

UNCLASSIFIED INTERNAL USE ONLY CONFIDENTIAL SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

CI/R+RA/E

EXTENSION

NO.

XAE-33

DATE

23 Nov 71

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

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OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

RIT/AN

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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CI/REA

XAE-33

18 November 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Heinrich MUELLER, last Chief of the Gestapo, Viktor ABAKUMOV, et al.

Response to IR No.: 391

1. The first time I heard about Heinrich MUELLER (I do not remember the first name) was in the summer of 1952 while working in the Austro-German Department of the FCD MGB when I was responsible for carrying out counterintelligence work against the Gehlen organization and for the "Subversive" groups in West Berlin and in West Germany. I remember that I read a few excerpts of the debriefing and interrogation of MUELLER. At that time in 1952 he was held in Vladimir MGB Prison. At that prison there was a special wing where most of the Nazi Germany Gestapo and Intelligence officers were kept. Among others there were Hans PICKENBROK, Col., SCHILDKNECHT (I believe he was a General), MUELLER, etc. Most of those people first were sentenced by a Soviet Military Tribunal to death and then because of their value to Soviet Intelligence their sentences were commuted to 25 years in prison. All of those people as officials of the Gestapo and German Intelligence were sentenced for war crimes.

2. I do not know if any time before 1952 MUELLER was in some sort of protective custody. As far as I remember MUELLER and others from 1945-1946 were interrogated by SMERSH. When ABAKUMOV became the MGB Minister in 1946 they were fully debriefed by a German Department of the Second Chief Directorate of the MGB. They had big files on all those people. (NOTE: Because there was no German Embassy in Moscow the German Department of the SCD originally started the work against Gehlen Organization circa 1947. In the fall of 1951 the German Department of SCD was dissolved and about 15 officers came to the Austro-German Department of the FCD (and another 15-20 were sent to Germany) with their files which were connected with West Germany and West Berlin.) As far as I remember, at one time or another MUELLER was debriefed by Col. BULDA, by Captain Georgy LITOVKIN and I believe by MALIVAYKO, and at one time my employee Valentina ORLIK went to Vladimir as interpreter (I do not remember with whom) when MUELLER and PICKENBROK were additionally debriefed. At this time the debriefing was concerned personally about GEHLEN and his officers for their possible approach and recruitment. I'm sorry to say that I do not remember now any specific information given by MUELLER.

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3. It is my belief that there was no plan at that time to try MUELLER for War Crimes because he was already sentenced earlier for 25 years. My connection with Gehlen and other West German organizations ceased in March 1953 when I was transferred to another job.

4. d. For sure I remember the name SCHOLZ but I do not remember in what connection.

INSIDE BUREAU
e. Viktor S. ABAKUMOV's secretary (and he was in some way investigator) was Lt. Col. BROVERMAN. He was a Russian Jew who knew perfect German. He was ABAKUMOV's private secretary to whom sometimes we called Assistant. BROVERMAN was arrested together with ABAKUMOV in August 1951 and was shot (I do not remember when but definitely STALIN was still alive and before ABAKUMOV's execution in 1954) because he knew too much about STALIN, BERIYA and other Soviet high officials. NOTE: MUELLER's name appeared in Olga CHERNOV's file (West German actress) which was kept by BROVERMAN before his arrest. Please do not make mistakes between BROVERMAN and Col. CHERNOV. CHERNOV was Chief of MGB Secretariat and also was arrested together with ABAKUMOV and was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment. (I knew CHERNOV's wife personally and she used to work in SMERSH during WWII and after and she did work for MGB in 1951 but I do not remember in what field.) *Gray*

f. Definitely there was a Soviet agent with the name LEOPOLD but I do not remember whether it was a true name or a crypt.

WALTER LUEDER
g. It is quite possible that Walter LUEDER is identical with mentioned by me previously LEADER (LEDERER) who was a Soviet agent and one time was run by SIMONCHUK through or in Austria (please check with my previous reports) known to me as LEADER and was presumably was an Austrian or Swiss millionaire.

1. I read and heard the name HAGEN but I do not remember now in what connection.

5. I would never believe that if the Soviets had found MUELLER's body complete with documents and medals that they would have turned over the documents or the medals to the German Graves Registration people (Who cares?). If they had done this and I believe they did only to mislead the Western Allies showing that MUELLER is dead and in reality they would debrief MUELLER fully and would use him to their advantage.

6. I specifically do not know that Soviet intelligence made the world believe that MUELLER had been killed at the end of the war. I strongly believe the Soviets misled the West. Of course, it is possible that MUELLER killed himself later in Soviet jail (which is unbelievable) or it is more likely that he died later in Soviet hands.

7 and 8. I have no information on these two questions therefore do not want to speculate.

NOTE: In the period from 1945-1949 so many Soviet agents, even good agents, were shot or sentenced to long imprisonments because the defeat of Germany and the policy of the Soviet State Security at that time. Even if MUELLER defected to the Soviets at the end of WWII he would be sentenced for not less than 25 years imprisonment. If he was recruited only at the end of WWII it would not have saved him from imprisonment.

P.D.ERYABIN

TO: DERYABIN

10 November 1971

Subject: Heinrich MUELLER, last Chief of the Gestapo, Viktor ABAKUMOV, et. a.l.

1. What did you see and hear that provides the basis for your statement that MUELLER was held in VLADIMIR prison, 1945-1946?
2. Was he held as a prisoner or in protective custody?
3. Was there a plan to try MUELLER for war crimes? If so what?
4. Do you have any information about:
 - a. Jakob LOELGEN, born 17 March, 1897?
 - b. Johannes KASSNER aka KASUBOWSKI, born 5 October 1902?
 - c. Heinz PANNWITZ, born 28 July, 1911?
 - d. Christian SCHOLZ, born 2 September 1908, specialist in radio operations?
 - e. Viktor S. ABAKUMOV's (Jewish) secretary or interrogator?
 - f. Berlin police officer Friedrich LEOPOLD, born 29 April 1880?
 - g. Walter LUEDERS, born 20 September 1892?
 - h. Bernard LESCRINIER, born 21 January, 1901, a German newspaper man?
 - i. Wilhelm HOETTL aka Walter HAGEN, born 19 March, 1915?
 - j. General Hans RATTENHUBER, born 30 April 1897 (ran HITLER's body guard).
5. Do you think that, if the Soviet Service had found MUELLER's body complete with documents and medals, they would have turned over either the documents or the medals to the German graves registration people soon after the end of the war? Would they ever have done this? Why?
6. Did you ever hear anything about a Soviet operation to make the world believe MUELLER had been killed at the end of the war? Escaped to the West? Killed himself? Was held by the Soviets when he was not?
7. Have you any reason to believe MUELLER defected to the Soviets?
8. Have you any reason to believe the Soviets had recruited MUELLER as an agent before the end of the war?

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