

SECRET (1943)

Recent information (mostly in the new Service 7/5265) about developments in the mysterious career of Richard KLATT's organization gives interesting indications about his relations with other official bodies and about the attributes of some of the persons whom he employs or contacts. They throw at present, little light upon the sources of his operational reports or on the way in which these reports reach him. We also know very little about Klatt's present distribution of his reports.

1. KLATT himself has moved to Budapest, where he has a W/T station named "BULLY". This move was correctly predicted by Gyorgy (see X2/933 of 31.7.43) except as regards the date. According to this story the move was ordered as a result of a conference in Sofia held shortly before the conference attended by Dr. DEUTSCH, Dr. F. HARGAYO (sic) (equals MARCONE, HEDLITZ), Ritter von STAMM, Oberst MITTEL, Ritter von WAHL, the German Air Attache at Sofia (Oberst von C. of the German troops in Bulgaria and DELIUS (head of K.O. Bulgaria). KLATT attended one meeting. The reason given for the move was that the position of German stations in Bulgaria was precarious. It is true that there was a big conference in Sofia on 11/7 at which DEUTSCH was present. And it is true that Oberst von WAHL, Ritter von WAHL, the German Air Attache at Sofia (Oberst von Schoenebeck) and Dr. DELIUS would all have been concerned in the question of the removal of the Luftmeidkopf.

Details of the story cannot be checked by us. Certain indications collected below suggest that KLATT went to Budapest to avoid trouble from the Bulgarian Government and the Abwehr in Bulgaria, and not from anti-Axis elements in that country.

KLATT has left behind him in Sofia a party of unknown size with a W/T station - perhaps only a transmitting and receiving set.

This station is now called "STROM" instead of "SCHWERT". It is managed by someone who signs as "HANS", who may be identical with a Dr. DEUTSCH whom GYORGY puts No. 1 on his list of KLATT's hand-picked staff. We know that HANS was organizing the removal of some Russian interpreters from Sofia to Budapest and that Dr. Deutsch was to call on K.O. Bulgaria to make arrangements in connection with this. But an elderly man called HANS STURM (Ranker) on Gyorgy's list, is another candidate.

This Sofia station collects and forwards to "BULLY" (in ISOS form) the operational reports like those which KLATT had previously sent to Oberstlt. von WAHL. (1 Luft. at Vienna) on Service 7/43. On 4/9 K.O. Bulgaria enquired what it was that these reports no longer go to von WAHL, adding that KLATT had refused to pass them to the Abwehr via K.O. Bulgaria and that the Air Attache, Sofia, (Oberst von Schoenebeck) was now off the distribution list.

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DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

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I Luft, Vienna (equals von WAHL) is now again forwarding Luftmeldekopf reports to c.g., Salonika.

We have also a fairly recent case of the Abwehr station at Nikolaiken passing a batch of Russian front reports to a station on the S. Russian front for operational H.Q. there. So KLATT has retained or renewed some way of passing his reports to Abwehr H.Q.

On 25/7 "BERNDT" (equals Major von LOSSOW) who is in charge of Russian operational intelligence for Abwehr H.Q. (Mil Intell. East-North) said "as MAX, for reasons known, has dropped out.....", which suggests that Klatt's Russian reports had either ceased to be supplied to the Abwehr or had ceased to be credited. Yet we know that these Russian reports were in fact being sent on Service 7/23 to von Wahl till late in September. "BERNDT" may have been anticipating a cessation of reports, which did not in fact take place when he expected it.

2. KLATT's operations reports are no longer headed "MAX", "NORITZ", "INIS", "ANATOL", "NEKKA" or "WIG". Nor do the latter substitutes for "MAX", namely "OLAZ", "KORRIS" and "5029", appear nowadays as message-headings. Ordinary passages of KLATT's reports are merely headed "BULLY", though Nikolaiken described some Russian reports from KLATT to "agent CIBBY".

3. There has clearly been some clash between KLATT and von WAHL, in which KLATT seems to have prevailed. HANS congratulated KLATT on his success, and von WAHL now requests K.O. Bulgaria to facilitate certain transactions for KLATT.

4. The old feud between Dr. DELIUS (head of K.O. Bulgaria) and KLATT seems to have flared up again. DELIUS, at the request of von WAHL, has had the Luftmeldekopf's Wehrmacht telephone connections suspended. When KLATT's W/T operator HANS STURM (Junior) was apprehended for smuggling currency and furs across the Turkish frontier, he was kept in detention by K.O. Bulgaria until Berlin decided his destiny. K.O. Bulgaria was at pains to suggest that STURM was also improperly avoiding military service. STURM boldly referred to his connection with the Puchrer's H.Q., through which he would be released in 24 hours.

The White Russian Spanish Press Attache "WELIKOTNY", who had been a regular source of reports from Turkey for the Luftmeldekopf, was, by order of K.O. Bulgaria, to be carefully "frisked" on his entry into Bulgaria. K.O. Bulgaria is also empowered to control the issue of visas and passes to all members of KLATT's organization.

It is also likely but not certain that Dr. Delius is the "D" who has been an instigator of certain criminal proceedings taken by the Bulgarian Government with German backing against an underworld collaborator of KLATT named "BRUMMICH". Financial irregularities of some sort were alleged but there are clear signs that

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other underground activities were also suspected. One B. Di of KLATT's circle (identity unknown) was also interrogated and later proceeded against, and HANS himself had to answer searching questions about certain secret contacts and information which he had enjoyed. He pressed KLATT to instruct him what answers he should give. BAUMBUCH is now in Budapest. BACH was cleared of the Bulgarian charges, but certain German charges were at a recent date still undecided.

KLATT has changed his cover-name to "KARMANY", for some purposes. (For others he is styled "RICHARD", which is his genuine Christian name).

HANS warns KLATT that telephone conversations on the military lines are monitored by careful and unfriendly eensors. Even courier-consignments between Sofia and Budapest undergo such a merciless scrutiny that sealed cases of cigarettes are broken open by the inspectors. We do not know if KLATT, on his frequent visits to Sofia has to travel incognito.

KLATT's connection with the Bulgarian police chief PAWLOFF continues. PAWLOFF seems to have been implicated or nearly implicated in the BAUMBUCH inquisition. HANS warns KLATT that D (Y equals DELIUS) wished to take proceedings against PAWLOFF and KLATT. Last April D. DELIUS reported to Abwehr H.Q. "1) It has been ascertained beyond doubt that the Chief of the Bulgarian State Police PAWLOFF is informing KLATT of the Abwehr affairs of the K.O. 2) Months ago PAWLOFF was instructed by me at his own request that he should not confide to KLATT any more than was necessary within the bounds of KLATT's special tasks and of collaboration with Bulgarian police W/T. 3) What has come to light concerning the liaison between PAWLOFF and KLATT proves, however, that Stelle KLATT probably by heavy bribery ... PAWLOFF watched and ask that FLETT" (head of Abt. IIP 3) "should visit this end as in my view the case is very serious and renders comprehensible a number of cases of failure in collaboration with the Bulgarian police which up to now have been inexplicable." (2/13, 21.4.43)

5. One Domonik, described by GEORGE as "a typist and clerk who keeps the card-index" seems still to belong to the organization, though he is clearly suspected by KLATT and HANS not only of financial dishonesty but also of conversational indiscretion or treachery. Even HANS has recently had occasion to protest with some rhetoric his unswerving and eternal loyalty to KLATT. It is obvious that KLATT thinks that some of his secrets have become known to his enemies, though we can only conjecture who these enemies are.

6. IRA LANG or LANGEN, who has some connections with the Russian Legation, Sofia, is still in regular touch with HANS. He gets money from KLATT (1500 dollars a month) and has or is to have a flat found for him in Budapest. During the TURKUL crisis, (see

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below), both KLATT and LANG hastened off to Vienna and perhaps Rome to make sure that General Turkul should not betray his knowledge of the "MAX" organization to the Italians or the British. They seem to have got the General safely to Budapest. It is possible that LANG has gone or is going to Budapest for good.

7. It now transpires that the Luftmeldekopf has been housing and presumably employing two Russian prisoners of war, described as "interpreters". They are now being transferred with their bedding, etc., to Budapest. Von WALT had to enlist the services of K.O. Bulgaria to effect their emigration.

8. There seem for some time to have been close relations between the Luftmeldekopf (KLATT and HANS) and - a) Major HATZ, Hungarian Military Attache at Sofia, who has Hungarian I.S. connections, and b) perhaps Oberst MERKLY, a Hungarian at Budapest who also has I.S. activities. HATZ is prepared to convey material for KLATT across frontiers with diplomatic immunity and there has been talk of some W/T collaboration as well. HANS seems to secure motor-tyres for HATZ. But an attempt to get an entry-visa to Hungary for (?) HANS on official Hungarian endorsement was resisted by another Hungarian official IKONE, which suggests that there was a bad diplomatic smell about KLATT's manage.

KLATT's station "BULLY" now has a W/T service (2/5380) to a second station in or near Sofia, which is in quick telephonic communication with STROH. The operators call this the second station "HAT", which is likely to be an abbreviation of "HATZ".

The hypotheses that KLATT is now providing the Hungarian I.S. in Budapest with operational intelligence is tempting but unproved. We know that KLATT's mistress "IBI" was empowered to pass reports to one "ALTISCH", apparently in Budapest, but we know nothing of this recipient. (It is interesting to notice that she was at the same time forbidden to forward any reports to Vienna.)

NOTE: KLATT and IBI are both Hungarians. BAUMBUCH is probably another. CYCHOY is another, and is apparently working both for the Abwehr and for the Hungarian I.S. Two Hungarian operators in Turkey, KEMARAS and MOLNAR, were working with the knowledge of HATZ, both for the Hungarian I.S. and for the Abwehr.

9. KLATT and HANS seem to have good relations with the German Police Attache at the German Legation, Sofia. He is an S.D. functionary. There are other hints of some sort of dealings between the Luftmeldekopf and the S.D. and specifically Amt VI, but these hints do not reveal whether the dealings were formal or informal, friendly or hostile. It is conceivable that KLATT

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has both come into contact with the Abwehr. He discovered how to protect himself and his superiors against possible reprisals by establishing an understanding with the S.D. and so, he helps, with the Fuehrer's H.Q. (the support of which was anticipated by STURM); but the point is not yet decided. KLATT's independence of ordinary Abwehr control and discipline, which has always been remarkable, would be easier to explain if he has in fact enjoyed such high-level protection. On 5/11 HANS says that one HOFFMANN has arrived in SOFIA and was greatly interested in the last report. On 20/10 he had mentioned an Obersturmbannfuhrer (?) HOFFMANN in some connection with 'Attache Gruppenreichssicherheitshauptamt, Berlin'. On the same day he had reported that the Police Attache was away from Sofia at a conference in Berlin. A message on 13/17 of 10/5 mentions Police Attache HOFFMANN as concerned in some SOFIA transaction, though it does not definitely locate him at SOFIA.

The suggestion is therefore strong, but not conclusive, that KLATT's organization has put the S.D. via the Police Attache Sofia, on the distribution-list of anyhow some of its intelligence reports. The possible connection between the Police Attache, KLATT, PAWLOFF and the Bulgarian Police W/T is interesting.

On three occasions in 1942 there are references to contacts between Russian individuals in German hands (who worked or might work for the Luftmeldekopf) and one 'O2'. Some anxiety was expressed lest certain of these Russians might have divulged something about 'O2'. There is an S.D. officer at Sofia who signs as 'O2' (- 6502) who seems to be concerned with Bulgarian and German police matters. This may be a pure coincidence.

10. KLATT has a house or rooms in Boulevard Ferdinand, in Sofia. His Russian prisoners were unaccounted there. According to GYORGY, KLATT's offices were at 55, Boulevard SKOBELEFF. (A recent message refers to SKOBELEFF 55 and suggests that HANS and party are to move from this address presumably to the Boulevard Ferdinand).

11. So far as we can tell, the only W/T link directly controlled by HANS with an intelligence-source outside Bulgaria is the W/T service 7/62 (- 'ISLAM traffic') over which are sent now WIGO's (Willi GOETZ) and formerly DALISMO's reports from Turkey. This service also passes a few reports signed 'SCHIN' emanating from a new informant Professor ALEXCHIN (-probably Professor ALEXIS SCHEWTSCHIN who seems to have contacts with both the Abwehr and the S.D.) It seems to be intended that this link shall in future be switched to KLATT's station in Budapest. There are strong reasons for thinking that operational reports from Russia and the British Middle East ('MAX', 'MORITZ', and 'IBIS') are radioed to some other receiving stations in Sofia and not to 'STPOH' (formerly 'SCHWERT'). As Dr. DELIUS in his complaint of April 21, 1943 (see Para 4) clearly indicated his belief that KLATT's intelligence-service depended upon his known liaison with the

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Bulgarian Police W/T system. We can infer with moderate confidence (what we had previously conjectured) that the reception of MAX, MORITZ and IBIS signals is done by a Bulgarian Police W/T station in Sofia. The deciphering of them may be and the translation from Russian (of Max reports anyhow) has presumably been done in the Budapest Ferdinand).

If this is so, and if KLATT is, as appears likely, planning ultimately to sever his whole connection with Sofia, he will have to find a substitute for the Bulgarian Police W/T station to perform the same function in Budapest. Perhaps HATZ and HESKLY are making such arrangements. KLATT's interest in the arrival in Hungary from Turkey of a Hungarian W/T operator EDVACS would square with this. This operator has long been known to us. He worked in the Hungarian Legation at Ankara, transmitting for both the Hungarian I.S. and for FRIEDE's Abwehr reporting service.

12. At the end of July there was considerable alarm about the danger of a White Russian emigre TURKUL falling into the wrong hands in Italy, and so compromising the secret of 'MAX' reports.

Not only KLATT and LANG but also the head of Abwehr, I Luft Obstlt. KLEYENSTUBER, altered all their arrangements and hurried off to Vienna and Rome to extract TURKUL (sometimes referred to as 'TONI') from Italy. He was successfully got away to Budapest. General TURKUL, who has a long record of espionage activities in connection with the I.S. of various countries, seems to have worked with especial vehemence against the U.S.S.R.

We must presume that the 'MAX' intelligence-system was built up either by friends of TURKUL or at least with his cognisance and advice. In a message of 19/10/1947 (Service 2/38) Abwehr H.Q. (Air Intell. South) forwards to Salonika a batch of operational reports under the heading 'Source BULLY' (Luftmeldekopf Suedost TONI - formerly MAX). 'TONI' is likely to stand for 'TURKUL'. On 26.11.43 messages (on 2/5265) show that IR BARD vetoed a suggestion that TONI's address should be divulged to SCHENTSCHIN.

13. Other persons, mentioned in 2/5265, who seem to be closely connected with the organisation are:-

KARL POPESCU (courier, known)
GERDA..... (female, unknown) perhaps in Vienna; can contact von WAHL or failing him Oberst (?) -Oberst Graf MAROGNA-REDWITZ, see below). Perhaps connected with SCHWENZ.

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SCHWENZFEIER or SCHWENZ, perhaps an organization and not an individual. Source of information useful to the LNK in its feuds.

Dr. HAASE .. (nothing to identify)

BACH..... (unidentified but apparently part of the Luftmelde-
kopf message with some inside knowledge. Had his
own house in Sofia from which STURM (?Junior)
transmitted.

ZEPPEL..... female, perhaps resident in or visitor to Turkey.
May have worked in PPAG. Backed by SCHWENZ. Has
a brother.

BRANNER..... unidentified. 'receives the key for us' and is
paid his house rent plus other monies. Could pass
reports to GERDA. Used to receive reports, but
grumbles at cessation of this.

WLANEMIR.... unidentified. Receives monthly salary of 20,000
leva per month.

'Oberst'? .. Oberst Graf MAROGNA REDWITZ, Leiter Ast Vienna, said
by GEORGY to be KLATT's direct boss. In one of
our explicit references to him, he was interesting
himself personally in certain enquiries about IRA
LAWO.

Obergefr. RIESS ..former W/T operator at SCHWERT.

SPIEGEL (may - Major SPIEGEL of Abt III, Ast Vienna): seems to give
useful tips to GERDA, who is in touch with KLATT
and HANS.

R.I.S.
GM/IR
30.11.43

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Symbols and identifications

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KARL - Major von KAELEN

Maj. v. Schoenebeck - Luft Atl. Sofia

Maj. I. G. Banes - Luftflotte IV, Nikolaiev.

Pavelko - boormina

Meritz reports began 23.5.42
- 24.6.43

Max reports began 21.142

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