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RETAIN OR DESTROY

FINAL INTERROGATION REPORT

Source : von ELTZ, Johannes

Position : Abwehr, Jugoslavia

Case No. : SO67

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German Intelligence Source

CONTENTS

- I. Source: Description and Vital Statistics
- II. Political Views of the ELTZ Family
- III. Description of the Brothers and Sister
- IV. Brief Military History of Source
- V. K.O. Agram (Abwehrstelle Agram)
- VI. Reorganization of Abwehr Units
- VII. Organization Charts
- VIII. Personalities
- IX. Conclusion and Disposition

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S E C R E T

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S E C R E T

I. SOURCE: DESCRIPTION AND VITAL STATISTICS

Johannes A. von ~~ELTZ~~ was born on 28 October 1909 in Vienna, Austria. His father was Erwin von ELTZ, now deceased, and his mother was Staphanie von ELTZ neeSCHOENBORN, age 70. Other members of the family are one sister, Stephanie HARRACH, age 27, and five brothers - Peter, age 36, Alexander, age 35, Erwin Karl, age 34, Albert, age 30, and Franz Joseph, age 27. Of these Franz Joseph is probably dead since he has been classed as missing on the Russian Front.

Johannes von ELTZ's education consisted of five years of Volksschule in Vienna from 1916 to 1921. The family then moved to Jugoslavia and there he attended the Gymnasium from 1923 to 1925. The family returned to Austria, and Source passed his Gymnasium examinations in Wels in 1930. In 1934 he entered the Vienna Hochschule fuer Welt Handel and graduated in 1936. He then traveled to Hamburg and Kiel to work in a bank. From his schooling and travels he learned to speak, read, and write German, English, and Jugoslav.

Von ELTZ is 185m tall and weighs approximately 78 kg. He is of slender build with a narrow long face, brown hair, and grey eyes.

II. POLITICAL VIEWS OF THE ELTZ FAMILY

Source states that he was never a member of the NSDAP and that his entire family were non-members. He speaks freely of his personal disconcern of Nazism, and he acknowledges the old royal regime. His father was a soldier in a German regiment in 1902 and after the death of a brother acquired the latter's estate. He later retired from the army on these grounds. His political belief was that of a Monarchist. Since 1925 the von ELTZ family lived in Wels, Upper Austria, and there the father died in 1936. Source never heard him speak about National Socialism but does remember that he condemned the assassination of DOLLFUSS by the Nazis. Source's mother was embittered against Nazism and took no interest in politics whatsoever.

ELTZ and his brothers did not participate in political function, although from 1927 to 1938 all belonged to the Heimwehr. None belonged to the NSDAP.

- 1 -
S E C R E T

S E C R E T

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE BROTHERS AND SISTER

Von ELTZ, Peter

Born in 1909, married, studied in Innsbruck, and after graduation practiced law. He was drafted into the Wehrmacht in 1939 and was last known to be in a Luftwaffe regiment in Norway. His home address is in Alt Aussee.

~~X~~ Von ELTZ, Alexander

Born in 1911, Dr. of Artistic Archeology. He has been in the United States since 1937 and entered the University of Washington in 1940. After 1940 no letters have arrived via the Red Cross, as far as Source knows.

Von ELTZ, Erwin Karl

Born in 1913, married. He entered the Austrian Army in 1932 as a professional soldier and took the oath in the German Army in 1938. His last rank was that of Major with the I Kossack Korps.

Von ELTZ, Albert

Born in 1915. He is a doctor and diplomat. Before the war he worked for the Ia SCHERING in Berlin as an official. In 1939 he entered the Army and was last heard of as a member of a Luftwaffen regiment in Austria. He held the grade of Fachrich, which corresponds to officer candidate in the American Army.

Von ELTZ, Josef

Born in 1918. He was a student when the war broke out. He was drafted in 1939 into the Wehrmacht and was listed as missing on the Russian Front in September 1943.

Von ELTZ, Stephanie

Born in 1918, a twin of Josef. She is married to Hans HARRACH, who is an owner of a large collective farm in Bruck-Leitha, Nieder Donau.

S E C R E T

IV. BRIEF MILITARY HISTORY

Johannes A. von ELTZ was drafted into the Wehrmacht on 2 January 1942 and placed into the Krad Schutz Battalion 4, where he received his basic training. In April 1942 he was sent to the interpreters school in Berlin, received training in foreign military symbols and terms, and studied foreign order of battle. Upon finishing the prescribed course at the interpreters school Subject was sent to the Dolmetcher Ersatz Abteilung to wait for an assignment. While there, replacements went through infantry training, read editorials from English newspapers, and took lessons in English shorthand. From the Dolmetcher Zug von ELTZ was sent in May 1942 to the 4 Ersatz Battalion 600, a reserve unit for Abwehr personnel. Men coming from the field were sent to this unit for processing and then to an Abwehr school, and upon completion of their course they were sent through the 4 Reserve Battalion 600 again for assignment. Personnel never stayed in the battalion for periods longer than several weeks before being assigned to some unit as Abwehr personnel.

From June 1942 to January 1943 Subject was assigned to the K.O. Agrani in Jugoslavis, where he worked in Abwehr I as a soldier and office worker, separating items and reports containing anything of intelligence value. On 1 December 1942 Subject was promoted to Sonderfuehrer "Z", and in February 1943 he was sent to Mostar, Jugoslavia, to establish a listening outpost for the Abwehr. From his unit he submitted reports to the next highest Headquarters, in this case, Agrani.

Subject stayed at Mostar until January 1944, was then transferred into the 1st Kossack Division as a Gefreiter, and was placed into the Aufklaerungs Abteilung. This battalion consisted entirely of German troops, and its purpose was special reconnaissance for the Division. It was at the disposal of the division, and when raids were made behind enemy lines or parties were sent thru the lines the Aufklaerungs Abteilung supplied the men. The members of the unit spoke, in addition to German, the language of the country they were fighting in.

Upon request from the Abwehr von ELTZ was transferred out of the Kossack Division in March 1944 and sent back

S E C R E T

to his old listening post at Mostar. During the retreat of the German troops from Yugoslavia in June 1944 Subject was wounded while directing a convoy of vehicles, by strafing Allied planes. He was again slightly wounded by grenade fragments as he helped to bring up stragglers of the convoy. During the retreat Subject and seven others held the path for troops to cross the river and later outran the Partisans, finally reaching the river and getting aboard a German "E" boat to safety. For this action Subject received the Iron Cross II Class and the wound decoration in silver. On 18 December 1944 Subject was awarded the Croation Order of the Crown III Class with oak leaves. This, he claims, he received because of his long tour of duty in Yugoslavia and because he had been in combat against the Partisans.

V. K.O. AGRAM (ABWEHRSTELLE AGRAM)

A. Description and Locality

K.O. Agram was a German intelligence and information center located in Agram, Yugoslavia. The purpose of this office was to collect information on the activities of the population in the area, to keep posted on the revolutionary tendencies of the people, and to secure information on the Chetniks, Marshal TITO's forces, and other Partisan groups in Yugoslavia. The reports compiled of Partisan movements and intentions, strength of units, weapons and ammunition, and reports concerning the Italian Army in case of planned hostilities against the German Army (1942-1943) were sent to the OKW Berlin (Auslandsamt), Abwehrstelle Wien, and Abwehrstelle Belgrade.

To get the information required the KO Agram had three message centers in operation which were sub units: ~~Nest Sarajevo with the Nebenstelle Sarajevo, Meldekopf Mostar, and Meldekopf Banja Luca.~~ The strength of Nest Sarajevo was three officers plus radio and courier personnel. The message centers at Banja Luca and Mostar were staffed by one Sonderfuehrer "Z", one radio operator, and one man who acted as a chauffeur and courier. The message center at Banja Luca reported directly to KO Agram, while the center at Mostar reported its findings to Nest Sarajevo, and the latter in turn to Agram. Messages of great importance went direct to Agram by courier, uncoded. All messages from the message centers which were sent by radio were coded by

S E C R E T

the operator and decoded at Agram. The codes changed at irregular intervals during the week, with a code reference covering a certain period issued to the W T or radio operator.

B. Methods of Gaining Information

The message centers were the outposts responsible for getting information for transmittal. Their personnel were allowed to work in civilian clothes or uniform. Information was gained from (a) paid taxi drivers, (b) contacts with religious organizations, who received money and food for their services, (c) farmers and farm helpers in exchange for food, and (d) contact with the Croatian police and gendarmerie who were very pro-German and assisted all they could in anti-Partisan activities. Information was also gained through the agent in charge of the message center, by visiting the local pubs and inns, and from adventurous women who often volunteered information and worked for small favors. These women were not too reliable since they could easily be swayed by the Partisans or might have been agents of the Partisans.

VI. REORGANIZATION OF ABWEHR UNITS

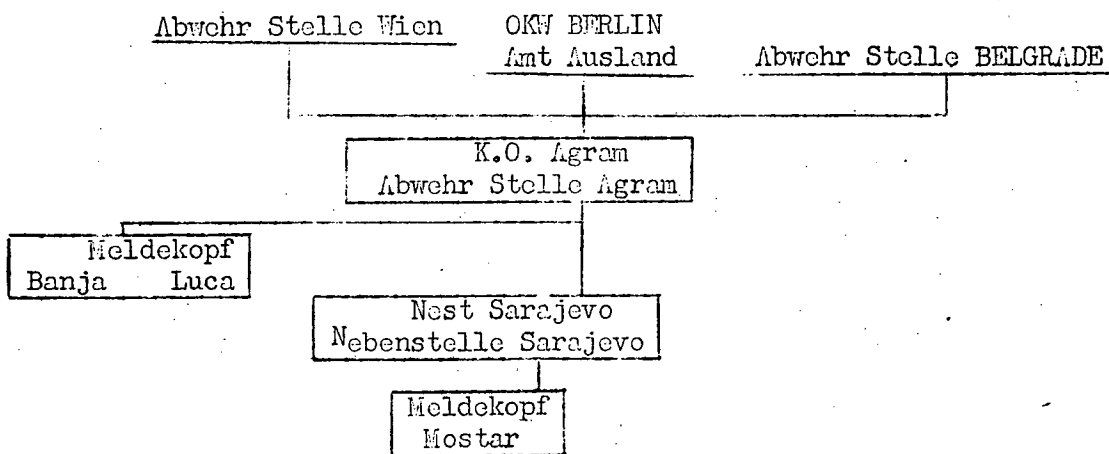
In October and November 1943 the reorganization of the German Abwehr took place. Larger units, like Abwehrstellen and Nebelstellen, and also some of the message centers were broken down into FAT's (Frontaufklärungstruppen). The units higher up were known as FAK's (Frontaufklärungskommando). The procedure of operations of the FAK's and the FAT's was basically the same as the Abwehrstellen, but they covered more territory and were to be better organized for their work. The F.A.T. 174 had its seat in Mostar and was directly responsible to the FAK 176 at Vrnjacka Banja. All information compiled by this FAT was sent to FAK 176 via courier or W T. FAT 174 had three outside message centers, which were ~~Meldkopf Cattaru and Podgorica, Meldkopf Ragusa, and Meldkopf Spalato.~~ These three message centers sent their reports directly to FAT at Mostar for editing, compiling, and segregation. Between Cattaru, Podgorica, and Ragusa there was a telephone and a W T communication hook-up. FAT 170 (?) was located at Agram, with message centers at Banja Lucka and Karlovac. FAT 172 (?) was located at Sarajevo, with its two substation message centers at Mostar and Zenica. The message centers were usually staffed with three to five men, one officer or Sonderführer "Z" in charge, W T operators, and chauffeurs.

S E C R E T

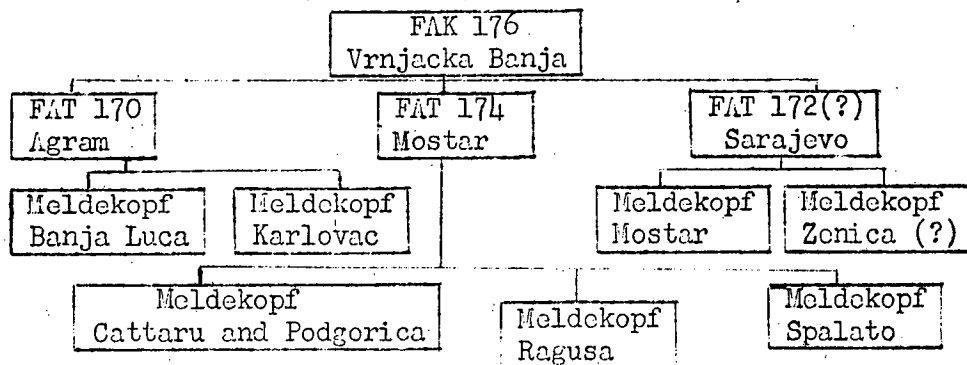
FAT 215(1944, month unknown) had headquarters in Trebinse and a message center located at Podgorica. FAT 208(?) was north of Ragusa, with a message center on the coast. Source cannot give any more information about these two FAT's.

VII. ORGANIZATION CHARTS

A. K.O. AGRAM 1942 to November 1943



B. FAK 176 in Vrnjacka Banja



S E C R E T

VIII. PERSONALITIES

AMANN Hauptmann, Austrian, FAT 172 in Sarajevo; age, approximately 50; height, approximately 1.8 meters; build, slender; hair, grey; wears glasses, very quiet.

BERNHARD Major, Austrian, probably deceased, personnel officer of K.O. Agram; age, approximately 60; height, approximately 1.78 meters; build, stocky; hair, grey; wears glasses, has small mustache, very lively.

GEBHARD Major, German, Abteilung III, K.O. Agram; age, approximately 45; height, approximately 1.37 meters; build, husky; hair, blond; wears glasses, quiet personality.

GLOMBIG Hauptmann, German, Abteilung III F of K.O. Agram; age, approximately 50; height, approximately 1.78 meters; build, slender; hair, dark brown; wears glasses, very lively.

HAFFNER Oberleutnant, Austrian, Abteilung III F of K.O. Agram; age, approximately 30; height, approximately 1.80 meters; build, slender; hair, dark brown; very lively; last seen by Subject in Mostar, July 1943.

HEMPRICH Oberstleutnant, German, Commanding Officer of all FAT's in the 100 series; age, approximately 50; height, 1.76 meters; build, slim; hair, dark brown; last seen by Subject in Ragusa, July 1944.

JUNGE Hauptmann, German, Charge of FAT 174 in Mostar; age, approximately 40; height, approximately 1.80 meters; build, slim; hair, dark brown; last seen by Subject in Ragusa, December 1944.

S E C R E T

KLINKMUELLER Oberstleutnant; German; age, approximately 50; height, 1.80 meters; build, strong and heavy; hair, grey; last seen by Subject in Ragusa, 1944.

KNIZE Hauptmann; German; age, approximately 40; height, approximately 1.75 meters; build, stocky and large; bald; wears glasses (?); very lively; last seen by Subject in Trebinje in August 1944.

LASSER Oberstleutnant; Austrian; age, approximately 50; height, 1.82 meters; build, strong and husky; hair, grey; very quiet; last seen by Subject in Ragusa in June 1944.

OSWALD Rittmeister; Commanding officer of abteilung IIIc of K.O. Agram; age approximately 60; height, approximately 1.76 meters; build, stocky; hair, grey; last seen in Salzburg.

OTTO Hauptmann; German; charge of FAT 170 (?) in Agram; age, approximately 50; height, approximately 1.75 meters; build, stocky; hair, blonde, tendency towards baldness; wears glasses; quiet personality.

SENSBURG Oberstleutnant; German; age, approximately 50; height, approximately 1.80 meters; build, powerful; hair, blonde; wears glasses; very active; last seen by Subject in Agram, December 1944.

VASARY Major; Austrian; commanding officer of IIIc in Sarajevo; probably deceased; age, approximately 60; height, approximately 1.85 meters; build, slender; hair, grey; lively; last seen by Subject in Sarajevo in October 1944.

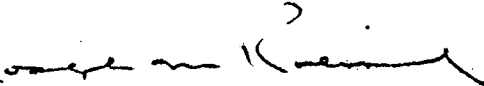
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WANNER

Hauptmann; Austrian; Abteilung III (?)
in Sarajevo; age, approximately 58;
height, approximately 1.78 meters;
build, slender; hair, gray, tendency
toward baldness; wears glasses; lively;
last seen by Subject in Sarajevo in
December 1944.

IX. CONCLUSION AND DISPOSITION

Johannes von ELTZ is now confined at the USFA/DC,
according to present de-Nazification directives.


JOSEPH M. KOLISCH
Major, Infantry
Commanding

- 9 -

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