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# COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS

450<sup>th</sup> DET. U. S. F. A.

Land Upper Austria Sub Detachment

APO 174

U.S. Army

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3028  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2000 2008

23 February 1950  
Gmunden Field Office  
20Y/op  
SOI 11/17/17

SUBJECT: HOETTL, Dr. Wilhelm - Mussolini Diary.

### SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

The following information was obtained on 15 February 1950 from confidential informant 10/6357, who has numerous contacts among Austrian newspaper correspondents. Evaluation: Source "B" (usually reliable); Information "2" (possibly true).

Subject had persuaded his publisher, the NIBELUNGEN Verlag of Linz, to sue the "Salzburger Nachrichten" for publishing the Mussolini Diary. Court was held on 9 February 1950 in Salzburg, Judge Dr. SCHNEIDER presiding. Subject informed the Court that Mussolini had given him and an unidentified interpreter, each one copy of the Mussolini Diary in the German language. Furthermore, Subject stated, Mussolini gave them (orally) all the copyrights and the sole right of publishing Subject Diary. Subject also stated that in the final days of the war, when Amt VI E was in Kremsmuenster, Bezirk Steyr and the American Forces were approaching, an order was given whereby all of the files and correspondence of Amt VI E were to be destroyed. Subject stated that an employee of Amt VI E, a certain Mrs. Dr. Felizitas HORATSCHKE, took all the private papers of Subject (among them the Mussolini Diary) and gave them to Dr. Felix BINDER for safekeeping. Dr. BINDER, Subject stated, stole this document from him and later informed the Salzburger Nachrichten that the Diary was his private property and had it published. Source was not informed of the outcome of the trial but believed that the case was dismissed.

Source stated that Otto SKORZENY found the diary while rescuing Mussolini from Gran Sasso, Italy, and that he (SKORZENY) turned the diary over to the German Intelligence

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SOI, 23 February 1950, Gmunden Field Office, Subject: HOETTL, Dr. Wilhelm - Mussolini Diary.

who translated it, and distributed the diary in German to all leading personalities of the German Intelligence Service. Source also stated that Subject did not have his office in Kremsmuenster, but in STEIERLING and furthermore Subject had hidden all of his private papers with his family in Alt-Aussee, Bezirk Gmunden, long before Amt VI E received the order to destroy all files and correspondence.

FILE CHECK:

Files of this office reveal numerous reports pertaining to Subject.

SOI, Gmunden Field Office, dated 1 February 1950, L/17678, Subject: "HOETTL, Wilhelm" mentions Subject's book, publisher and "Die Presse".

SOI, Gmunden Field Office, dated 6 February 1950, L/17679, Subject: "HOETTL Wilhelm Dr. - Mussolini Diary" mentions initial steps taken by Subject's publisher.

MOIC, dated 6 February 1950, L/17677, Subject: "UNBEIENDUNGEN - Verlag, Buecherdienst, Buchverlag und Vertriebsgesellschaft, Speck und Co" gives details on the inauguration and personnel of the firm in which HOETTL's wife is connected.

SOURCE: 10/6357

*Zigmund C. Yanbeck*  
Zigmund C. YANBECK  
AIC, Gmunden Field Office.

Approved:  
John D. MACDONALD  
Chief of Operations  
Land Upper Austria.

~~Regraded  
Authority:  
by  
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