

Station: SCI Det., Hq., 6 AG

SECRET Report No: 8-943 107

Reference:

Report Date: 11 May 1945 (SOI)
25 Apr 1945 (OIO)

Source: CIO, 7th Army Interrogation
SCI, 6th AG Interrogation

Information Date:

Sub-Source:

Date Info. Received:

Evaluation:

SUBJECT: LAUTENBACH, Otto

The attached interrogation of Otto LAUTENBACH has just been received by SCI, 6th AG. He was turned over to SCI on 26 April, and has been in our custody at Heidelberg, where he now is.

Subject tells us that he also furnished CIO with a report on propaganda activities of the Waffen SS and the OKW. To date we have not been successful in obtaining a copy of this report but we are continuing our efforts.

He has been interrogated briefly here and it is our opinion that he has already furnished most of the information of interest to SCI which he has. If SAINT, Paris, or War Room wishes further interrogation, please specify details. Otherwise there is a possibility that Psychological Warfare Branch, Hq., 6th A.G. may wish to exploit his special knowledge.

His name appears in SHAEF card gray material

DISTRIBUTION

- 1 cc .. AG of 8, G.2 (OI), Hq., 6th AG
- 1 cc .. SAINT, Paris
- 1 cc .. War Room, London
- 1 cc .. File

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

(3)

X-2 pt. 10 of LAUTENBACH, Otto
SECRET

25 May 45
*ART-2663 (1)

FOR COORDINATION WITH US Army

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2002 2006

(referred B)

SECRET

307TH COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS DETACHMENT
HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
APO 758

25 April 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE :

Subject : LAUTENBACH, Otto - CIT: GERMANY
SS Rottenführer of Standarte
"Kurt Egger" (Propaganda Serv-
ice) in liaison with A12 VI C 2
of the RSHA, C. I. S. personnel
German National.
Schloss in Honenfeld (Kreis
Hersbruck)

Re : Report of Interrogation.

I. REFERENCES.

Reference is made to arrest and memorandum report of the
514th CIC Detachment, SUBJECT as above, dated 22 April 1945.

II. APPREHENSION.

On 19 April 1945, SUBJECT was taken into custody by members
of the 514th CIC Detachment at his residence and transferred through
XV Corps CIC Rheinla to this office. Upon the orders of the Commanding
Officer, 307th CIC Detachment, these Agents interrogated the SUBJECT
for purposes of obtaining information of counter intelligence
interest.

III. LIFE HISTORY.

Physical description : 1 m 83, 165 lbs., blond-grey hair
combed back, blue-grey eyes, scar under left eye, false teeth.

1903 September 30, SUBJECT was born in ^{POB} Kaiserslautern, GERMANY, the son of Karl,
cabinet maker, and Elisabeth GEIB, housewife, both re-
siding at 5 Ottostrasse, in Kaiserslautern. SUBJECT's
sister Elisabeth RUEBEL resides with her husband at the
Lauterecken School building. SUBJECT is married to Dr.
Hildegard KUBIC, who at present resides at the above
address. SUBJECT is a journalist and editor by profes-
sion.

1909 to 1914. SUBJECT attended the primary school (Seminarbungsschu-
le) in Kaiserslautern.

1914 to 1923. SUBJECT attended high school (Oberrealschule) in Kaiser-
lautern.

1923 to 1927. SUBJECT attended lectures in political science and
economics at the universities of Hamburg, Kiel, Halle,
Heidelberg, and Innsbruck.

1924 to 1933. In this period, SUBJECT published and edited the "Frei-

X-2 PT. 10 F-LAUTENBACH, OTTO XARZ-2663. (1)

SECRET

UNCLASSIFIED COPY

SECRET

wirtschaftliche Zeitung", and lectured on economic topics.

The "Freiwirtschaftliche Zeitung" was founded in Essen in 1924, at which time a company was formed with the SUBJECT as publisher and editor, receiving a salary from 80 to 350 marks per month. This weekly paper advocated the economic international movement of the three F's: (1) Festwahrung (Stable money); (2) Frei Geld (Free money); (3) Frei Land (Free land). The main advocate of this movement was Silvio GOSSELL, author of the book "The Natural Economic Order", in which he expounds the theory of the three F's. SUBJECT also followed the teachings of Dr. Hugo FACK, Irving FISHER, and John M. KEYNES, director of the Bank of England, and professor at the University of Oxford. These men looked to GOSSELL for leadership.

1933 to 1943

In April 1933, the NSDAP banned the SUBJECT's newspaper as contrary to Nazi principles. Consequently, SUBJECT published a new version which conformed to the ideals of the Nazi party, under the name of "Schule der Freiheit". This newspaper, published once a month, dealt with subjects of general public appeal, such as political, cultural, and economical matters. This new newspaper took within its circulation subscribers of three other newspapers which formerly advocated principles of free economy. These three had been disbanded when the editors refused to adhere to the policies prescribed by the Nazi party. SUBJECT's circulation reached its peak in 1937 with some 4,800 subscribers.

In December 1940, SUBJECT was inducted into the army, and received 8 days of Luftwaffe training at Potsdam, but was later released because of bad eyes.

1941 to 1942

In February, SUBJECT was sent to Sorau, joining the Kraftfahr-Ersatzabteilung 23, for basic training. Upon completion of his training in April, SUBJECT was transferred to Kraftfahr Nachschube 3, in Berlin. SUBJECT remained there until the end of 1942.

IV. SS ACTIVITY.

1942 to 1943

In fall of 1942, through personal intervention of Obersturmbannführer RADKE, press chief of the Reichsführer der SS, and subject's neighbor in Buckow, SUBJECT was transferred from the Wehrmacht, and installed in the press department of the Rf.d.SS in Berlin. SUBJECT's duties consisted of collecting all information received through British and American broadcasts and secret DMIB matter. After this material had been collected, it was evaluated, edited, and issued in 17 copies for the express use of the higher SS chiefs. SUBJECT also worked on public relations material for the SS.

- 2 -

SECRET

3

SECRET

In April, this office was dissolved, and SUBJECT was assigned to the SS Standarte "Kurt Eggers", which consisted of front-line correspondence, propaganda personnel, radio announcers, and photographers. From this group, SUBJECT was immediately placed on detached service with the SS Polizei division on the Leningrad front. This service was to act as basic training under combat conditions. SUBJECT, however, suffered from bad teeth and was sent back to Standarte "Kurt Eggers" in Berlin. After having his teeth attended to in Berlin, SUBJECT was once again sent to Russia to complete his 8 weeks training. Upon completion of his training in August, SUBJECT was again transferred to Standarte in Berlin where he was to take an SS NCO course. In the meantime, SUBJECT had contracted a fever, consequently, was assigned to do administrative work for the unit. In November, SUBJECT was sent to Yugoslavia, where he was to compile economic and agricultural data for the Wehrwirtschaft in Berlin (propaganda section).

1943 to 1945

Upon his return from Yugoslavia, SUBJECT was assigned to condensing war articles which appeared in the leading German newspapers. These condensations were sent to the provincial newspapers of Germany which could not benefit from the larger press sources. In May 1944, SUBJECT was detached from the Standarte, to Amt VI C2 RSMA, where it was his duty to prepare propaganda articles from the information which came to that office from agents, press, etc. In this capacity, SUBJECT had access to the secret files of the various sections of this Amt.

Beginning in February 1945, the secret files of AMT VI C 2 were transferred from Berlin to Marktredwitz to the Wehrmeldeamt. This whole transaction was carried out under the cover name of "Unternehmen Franken". With the approach of Allied troops to Berlin, SUBJECT decided to desert his post, and as a pretext, obtained assignment to proceed to Marktredwitz, where he was to obtain material for future propaganda. SUBJECT arrived in Lauf on 3rd of April, and proceeded to Hohenfeld, his home, where he spent five days. SUBJECT then proceeded to Marktredwitz, where he noticed that the files of Section VI C 2 were being burned. The civilian employees of the section were dismissed to their homes, with a three-month salary paid in advance, and a pass for railroad transportation which was signed by the chief of the section. The signature did not carry the chief's SS rank, but instead his equivalent rank in the Wehrmacht. All the male SS members armed with semi-automatic rifles were dispersed to an unknown destination. SUBJECT then returned to his home where he remained until his arrest on 19th of April.

AGENTS' NOTES :

(3) It is the opinion of these Agents that the SUBJECT does not

4 3 -
SECRET

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

constitute a security threat. SUBJECT, however, falls under the automatic arrest category proscribed by SHAEF directive dated 12 April 1945, because of his dealings with VI, RSHA.

SUBJECT is well versed in economic matters of Germany, Yugoslavia, and Russia. SUBJECT enjoys an anti-Nazi background. These Agents believe that he could be of valuable use to some economic mission set up for Germany.

SUBJECT is being turned over to CSDIC for further interrogation on tactical and economic matters.

GEORGE A. PERPIER
Special Agent, CIC

PETER REOIS
Special Agent, CIC

APPROVED :

A.L. McDUFF
Major, CAC
Commanding

Distribution :
2 - A.C. of S., G-2 (CI)
6 - File

(3)
- 4 -
~~SECRET~~

SECRET

APPENDIX "A"

25 April 1945

LAUTENBACH, Otto

The following information regarding sections of AMT VI was given by Subject :

R.S.H.A.

AMT VI

VI C - OST (East)

This section is the collection and dissemination point of all information concerning the East (Russia subdivided into the Republics composing the USSR, Poland, the Baltic States and certain frontier of the Balkans).

This section also deals with all communist activities and influences throughout the entire world with the exception of the USA and UK.

VI C 1 - EINSATZABTEILUNGEN UND KOLLENDOS

This section acting as the executive branch of VI C controls the movement of their agents (Line crossers, W/F, stay behind and long range post war espionage agents throughout the world)

Under the direct control of VI C 1, come subsections called "Unternehmen", which are attached to Army Groups.

Unternehmen WELLENBRECHER

was attached to Army Group "Weichsel" also called "Himmler" with location between Brenzlau and Pasewalk (southwest of Stettin)

Unternehmen Dessau

was attached to Army Group occupying the central sector by the end of March with location in Fürstenberg (south east of Berlin)

Two other Unternehmen exist but are not known by their name or their geographical location.

VI C 2 - Auswertung (Evaluation)

This section is composed of three subsections known as :

a - Administration of Personnel for VI C.

b - Auswertung u. Forschungsdienst Ost (Evaluation and Research for the East)

- 1 -

SECRET

3

SECRET

SECRET

p - Spezial-Referat Polen (created beginning of March 1945 with the purpose of organizing the Polish National Movement. This movement was organized to combat communism and to avoid any signs of Nazi sponsorship. Means supplied by the section consisted of a broadcasting station operating 24 hours a day)

VI C2 - EINSATZKOMMANDO ZEPHYR

This section was created in 1942, and dissolved in August 1944, and incorporated into VI C 1, V, known as the Unternehmen Dessau. The functions of this section were the following.

- Sabotage behind Russian lines
- Freeing of German PWs in Russia
- Short range tactical espionage
- Long range espionage
- Social conditions in the Soviet Republics
- Russian personalities (Biographies of all party leaders and lesser important members)
- NKFD (National Committee of Free Germany)

VI D - ENGLAND-AMERIKA (USA, UK, and their zones of influence)

This section deals with general espionage for military, economic, industrial and political material.

It acts as a collecting point for all intelligence sources, agents, newspapers, radio, PWs.

Unternehmen "WALDBURG"

This special section of VI D deals with evaluation and compilation of all material received from the above sources. The last known location of this section was between Fürstentum/Oder and Storkhov, where they occupied a camp site of 24 barracks which contained some 300-400 employees.

Due to the precarious military situation in Eastern Germany, part of Unternehmen "Waldburg" was moved to Seeburg near Probstzeller in Thuringia in the early part of February.

(3)

- 2 -
SECRET

APPENDIX "B"

25 APRIL 1950

LAUFENBACH, OTTO

PERSONALITIES OF THE R.S.M.A.

cit GERMAN
OR AUSTRIAN

ANT VI

1. RAFF, Frau, (Sturmführer)
Chief of Unternhmen "A" O 1.
2. Haussmann, Frau, (Sturmführer)
Assistant to Haussmann of VI O.
3. HESSE, Frau, (Erst.)
Secretary to Amt VI O. Well informed about SD, Native of GDR.
4. HENGELHAUPT, Frau, (DF) (Sturmführer)
Former chief of VI O 1.3.48 presence, chief of Unternhmen
"WALLBERGHEIM" attached to Army Group "VORARBERG".
5. HUETNER, Erwin, (Untersturmführer)
Probably chief of Unternhmen "Dessau", Section VI O 1.
6. STADEN von, (Baron) Civilian.
Assistant chief of VI O 1. Manipulator of agents in East Germany.
Recruited agents and paid them in the apartment of a Frau H. in
Berlin-Lichtenfelde.
7. STUDIE, Frau, (DF) (Hauptsturmführer)
Section VI O 1. Collaborated with von STADEN on agent personnel
liaison.
8. JOERGENS, Frau, (Hauptsturmführer)
Personnel chief of VI O 2a.
9. REICH, Corhardt, (Hauptsturmführer)
Chief of Section VI O 2b (Evaluation and Research for the East).
10. LAUTERJED, Frau, (Frau)
Secretary to REICH of VI O 2b. Previously connected with the Co-
operation Office in Paris. Lived in Berlin.
11. HERRINGHAUSEN, Frau, (Hauptsturmführer)
Chief of VI O 2a (Special Section for Poland).
12. REBE, Frau, (Sturmführer)
Section VI O 2. Chief of Unternhmen "FRANKEN".
13. HAIBRACK, Frau, (Hauptsturmführer)
Assistant to REBE of Unternhmen "FRANKEN".

ENC-1

(2)

- 1 -

SECRET

14. WICK (?), fnu, (Obersturmführer)
Chief of VI C 8 (Referat for Poland)
15. PAUST, fnu, (Hauptsturmführer)
VI C 1. Alleged to be with an Aussenkommando.
16. VINTH, fnu, (Hauptsturmführer)
Formerly with Section VI C 4, now with Unternehmen "Dossau" as PW
interrogator.
17. INSER, fnu, (Untersturmführer)
Section VI C 1.
18. RADEZYK von, Wenner, (Sturmbannführer)
Dealt with special espionage matters in VI C.
Native of POSEN.
19. BOESE, fnu, (Dr) (Obersturmführer)
Assistant to von RADEZYK in VI C.
20. PAEFFGEN, (Dr) (Obersturmbannführer)
Section VI D and chief of Unternehmen "WALDBURG". Possibly chief of
VI D.
21. GRIEST, fnu, (Hauptsturmführer)
Liaison officer between Amt VI and Unternehmen "WALDBURG" (VI D)
22. SCHUEDDEKOP, fnu, (Obersturmführer)
Connected with Unternehmen "WALDBURG" (VI D)
cousin of news reporter Schueddekop of "Das Reich".
23. NIKLAS, fnu, (Obersturmführer)
Connected with Unternehmen "WALDBURG" (VI D).
24. REIMERS, fnu, (Obersturmführer)
Connected with Unternehmen "WALDBURG" (VI D)
25. THOSS, fnu, (Dr) no SS rank
Connected with Unternehmen "WALDBURG" (VI D)
Subject represented many years the NS (National Socialist) press in
London.
26. CRAIG von, Gottfried
V-Mann of Amt VI.
Famous German tennis player. Played tennis with the King of Sweden to
collect information while his guest for eight weeks out of each year.
27. ^{AEN} KLEIN or REZLER, fnu, civilian
V-Mann of Amt VI.
Correspondent of the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" in Berlin.

SECRET

28. X, Bishop of Laibach (Croatia)
Forwarded confidential reports to AMT VI
29. X....., V-Mann of AMT VI
Gave daily accurate reports. X was on the immediate staff of Papal Nuncio ORSENICO in Berlin.
- * 30. ~~DUCROT, fnu, (Untersturmführer)~~
~~Section VI C 1.~~
- * 31. ~~WONDRATSCHEK, fnu, (Untersturmführer)~~
~~Section VI C 1.~~
- * 32. ~~BACKHAUS, fnu, (Hauptsturmführer)~~
~~Section VI C 1.~~
In charge of V-Leute and agents in Berlin of above section.
- * 33. ~~VERLAG ALBERT LIMBACH (Publishers)~~
~~Berlin.~~
This publishing house did all the printing for the Forschungsamt Ost of VI C. Director WEINZ had a private business agreement with Hauptsturmführer Gerhardt TRICH of VI C 2b, whereby the latter received a cut from the first for all printed material.
- * 34. ~~WEINZ, fnu~~
~~Director of ALBERT LIMBACH VERLAG in Berlin.~~
~~Did all the printing for the research section of VI C.~~
- * 35. ~~SPIES, fnu, Rittmeister and SD Oberscharführer~~
~~AMT VI C 1.~~
Prominent businessman from Bremen whose enterprises were used to camouflage agents. Furnished the NSIA with names of his many business associates for eventual espionage deals.

AMT III

- * 36. ~~SPENGLER, fnu, (Standartenführer)~~
~~Chief of section III C and B~~
37. ~~HIRCHE, fnu, (Sturmbannführer)~~
~~III C 5 (Ost)~~
38. ~~KARPENTIER, fnu, (Obersturmführer)~~
~~Assistant to HIRCHE in III C 5 (Ost)~~
39. ~~SCHENK, fnu, (Sturmbannführer)~~
~~Section III B 5 - Ost)~~
40. ~~STRICKNER, fnu, (Dr) (Sturmbannführer)~~
~~Section III B 2 (Ost)~~
41. ~~BAPTOSCH, fnu, (Untersturmführer)~~
~~Section III B (Ost)~~

NSA [REDACTED]