on a trip to Turkey. This trip was arranged and the advance was obtained prior to my arrival as Chief of this Unit. Major Bishop has always been negligent about submitting items of expenses against advances made to him and it was only after considerable follow-up that he submitted a voucher the other day covering his dollar expenses. This voucher included an expenditure of two hundred and fifty dollars to one Ernst Schmitz. Receipt which was in support of the expense was typewritten except for a signature, and was indicated as being for travelling expenses. I questioned Major Bishop about this item and he informed me that some time ago he acquired the services of this person with the understanding that when the individual supplied all the information he had at his disposal, money would be supplied to permit him to leave the country. This sum of \$250.00 was avowedly to cover this agreement and to provide the money as promised. I questioned Major Bishop closely and asked if the man had now left the country and the reply was, "Yes". Thus it seemed that there was really no means of checking further on the matter. To digress a little, Major Bishop has had living in his apartment for some time a couple, unknown to me, but who were (according to Major Bishop) regularly supplying information of value to X-2. It was further explained that, because of their German extraction, it was necessary that a certain amount of protection be afforded them. This protection seemed to Major Bishop to be important because of the couple's alleged friendliness during the war to the British and the Americans. X-2 turned in a report to me on information they had developed regarding this character, copy of which is attached. I am checking further with respect to this couple with the British and with others but whether or not they have actually been active throughout the war cooperating with Allied intelligence is not, at the moment, known. However, the man of this couple is the Ernst Schmitz

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referred to above as having received the \$250.00 and who, according to Bishop's statement to me of several days ago, had left the city. This morning, in a conversation with Bishop, I asked him the name of the man living in his apartment and he told me the name was Ernst Schmitz. I asked Bishop what was going to happen to the man and his wife after he left Bucharest and he stated they were hoping to leave town. My question as to just when they were going, how and where they were going, did not produce a very satisfactory answer. But the main point is that in the one conversation with Bishop he reported he had paid the \$250.00 and that the person had left town, while actually the man is still in the apartment and has not left the city. This, naturally, provokes some concern as to why Bishop would pay the \$250.00 in advance of their leaving and his obvious answer is that they are expecting to go at any moment.

The above is just a sample of the difficulty that is to be experienced in checking on any of Bishop's activities and particularly on expenditure to agents and informers.

2. X-2 Agents. A certain amount of information gathered by any X-2 organization will quite reasonably fall into the category of positive intelligence rather than CE. The amount of such will normally depend on the Chief of the X-2 Branch and in the case of Bishop, there has been a fair amount, probably more than would normally come to a good X-2 operation. Bishop has submitted such information to the Chief of the Unit (sometimes after he would first submit the choicest morsels to the ACC Chief of the State Department representative), and it has been used in proportion to its value. On several occasions, concerning quite significant items received in this way, an effort has been made to check on the source through Bishop for proper evaluation but it has always been a problem to get him to give much satisfactory information on such sources. While it is perfectly true that X-2 agents should be well covered, it is just as true that X-2 might properly give a reasonable amount of information on the source to permit a proper evaluation.

When Bishop was first informed of the fact that he was to depart, he used as one of his arguments for deferring his departure until his successor arrived, that it would be very difficult for him to deliver his agents to a successor. I expressed some surprise at this and he commented that many of the agents had been secured on a personal basis and that it would not be possible to simply turn them over to anyone else who might arrive. I told him that I thought even though they had been gotten on a personal basis, that he should attempt to hold them for his successor, and that he should take advantage of his remaining days in Bucharest to turn such people over to others in X-2 who would remain in Bucharest. He expressed some doubt as to whether he could do so.

One day last week, when Captain Madison and Lt. Roberts were at lunch with a British Officer, Major Hogg, casual comment was made by Major Hogg to the effect that Bishop had been in to see him to suggest that he (Hogg) take over some of his agents. Madison and Roberts suggested that Major Hogg talk with me about Bishop's visit to him and, to precipitate such an interview, I telephoned Major Hogg and saw him the following day. At that time, he told me quite frankly that Bishop had been in to see him and had made the suggestion that the British might want to take over some of his agents. (Major Hogg is in the Intelligence Section of the British ACC.) Major Hogg further made the comment that Bishop had expressed himself as having no confidence in the balance of the OSS staff in Bucharest and that, further, he did not believe anyone who might succeed him could successfully handle the situation. Major Hogg stated he dismissed Bishop in an off-hand manner stating he was not interested mainly because they had no set-up for handling agents and, further, that they had no funds for paying them.

Subsequently, I asked Bishop to come in to see me and I told him frankly what Major Hogg had told me. Bishop expressed the greatest of surprise and stated that he could not understand Hogg making such a statement and that he certainly felt that Hogg owed him an apology for an injustice which had been done. Bishop stated he had called on Hogg and that his proposal had been for a post war organization, stating that, if such an organization could be sponsored, he (Bishop) could provide some agents who would be of value. He denied further that he had made any

reference to Roberts but admitted that he did not have much respect for Madison's ability although claiming such had never been expressed to Hogg. I reminded Bishop that Hogg's story to me on the point of quality of OSS Officers in Bucharest carried some credence because I had heard from other sources that he had no respect for Madison and others in Bucharest. Bishop seemed quite concerned over Hogg's statement about him and stated that he thought Hogg owed him an apology and asked whether or not I objected to him going to Hogg. I replied that I had no objection; rather, that I thought he should go to Hogg if Hogg was making statements which were actually untrue. Major Hogg informed me later that Bishop had been in to see him but made no protest of Hogg's discussing the matter with me. Further, Bishop had not since said anything to me to indicate Hogg did apologize to him.

3. X-2 as related to OSS, Bucharest. Even before I came to Bucharest, there was evidence that General Schuyler was "sniping" at OSS in an effort to reduce the size of the organization. In at least one report I read before I even came to the city, there was some inference that General Schuyler believed we could dispense with people such as Bookbinder and Kuhn, but it appeared he was always satisfied about the size of the X-2 organization. It will be recalled also that Bishop, in his signal from Istanbul to JJ-1 stated, "I also pointed out delicate situation of OSS with State and ACC but that X-2 is on solid ground" and in another place, "Both Mr. Berry, Senior USRPA representative, and General Schuyler are opposed to my departure. It is understood that Berry is taking up matter at high level." Both statements were reported by General Schuyler and Mr. Berry to be untrue.

There were instances when Bishop would get information in the nature of positive intelligence which might seem to be a "little hotter" than usual and instead of bringing it to the Chief of the Unit for the usual dissemination, he would see that it first went to the attention of General Schuyler or Mr. Berry, depending on the nature of the report. Such happenings led me to a rather firm conviction that Bishop, in effect, was trying to minimize the job done on the positive side in an effort to build up the importance of the CE picture. ~~Mr. Berry~~ received the definite impression that Bishop had made many unfavorable comments pertaining to the OSS group other than X-2.

4. Security. The matter of security has always been of importance in the organization and it has been a particularly important factor in X-2. Before I came to Bucharest, I had a talk in Bari with Francis Kalnay to ask him frankly what he thought of the Bucharest X-2 operation inasmuch as he had visited Bucharest only a few weeks before. I reminded Mr. Kalnay that he was considered as the Balkan X-2 Chief and that Bucharest was under his direction and his reply was that, because of information which he gathered on his trip to Bucharest, he disclaimed any responsibility for the operation and thought it was deserving of considerable criticism. I asked him why, having such information at his disposal and holding such belief, he did not make his views known to his own higher headquarters. He stated that he had done so in the form of a memorandum but that apparently there had not been time to take proper action. One thing which Mr. Kalnay mentioned was the matter of security and, with this knowledge, I have been inclined to observe the security situation rather carefully since my arrival.

From a strictly physical standpoint, the security set-up is very good. I am satisfied now that Kalnay's reference must have been to the personal actions of Bishop, rather than to any physical matters bearing on the office, etc. Bishop is well known in the city and, from comment which has come to me and from my own observations on two or three occasions, he does entirely too much talking about his own activities. Further, and more important, is his living set up which is the talk of the town and amazing even to some one with liberal ideas. In the apartment which he occupies, he is living with a girl by the name

Rumanian of non-Jewish origin, known to have been very Germanophile. She has a notorious reputation for having been identified with the Germans right up to the moment they were ousted from this country. There are many who say that she was definitely working for them (including Major Porter of the British ACC and those who were here before 23 August 1944) and there is almost no one who will deny that, if not working for them, she was very much in their company. Thus the obvious fact is that Bishop has tied himself up with people of a definitely suspicious character and he can not but have helped to compromise his security. The extent to which it has suffered is, of course, extremely difficult to determine and would depend largely on the true status of the Christea girl.

I have even talked with Lt. Thames, Miss Press, and Miss Bailey of the X-2 organization about Bishop and this girl, and I am satisfied nothing has been stated in this report that is not true. Lt. Thames did not want to answer certain questions unless ordered to do so but Miss Press and Miss Bailey helped to confirm the information which I had gathered from other sources. I hope it is understood that the mere fact Bishop has been living for some time with this girl in Bucharest, is not the point of this story. The real purpose of bringing the Christea girl into the picture is to indicate the extent to which Bishop has become involved and may have sacrificed his security.

There are many other things about Bishop that I could pass along but most of them are of lesser consequence than those mentioned above and this memorandum has already been too long. It is perhaps worthy of mention that soon after Bishop received the signal ordering him to Washington, he commented that he might as well go, as he had expected to have to go to Washington in any event. I asked him why he had such expectations and he said he anticipated being called to testify in a Courts-Martial against Lt. Comdr. Wisner, former Chief of Unit in Bucharest. When pressed for explanation of this statement, Bishop said that Comdr. Wisner had made it possible for one Archie Gibson to get information out of Rumania by including it in OSS pouches from Bucharest to Italy. Archie Gibson is a somewhat dubious character around town who passes as a British newspaper correspondent and who is supposed to have worked for the British Government as an agent. Bishop's comment was to the effect that the British had discovered Lt. Comdr. Wisner's action and they expected to make such a protest that it would cause action against Wisner.

The story of his resistance to leaving Bucharest and the fact that he missed an airplane the other day, which he was scheduled to take, is already well known and further comment hardly seems necessary. This memorandum will probably serve to explain some of the reasons why he has been anxious to stay in Bucharest, but it is doubtful whether all the reasons are covered here.

It is an extremely unfortunate situation from every standpoint, particularly that of future X-2 activity. I am especially anxious to have Major Hostler come in so that he can examine the whole picture and take whatever action may be needed. I am writing a separate operational report further on the subject of X-2 in Bucharest and will not comment to greater length on this subject at the moment.

It has occurred to me that Bishop may have unfavorable comment to make about OSS personnel in Bucharest along the road from Bucharest to Washington. I am not particularly concerned about that with people who are familiar with the performance in Bucharest, however. I had no reason, upon coming to Bucharest, to have a personal dislike of Bishop, nor to be prepared to criticize his operation. Because of the political situation, discussions with General Schuyler and Mr. Berry about the situation of OSS in Rumania, absence on field trip, and personnel matters other than Bishop, I have not been able to piece the story on him together as quickly as it should have been done. I think, however, that his performance here should be carefully taken into consideration in considering him