

CD-00667

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41 (33)

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

To RID/AN:

Please enter the following statement as the subject on the abstract:

"Counterintelligence
Analysis of the book G. P. U.
JUSTICE by Maurice
EDELMAN."

8-10
Pls. index Klaus -
see para 1. Criteria met,
obviously.
OK
Index. Please note
subject

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TRACE REQUEST	ABSTRACT INDEX	FILE NUMBER (PRIMARY CODE)	100-8113742 23 IN 87
DATE MICROFILMED	DOCUMENT DATE	DOCUMENT NUMBER	
	19 March 1965	CD 00667	

FORM 870a USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

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CD-667
19 March 1965

G. P. U. JUSTICE

by Maurice EDELMAN

In the preface, author Maurice EDELMAN explains that the narrative was written from the notes of Peter KLEIST, a German engineer who was accused of espionage and held in prison by the G. P. U. for examination. He considers KLEIST's narrative an important testimony in judging the G. P. U., "even for those who without wishing to surrender their prejudices, may yet wish to correct their misconceptions."

From the narrative, written in the first person, it appears that Peter KLEIST was a German engineer who worked in the Soviet Union from 1933 to 1937, during which period he came to admire greatly the heroic Russian people and their noble effort. Just prior to his scheduled departure, on 25 January 1937, he met a German, to whom he gave his saved-up rubles in exchange for a personal cheque drawn on a German bank. Arrested by the G. P. U., he was asked to explain this transaction, and also why he had in his possession information about the Soviet plant in which he had worked. He learned to his consternation that the cheque he had received was signed by a known German spy. His interrogation covered the period of some three months, and finally, on 25 April (presumably 1937), he was acquitted, released from prison, and deported to Germany via Poland.

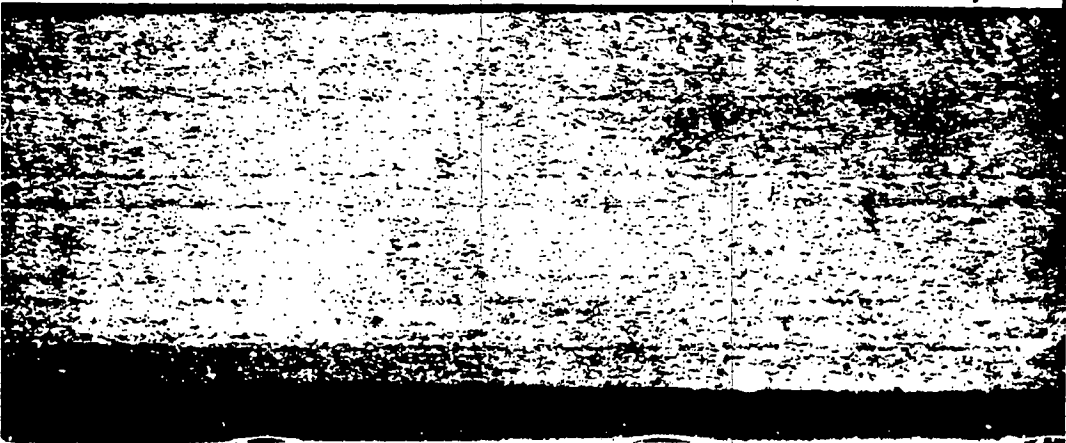
During his three months in prison, he was treated with polite consideration, as were the other prisoners. He learned that the G. P. U. was strict but fair, dedicated to truth, justice and defense of the motherland. It was painstaking in its efforts to obtain bed-rock evidence; anything less was discarded. KLEIST was of the firm opinion that "a state threatened for so many years by the secret plotting of counter-revolution, and today riddled with spies" has need of such a defensive organization.

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In his white-washing of the G. P. U., the author at times characterizes the conduct of the prison guards as almost benign (e.g., "Occasionally the guard on duty would snap back the guichet door and whisper 'Sh-sh' if we were too noisy.") He also appears to have been touched by the impeccable integrity of some G. P. U. officials. For example, before his release he had a talk with the Governor of the G. P. U. prison in Minsk, who was characterized as follows: "His humane sensitive face was like that of my old headmaster who mingled a love of liberalism and a hero-worship of Garibaldi with periodical canings of his more turbulent pupils."

In an appendix, KLEIST defends STALIN in his purging the country of the opposition (i.e., Bolsheviki, Mensheviki and Social Revolutionaries). Why did these men confess so abjectly at the Moscow trials? The answer is simple: "Because they were guilty". He assumes, in passing, that Generals TUKHACHEVSKIY and PUTNA (and presumably thousands of other military officers) were equally guilty. In his opinion, the movement of world events will "prove that the G. P. U. did not and does not chase shadows in its watchfulness...." And the author ends on this note: "Fascist conspiracy in conjunction with Trotskyist conspiracy does exist and its extirpation, so far from endangering the USSR, marks another peril avoided."

If KLEIST agreed to write this kind of yarn as the price for his release, he more than lived up to his side of the bargain. Therein lies the main defect of his narrative; in picturing G. P. U. justice as unblemished and beyond reproach he places a heavy strain on the reader's credulity.

On the flyleaf of the book under review appears the following: "of similar interest -- 'The Russian Worker's Own Story' by Boris SILVER (presumably by the same publishers)."

In the bibliography of CD-649, Peter KLEIST is mentioned as the author of "Entre Hitler Et Stalin", in which he refers to the forged documents used against TUKHACHEVSKIY. His knowledge of this affair could only have been from hearsay, since he was still in the G. P. U. prison at the time the documents were fabricated and sold. (The date and publishers of this book are not specified.)

The book has produced two names of counterintelligence interest (i.e., EDELMAN and KLEIST).

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The analysts extracted sufficient counterintelligence data for
11 RIS machine input forms in the course of their analysis.

The captured German documents were checked with negative
results.

Orig & 1 - Project File

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