

**SECRET**

BACKGROUND

OF

DR. WILHELM HOETTL

5 August 1949

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTIONS B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2000 2008

**SECRET**

~~SECRET~~

DISCRIPTION OF DR. WILHELM HOETTL

@ HUTTL, DR.  
MEYER, DR.  
MEIR, DR.  
WILHELM, DR.  
HOELTL, DR. WILLI

Nationality: German

Born : 1908 ( PF 602,139 LETAY & GOETZ )  
1913 ( SHAEF CARD # 37813 )  
19 March 1935 ( British Primer )

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

In 1944 he was described as being well built, his height varied from the sources as 5'9", 5'10" and 1.75m. Hair light brown, parted on left; light complexion, grey eyes and a full face with strong features.

After his capture in 1945, his height was reported as 1.79m, hair dark, complexion sall~~ow~~, and was of slender build.

He is married and has 2 children. His wife was expecting a 3rd in 1945.

TEMPERAMENT

Hoettl had made a good impression with sources and was believed to be trustworthy and sincere. This observation was made when a source believed him to be cooperating with the allies to save his own skin.

Hoettl's enemy VEESENMAYER judged him as a fanatic Nazi, an narrow minded radical who would leave nothing undone in order to achieve his goal, no matter what it might be. He attacked every project with a logic-fight mind, unswaying and making no concessions.

VEESENMAYER hated Hoettl for a period of years and made these statements during interrogation so perhaps in some respects it is not a fair observation. What he said must be considered in the light of their unpleasant relationship.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

MILITARY RECORD OF DR. WILHELM HOETTL

Between 1940 and 1945, Hoettl engaged in intelligence work in Bulgaria as the Balkan expert in Gruppe VI E of the RSHA. While employed at the S.D. Leitabschnitt, he took many journeys into the country by car and managed to collaborate with several good Bulgarian specialists.

In 1941, Hoettl was Leiter of Referat VI in Vienna. During December of that year, he became involved in disciplinary troubles and dismissed from his post by his successor Gerhardt MULLER@MANDEL. One source says Hoettl had been working too closely with Jewish agents and was dishonest in money matters. Hoettl claims that he was dismissed because HEYDRICH saw that he failed to adopt the Nazi party policy toward Jews. Hoettl's political views were unpopular with Berlin as he supported the moderate National Socialists who on an understanding with him, made a break with the Arrow Cross Party while Berlin supported the latter.

With this break and dismissal from the S.D., Hoettl was inducted as a Private and war reporter with SS regiment Prinz Eugen in Belgrade.

In 1943, Hoettl was rehabilitated to Amt VI and posted to the high position of SS Sturmbannfuehrer in Berlin, possibly as HANKE'S successor. He was appointed advisor to VEESENMAYER and to the Hoehere SS und Polizeifuehrer WINKELMANN. He was also the Liaison between the Chef der Sicher-Leitepolizei and VEESENMAYER.

During this year he was an important member of the Italian section and head of the Croation Section of Amt VI RSHA. He was also instrumental in getting Count CIANO'S Diary.

He had no longer any direct influence on the intelligence work of the Referat for Bulgaria, but nevertheless as the Gruppenleiter's deputy, he was informed of the current events so he could follow developments closely.

He again came close to being dismissed. This time he chose to differ with VEESENMAYER on a matter of policy and was retained only because HIMMLER disagreed with VON RIBBENTROP on recalling him.

In 1944, he was reported to have been at the sabotage branch of Amt VI in Berlin. He had the opportunity to observe material on Jap intelligence activities in the Caucasus, in Turkey and in Germany.

In 1945 his rank was reported as Obersturmbannfuehrer.

He was reported as the S.D. chief in Rome in the "Cloister Affair."

In the early months of 1945, he organized extensive W/T networks throughout southeast Europe consisting of 5 major stations and about 30 agents not including minor feeders. His HQ was in the South Tyrol.

He was captured by the U.S. army at his home in Altausee, Austria, about 21 May 1945.

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

POLITICAL VIEWS OF DR. WILHELM HOETTL

During the war years, Hoettl's political views were unpopular with Berlin. He supported the moderate National Socialists like Count PALFEY and BAKY, who on an understanding with Hoettl, made a break with the Arrow Cross Party of SZALASI while Berlin supported the latter.

HOETTL'S opponent VEESENMAYER claimed Hoettl did everything in his power to prevent SZALASI and his Arrow Cross Party from gaining accession in Hungary. Hoettl, himself, says he was the avowed opponent of SZALASI. SZALASI was in the "Pfeilkreuzler" movement which had the goal of assimilation of the various racial elements in Hungary into a nationalistic homogeneous people.

Hoettl worked for KALTENBRUNNER and HIMMLER and had their protection at all times. He was influential in Hungarian policy making because of his backing. VEESENMAYER alleged Hoettl's chief concern was the small group of National Socialists in Budapest with whom he associated.

There is no mention of just what this official policy was; to HIMMLER he was reliable, to von RIBBENTROP he definitely was not. It appears that von RIBBENTROP represented the official policy and that Hoettl's disagreement found him shelter only through his official position with HIMMLER and KALTENBRUNNER.

Hoettl made contact with the OWI in 19 April 1945 in Switzerland. He claimed to represent the moderate Nazi group of Austrian conservative circles including the Catholic church, legitimists, the more moderate Nazis, and General GLAISE-HORSTENAU of the Separatist movement to whom he looked as his leader. But Hoettl could not be considered representative of a political group in Austria; these associates defy labelling as a group.

Source EESLIE believed that the motive of Hoettl and his circle was not merely to save their own skins, but also to play a political role in the future of Austria. Hoettl feared Russian imperialism and wanted to link Austria to western democratic ideas against the Russians. He particularly wanted strengthening of anti-Russian leaders in a socialism movement.

Hoettl, after his capture, said he was a devout and active Catholic and joined the NSDAP on 13 March 1938 because he thought National Socialism would save Austria from Bolshevism. He later became convinced that the only salvation from Bolshevism was in a free and independent Austria with a strong alliance and support from Western nations. He favored support of the Catholic church but because it had monarchist leanings, he feared a monarchist controversy.

He was considered a political expert on Bulgarian affairs, but source does not reflect Hoettl's own personal views.

SECRET

CHRONOLOGICAL DATA OF KNOWN TRAVEL OF DR. WILHELM HOETTL

- 1937 He was Professor of Philosophy at Vienna and engaged in intelligence activities.
- 1938 Traveled extensively throughout Bulgaria to cities as Sofia, Plovdiv, Burgas, Varna, etc., being engaged in intelligence activities for the S.D. Leitabschnitt in Vienna.
- 1939 In Bratislava: met VEESENMAYER to whom he would later be an advisor.
- 1941 During the summer, Hoettl met Veessenmayer at Agram, Croatia.
- 1942 Hoettl in Belgrade as a war reporter for SS regiment Prinz Eugen.
- 1943 Berlin: Rehabilitated to Amt VI.
- 1943 Belgrade; mission unknown.
- 1943 Rome: a secret trip in August.
- 1943 Zagreb: September, mission unknown.
- 1944 Berlin: January, mission unknown.
- 1944 Budapest: 19 March, Veessenmayer claims he first met Hoettl.
- 1944 Prague: February, mission unknown.
- 1945 Rome: Hoettl mentioned as chief in the "Cloister Affair."
- 1945 South Tyrol, controlled radio facilities.
- 1945 Switzerland: 9 April, contacts U.S. intelligence.
- 1945 Altausee, Austria: 21 May, at home where he was captured.
- 1945 Freising: 25 May, hospitalized.
- 1948 Vienna: 10 October, last residence.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

SOURCE DOCUMENTS  
ON  
DR. WILHELM HOETTL

1. 21 August 1944 ..XX-593
2. not dtd .....\*PF 602,139 LETAY & GOETZ
3. 12 April 1945 ...\* "D'ETAT" AMEMBASSY
4. 1945 .....XX-5882
5. not dtd .....\* "D'ETAT" Report B-2551 from 110
6. 17 April 1945 ...\*MEMO from Mr. LESLIE for MR. MAYER
7. 19 April 1945 ...\*MEMO
8. 21 May 1945 .....\*EXTRACT THIRD ARMY SCI DETACHMENT
9. 25 May 1945 .....\* "D'ETAT" AMLEGATION BERN SPEARHEAD
10. 1 June 45 .....\*Copy of SHAEF card # 37813
11. 5 July 45 .....\*Interrogation of VESSENMAYER. HQ Interrogation Center  
APO 655
12. 7 July 45 .....\*MFIU 3 HDH
13. 19 July 45 .....\*XX-8114 Interrogation of SEGNA, WALTER DR.
14. 27 August 1945 ..\* HQ THIRD ARMY INTERROGATION SECTION APO 403
15. 30 August 1945 ..XX-010-818 Source: BRITISH PRIMER.
16. 21 December 1945 XX-10268 Subject: HOETTL
17. 25 October 1948 MCHA-767
18. 1 December 1948 MAVA-2180

\* Archive folder on DR. WILHELM HOETTL of which many of the above documents are a part.

~~SECRET~~