

Pfarrer Heinrich KEMMER @ V-Mann Sixtus - V.21.

NAME: KEMMER, Heinrich
PROFESSION: Catholic Priest
BORN: 27.3.1886 in GLIERACH, Kreis Erkelenz
ADDRESS: MARIENSTR. 10, Kreis Duren.
NATIONALITY: German
CODE NAME: V-Mann Sixtus (V.21)
PERSONAL DESCRIPTION: medium height, corpulent, dark hair, right arm stiffened from war injuries.
LENGTH OF ACTIVITY AS V-MANN: Since September 1941.
AREA OF ACTIVITY: Diocese of Aachen, more especially district of Duren.
SOURCE OF ACTIVITY: Church politics.
CHARACTER: Appear reliable, but not yet possible to form opinion.
POLICE CONVICTIONS: None
NAME OF OFFICIAL INFORMER FOR MAINTAINING CONTACT: Krim.Rat. SCHMITTNER,
Krim.-Schr. KEMME
AT WHAT STATION ALREADY DEPUTED: None
REMARKS: Has good contacts with Bishops and higher Church Dignitaries.

(Form filled in 17.10.41.)

Extracts from reports submitted to the Stapoelle Aachen by KEMMER covering the period from 7.11.41. to 23.11.45. (The contents of these reports were entered in KEMMER's personal file by Krim.Sekretär SCHNEIDER.)

- 7.11.41. V.21 reports on Diocesan Conference in Duren - 8.10.41.
Pfarrer LAMBERT of AACHEN complained that a great many laws had recently been made with the object of safe-guarding the interests of the community at the expense of the individual - this was wrong. When discussing the war, LAMBERT alleged that it was really only a camouflaged attempt to wipe out Christianity - Sundays had ceased to have any meaning, and "Das Volkische Ideal" was anti-Christian, He also attacked the Bishop of Munster's Pastoral Letter.
Pfarrer HONT of BIRKENMORF shared LAMBERT's opinions, and emphasised the absolute authority of Pope and Bishop.
- 7.11.41. V.21 reports on the existence of the GORRES-GESSELLSCHAFT.
Until 1933 the centre of the Gesellschaft was AACHEN; it then moved to FREIBURG/BREISGAU. The Society has not appeared in the diocese of Aachen, and nothing is known of its literature.
- 7.11.41. V.21 submits the Kirche liche Gesetzbuch (Preflate Dr Anton PERATHOER).
In its second revised and enlarged version.
- 21.11.41. V.21 submits copy of the Pastoral Letter issued by the Apostolic Administrator subject to the wholesale evacuation of children into the country for work on the land ('Kinderlandverschickung'). The letter was to be read in all Catholic churches on 23.11.41.
- 2.1.42. V.21 reports on the Diocesan Conference 10.11.41., when Christian Charity was the subject under discussion.
V.21 was present in his official capacity as Pfarrer KEMMER of WERENICE. The following points were raised;

- The activities of the various charity organizations had been severely curtailed, if not altogether suspended; a strict line must be drawn between Christian Charity and Public Assistance - the one comes from a generous loving heart, the other is merely a state organization., Dr. FIRENTEICH was the Speaker.
- 3.4.42. V.21 reports on the German Bishops' Pastoral letter concerning the position of the Catholic Church in Germany.
- This appears to have been of a very bitter nature, and to have caused a considerable stir. V.21 reports that many people had complained that this everlasting "agitation" was becoming offensive; some asked why the Bishops could not give them more comforting words, while others demanded "Is that what our son has died for?".
- 16.4.42. V.21 submits the Pastoral Letter issued by the Bishops of KÖLN and PADERBORN KIRCHENPROVINZEN. This dealt with the state of religion in Germany, and was read in various churches in the district of DUREN on 12.4.42
- 17.4.42. V.21 reports on Clerical Opinion on the Pastoral Letter.
- Anti-Nazi priests read it with satisfaction, glad of a chance to air seditious opinions. Other clerics, especially the younger ones, in many cases deleted the more extreme passages, or changed the context. In any case they only read it because compelled to, and in no way identified themselves with the contents. The feeling of insecurity and mistrust among the Bishops towards their clergy is clearly illustrated by their methods of delivering the letter. It was carried by couriers, mostly clerics on bicycles late on Saturday evening, and was in a sealed envelope. Formerly, when the Church still had full confidence in their priests, the Letter would have reached the parish priest on Thursday or Friday at the latest, if it was to be read on the following Sunday.
- 28.4.42. V.21 reports on the plans for Confirmation in 1942, which he only managed to obtain through very secret sources.
- 1.5.42. V.21 reports on the proposed Religious Week for Girls in Duren in June, in which the Diocesan 'Jugendseelsorger' - HÜSSEKIRCHEN of AACHEN will speak.
- 1.5.42. V.21 reports on the plans for Confirmation in 1942. Reports on forthcoming 'Bekenntnistag' (Confessional Day) for Catholic Youth, which is to take place in the Parish Church of St. Marien, Duren.
- 20.5.42. V.21 gives notification of "Peterspfennig" Collection on 28.6.42. The money is sent to the 'Bistumsskasse', but it is not known what the Bishops do with it.
- 22.6.42. V.21 submits 'Apostolic Words for Our Time', pointing out that Page 133/34 is in his opinion, directed against Party and State.
- 22.6.42. V.21 reports on Confirmation Tour by Apostolic Administrator Titular-Bishop STRATE.
- Gives extract from the final conference at the close of Confirmation in the Diocese of Duren. KREMER himself gave a long address on the position of the parish-priest as 'Spiritual Centre', and others spoke of the duties of 'the mobile church', and the importance of religious instruction for children. No Controversial issues appear to have been raised, and the meeting went smoothly.
- 22.6.42. V.21 reports on the 'Una Sancta Movement'
- According to the Church Declaration of 1927, the Vicar-General, KÖLN forbade any priest or layman to be connected with the High Church Ecumenical Council (Movement for re-union of all Christian Churches), or to receive its literature. This ban is still valid.

- 22.6.42. Procedure for Re-Entry into the Church.
V.21 gives information on a paragraph in the 'Kirchlichen Anzeiger' of 1935, in which it is stated that persons who have renounced the Roman Catholic Church, and now see the error of their ways, may be accepted back into it, after due repentance, and a renewed avowal of Faith.
- 22.6.42. V.21 reports on a series of lectures for young girls and spinsters, to be held in DUREN.
- 7.7.42. V.21 submits the official Diocesan circular on the 'Wandernde Kirche'.
- 7.7.42. V.21 submits brochure on Diocesan Conference 1938 - for information.
- 7.7.42. V.21 submits copy of instructions issued by the Episcopal Vicariat-General on the subject of 'Minderlandverschickung'.
- 7.7.42. V.21 submits a circular on the D.G.V. referring to Confessional matters.
- 20.7.42. V.21 reports on Pope's address - 13.5.42.
Nothing is known of its distribution in the Diocese of Aachen. On 17.5.42, the Pope directed an address to young women, and copies of this have been submitted to the 'Dekanatsjugendseelsorgarn' - V.21 will try and obtain copies of this.
- 20.7.42. V.21 submits a circular concerning the Recruitment of Lay-Sisters for General 'Mutternseelsorge'.
- 24.7.42. V.21 submits confidentially a circular - 'Jugendseelsorgeamtes in the Archibishopric of KÖLN.'
- 27.7.42. V.21 comments on the popularity of the periodical issued by the Vatican - 'The Holy Childhood'. This retains its widespread popularity, in spite of restricted publication owing to the paper shortage. There are very few parishes without copies, and the whole Catholic 'Child-World' reads it.
- 6.8.42. V.21 submits confidentially a circular issued by the 'Freie Vereinigung für Seelsorgerhilfe' - 15.4.42.
- 27.8.42. V.21 submits confidentially a reflex-copy of the Pope's address to young girls on 17.5.42.
- 2.9.42. V.21 reports on the Society for the publication of Corpus Catholicon CC in BONN.
This society is very active, and has been issuing numerous pamphlets to the clergy, in an endeavour to recruit them into the Society.
- 16.9.42. V.21 submits copy of propaganda pamphlet confidentially.
V.21 reports on the Pastoral Letter of 13.9.42. This appears to have been of a more moderate nature than usual, with none of the customary partially-veiled, or quite open attacks on Party and State. Some of the clerical 'Opposition Party' were disappointed at its lack of punch.
- 28.9.42. V.21 submits very confidentially a copy of the circular issued by the Episcopal Vicariat-General, dealing with the subject of religious instruction in the newly instituted Hauptschule.

- 28.9.42. Collection of Metal Fittings from Churches - According to V.21
Dean FROLI^S of AACHEN has issued instructions to the parishes
in his area for the collection of all metals in churches,
other than those of great religious, historic, and artistic
value.
- 7.10.42. V.21 submits a further report, very confidentially, on
religious instruction. Dean FROLI^S has added a rider to the
circular of 22.9.42., in which he asks that parents interested
in their children receiving religious education should contact
their parish priests, when they will be informed of plans
for religious instruction in various classes at schools. The
Church Authorities were to be given a report on the situation
on 5.10.42.
- 12.10.42. V.21 reports that FROLI^S' plan for the new religious instructional class in schools has not so far not met with much
success - parents continue to send their children to
'Pfarrseelsorgestundon', but appear to avoid being called
upon to give a decisive opinion on the proposed course of
religious education. They do not seem to wish to change existing
conditions, and do not think that the State Authorities
should be worried with such matters during the present troubled
times. No parents appear to have taken advantage of FROLI^S'
suggestion, and it is generally thought that the rider was
merely intended as an incitement to parents to oppose the State.
Falling Off/Partial Suppression (Zurückdrangung) of publication
of Catholic periodicals and religious propaganda.
- 12.10.42. V.21 reports that the Society for the Propagation of the
Faith - Francis Xavier Mission - has sent round a circular
regretting that it will no longer be possible to send the
monthly 'Illustrated Receipt', due to 'unforeseen circumstances',
and the helpers are told that they will have to make their
collections without.
- 12.10.42. V.21 submits a leaflet dropped by the R.A.A.F. - 'The Other
Side'.
- 12.10.42. V.21 reports on the stir that has been caused by the Order for
the Seizure of Bronze Bells in Dutch Churches - issued by the
Reichskommissar of the Occupied Netherlands.
The Dutch Bishops had condemned this action very strongly,
and had issued a Pastoral Letter to be read in all Dutch
churches, strictly forbidding the Catholics to help in the
execution of this order - the bells were blessed, and it would
be a sacrilege to remove them. This put those responsible for
their removal in an awkward position. The action of the Dutch
'Kirchenfursten' had been widely condemned - the general
opinion was that they had gone too far, and such behaviour
would not be tolerated in Germany. The Catholic clergy in
the Reich are awaiting the outcome with interest - it had not
been possible to discover what effect the Pastoral Letter had.
- 13.10.42. Execution of Church Tax Demand on 'Gottgläubige' - V.21 submits
confidentially a copy of the circular issued by the Episcopal
Vicariat-General.

- 14.10.42. Recruitment of Nuns for General 'Mutterseelsorge'.
V.21 submits a copy of 'Official Service Directions' issued by the Episcopal Vicariat-General on 'Mutterseelsorge' - for a cursory survey. V.21 further reports (from reliable sources) that about 60 nuns had taken the 'Mutterseelsorge Course' between 29.9 and 1.10.42. The above-named pamphlet forms the basis for these instructional courses. V.21 was informed by one of those who had taken the course, that those nuns who had trained would be responsible for instruction of 6 other women, who, in turn, will recruit others. This is designed to form a new method of 'Seelsorge', or rather, is a revival of the old 'Vereinsbetrieb', to ensure that Seelsorge is no longer restricted to church services. V.21 comments that these newly-formed groups should be kept under observation, as it is understood that this new activity will no longer be confined to churches or religious institutions.
- 16.10.42. Despatch of the 'Illustrated Receipts' through the 'Guardian Angel Society' of the Diaspora in PADERBORN - Restriction of religious pamphlets and tracts - V.21 submits one of the so-called 'Illustrated Receipts' of the above Society, which was obtained through very confidential channels.
- 16.10.42. V.21 reports on a Stipend Order issued by the Church Authorities.
- 20.10.42. V.21 submits a leaflet dropped by the R.A.F. - 'Volkische Feobachter'.
- 30.10.42. V.21 submits, very confidentially, a copy of the circular 'Freie Vereinigung für Seelsorghiße'.
- 5.11.42. V.21 reports on a lecture given by the Landessekretär of the Pomeranian Society for Catholic Germany, Franz JANSEN, to about 20-25 of the Clergy.
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JANSEN stated at the outset that this lecture was not for the public. It dealt almost exclusively with 'Diaspora' - (This is a designation for those areas in which Catholics are severely in the minority, and must 'bring their religion with them'. It is generally used to describe the central and northern regions of Germany, to which a large number of Catholic workers were evacuated from the Rheinland.)
- The Catholic people must be educated into 'Diasporatuchtigkeit' (i.e. keep their religion 'alive' while in Diaspora'). Central Germany has received the greatest number of Catholic 'settlers', who have been moved from Western industrial areas; Christian influences will only be possible if people contact the priests themselves. JANSEN described the situation within those areas where large workers' camps had been erected, and the efforts needed for their continued religious activity in those regions where they are so greatly in the minority. Attempts were made to keep up religion in the camps, but there were many stumbling-blocks. The 'Haus der Volksgemeinschaft' had been erected in all these camps, in an attempt to wipe out Catholicism, and here marriages were 'solemnized', children 'baptised' (i.e. given a name under the swastika flag), and all attempts to erect churches, and give religious instruction had encountered endless difficulties. In camps in the Salzgitter and Wolfenbuttel area Services had to be held in a former works administration office, confessions were heard in a bedroom, and the chapel had been sealed. No possibility existed

for religious instruction, and a barrack, which was bought by a Catholic priest, with the intention of holding services in it, was forcibly closed, and permission to hold services there refused. In Krashenriede the situation was equally impossible. In each of these parishes there were 75-100,000 persons who would thus yearly lose their Catholic Faith - 50,000 of these were children. In the parish of Salzgitter only 10% of the marriages in 1940 had a Church solemnization.

If the Catholics were to retain their Faith under such conditions, then it must be a strong and living Faith. It is up to the priests in their home parishes to do all they can to foster and strengthen the Faith. In the Diaspora it is a risk to be a Catholic, and demands courage to proclaim oneself as such, and only those to whom their religion means much will be prepared to make such sacrifices for it. The question of future recruitment into the priesthood is almost hopeless - practically none will be ordained in the coming year. All Catholics going into Diaspora will be given a Rosary, Prayer-book, and Massbook, and contact will be maintained by letters. Confirmation is the Sacrament for a constant Faith while in Diaspora, and Catholic families must be founded, with emphasis on Catholic.

7.11.42.

V.21 reports on influence of the Church in 'Kinderlandverschickung'.

FROHLI, Dean of Duren Diocese, issues an important announcement from the Vicariat-General of Aachen - 16.10.42. Children under the above scheme may only attend Church, or receive religious instruction, if they have written permission from their parents. This is designed so that, in the event of any accident befalling the children on their way to or from Church, the responsibility will be borne by the parents.

V.21 submits confidentially a circular issued by the German Charity Association.

V.21 submits confidentially a copy of the 'Katholischen Schriftenmission'.

V.21 reports on Illegal Activities of a former Catholic Youth Group in Duren.

This officially disbanded group meets weekly in the parish of St. Joachim, at the Youth Hostel bowling-green. The parish priest - MENNICKEN-HOLLEY - was arrested at the beginning of 1942 by Stapo Aachen, in connection with these activities but denied everything, and later declared to the clergy that the Stapo had been unable to take any action against him. In this connection it must be stated that MENNICKEN-HOLLEY was always a very 'Jesuit' priest, and, although always very careful to conceal it, was very definitely an enemy of the State. (A note by K. O. Scheiderich confirms the above information, and states that nothing could be proved from the investigation, and MENNICKEN-HOLLEY denied any complicity.)

V.21 submits, very confidentially, a copy of the lecture given by the diocesan 'Frauenseelsorger' - Rektor KUSCHIRCHEN of Aachen. The lecture was given to all the clergy in Aachen diocese, and dealt with 'Seelsorge for War-brides and 'Soldatenfrauen'.

- 2.12.42. V.21 submits confidentially a circular dealing with the bann on the reading out of names of the fallen on 'Totensonntag'.
16.12.42. The Episcopal Vicarant-General issues a circular on 13.11.42. -
to all clergy in the Diocese, dealing with 'Stiftungsmessen' -
V.21 submits a copy of this circular.
- 4.1.43. Diocesan Charity Society for Bishopric of Aachen.
V.21 submits confidentially a copy of the circular issued to charity organizations and clerical offices in the Diocese.
- 24.12.42. Archbishop of Köln and Bishop of Aachen issue a Pastoral Letter dealing with attitude to Basis of Law. According to a note by Scheiderich, V.21 shortly after the delivery of this letter by courier on 19.12.42, rang up by IVB N, and informed them of the contents. His description tallies with the report given by V.27 who operates in the same diocese.
- 11.1.43. Head Office for Church Statistics in Germany - KÖLN.
V.21 describes a form which was issued to all parishes in the Diocese for the year 1942, and dealt with statistics of clergy, parishioners (both Catholic and other denominations), Religious Ceremonies, Marriages, Christenings, Burials, Communion Services, congregations, secessions, conversions, and consecrations. The form was to be filled in, and returned to the Delegation by 1.2.43.
- 11.1.43. V.21 submits confidentially a circular issued by the German Charity Association for Advent 1942.
- 6.2.43. Lay-help in Seelsorge - V.21 reports, from confidential sources, that, in the parish of St. Marien, Neuss/Rhein, certain persons were being trained by chaplains to give religious instruction to children. Generally this training was kept secret, and the outsider seldom heard anything about it. The idea is that eventually this lay-help will be no highly organized and trained, that it will be in a position to take over the whole of religious instruction from the clergy. This ultimate aim is never voiced, but there is no doubt that great importance is attached to it.
- 16.2.43. V.21 reports on Polish Church Services -
The clergy are once more reminded that it is forbidden to have 'Messdienerjungfer' (Servers) for Polish Services. If no second priest is available, the Sexton should take over these duties.
- 16.2.43. V.21 reports on FNP - Papal work in connection with Vocations.
A meeting of the Diocesan Council was held on 11.2.43, with FROLS in the Chair - the subject was the raising of funds for the requirements of those with a vocation for the priesthood. Youths wishing to become priests, but lacking the necessary financial means, should be able to draw on these funds.
- 28.2.43. V.21 reports on the Pastoral Letter of Köln and Paderborn Church Provinces.
The Pastoral Letter for 1943 was generally disapproved of, as it dealt almost exclusively with the very low state of morality in the Reich, when, according to V.21, the people expected to be cheered up, and sympathised with over the hard times they were living in, and given new courage to face it. They considered a condemnation of this kind totally unsuited to the times, and the clergy were equally at a loss to understand it. In some cases they neglected to read it in their churches, but substituted one of their own sermons in its place.

V.21 adds a postscript to his report - his personal opinion on the matter. In this he claims, among other strong assertions, that if the German soldier had not sacrificed himself so heroically, the Catholic Church would long ago have been wiped out - the Church therefore owes these German soldiers a great debt, though as yet no word of gratitude has been heard.

12.4.43.

V.21 submits, very confidentially, material for a lecture on 'Jugendseelsorge' for Girls.

12.4.43.

Lay-helpers for the Catholic Church - V.21 very confidentially submits a sketch of the contents of 'Outlines for Addressees concerning Lay-Help in parishes' - issued by the 'Freie Vereinigung für Seelsorgerhilfe'.

18.4.43.

V.21 reports on employment of Catholic nuns.

The Head of the Diocesan Charity Association in the Diocese of Aachen - FIRMENICH - instructed the religious sisterhoods in the Diocese that the nuns must, as a precautionary measure, report to the Labour Office for drafting into war-work for 'total war'. It is not known how FIRMENICH comes into the scheme.

15.4.43.

Alleged Communist Agitation in the Mine - 'Carolus Magnus' in Remsberg by Russian Prisoners of War.

V.21 was able to give the following very secret report: Among the many foreign workers employed in this mine there are a lot of Russian P/W's who learnt German surprisingly quickly, and were spreading communist propaganda among the German and foreign workers. Further details were not yet forthcoming but it is requested that appropriate measures should be taken.

17.4.43.

V.21 submits a copy of the warning, which is to be read in all churches on the following Sunday. The Pastoral Letter was delivered to all clergy in the diocese of Duren on 16.4.43.

V.21 reports on the celebration of Dean FROIS' 40 years service in the church. After speeches of congratulation, FROIS made the following interesting statement: He declared that children from Catholic orphanages, who were supported by public funds, were being withdrawn, and placed in non-Catholic homes. It was obviously the intention of the 'adversary' to thus estrange orphans too from the Catholic Faith. He gave as an example the case of an orphan who had been removed from a Catholic household in to a 'worldly' one, and who has stated in a letter that he was together with 3,000 other orphans, and they were allowed every kind of freedom, but no prayers were said, and it was intended that they should all one day become SS-men. FROIS demanded that those present should take every measure to combat this, and than an orphan-fund should be established for the Catholic education of orphans. This proposal was not accepted unanimously; some advised caution, and a preliminary investigation of the facts, and suggested that if the proposed scheme should be put into operation too quickly and rashly, the 'opposition' might place some great barrier in the way - perhaps going to the length of closing down the early Catholic orphanage left in Duren. FROIS remained adamant, and called for the immediate foundation of an orphanage-fund. (A note at the foot of this report states that copies have been submitted to IV BN, and further developments of the situation would be reported by VM.)

- 24.7.43. V.21 submits the programme for the so-called 'Anna-Oktave' festival in honour of the Holy Mother Anna. It is noticeable how many of these Church events fall on a work-day, and thus cost a large proportion of the population valuable work-hours or rest-periods. (An additional note states that the Spenkens on 4.4.43, will be worth keeping under observation, as it is known that 'Outside Preachers' will speak then - mostly notorious 'Ordensprediger'.) (IV B M have been informed by Scheiderich, and will take the matter on hand, and have the preachers watched.)
- 13.8.43. V.21 submits, very confidentially, a copy of a treatise on the organization of the 'Kinderscelsorgestunde' - its duties, and their execution.
- 27.8.43. V.21 submits a copy of the Pastoral Letter issued by the Fuldaer Bishops' Conference, which will be read at all Communion Services in the Aachen Diocese on 29.8.43.
- 9.10.43. V.21 reports on the behaviour of a certain widow - Marie SIEBEN, employed in an old church at Merzenich, who, according to unconfirmed village tattle, has been consorting with a Polish civilian worker.
- 12.11.43. V.21 reports on further efforts of the Catholic Church to avoid the conscription of their clergy. He alleges that three chaplains have been elected by the Diocesan Authorities in Aachen to act as local-chaplains (Pfarr-Rektoren) in order to avoid military service. The parishes they have been appointed to are very small, and, in one case, the chapel is almost disused, and so old that it is about to be pulled down. Masses used to be read there once a week in the summer, but the villages in all three cases really belong to another parish, and the churches to which the chaplains have been appointed are all merely 'camouflage rectories'.
- 20.11.43. Enemy Propaganda - V.21 submits a leaflet dropped by an enemy plane over Duren.
- 20.12.43. V.21 reports on the 'anti-state' behaviour of the priest DAUTZENBERG. Insisting that he should be placed under observation - He alleges that legal proceedings were taken against him in 1941 or '42 by the 'Special Court' in Aachen, and DAUTZENBERG's opinions have not changed since then. The local police have been unable to take any action - the police official in authority is Arnoldsweller, who is a man with strong Catholic convictions has been heard to state that 'he does not hear' when DAUTZENBERG says things he should not in the pulpit. V.21 will try and get further particulars of DAUTZENBERG's reprehensible behaviour.
- 27.12.43. V.21 reports that the Dean of Duren, FROLS, has issued the following instructions to all clergy, with the request that they should be strictly observed. The Diocesan Authorities point out that the R.S.H.A. in Berlin have declared that the Borromaeus Libraries have been secured, but not yet withdrawn. Should a third party ask for their disposal, or demand the contents from the pastor, they should be informed that Church property cannot be alienated without the Church Authorities permission, and they must refer to the Diocesan authorities.

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- 11.1.44 Bishop's visit to Duren.
V.21 submits, very confidentially, a circular letter from PIOLS, Dean of Duren. This stated that the Bishop would celebrate Mass at 9.15 pm, even if there should be an air-raid warning that night. A note from E.S. Schiederich states that the necessary investigations are to be made, and should an air-raid warning be sounded that night, and the celebration really take place at 9.15 pm, then FBO 3 will be held responsible. The contents of the Bishop's sermon, and pronouncements to the population will be noted.
- 17.1.44 Alleged misuse of Army property from the Army stores 'Fuchs' in Merzenich.
V.21 reports that a rumour has been circulating in Merzenich that the large 'Kriegslager', which is supervised by a 'Zahlmeister' of whom nothing is known, is being mis-used. It is alleged that the Zahlmeister has sold several hundred military blankets to a clothing firm - Schillings in Bickendorf - who makes them up. The rumour is spread in the public - house Schiffer, which workers from the Lager Fuchs frequent.
- 18.1.44 V.21 reports on Reichsbahnsekretär Engelbert KNEIFERATH, who is employed by the Reichsbahn of Duren, and is a religious fanatic, and alleged enemy of the State. He is supposed to be in correspondence with the Bishop of Aachen and other high Church Dignitaries, and to have taken part in the circulation of the Bishop of Munster (Graf Galen)'s Pastoral Letter. He also took an active part in the introduction of a new Devotion - the Transversenkränze - in the Papal Congregation, Rome. The Ortsgruppenleiter and Antiseglermeister of Merzenich - JANSEN - is in a position to give more detailed information on KNEIFERATH.
- 8.2.44 The activities of the French Catholic 'Aktion' among the French Workers in the Reich. V.21 reports that nothing has come to light concerning these activities in the Diocese of Duren. Through investigations are being made, and, in the event of anything being discovered, an immediate report will be made.
- 8.2.44 Visit of the new Bishop of Aachen in Duren on 16.1.44.
V.21 reports that not many young people were present at the 'Jugendfeierstunde', the majority being school children with their parents. The Bishop's sermon could not be objected to, and, although he did not speak of the war, of love for the Fatherland and people, nor of any of the things that move a young German to-day, he also obviously tried to avoid any references to political affairs. He spoke of God's children, Faith in Christ and so-on, as one could perceive that he belonged to the old school of 'Volksverein' speakers - seeking to sway the people with many beautiful words and the power of oratory. V.21 did not attend the afternoon meeting for adults, but from hearsay, Van der WELDEN had expressed objectionable opinions in his address, and V.21 will give a further report as soon as he obtains more information.
- 28.2.44 V.21 reports that Pastor ALEX of Silvernich has been boasting of a certificate given to him by Dr. SCHULZ of Duren, and asserts that he is medically unfit for imprisonment, and can therefore never be arrested. As already reported ALEX represents the House-Glory of the Convent, and is also active as a Seelsorger.
- 3.3.44 'Freie Vereinigung für Seelsorge' - V.21 submits copies of circulars sent to members of the above Society on 1.2.44.

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7.3.44

Calling-up of Clergy for the Wehrmacht -

V.21 reports on a conference held in Buren parish, in which Religionslehrer Dektor Karl MOLSBERGER gave the following information: A decision had been reached between the appropriate Wehrmacht "Powers" and the German Bishops that, in future, no more Catholic priests would be called up for military service. This has now been taken up by the highest Party authorities, who have expressed their disapproval, and nullified the agreement. In this connection MOLSBERGER has also found out that in future chaplains of small parishes will be conscripted and, in very small parishes, one priest will have to take over two offices. Furthermore, parishpriests will, from now on, be eligible for military service.

14.3.44

V.21 reports that the former Leiter of the 'Erzbischöflichen Seelsorgeanstalten' for Youth - Dr FROTH - has been elected by the Archibishop to be 'Regens' of the Training College for Priests in KÖLN. In this connection it has been established that there are no more than 10 students studying theology in the Diocese of Aachen and Köln.

17.4.44

Guardian Angel Society for the Paderborn Diaspora.

V.21 submits a circular issued by the above Society, which was directed to all Heads of the Parish Guardian Angel Societies. A note at the foot of the report states that, with reference to the decree issued by the R.S.W.A. forbidding the publication of religious tracts, the above report was submitted to Stapo Münster.

23.5.44

V.21 submits another circular issued by the 'Freie Vereinigung für Seelsorgehilfe' on 1.6.44.

23.5.44

Parish work for Propagation of the Faith - Franziskus Xavier Mission, Zentral Association.

V.21 reports on a recent lecture given by Dr. NEUENHOFER of the above Mission. Dr. NEUENHOFER dealt with present conditions in the above Mission. He claimed that the membership of the Mission was still growing, but described the difficulties that were placed in its path by the Government, with the object of making its continued existence impossible - these difficulties were being overcome. A picture was also given of present conditions in the World Mission. The most favourable reports come from Africa. In 1939 thirty missionaries were given assistance by the Soviet Union to travel to China. In Japan the outlook was good, as the Law for the Protection of Religion particularly favours the Catholic Church there. The great need for young missionaries, especially priests was stressed. The latter are in very short supply, and everything must be done to encourage young men to take Holy Orders. Mission money was at the moment being used for Diaspora. Anyone wishing to hold a "World Mission Sunday" in their parish would always apply to the Centre for speakers, but, for obvious reasons, it would be politic not to draw too much attention to these activities.

With reference to the uses to which the vast capital of the FEY is put, NEUENHOFER stated that it was still possible to have a certain clearing of accounts with the Vatican, with permission from the Government.

21.6.44.

'Glaubensfeier' - Catholic Youth in Aachen Diocese.

V.21 submits very confidentially the Pastoral Letter issued by the Vicar General, Geilenkirchen, for the above Festival - 1944. It was read in all Churches 11.6.44.

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- 30.7.44 V.21 submits Programme for Church Celebration during 'Anna Oktav'.
A report of the proceedings and particular occurrences will follow.
- 8.9.44 V.21 reports on the Reaction among the Catholic Clergy to the attempt on the Führer's Life.
- Very little was said at the time - some were heard to remark that one should be ashamed that such a thing could occur in Germany, while others found it strange that the Bishops had made no statement on the matter. On the whole, however, one realised that the greater part of the clergy held quite a different opinion, and did not wish to discuss it. I (V.21) asked a fellow-clergeman, who mixes a great deal with the clergy of the Deanery, but is himself of "Positiv" opinions, (presumably means pro-party), what was the general reaction among his brother-clergy. He alleged that the majority were disappointed that the attempt was unsuccessful; at first the general impression had been that the affair was not of much importance, being merely staged by the Nazis to enable them to get rid of some unpopular elements during the subsequent investigations, and also to provide a plausible excuse to account for the reverses on the Eastern and Western Fronts. Later, however, it was thought that the rift between Party and Wehrmacht was much wider than had previously been supposed. There were many high-ranking officers who, on principle, never said 'Heil Hitler' even when saluting.
- The general public took a similar view. One can only wonder at the presumption of those who dare thus to air their opinions. One meets people who openly state that they are glad the English are coming, and one family here is supposed to have put aside fur-coats, in order to offer them to the English in a bid to curry favour. These people always alledged to the clergy that the present regime was unpopular because it opposed religion - the English would protect religion. There are however, a great many people to whom religion means very little. The state of morale is entirely influenced by English propaganda - as long as the State is incapable of preventing people from listening-in to enemy radio, a large proportion of the population will retain their unfortunate opinions.
- 17.8.44 Behaviour of Leading Members of the Party, and Morale of the Population.
- 20.4.44 V.21 reports that prominent Party Officials, and the district baker have left Korsenich with their wives and possessions, commandeering lorries and fire-engines for the purpose. Angry mob surrounded the vehicles and fueling runs high among the populace, thus being deserted without leadership or bread.
- 10.10.44 Further Report on Morale.
- (See, under the re-organisation of August '44, V.21 becomes G 01 21)
- G 01 21 reports on the reaction of the parents of Hitler Junghen, conscripted for trench digging, who were killed in an air-raid on Korsenich barracks. The authorities are blamed for not allowing the boys to take shelter, and considerable indignation has been aroused.
- Copy of Circular issued by FRÖLS to the Clergy in his Diocese - 10.11.44 giving General Evacuation Instructions.
- 27.11.44 (IV N, and possibly the whole of Stepostelle KÖLN, is now at Marienheide)
- 11.12.44 G 01 21 reports that Dean PROUL and three Chaplains were killed in an air-raid on Duren - 18.11.44.

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11.12.44

G 01 21 moved to Wetschen-Hardt Nr. 106, Kreis Diepholz/HANNOVER on 21.11.44. Herzenich was then under shell-fire night and day, and his house was badly damaged. A further reason for his departure was given; he and the local 'Sohleitstrager' of the Party were left to the last in the town, but those high-up Party members were well aware of his 'Nationale Gesinnung', and a close connection existed between them - For this reason it was considered impossible for him to remain any longer in Herzenich. (Presumably G 01 21 was afraid that, in the event of capture, this association would compromise him.)

A further note states that G 01 21 will maintain his contact with SS Scheiderich, and send in reports from his new address - For the present his direction and instructions will continue to emanate from Marienheide, but he will eventually be taken over by his local Stapo Stelle.

G 01 21 submits an anonymous pamphlet concerning events in Fatima/Portugal. The above bears no distinguishing mark of publisher or printer, and was found in the district of Hannover. The contents were concerned with the allegation of the Catholic Church that the present war was God's judgement on a sinful world - only when the people had found their way back to God would there be peace. A footnote comments that G 01 21 will make further investigations regarding the circulation of this pamphlet, and further reports will be submitted to the Stapo in that area.

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23.1.45