

L-013-711

Handwritten notes:
7/17/45
10/17/45

Doc. VON MENDE

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
G-2 STRATEGIC SERVICES SECTION
ABG 758 U S ARMY

Handwritten: Director of Intelligence

17 July, 1945

SUBJECT : Georgian Group.
TO : Lt. Col. Ides Van der Graacht,

1. In accordance with our conversations prior to my departure from Wiesbaden, I visited Hoechst on the second day after my arrival, after having obtained Travel Orders from the French Liaison Section here, to visit Hoechst on personal business.
2. There was no trace of the Georgians in the Red Cross camp, nor were they registered with the Burgermeister. After a four hour search with the local officer of the Securite militaire, I finally found them in a farm house, where they have been living as "free men" for the last two months.
3. I told them that I had received instructions to take them with me, since 12th AG was interested in interrogating them. They told me that they had been in touch with Kedia, Mr. Watjen et.al. and that they had helped an agent of Lt. Jolis, who worked with a certain Mr. Dulles. They furthermore told me that they were waiting to be picked up by Lt. Jolis. I told them that I did not know who wanted to talk to them, but that I knew Lt. Jolis and that they could orientate themselves after being interrogated in 12th AG.
4. It was important that I should take them with me on a personal basis, since they had permission to stay in Hoechst, and since I could not possibly legally take anyone out of the French Zone. I talked to the Securite Militaire fellow, told them that they were friends of friends, etc. and gave him five gallons of gasoline and received the necessary papers to take them out of the French Zone.
5. I am holding them here in our EM quarters, where they have three rooms on the top floor, I told them that they will have to be patient for one week. They have tried to get me into several conversations on "Georgian Intelligence chains", to which I pretended that I did not know what they were talking about. I did however tell them, that I could not see how the U. S. Army was going to take part on such a partisan intelligence chain since Russia was our ally.
6. The following are the four men I picked up:
Dr. Givi Gabliani, Alexander Zomaja,
Michael Aichibaja, Georg Metrivelli (Mende)
all of whom except Mende are Georgians.

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

FOR COORDINATION WITH US Army

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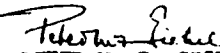
7. The remainder of the personnel of the NCO is still in Switzerland, that is:

Michael Kedia, Djamalien, Alibegow, Kantemir,
I am told by the Georgians that it is possible that the Swiss will refuse to give this group an extension of their ~~Swiss~~ visa, which would force them to come out. I suggest that we keep close touch with the group in Switzerland, so we can get them too.

8. I am sure that in spite of everything, the group knows that it is OSS who is interested in them. They are very clever, highly cultured, and I again repeat what I said to Tepper, that we would probably get better results with them, by taking them to our own establishment. They are only too willing to talk, and too willing to work. I am convinced that we can not use their contacts in the near east without the group operating same.

9. If you would like me to get start interrogating them, such as getting biographical details etc. please advise. It might facilitate your work up there, if I compile an interrogation brief, so you can get familiar with the territory. They all speak Russian, three speak German, the other one French. Mende has a fair knowledge of English.

10. Request that you advise me when you will pick them up.


PETER M. F. SIEGEL
1st Lieut AUB

Copy - Lt. Tepper ✓