

OFFICIAL DISPATCH

VIA AIR
(Specify Air or Sea Pouch)

DISPATCH NO. EGLW-145

CLASSIFICATION

SEP 3 1953

TO Chief of Mission, Frankfurt
Attn: Chief of Base, Pullach

FROM Chief, EE

SUBJECT { GENERAL Operational
SPECIFIC Erich OLBRUECK

1. The U. S. Army Attache in Cairo reports, in a dispatch no. 5-2-53 dated 30 July 1953, that Col. Kurt FERCHL and Maj. Gerhard Georg MERTINS, German military advisors in Egypt, have informed him that they are working for an alleged U. S. intelligence agent. It seems that on 24 July 1953, MERTINS claimed that they had been approached by Thomas G. MAPPLEBECK, British businessman in Egypt. Four days later on 28 July 1953, MERTINS and FERCHL changed their story claiming that they are actually working under the direction of Erich OLBRUECK who has asked them to probe into the activities of the Grand Mufti and to gather information through MERTINS' connection with the Egyptian Air Force.

2. FERCHL and MERTINS described OLBRUECK as an able "intelligence agent well known for his smooth operation". They claim that he has produced documents to prove that he is in the employ of the Bonn Government and the American "S-2" and have asked the U. S. Army Attache to verify OLBRUECK's U. S. connections.

3. Accordingly, the U. S. Attache checked with KUBARK in Cairo and, we have noted, included their traces, i.e. the substance of para 4 of EGLA-1893, in the text of his report plus a statement suggesting the possibility that OLBRUECK may be working for German Intelligence.

4. For your information only, a KUBARK officer advises that MAPPLEBECK, at a social gathering on 2 August 1953, gave the impression that he is working for British Naval Intelligence.

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1-RI
2-EE/FIG/Z

27 Aug 53

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(Coordinating officer)
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