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PERSONAL REPORT OF ADLN. RUFFERT

When I left the French lines on Thursday, November 3rd at 8 AM, I followed a small pathway and was shortly challenged by a German sentry hidden in a blockhouse.

- After showing my papers (Frauenpass), and giving the password of the SD VI, I was directed to the Company CP. From there I was escorted to the Battalion CP. Everywhere I was questioned by officers about life in Paris.

At the Battalion CP I was questioned by the Captain in charge, and he made me fill out a short questionnaire on my identity. Then he telephoned to the Divisional CP which was located at Gerardmer. From there, a car was sent with an officer to escort me.

While I was at the Company CP, the officer apologized to me for taking special precautions and searching my bags. But he explained that the night before two Frenchmen had crossed the lines along the same route carrying radio sets. They were shot immediately.

According to the person who guided me through the lines, I was assured that the route was perfectly safe. While travelling in the car which took me to Gerardmer, we followed a road through a valley where we were spotted by American batteries. Our car was hit, and we arrived at the Divisional CP with one officer wounded.

At the divisional CP high ranking officers fired a thousand questions at me concerning the location and movement of Allied troops. It was easy for me to reply, since the night before I visited a number of sectors with the Americans who authorized me to reveal certain items for this specific purpose. This information was not new for the Germans, since there was a fairly constant stream of civilians crossing the lines in both directions, but my reports were checked with the maps they had before them, and served to establish my bona fides as an employee of the SD.

During lunch many more questions were put to me about France and Paris. It is noteworthy that what interested them most was the effects of rising communism in France upon the Allies.

During the afternoon I was introduced to the General. Everything was prepared for my arrival, that is to say that this sector of the front was expecting the return of an SD agent from Paris on that day, but did not know his identity. The coincidence was very strange since they never discovered that I was not the one they expected.

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At 9 PM I was taken in a car to the Hq of the 39th Army at Gerswiller. I answered the usual set of questions for the fifth consecutive time, then I was escorted to Mulhouse where I arrived at 7 in the evening. There I boarded the first train (trains ran only at night) for Strassbourg where was located the first Office of the SD VI. I arrived at 9 PM and took a room at the Hotel Bristol, and spent the night. The following morning I went to the Police in search of the SD VI, in order to obtain the necessary papers to enable me to continue my journey to Berlin.

I found the office of the AST 1 V at 8, Otto Bockstrasse. They directed me to the Rupprechtlaerle where most of the houses were three quarters demolished. Finally I discovered the Bickler's office had been transferred to Baden Baden, but they gave me an address in town where I could obtain further information. There were only two employees of the SD left, but they telephoned at once to Baden Baden, and to Berlin. Once having announced myself as being in the service of the SD, I immediately added, that I was in the personal employ of M. Kedia, which was important since my name was not on any of the SD files.

Standartenfuhrer Bickler who represented the SD VI for the whole of Western Europe outside of Berlin, ordered me to report at once to Baden Baden. I was handed a Reisebescheinigung and proceeded to that town. I had been notified by phone that I would be met at the station by one civilian and one uniformed SD officer. I learned later that the civilian was M von Heyden. It was around midnight when I was led directly to the villa of Bickler where I had been expected all evening.

One must not be surprised at all the care and attention which surrounded me. I was in fact the first "SD Agent" who had returned from Paris since the liberation, and this at a time when the lines had been stable for about two months. Upon arrival I was given a meal, and once again questions rained on me from all sides. Bickler's personal adjutant and Dr. Rauche of Hamburg prepared a long report.

First of all I had to explain how I travelled from Paris as far as the German lines. My account was studied in detail as to dates, places, hours and means of transport. A room was taken for me at the Hotel Hirsch, and the following day Bickler was called back from Vienna especially to see me. In the meantime I had more opportunity for getting acquainted with M von Heyden, who himself put many questions to me about Paris. The reason was that he had left behind him when he quit Paris, his wife, Mme. Irene von Heyden, one of the directors of Schiaparelli, Place Vendome. He said he regretted not having known I was leaving for Paris since he had had many messages for her. Among other things he told me that if the opportunity should present itself again I would only have to go to her and say I came from him and that I had come to collect his fountain pen. This, he explained would establish the necessary confidence, and prove to his wife that I was also in the SD.

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-3-

Among other things von Heyden told me that he was in contact with BERIDZE who had left for Switzerland with the SD help, with a great deal of money.

I wish to note here, that BERIDZE is at present at Lausanne, Hotel Martigny. He has promoted a large petroleum deal, in which he is one of the greatest specialists. He is in contact with officers of the French military control, and also with the Swiss. Beridze was interned by the Germans during the occupation in France. KEDIA, knowing his capacities arranged for his release. He then got him a job with the economic dept. of the Abwehr in order to provide him with funds for the Caucasian committee as these did not want to get any allowances from the German government.

After a certain time, BERIDZE got in touch with the Gestapo and worked mainly for Doctor MAULERZ, chief of SD in the economic dept. From then on KEDIA could not have any control over him, not having any relations with the Gestapo. When BERIDZE was working for the Wehrmacht, KEDIA had always an indirect control over his incomes by some friends of his who worked in the same department, as for instance Dr. Wagner.

VON HEYDEN also gave me news of ODIGHARIAN's crew and told me that he still was in touch with BICKLER, as unfortunately was further evidenced later.

I spent three whole days at Baden Baden and might have had to stay longer but for my success in arranging a telephone conversation with Berlin. I discovered that my mother was sick and in the hospital, so I obtained leave to depart immediately.

I left for Berlin on the 6th of November and arrived after having changed trains 14 times. Rail communications were very disorganized. Upon arrival I went at once to my mother's house. She was not there.

On 7 November I informed Kedis of my arrival. He had already been notified by Bickler, who told him that I was bringing news of Kedis's family.

Not wishing to live at home in view of the kind of work I expected to do I took a room at 10 Eisenacherstrasse in the section of Nollendorfplatz. At 7 AM on Wednesday 8 November the Gestapo came to my address and arrested me. They had heard I had just returned from Paris and that I had brought mail with me. Naturally their greatest interest was to know what I was doing and what was contained in the letters. I was escorted to their offices at 17 Lutherstrasse where I was interrogated. It is noteworthy that up till now I had passed myself off elsewhere as an agent of the SD VI, knowing that Kedis would cover me with the service, which was of course very interested in my journey. The only paper I had was one certificate signed by Bickler authorizing me to travel to Berlin. Naturally not wishing to discuss my real mission I pretended that I was authorized to speak only upon the authority of my chief, and if they wanted further

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-4-

details they would have to refer to him. After several unsuccessful phone calls (it was still early morning) we climbed in a car and went to M. TSOMIA, 70 Nieburgstrasse, and asked him to accompany us to the SD office, since I did not know where this was located. We all went together therefore, to the WANSEE office, 43-45 Am Grossen Wannsee, the office of STURMBRÄUNFÜHRER MENDELHAUPT, STELLVERTRETER u. KOMMANDOFÜHRER of SD APT VI, Abt. 6, namely the section for Eastern Espionage.

The Gestapo representative had a personal interview with the Chief, after which he left immediately. The chief called me in with M. Tsomia and also summoned Dr. WAGNER of the same service, and two other people. Then I had to start recounting my story as I had already done so many times. I learned later that one of the two other persons was named LT. KLINGFORD.

When my story was finished MENDELHAUPT showed me three denunciations which had already been made against me in the two days I had been there, and warned me to be very careful and not to mention that I had been in Paris. He then asked me what had persuaded me to return. I answered that first of all my mother had remained in Berlin, and that since my brother had fought in the anti-bolshevik league and that I being stateless, I had been unable to find any work in Paris, and had had in fact difficulties with the French authorities. Furthermore, seeing the progressive advance of communism in the liberated countries, I knew that my duty was to take advantage of the opportunity of returning to Germany, the only country in which a man could fight effectively for his ideas.

Since I was acquainted with TSOMIA, assistant to KEDIA, both known for their fanatical anti-communism, my story did not raise any doubts in MENDELHAUPT'S mind. Furthermore I had exaggerated for the purpose of my story the spread of communism in France and particularly Paris.

A full report was made on my story, and my identity at the foot of which it was stated that KEDIA and TSOMIA held themselves as guarantees of my political ideas. I was then asked what I had the intention of doing now, and I replied that this kind of work interested me very much, and if they thought it possible to engage me in the service I would work with great pleasure in serving their cause which was also my own.

My request was accepted at once. It may seem strange that I was hired in this section which was concerned only with the East, in view of the fact that all the agents of this section were Russians recently taken prisoner or persons originating in the regions where they were being sent. But I was reserved for the western countries and particularly for espionage among Russian emigre groups in the West, and their relations with Soviet circles in Paris. That is to say, only political relations between these groups were my business; this was easy for me in view of my knowledge of all Russian circles in Paris.

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-5-

I was issued on the spot an identity card of the SD and a permit to carry arms and wear the uniform of the SD.

One important point had thus already been established. I had my hands free for my personal work, and my time was free. Furthermore I had assured my return journey, although I was not thinking of that at the moment. On the other hand, being employed in this service I was very closely watched, and would be noticed whatever happened. For two months I was followed continually. All day I would notice some one following me and taking note of my slightest movement. All my phone calls were recorded or monitored. In spite of my conduct which was absolutely normal during this period, denunciations against me were filed in all the offices.

These denunciations were made without any proof, but were based solely on the fact that during two years previously I had worked in the Swiss legation, and during that time I had not hesitated to air my opinions, or to spread the news I used to read in the Swiss newspapers. Furthermore, when I returned to Germany first in June 1944 I worked once more for foreigners, as a confidential man and interpreter. My political opinions were therefore known by all my friends and acquaintances who also knew that I had left for France in order to volunteer in the Army in the struggle against Germany. It was quite clear to them therefore that my return to Berlin was for some definite purpose which must have some connection with my political ideas.

The first message I sent back to the Americans was mailed by a friend of mine to the previously agreed address. The text contained the names of MICHEL and LYDIE, which indicated "Everything is alright, but cease all contact". It should be understood that the danger was in sending me someone else under such conditions.

I received several warnings from the SD for frequenting foreign workers circles. They told me this was too dangerous. That is why shortly after my first arrest I left my first lodgings which were too frequented by foreign workers, and moved to Pension Elton, 66 Kurfurstendam.

From the service in Berlin I received a monthly salary of 500 RM, plus a bonus of 5,000 RM which I received as payment for the information upon my life in France when I arrived in Berlin.

Before I could commence any kind of work, denunciations against me came in from all sides. First of all from ODICHARIAN, transmitted through BICKLEY, and addressed directly to my service. They were directed indirectly against me, KEDIA being the principal target. These denunciations reported that I served as a liaison agent between KEDIA and the Allies, since for him also it was highly improbable that I could have returned from Paris with the political ideas I had advertised previously. This denunciation produced an even closer supervision of my activities. It was hoped that I

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world commit some error which would betray me. Since I was employed by the SD, and was protected by several persons, they could not do a thing against me without some definite proof.

For the first two months therefore, I kept very quiet. Even the cards which I sent to the Americans were mailed by one of my friend's (ALPHONSE POTIER 31 Ave de la Bourdonnais, still in Germany). This man helped me a great deal on small matters, such as correspondence, watching my trailers, reporting rumors which were circulated in certain quarters against me. I had hidden him once when he escaped from his factory, and later I arranged for him to move around freely and to help me in my work. I had him hired in the service of the SD AMT III APT. B.

During the month of January a Frenchman by the name of JEANTET filed a denunciation against me with the SD in which he accused me of being in the pay of a foreign power. He hoped by this denunciation to enter himself into the service of the SD since he didn't wish to work any more. This denunciation fell into the hands of another Frenchman working in the SD in the general information section; STIRMUNG. Since he knew JEANTET he asked him to be put in touch with me since he wished to handle the case himself. The meeting took place in a small cafe "KLEINE SCALA". Knowing through mutual friends that this man worked at the SD, I was on my guard. I invited him to lunch, and after that I repeated the invitation frequently. I introduced him into the best and most expensive places in Berlin, places which he had never visited, not speaking German, and only having been in Berlin for two months. Our discussions covered all subjects, but turned naturally in the direction of Communism. I introduced him to a new kind of life, and at my own expense showed him a higher standard than he had ever known. I had already in advance prepared a complete alibi to explain the amount of money I was able to spend. In this connection I had already made connections with several black market operators in order to create the impression that I was in business relations with them. In the SD this was not considered at all reprehensible. Two or three weeks later when he needed a place to live I invited him to live with me, and share my rooms. His name was GATOUX. Our friendship grew as we got to know each other better, until the day when he expressed his fears to me about the advance of the Allies, at which time I took advantage of the situation to win him over to my side. This took some little time, however, and needed some delicacy, since I was not the only one involved. KEDIA and TSOHAIA were also implicated.

This man GATOUX worked for the SD AMT II b, the office of which was located at 22 Grenadierstrasse. This was the office of the Berlin chief, HAUPTSTRAFUEHRER SCHEMPP. GATOUX had a French secretary named ODILE SEILLER whom we suspected, knowing the habits of the SD for mutual espionage. GATOUX helped me a great deal, for each time I visited people with whom I was in contact, GATOUX would previously file a report on them saying that I was about to investigate whether they were in touch

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-7-

with the Allies. These reports covered me in the event of a denunciation on the part of any of the people I was contacting for information.

I also introduced him to a certain Mr. SCHUCKERT a former agent of the SD ABT VI who worked for a long time in France and who was on intimate terms with SCHMANN, deputy to the Fuhrer in the Chancery, also with Herr FISCHER chief of the UK STELLUNG, and reserve Wehrmacht officer, also with several persons of the POLIZEI PRASIDIUM for example KRIMINAL KOMMISSAR GRANOWSKI, and several others with whom I had come into contact through SCHUCKERT. And also several agents such as Capt. KRAUSE of the SD ABT IV. This had been a strange meeting incidentally since this Capt. KRAUSE, 116 Kurfurstendam, working for the counter espionage service had arrested me several weeks earlier in the company of a certain HENRI LASOURET civilian sports delegate at the SOCHAUX plant. This man worked in a Communist resistance group directed by a group of arms officers who delivered arms to them. This cell contained two groups, one French, the other German. These groups had been organized for over a year, and were under the orders of the Seidlitz committee in Moscow. They operated mostly on propoganda and sabotage missions in the Neukocin and Reinichen-dorf districts during fires caused by bombing raids. They utilized incendiary packages dropped by the Allies in order to spread the fires. At the same time they prepared for the taking over of Berlin as the Allies approached. A French girl who served as liaison agent between the French group and the chiefs was arrested, but she was soon released for the good reason that she was the mistress of one of the SS officers. The case did not go any further as far as I was concerned, since my service obtained my release, but the Gestapo confiscated from me 2,500 RM and a quantity of gold worth 5,000 RM declaring that an honest citizen did not carry more than 500 RM on him. Any surplus should be placed in the bank. This money was never returned to me in spite of all the claims of my service. For explanation to them I said that the money was proceeds of black market operations, and furnished them with all the alibis necessary.

I also made the acquaintance of Mrs. MARIA FRANKENSTEIN, 5 Kronprinzendam, a close friend of Mrs. GOERIG. She moved in the highest circles in Berlin, and was on very close terms with highly placed persons in HITLER'S headquarters. This Mrs. FRANKENSTEIN was very Anglophile and hated the Nazis.

I also got to know Mrs. HEDELRAUT BJEIICK who one year previously had been released from the Oranienburg concentration camp, and who was in close touch with a large number of industrialists and persons in the TODT organization. From the month of March onwards I attached these two women to my network, and we developed a close friendship. It was through them that I uncovered the case of the German industrialist STEINER of the Democratic party. (A report on this has already been given).

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-8-

Herr BRENDLE chief of the Transport Section, with whom I was in continual contact, organized the evacuation of the principal members of the party, who were nearly all deserters, as was STEINER himself. I have already explained what difficulties I found myself in when the KRIMINAL STREIFFE came to arrest him at the house of Mme. FRANKENBERGER where we were having a rendezvous with Mr. DJIEICK. He didn't allow himself to be taken away, and fought off two policemen until they succeeded in killing him. Then they at once searched his body and found a Swiss passport in good order, a thousand million florins, also a bunch of military papers and permits to carry arms, all in order. All these papers had been furnished to him by the mistress of the representative of the Rumanian Railroads in Germany who was working in Berlin at the General HQ. This passport together with many others had been delivered by Mme. MOSERCK 21 Kaitatrasse. These people were also able to provide Spanish papers. All the members of this group were supposed to report to the Stuttgart region, transported by BRENDLE. Two villas belonging to Mr. BALLY the show manufacturer were at their disposal. There were about thirty of them in all, with the exception of the two ladies Mme. FRANKENBERGER and Mme. DJIEICK, none of the others knew exactly what I was doing.

In this same group, there was also a German chemist who had been hidden by a Russian doctor in a Berlin hospital. This doctor had been sought for over six months for a special formula which he had discovered. At the moment when he was supposed to deliver the formula he had suddenly disappeared. He was in relations with the Swiss who were very much interested in him, and even more so in his formula. They had promised him free entry into Switzerland together with 19 other persons.

A few hours before the death of M. STEINER I had been with my mother at the house of Mme. FRANKENBERGER in order to introduce her to M. BRENDLE and arrange for her to be evacuated from Berlin with the rest of the group. This interview occurred at 3 PM, and everything was arranged for two days later. I had persuaded my mother to accompany this group since I did not want to lose sight of this chemist. If everything had worked out as I had arranged it my mother would have been able to put the chemist in touch with the right parties. The killing of STEINER wrecked the whole plan, and I was obliged to send my mother to Salzburg and thence to Milan immediately since the situation had become very serious. The KRIMINAL-STREIFFE and the Gestapo were on the tracks of the affair.

At my suggestion Mme DJIEICK entered into intimate relations with the lieutenant who had been present at the arrest, and thus for two weeks it was possible for us to follow the developments of the enquiry. The death of STEINER had greatly simplified the affair. If he had been arrested and taken alive, a great many people would have been implicated. He knew this, and that is why he conducted himself with such courage.

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-9-

The month of April was very hard, both on account of military developments and on account of the SCHUCKERT affair which had already caused my arrest on two occasions by the STADTANAL POLIZEI.

The reason was my automobile which SCHUCKERT had requisitioned for me in his own name, and which I had hidden in the suburbs of Berlin, at the house of the assistant to PROF. MENDE, Director of the OST MINISTERIUM. As the Russians were approaching Berlin, I wanted to have the means of transportation available for my departure.

Twice during the previous two months the SD VI had arranged everything for my departure. I had been very anxious to return as soon as possible for ever since January KEDIA had been on the point of receiving his laissez passer for Switzerland. Consequently he used what influence he had with the SD VI in order to obtain clearance for me. The new chief of the SDVI was RAPPE who was very suspicious of me, and only knowing KEDIA SLIGHTLY he had much less confidence in him than HENGLHAUPT had. When VON MENDE, Director of the OST MINISTERIUM supported these demands they finally decided to send me to Paris on a mission for KEDIA in March, but two weeks later the project was refused by the Gestapo at the insistence of DR. WOLF who was in charge of special surveillance of the Georgian group of the SD VI b. It was impossible therefore to arrange for my departure through the SD. I had to look for other channels. These were finally found through VON MENDE who had good relations with the ABWEHR.

After an interview therefore, it was arranged that I should leave through ABWEHR channels. Nevertheless I could not leave until the Caucasian Committees and the OST MINISTERIUM were evacuated from Berlin, since it was planned that they should move to Bad Elster, and without the assistance of VON MENDE and KEDIA I would not have obtained any facilities. My orders finally came through on the 8th of April in three cars with gasoline which I had succeeded in obtaining. We left in the direction of Scheiz where the OST MINISTERIUM had moved. On the following day we reached Bad Elster and after the discussions were held and the papers prepared I spent the night alone at the ABWEHR house "Laudhaus Gasthof".

I had travel orders and a personal letter to the POLIZEI PRASIDENT of Erfurt where I intended to cross the lines knowing that the 3rd Army was in that sector. I also carried military identity papers. On the same day the ABWEHR was evacuated to the south.

Partly on foot, and partly hitch-hiking I arrived at Plauen where with much difficulty and after 5 changes I succeeded in continuing to Gera. Then I made my way to Jena. On the way I met up with a group of officers who were returning to the front, and during the twenty four hours I did not leave them, feeling more secure in their company than alone in a bottle zone which was very closely controlled.

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-10-

For whereas my papers were in order, a simple phone call to SD section in Berlin would have blown me completely. Therefore I had to remain very inconspicuous.

Arriving in Jena on the morning of the 11th of April, I left my group of officers, and walked towards the Autobahn which led to Weimar, since no trains were running in that direction. I stopped a truck and got a ride to Weimar. The road was very difficult and we were continually attacked by Allied planes. I arrived at Weimar around midday but from there there was no means of transport in the direction of Erfurt since the road was constantly strafed by American planes. I therefore left on foot. I was continually stopped for verification of my papers, since my civilian status aroused suspicion, particularly since I was wearing military boots and breeches, and I was taken for a deserter. Nevertheless I had expressly kept these quasi military clothes in order to support my military papers, and this was understood by the authorities. When I arrived at Erfurt, still on foot, I had no intention of presenting myself to the chief of police. I made enquiries and found that the Americans were encircling the town on all sides. My position was difficult since I was supposed to report on arrival to the authorities and had no desire to stay in this spot for any length of time, under artillery fire from both sides. I therefore left the town and crossed the fields in the direction of Nordpaur and escaped from the trap which was closing around the town. For four hours I tramped the fields which developed into a battle ground for the small village of Karsleben. By nightfall the Americans mastered the village and continued on their way towards Weimar. Taking advantage of darkness I entered Karsleben and took refuge in a building containing French prisoners. I changed my clothes for english riding breeches. On the following day, not being able to make myself understood to an American officer I bought a bicycle and started off in a northerly direction further to the rear of the American lines.

30 Km farther on, recognizing the insignia of the 3rd Army I arrived at the CP by following the markers. I showed my German papers and explained my case. I was taken to a CIC office in a neighboring village, but unfortunately this was unoccupied. Not knowing what to do, with me, they handed me over to the Commander of the village, ~~but~~ a captain who interrogated me and then ordered me into a convoy of prisoners which was just taking off towards Gotha.

I was put in a screening camp mixed up with SS troops and soldiers of all descriptions. Around midnight 15 trucks came along and took away the whole bunch. My only privilege was to be put in a truckfull of officers, standing up, and so tightly packed that it was impossible to fall. We rode in the pouring rain until 5 in the morning.

We arrived at Kirchheim near Eisenach and were placed in a camp where there were more than 5000 prisoners. We had nothing to eat and there was two centimeters of water under foot. I was close to the gate. I had had nothing to eat for two days, not wanting to delay matters for a moment. After a dozen complaints and representations an officer came up to me and took me to his office, where once again I was interrogated. This was the fourth time in two days. The following day I left escorted in a car for Frankfurt. The day after that 15th of April, the same officer came to fetch me and we returned to Gotha, passing through Hersfeld to pick up the necessary papers for our journey. After much discussion we took off by plane for Reims, but the plane continued towards Malun. There a car took us to Paris, where I finally arrived one week after leaving Berlin.

C. J.