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Manfred ROEDER

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SUBJECT

EQUAL - German Branch

NOTE:

On 17 October 1942 GOERING ordered Source, at the time chief justice in Air Corps matters in Luftgau (Luftwaffe area) III (Berlin) with the rank of colonel, to prepare the prosecution against the German branch of EQUAL. The decision to use Source for this purpose was made by Generalstabsrichter von HAMMER-STEIN, chief of the Luftwaffe judicial system. As the nature of the EQUAL case called for a trial before the Reichskriegsgericht (highest Army tribunal) rather than a Luftwaffe

court, Source was attached to the Reichskriegsanwaltschaft (army tribunal prosecution) for the duration of the trial. After completing the prosecution of EQUAL's German branch and sitting as judge at two trials of members of the Belgian and French branches, fource reverted to his position in Luftgau

III on 28 March 1943.

If the information furnished by Source is less illuminating than might be expected of a chief prosecutor, it should be noted that the prosecution aimed at convictions rather than clarification of Russian Intelligence, Furthermore, both the Abwehr and the Gestapo kept secret all EQUAL information not absolutely necessary for the trial, and the Reichskriegs-

gericht trial did not concern itself with any parachutists, beyond an occasional mention. (This phase of EQUAL activity was entirely in the hands of the Staatsanwalbschaft (public prosecution) in Hamburg.) Consequently, Source remembers very little about the parachute agents besides names. However, the information in this report is considered as accurate and complete as Source is able to furnish on the subjects covered. Although during his debriefing, he frequently showed concern over the success of his prosecution (there were about 40 death sentences in the German branch alone), it is not believed that this concern has colored his information.

The dentist Helmuth HIMPEL and his girlfriend Maria TERWIEL led a group which participated in SCHULZE-BOYSEN's Communist sloganpainting activity at the time of the "Soviet Paradise" exhibition in

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Berlin in the Summer of 1942. The group included:

- a. von BECK. Cato Bontjes. Woman; commercial artist. Condemned to death.
- b. BERKONITZ, Liana. Known Communist; probably REHM's girlfriend. Condemned to death.
- c. KRAUSS Dr Werner. Member of the OKW interpreter company; former professor of romance languages at the University of Marburg. Acquitted as being of unsound mind.
- d. GOLLNOW, Soldier: under 20 years of age. No relation to O/Lt Herbert GOLLNOW. Received a prison sentence.
- e. REHU. Goldier; had participated in discussions at SCHULZE-BOYSEN's house. Condemned to death.
- f. STRENLOW Soldier; under 20 years of age. Received a prison sentence.
- g. TIEL Soldier; probably not identical with Paul THIELSCHE. Condemned to death.
- h. A woman, name unknown. Daughter of the manager of a hotel near the Anhalter railroad station in Berlin. Condemned to death.

Field Comment: von BECK may be connected with Professor Bontjes von BEECK, described in MGB-1269 (BSC-642) as a survivor of EQUAL and instructor at the Berlin Art Academy. (Date of info December 1946.)

KRAUSS is probably identical with Professor Werner KRAUSS. Marburg, whose article "The Present Condition of our Language" appeared in the 28 February 1947 edition of the French Zone periodical Die Gegenwart. One Professor KRAUSE, pessibly identical with KRAUSS, is mentioned in MI 5's The Case of the Red Orchestra, Second Report, Appendix A, Pert I, Index #117.

- 2. Another German group, consisting of old Communists such as Emil HUEBNER, Klara SCHABBEL, GUDDORF, and Eva BUCH, operated, at least at first, without SCHULZE-BOYSEN's knowledge. These people were apparently intended to serve as contact points for parachutists, as letter boxes, and so forth. Fource did not know to what extent their mission was accomplished. The group also included the following:
 - HUEBNER, Max. Son of Emil HUEBNER. Condemned to death.
 The HUEBNER's had a long record in Communist activities,
 Emil having participated in the 1918-19 Spartacist uprisings. Source believes that he met Klara ECHABBEL during
 that period; she was then a secretary to one of the
 soldier-worker councils. At the beginning of the 1920's
 Emil HUEBNER withdrew from the CP and guided the efforts
 of Max and an unknown Russian who together had started
 a printing shop specializing in forgeries which were made

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available to the German CP.

- b. VERICIA. A friend of GUDDORF and had apparently hidden the latter on several occasions. He received a prison sentence, but as a soldier was merely assigned to a rehabilitation unit.
- c. WEISSENSTEINER. Apparently a liaison man between the MUKENER circle and the group around Countess von BROCK-DORF; he was condemned to death. He was a precision instrument mechanic; born in Pola/Trieste, he migrated to France during the depression of the late 1920's. In Paris he became an active member of a labor union; and according to Source met HOBINSON in Paris in the early '30's, In 1934 WEISSENSTEINER returned to Germany and eventually got a job at the Askaniawerke, Hamburg.
- d. WESSELOCK. Emil HUEBNER's son-in-law, condemned to death.
- e. WESSELOCK, Frieds. WESSELOCK's wife, condemned to death.
- that MEISSEN was the correct name but he was certain that it was not MEISSEN. MEISSEN, a director of Radio Opta (formerly Radio Löwe), furnished KUMMEROW with the plans of several Opta projects, among which was a blue print for the experimental "ikenoskopische" bomb, which apparently was to be attracted to its target through the application of some optic phenomena. MEISSEN was fully aware of KUMMEROW current and past activities, including his Deuxieme Bureau connection, which, according to Source, was severed in 1934. Both MEISSEN and KUMMEROW had had contact with Russian trade delegations as early as 1928. The two were compromised by a Gestapo trick. A Russian agent coming from Eweden had been caught, and after determining that his mission was to contact KUMMEROW and MEISSEN, Kriminalkommissar AMPLITZER of Amt IV successfully impersonated the agent and obtained several Radio Opta blueprints with the assistance of MEISSEN and KUMMEROW.
- 4. Bince 1933 SCHULZE-BOYSEN had maintained centact with a number of prominent German emigres in Switzerland. He and Dr Elfriede PAUL travelled to Ewitzerland in 1938 and there visited Wolfgang LANGHOFF of Free Germany. During that trip SCHULZE-BOYSEN elso talked to Ignazio SILONE, well-known Italian Socialist and author. Source knew nothing about any collaboration between these men. Elfriede PAUL received only a short prison term for her work in EQUAL,

Field Comment: Elfriede PAUL was living in Berlin as of December 1946 (see MGB-1269 (BSC-642).)

5. When relating the Warsaw activities of von SCHELIHA in 1937-39, Source connected Erna EIFLER with Rudolf HERNSTADT, stating that both returned to Moscow at the beginning of the war and that EIFLER later returned as HERNSTADT's agent to contact von SCHELIHA. EIFLER, for reasons unknown to Source, was the only parachutist to appear in the Reichskriegsgericht trial. She testified that she had been a Russian agent in Harbin from 1933 to 1937, where she had known

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HERNSTADT under the name of EHRENBURG, Before parachuting into Germany she had been trained on a small island near Moscow where Communists from all nations took jump courses.

> Field Comment: Source had considerable difficulty in distinguishing between Ilse STOEBE and Erna EIFLER, whom he called Hanna EIFFLER. Whether both STOEBE and EIFLER had actually been in Warsaw during the '30's, or whether this was only a slip of Source's memory, could not be determined.

- 6. O/Lt Herbert GOLLNOW's main job in the Abwehr was the selection of Russian PW's for the use of Major BAUM of Walli I, the headquarters for intelligence agents operating on the Eastern Front. Source did not know how successfully GOLLMOW redoubled these potential agents. GOLLNOW was condemned to death.
- 7. Dr Karl HELFRICH was not tried before the Reichskriegsgericht. and fource could not state whether he was ever tried. Fource believes that Ilse STOEBE was engaged to HELFRICH, and that she had made him sole heir in her will.
- 8. Johannes SIEG was a close friend of SCHULZE-BOYSEN and a coworker on the propaganda paper Agis. He had also been in close touch with Alexander ERDBERG. EIEG committed suicide shortly after the EQUAL roundup by jumping from the second floor window of the prison in which he was confined.
- 9. Gunther WEISENBORN also worked on Agis. Source thought it highly unlikely that WEISENBORN did not know about SCHULZE-BOYSEN's Russian connections, as all SCHULZE-BOYSEN's other close friends were initiated into the secret.
- 10. Among those condemned to death for their part in EQUAL were the following. Source felt certain that the sentences had been carried out.

 - BUCH, Eva COPPI, Hans COPPI, Hilda KRAUS, Anna b.
 - **6**.
 - đ.
 - KUCKHOFF, Wargarete (Adam KUCKHOFF's second wife and sister of his first wife). e.
 - f.
 - RITTWEISTER, Dr SCHOTTMUELLER, Oda -. **g**•
 - STOEBE, Ilse

Source was himself present at the executions of SCHULZE-BOYSEN, von SCHELIHA, SCHUMACHER, GRAUDENZ and HARNACK. These five were hanged in an annex to the Berlin Plotzensee jail on 22 December 1942.

