

Ref No SAIC/1  
6 April 45

S E C R E T

SEVENTH ARMY INTERROGATION CENTER  
APO 758 US ARMY

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: Auth: CC, SAIC :  
: Init: PK :  
: Date: 6 Apr 45 :  
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INFORMATION ON GESTAPO IN BENSHEIM

SOURCES

- i) METER, Francisca, 40 years old. Claiming that she now sees the treachery of the Nazis, she is very cooperative and volunteered all information.  
Rating: C-2      Date of Information: Mar 45      Interrogator: R.W.
- ii) METZGER, Eleanore, 21 years old, cooperative but unobservant; she still appears to have some pro-Nazi sentiments.  
Rating: C-3      Date of Information: Mar 45      Interrogator: R.W.
- iii) GANTNER, Anneliese, 21 years old, not very observant, but fully cooperative.  
Rating: B-2      Date of Information: Mar 45      Interrogator: R.W.
- iv) LEONHARD, Erna, a 22-year old stenographer and typist who was very cooperative and helpful.  
Rating: B-2      Date of Information: Mar 45      Interrogator: W.M.B.
- v) BOE, Marie Therese. A 26-year old girl who claims to be a French citizen and who was forced to work for the GESTAPO. Refusing to obey orders to be transferred to the interior of Germany upon the approach of the Americans, she went into hiding and remained behind until the arrival of American troops.  
Rating: B-3      Date of Information: Mar 45      Interrogator: W.M.B.

Note: Sources, all employees in GESTAPO Hq, BENSHEIM, were brought to the Center for the purpose of interrogation on the shooting of American soldiers at BENSHEIM (See I, below). Some general information, however, was also obtained during interrogation.

I. SHOOTING OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS

All sources with the exception of Source METZGER agree on the following story:

On 24 Mar 45, at about 2300 hours, when the arrival of advancing American troops was imminent, two American soldiers were shot by the KRIM SEK (Criminal Secretaries) STADTMANN and RAAF, at GESTAPO Hq, BENSHEIM. A Polish subject KAMINSKI, the janitor (address not known) was present at the execution. None of the sources were present, but all heard the story from KAMINSKI the following day. A Mrs SEITZ, who lives in the building of the former GESTAPO Hq, was also present at the shooting. The two Americans were buried in the GESTAPO Hq courtyard. The order for the execution was given by a major of the BENSHEIM garrison.

One day after the air attack on WORMS on 15 or 20 Feb 45, an American soldier was brought into the BENSHEIM GESTAPO Hq and put into a room, face to the wall. He was interrogated, left the building after two hours, and was not heard of since. Source LEONHARD heard from her landlady that this man had been shot. Source GANTNER, who kept the register of all men coming into and leaving Hq, was not given the name of this soldier, and made out no papers for his shipment to another camp. As this was a most unusual procedure, she assumes that the man was shot.

II. GESTAPO FILES      B-2      (Source: LEONHARD)

(See SHATF, CI Brief, 1 Mar 1945)

1) General SUCH-UND SPEZIALKARTEI

This department was known also as the FAHNDUNGSKARTEI (Searching File). Pink colored cards (FAHNDUNGSKARTEN) were designated for foreign nationals, while

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yellow colored cards were for German nationals.

The information contained in these cards is at the same time to be found in book form in the FAHNDUNGSBUCH. This is a monthly publication of the RSHA in which all wanted persons are listed with their personal descriptions. The information is transferred from the book to the cards.

ii) HAUPTKARTEI (Main Index File)

The cards of ABT II were blue, while the files were yellow, indicating that they contain a list of political crimes and suspects.

The cards of ABT III were orange, and the files were green, indicating that they contain a list of espionage crimes or suspects.

The above color system pertaining to both the SUCH UND SPEZIALKARTEI and the HAUPTKARTEI is prescribed by the RSHA in BERLIN and applies to the whole of Germany.

iii) A-KARTEI (Riders)

This index file contained a list of political criminals or of those people who had not adopted the National-Socialist point of view. Most of the people indexed were in concentration camps. On these cards green, blue, and red riders were used. Source believes that green referred to "Marxism" and red to "communism", but ignores the meaning of the blue rider.

The index was always kept locked and stored away in a safe. Only one person was handling the index and nobody was supposed to see the contents of these cards. The files for the green, blue and red cards were only in two colors, green and yellow.

All entries on the index cards were made in plain language and not in code.

iv) GESTAPO Files in DARMSTADT

All records of the GESTAPO in DARMSTADT were completely destroyed by fire during a bombing attack on 11 Sept 44. When this Hq was moved to BENSHEIM, new records and files had to be compiled. They were forced to start again from scratch.

III. GESTAPO AUSSENDIENSTSTELLE (Foreign Branch), DARMSTADT B-2 (Source: GANTNER)

A number of people who were arrested by the GESTAPO were transferred from BENSHEIM to DARMSTADT for a so-called special treatment (SONDERBEHANDLUNG). KOMMISAR WANGEMANN was in charge of this department. Source was responsible for filling out the travel papers. At one time she noticed on one of the papers that the person involved was rapidly dying of a disease, which, source claimed, could not have been the case.

IV. FORGED SOLDBUECHER FOR THE WAFFEN SS B-2 (Source: GANTNER)

OSCHAF MUSCH was observed by source one evening in the process of forging SOLDBUECHER for the WAFFEN SS for REG RAT GIRKE, KRIM RAT HELLENBROICH, BAUMEISTER, and a driver.

V. CONCENTRATION CAMPS B-2 (Source: GANTNER)

Persons arrested by the BENSHEIM GESTAPO Hq were shipped to the following institutions:

- i) Male political convicts and foreign workers who had sexual relations with German women were sent to DACHAU (major offenses), BUCHENWALD (minor offenses), and FLOSSENBUERG (minor offenses).

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- ii) Female political convicts and women who had sexual relations with foreign workers were shipped to RAVENSBRUECK and FLOSSENBUERG.
- iii) Persons convicted of sabotage, of failing to appear for work, of prohibited sexual relations which did not result in pregnancy, et al, were sent to DARMSTADT Reformatory (for the Saarpfalz Region); MAINZ Reformatory (RHINE Region); HEDDENHEIM; and HIRZENHEIM. The maximum punishment was 56 days.

6 April 1945.

SEVENTH ARMY INTERROGATION CENTER

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