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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
CHINA THEATER
X-2 BRANCH
REPORT

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Source: Interview with Franz Huber.

Details:

On 24 September 1945, Franz Huber was interviewed at his apartment in the Savoy Apartment Building. During this interview, Huber appeared well poised and exhibited complete self-assurance and confidence in himself. It was evident that he had been expecting the arrival of American authorities in view of the fact that he had at his immediate disposal a briefcase which contained only a telegram setting forth the duties of a police attache and his passport. It was obvious during the entire interview that he was withholding information and was lying on many points. The story which he told is as follows:

Franz Huber was born on 6 April 1912, in Munich. He attended Munich Middle School and then entered the police service of that city 1 May 1929. In 1932 he was transferred to the Political Section of the Munich Police Department. In 1933 he was made Criminal Commissioner in the same police section. In 1937 he was transferred to Berlin, still holding the rank of Criminal Commissioner. (Leiter Der Kriminal Polizei). At that time, his duties consisted of checking on people who had returned to Germany from Russia and questioning them. Many Russian emigrants were entering Germany at that time. In 1938 he travelled to both England and Italy. In England he acted in the capacity of body-guard to the German Ambassador. He spent four months in Italy straightening out the affairs of the office of the Police

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Attache. He was evasive with regard to his specific duties in Italy.

In 1938 he was assigned as the German representative of the ANTI-COMINTERN COMMITTEE, which was formed in 1936 and was composed of representatives of the German and Japanese Governments. The Japanese representatives of this committee in Germany were furnished by the Germans' information which the latter had obtained on the Russians. Huber's mission was to obtain from the Japanese information which they had collected on the Russians. He stated that he received absolutely no information from the Japanese concerning the Russians, and that the Anti-Comintern Pact turned out to be a one-way flow of information, i. e., from the Germans to the Japanese. Upon his arrival in Tokyo, Huber had no official title in the German Embassy. He was the first German representative to Tokyo on the Anti-Comintern Committee. At one time during the interview, Huber stated that a MR. MULLER, who had been an associate of his in the Munich Police Department, had sent him to Japan to "report everything you see." Huber was evasive as to details concerning Muller and the position which he holds. During the time that he was in Tokyo Huber endeavored to protect the interests of the Germans and to contact the Japanese to straighten out the troubles Germans were having with the Japanese. In this regard the German Ambassador sent him to "fix things" with the Japanese Home Ministry.

In March 1941, MEISINGER arrived in Tokyo. From March to August 1941 Meisinger had no official rank in the Embassy. In August he was made Police Attache of the German Embassy in Tokyo, and Huber claimed that he at that time had no official connection with Meisinger, that he did not know anything about the latter's activities.

In view of the fact the Japanese were submitting no information on the Russians to him Huber desired to return to Germany. However, the Military Attache in Bangkok arrived in June 1941, and "requested" Huber to work in his office as Assistant Military Attache. He worked in the office of the Military

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Attache, Bangkok, from July 1941 until December 1942. His duties at that time were to submit reports about the war in the Pacific to Berlin. He had no agents collecting information, and the only information received was what appeared in the newspapers. The only information they received from the Japanese was what the Japanese desired to give them.

In December 1942, Huber received a telegram from Tokyo that he had been designated Police Attache in Shanghai, replacing MR. KAHNER, who was being transferred to Kobe. He immediately departed from Bangkok and returned to Tokyo where he was given orders to report to Shanghai immediately and assume the duties of the Police Attache. He arrived in Shanghai on February 3, 1945. He received no specific orders from Meisinger except that he was to assume the duties of a Police Attache. In describing the duties of Police Attache Huber furnished a telegram which had been received by him from Tokyo dated March 7, 1945, and which sets forth the duties of Police Attache. A translation of this telegram is attached hereto, as is a copy of the telegram in German.

He claimed that there is no Gestapo in Shanghai, and that there are no representatives of the Sicherheitsdienst in Shanghai, or, for that matter, in China. Further, he claimed that Meisinger is not representing the SD in the Far East and that Meisinger also only has his specific duties of Police Attache. He denied having any agents or informers and claimed that he was only Police Attache in China. Huber claimed that he was certain no Germans were working for the Japanese in Shanghai and that there was no action taken against any anti-Nazis or disloyal Germans. His work consisted primarily of looking after the best interests of the Germans in Shanghai. In this connection he stated that he contacted the Japanese on any troubles which Germans were having with them.

Huber did state that he had one agent collecting information on the Russians. This agent's surname is Zaidzeff, and he lives at 1371 Rue Lafayette. The activities of this man were to collect information on the Russians so that Huber and the Embassy could be informed as to what was going on in the Russian community.

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Huber could not remember the nature of the information which was included in the reports, nor did he recollect any specific information about Zaidzeff.

With regard to obtaining information in German circles, Huber said he had often received information which was voluntarily submitted, but denied that any of the Germans who gave him the information were informers.

Concerning his relations with Meisinger, Huber stated that he was fighting with Meisinger for about a year over whether he was working under Meisinger. It was Huber's desire that rather than Meisinger being Police Attache for the entire Far East, Meisinger be Police Attache for Japan, and that he, Huber, would be Police Attache for China. Orders were finally received from Germany making Huber Police Attache for China and responsible only to Berlin. Huber made two trips to Tokyo. One in October or November 1943 and the other in November 1944. On the first trip he talked with MR. MULLER, referred to above, who instructed him to continue as Police Attache in China. On the second trip he had no telephonic communication with Germans. Another purpose of his trips was to settle his difficulties with Meisinger. Meisinger visited Shanghai last year for a period of ten or twelve days, but Huber had no official conferences with him. He did see him socially, and, insofar as he knew, Meisinger had no specific objective in making the trip. Huber submitted his cables direct to Berlin and only transmitted copies to Meisinger on matters which pertained to Germans in Japan.

Huber advised that one, CHARLIE SCHMIDT, whose real name was JOCHHEIM, who had claimed that he was in America at one time in the Police Service, worked in Shanghai for the Abwehr when Siefken was in charge of that organization. After Huber's arrival in Shanghai Meisinger said that Schmidt was to work for him, Huber. Schmidt had previously worked as a representative of Meisinger in Shanghai, and at the same time was working for Siefken. Huber disliked Schmidt and therefore insisted that Meisinger recall him to Tokyo. Huber claimed that Schmidt furnished no information for him, and did not work for him in any capacity. In view of his dislike for Schmidt he became confused in his story as to exactly whom Schmidt was representing, and finally ended up by claiming that Schmidt worked as a representative of

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Meisinger in a police capacity, and also as a secret agent for SIEFKEN. It was apparent that Huber was endeavoring to avoid any inference that Meisinger had any control over Abwehr activities. With regard to Schmidt, Huber believed that he is not an American citizen although he has in the past made such claims.

With regard to Meisinger's dealings with the Japanese he claimed to have had no relations with any Japanese intelligence agencies, and that he received specific instructions from the Japanese Military Bureau to talk to no one except members of that bureau. He did state, however, that he had some friends in the Japanese Navy. The office of the Military Bureau with which Huber had liaison was located on Bubbling Well Road. Officers whom he contacted in this bureau were, GENERAL KAMOMOTO, COLONEL MORRI and LIEUTENANT HIROHABA. He also contacted MR. TAKAKIMA of the Press Section of this bureau. With regard to the latter, Huber stated that Takakima often asked him for information on specific Germans, and appeared to be engaged in espionage. Huber claimed no knowledge of the activities of any of these Japanese, and stated that it was not his job to secure information on the Japanese intelligence.

Huber's secretary was MRS. BOTTKI, who resides in the Mayfair Apartments. He had employed for only three months a MISS MOHRSTIDT as typist. He was not well informed concerning either of these women. He had no other employees.

Huber apparently disliked LT. COL. EISENTRAEGER, Alias EHRHARDT, as he furnished more information about Ehrhardt than on any other subject. According to Huber, Ehrhardt worked in Bulgaria before the outbreak of the war in Europe. When Huber arrived in Shanghai in 1943, Ehrhardt was in charge of "German Army Espionage" which duties he had assumed in 1943, succeeding SIEFKEN as head of the ABWEHR. At one point during the interview Huber stated that Meisinger was behind SIEFKEN. He also stated that Meisinger saw reports which Ehrhardt had made copies of to send to Tokyo. Huber claimed that he never saw any of Ehrhardt's reports, that he was not well-versed on Ehrhardt's activities, and that he had no details as to Ehrhardt's organization. When the Abwehr was taken over by the SICHERHEITSDIENST a telegram came to the Embassy in Shanghai from Berlin setting

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forth this information. Huber claimed that he knew none of the details of this because it did not concern him. He also stated that he and Ehrhardt could not get along because Ehrhardt "talked dirty about me."

While Huber was in Bangkok an Abwehr agent by the name of ERICH arrived in that city. It was believed in Bangkok at the time that Erich, whose full name Huber did not recall, was an agent of the Abwehr. Huber does not believe that this man is still connected with the Abwehr, although he is now in Shanghai.

With regard to LISSNER, a German Agent who had trouble with the Japanese in Manchuko, Huber stated that this man did work for many years for the German Intelligence, and that he did have trouble in Manchuko for a time with the Japanese. It was determined, however, at that time that Lissner was working for the Russians, and he was subsequently sent to Tokyo for imprisonment. Huber did not believe that Lissner had any connections with Ehrhardt or any other German Intelligence Organization.

Huber had at one time seen KALTENBRUNNER, but did not know him and knew nothing of his activities.

Huber stated that the SHOWA TSINSHO, a firm in Bangkok was probably engaged in intelligence work. Insofar as he knew, this firm had direct communications with Tokyo. The duties of members of this firm were to collect information from both Burma and Malaya. He believed that this firm was a Burma and Malaya Navy Section of the Japanese Naval Intelligence, Hainan Island.

Huber stated that all his records had been destroyed.

NOTE: It was obvious throughout the interview that Huber was not telling the truth although the background data he furnished on himself is probably accurate to a certain degree. He was informed that we knew he had been lying. He did not deny that he was lying, but stated that he would not alter his story in any respect. On September 25, 1945, in an interview with General Boyer, Colonel Vreeland, and other CCC officers, BH/068 outlined the information available on Huber and the details of our interview with him. General Boyer instructed Colonel Vreeland to have Chinese arrest Huber if he still refuses to talk when he is interviewed again

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by us in the next few days. However, no action will be taken by Colonel Vreeland until we have reinterviewed Huber. The information furnished by Huber and as set forth above will be correlated with data received from other sources on those subjects and is included in separate reports.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

AT SHANGHAI: Huber will be re-interviewed in the next few days and efforts will also be made to obtain information about him from other sources, such as Lt. Col. Eisentraeger, head of Abwehr, confidential informants, etc.