

DR. WILHELM HOETTL

EXTRACTS

HOETTL, DR. WILHELM
HUTTL, DR.
MEYER, DR.

MEIR, DR.
WILHELM, DR.
HOELTL, DR. WILLI

Nationality, German, born 1908, teacher of philosophy at University of Vienna. Rank: SS Sturmbannfueher. Well built, 5'10", light brown hair, fairish, parted on left, large head, grey eyes, always wears civilian clothes.

In April 41, Hoettl enlisted agent Goetz under cover name of KAUFMANN to work at intelligence for S.D.

Dec of 41, while Leiter of Referat VI in Vienna, Hoettl was involved in disciplinary troubles and dismissed from his post by his successor Gerhardt MULLER @ MANDEL. Hoettl had been working too closely with Jewish agents and was dishonest in money matters. His political views were unpopular with Berlin as he supported the moderate National Socialists like Count PALFEY, BAKY, who on an understanding with Hoettl, made a break with the Arrow Cross Party of SZALLSY while Berlin supported the latter.

During 1942, Hoettl transferred to the SS regiment Prinz Eugen in Belgrade where he served as a war reporter.

1943, Hoettl was reinstated in the S.D. and posted to Amt VI E at the RSHA in Berlin, possibly as HANKE'S successor.

Oct 43 Hoettl sent Pierre LETAY- an S.D. agent sent on a political mission to Syria in 1944- to Amt VI C, the Persian section, for employment.

In Nov 43, Hoettl was promoted to Sturmbannfueher. It was after this that he tried to get into the good graces of SCHELLENBERG.

In 1944 Sept, Hoettl wa in touch with Richard KLATT of Abwehr I (Luft) and asked him to pass on any information about British agents in Europe.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2000 2006

12 April 45 "D'ETAT" AMEMBASSY POBBY LUMMY (a_976(7) SNAFU 677(7) Watch 861(7)

Hoettl arrived Swiss 9 April 45. Called ALPBERG. Subject states he and friends wish to work with us to prevent estab'l of reduit and if estab'l'd despite their efforts, they would go into reduit and work underground with us.

He brought with him to Feldkirch alleged member of Austrian resistance movement named WINKLER who carrying letter from Cardinal IKNITZER of Vienna. Winkler now at Feldkirch awaiting arrangements for entry Swiss. Subject (Hoettl) contacts GLAIS HORSTENAU, Gen. R. LOEHR. Subject now has HQ in south Tyrol where he controls radio facilities. We to get info by his radio.

He confirms that reduit rapidly becoming a reality. Has connections with STEYRWERKE to become reduit armament industry with work to be underground.

Undated: D'ETAT Report B-2551 from 110 45

Info from Obersturmbandfuehrer Dr. Wilhelm Hoettl and von WINKLER. (WINKLER represented as a member of Austrian right wing resistance.) Hoettl looks like he's giving info to save his skin. VON WINKLER makes good impression but needs further checking. Document gives Winkler's resistance group. Info on Winkler. Hoettl claims method to undermine reduit.

17 April 45 Memo from Mr. Leslie for Mr. Mayer, Dulles and vonGaevernitz.

Leslie believes whole Hoettl affair is a group of Austrian conservative circles, including Cath church circles and large proportion of legitimists and the more moderate Nazis. A reactionary group altho both Hoettl and Winkler would hotly deny it.

An important member of the group is Obersturmbandfuhrer GOTTSCH. He)

He is head of a department of Vienna, S.D. and worked with Winkler for years. GOTTSCHE brought Hoettl into contact with Winkler.

Hoettl said KALTENBRUNNER told him to contact oppositional elements to find out about them and of possible collaboration. Hoettl entrusted Gottsch with the internal contacts while confining himself to external contacts.

Hoettl appears to represent the moderate Nazis in the group. He obviously looks upon a GLAISE*HORSTENAU as his leader.

These moderate Austrian Nazis collaborated with the German Nazis from the very beginning for the following reasons:

1. Their belief in the "Gross-Deutschland Gedanke."
2. Their anti-Communist convictions.
3. Their anti-Jewish tendencies.
4. Their belief that some sort of union with Germany was the only solution to Austrian economic problems.

These people withdrew when the more radical Nazi elements (such as HEYDRICH) came into the fore. It is Leslie's personal impression that their motive is not only to save their skins, but also to play a political role in the future of Austria. They fear Russian imperialism and want to link Austria to western democratic ideas against the Russians. Hoettl expressed the conviction that strong divergence exists between western allies and Russia. Hoettl had summarized his plans for undermining the Reduit including propaganda suggestions. fin

Hoettl believes that in the Reduit the Wehrmacht and SS are likely to get together against the party. Allied propaganda should exploit this.

Hoettl gives info on the Social Democrats. He wants strengthening of anti - Russian leaders in a ~~socialist~~ socialism movement. His observations of Austrian workers .. Catholic movement, the Communists. fin

Source thinks Hoettl and Winkler are important contacts and worth developing.

Hoettl is called dangerous because of his being a Nazi, his associates,

and being fanatically anti-Russ. Source thought it best to inform Russ of any collaboration with him. His use is for furthering interests to United Nations and hastening end of resistance in Austria by disruption of the Reduit.

He has made a favorable impression on source and is believed to be trustworthy and sincere. To avoid accusation of our working with Nazi and anti-Russ, our contact with him has to be indirect.

Source believes that Hoettl hopes that he and his associates will be able to play a political role in the future Austria as a result of his present activities. Hoettl is to be used, but not collaborated with...

Hoettl is important for the position which he holds and the consequent powers and authority. Hoettl cannot be considered representative of a political group in Austria. The lists he gave of associates defies labelling as a group.

We had best warn British of our part in this affair since Winkler was to be put in contact with British thru another party.

Memo 19 April 1945 *no sense given indication*

Source now believes Hoettl is merely being used by an inner group, so Hoettl has but a very vague impression of the true situation. This is the result of a talk with Winkler.

COPY OF SHAEF CARD # 37813 1.6.45

HOETTL, DR. WILLI @ DU MAYER @ WILHEL, DR.
Description: Born c. 1913. Height 5'9". Slim build, fairish hair parted left. Grey eyes, full face, strong features, light complex.
Career: Head of Ref VI Vienna, dismissed end of 41. Was war reporter with SS troops in Serbia 1942. Rehabilitated and posted to a high position in Amt VI Berlin 1943. Supposed to have been the brains behind X SKORZENY'S successful liberation of Mussolini.

EXTRACT THIRD ARMY SCI DETACHMENT 21 May 45

Subject: "SS Sturnbannfuehrer Dr. Wilhelm Hoettl"
Subject states as one of the chiefs of RSHA's Amt VI, he organized an

extensive W/T network throughout southeastern Europe. At present his network

consists of 5 major stations and about 30 agents, not including minor feeders.

In FREISING, Hoettl has been sent to the hospital for a treatment for his stomach ulcers.

~~At the time of reporting to the CIC in KIRCHDORF, Hoettl was staying at his family home in ALTAUSEE, AUSTRIA, the community in which KALTENBRUNNER was captured.~~

At the time of reporting to the CIC in KIRCHDORF, Hoettl was staying at his family home in ALTAUSEE, AUSTRIA, the community in which KALTENBRUNNER was captured.

He is 36 37 years old, married and father of 2 children and his wife was now pregnant. Height 1.79, eyes grey, hair dark, complexion sallow, build slender.

He says he is a devout and active Catholic, and joined the NSDAP on 13 March 1938 because he thought National Socialism would save Austria from Bolshevism. He was ousted from the SD by HEYDRICH because of his failure to adopt the Nazi Party tune toward Jews. In addition he was inducted into the army as a private. When KALTENBRUNNER succeeded Heydrich and began to surround himself with Austrians, Hoettl was restored to official rank in RSHA.

Hoettl states that he had become convinced that the hope of Austria and her salvation from Bolshevism did not lie in German National Socialism but in a free and independent Austria with strong alliance and support from Western nations. Accordingly, he began to administer his post with such an underlying aim in mind. Hence, his radio network, composed of his own men in key positions, all of whom share his own anti-Bolshevist, pro-allied views.

In addition to the W/T net, one of his henchmen RUPERT MANDEL, has organized the EINSATZ GRUPPEN which have been parachuted into Jugoslavia during the past 3 months.

He calls his group the "USTACHA". He said it was allied with the Austrian Separatist Movement headed by General GLAISE-HORSTENA. Through contact with the Papal Legate to Vienna, Hoettl states, there is reason to believe that the

... support to his movement. The papal legate

DESTROYED COPY

Vatican would give at least tacit support to his movement. The papal legate, however, has monarchist leanings, according to Hoettl, and Hoettl did not want his movement involved in the monarchist controversy as yet.

25 May 45 D'ETAT AMLEGATION BERN SPEARHEAD 12th AG

Wilhelm Hoettl of VI B with 6 members of his group are now in 3rd Army hands. Claims control of W/T network SE Europe composed of Austrian patriots.

HQ INTERROGATION CENTER APO 655 5 July 45 "Interrogation of VEESENMAYER"

Hoettl in captivity about 21 May 45.

19 March 44, Dr. Hoettl makes acquaintance with Veesenmayer in Budapest. ^{Hoettl claims acquaintance in 1939 at about 404}

Hoettl with German Nachrichtendienst in Budapest. From 10 March 44 until 1 April 44, both discussed political moves. Veesenmayer judged Hoettl as a fanatic Nazi, a narrow minded person who would leave nothing undone in order to achieve his goal, no matter what it might be. Hoettl disregarded the German Legation and its function. Hoettl described Veesenmayer to his superiors as a weakling and a defeatist for which he was reprimanded. The two didn't get along.

Hoettl was a determined opponent of SZALASI who was in the "Pfeilkrevzler" movement which had the goal of assimilation of the various racial element in Hungary into a nationalistic homogeneous people.

Hoettl worked for KALTENBRUNNER and HIMMLER and had their protection at all times. Hoettl was influential in Hungarian policy making because of his backing. Hoettl was a narrow minded radical who attacked every project with a logic fight mind, unswaying, and making no concessions, his chief concern was the small group of National Socialists in Budapest with whom he associated.

It is difficult to arrive at his official point of view; to HIMMLER he was reliable, to von Ribbentrop he definitely was not. It appears from

contrary to Reich policy. Hoettl answered he would report to KALTENBRUNNER as Veesenmayers policies in Hungary would lead to disaster. Himmler allowed Hoettl to stay in Hungary since it was the opposing opinion to Ribbentrop.

Hoettl was an avowed opponent of SZALASI and ~~he~~ did everthing in his ~~power~~ to prevent his accession with the Arrow Cross Party.

Hoettl could not see himself as described by Veesenmayer(narrow-minded, radical and fanatic).

XX-10268 21 Dec 45 Report by Hoettl, Dr. Wilhelm

Former Balkan expert in Gruppe VI, E of the RSHA. (One of several prepared during summer of 45 while detained at 3rd Army IC. "Situation Report: Bulgaria 40-45. From SAINT Lond. Assisted by Bruno Klaus. Both former members of the Vienna Referate in Amt VI of RSHA. Report not Evaluated.

Had known Bulgaria for 7 years. Seven years ago began intelligence work concerning this country from Vienna when he was employed at the S.D. Leitabschnitt and in consequence took journeys to Sofia, Plovdiv, Burgas, Varna, Etc. He got to know country and people on journeys by car.

As VI Referent in Vienna, author won over several good Bulgarian specialists to collaborate with him, who could criticise and evaluate intelligence information from this area. Author not biased in favor ~~xxx~~ of one political group as those of Amt VI at this period.

Author has close connections thru a Bulgarian intermediary with the "Sweno" Group which played important role behind scenes in Bulgaria.

Author also had good connections with Macedonian IMRO organization.

Since 1940, author specialized more in Soviets and made Bulgaria glacis for this intelligence work.

After author's return to S.D. in '43, he had no longer any direct influence on the intelligence work of the Referat for Bulgaria, but nevertheless stipulated that he, as the Gruppenleiter's deputy, should be informed currently about all events so he could follow developments closely.

He is well informed and an expert on the country.

MGHA- 767 (6-7-0-119ul) 25 Oct 48

Information is substance of IRS, dtd 19 Oct 48 from CO, 7821 Composite Group to Operations Branch, Intelligence Division, EUCOM.

The CO here states that he received a report from his organization that if it were known that Dr. Wilhelm Hoettl is employed by an American Agency "it would be incomprehensible to all decent Germans and Austrians". Hoettl is believed to be employed by War Dept. Detach. in Vienna to build up an intelligence net.

The report goes on to allege that Hoettl was illegally involved in money transactions, that he was a high ranking member of RSHA, and that he gave information to the "Flying Court Martial" which led to execution of Count von RITTBERG. The CO asks if Hoettl should not be utilized..

Vienna assumes subject from report is identical with person in "MOUNT" operation of OSS 45. This is from ECOM (liason section) who feels its none of the CO's business if Hoettl is working for us....

MAVA -2180 (6-7-0-139) ~~107~~ 1Dec 48

~~Wkt~~ Wilhelm Hoettl is in no way connected with this station, although he is known to us. Subject, a former SS Ostubaf. has been reported by 430th CIC Det. as active in making contact with former GIS personnel, with the avowed purpose of building up an intelligence network which he hopes to sell to Americans when complete. Latest information to date is on July 48 when he was described by CIC as a security threat.

Hoettl is, in fact, identical with person employed by OSS in 45.

