

T O P S E C R E T

Ref No SAIC/X/7
5 Jun 45

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SEVENTH ARMY INTERROGATION CENTER
APO 758 US ARMY

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If the information contained in this report is required for further distribution, it should be so paraphrased that no mention is made of the prisoners' names or of the methods by which the information has been obtained.

The following is the name and secret number of the prisoner mentioned in this report:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank, Position</u>	<u>Secret No</u>
BERGER, Gottlob	OGRUF (SS Lt Gen), Chief of PW system, formerly Minister for the occupied territories in the East and HIMMLER's plenipotentiary for Southern Germany.	45/1452

PW BERGER refused to give the information contained in this report in writing or to have it taken down during the interrogation.

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I. GERMANY'S RELATIONS TO THE ANTI-COMMUNIST RUSSIANS.

BERGER: WLASSOW was taken prisoner by the Germans in 1942. His wife was sent to Siberia by the Russians, and after that he was willing to work for us. He had connections with the Russian Army through his confidants. In spite of his distrust, the FUEHRER gave him permission to assemble behind the front lines groups of people who were eager to help. Later on these groups were formed into bns. There were bns of Ukrainians, Circassians, Serbs, etc. ... every tribe had its own bn.

IO: How were his communications?

B: The grapevine to the Slavic areas worked splendidly. WLASSOW was the cause of strong differences of opinion between ROSENBERG, Joint Operation Staff (WEHRMACHTSFUEHRUNGSTAB), and the SS. But he was the man who appealed to the workers from the Eastern territories in Germany. He was sort of a representative of these workers. WLASSOW was supposed to create the army of liberation and he would have formed it if we had had the necessary weapons. 300,000 men were available for this purpose. One VOLKSGRENADIER div of 12,500 men was formed in Jan 45. Other divs could have been organized immediately. Hundreds of thousands of men had already signed up in the various factories. WLASSOW had a confidant in every plant.

IO: But he was in BERLIN. How could he communicate with these people?

B: Through couriers. He had a coordinator in each district (GAU). The organization was not quite complete. But its mainstays had been created in the big industrial centers like BERLIN, DRESDEN, LEIPZIG, the RUHR and Upper Silesia. The organization consisted of recruiting officers and confidants.

IO: Why confidants?

B: They had to report all injustices, such as malnutrition and bad treatment. These cases were reported to WLASSOW directly.

IO: Who was his right hand man?

B: That was Col SACHAR (OFF) (phon).

IO: How did he select these confidants?

B: I do not know how he selected them. At any rate, they were people he knew and whom he trusted.

IO: Weren't you afraid of the creation of an organization which would endanger your own?

B: That is the accusation which HITLER made every time I saw him. "You are building up an army against me, behind my own back", he used to say. (Pause)..... You have to give a clearly defined political aim to a man who is willing to sacrifice his life for your cause and who wants to fight his way back into his Fatherland. I had to promise him (WLASSOW) that no German soldier would ever set foot again on Russian soil as conqueror.

IO: Was that promised to him in writing?

B: Yes.

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IO: Where is that agreement now?

B: HIMMLER signed it. I do not know where it is now. It should be among the documents of the REICHSFUEHRER SS (HIMMLER). These documents were not evacuated to the South. ... At my suggestion we also concluded a treaty with the Cossacks. This must be with the documents of the Ministry of Eastern Affairs (OSTMINISTERIUM). ROSENBERG signed the treaty in his capacity as minister for the occupied territories. I do not believe that they burned all the files.

IO: What were the contents of the agreement?

B: After the war the Cossacks were to settle on the border of the German territory. They were to govern themselves without a German commissioner or German supervision. They were to retain their old constitution and Germany was to help them for the first three years with the construction of their villages. These were the basic points.

IO: When was this agreement concluded?

B: In Nov 43.

IO: Is there anything in the treaty which would be particularly interesting, and which is not known to the rest of the world?

B: I do not know how much is known of the agreement. ... For instance there is a matter of 8000 Cossack family members who were settled in Italy, in the area North of FIUME and TRIESTE. They already built their villages there and are quite happy and contented.

IO: What was the idea of bringing them to Italy?

B: The idea was to settle the Cossack hordes once and for all. That (the area North of FIUME and TRIESTE) was only a temporary arrangement. At the beginning of the war we thought that we would regain the border of 1914 in the East. We wanted to include the WARTEGAU in the areas reserved for the German-Aryan population.

IO: What other territories did you want to include into the Greater German REICH?

B: Old Austria.

IO: Not Poland and the Ukraine?

B: No, not Poland and the Ukraine.

IO: But you wanted the Ukraine.

B: KOCH wanted that. He was the REICHSKOMMISSAR (commissioner) for the Ukraine, the gravedigger of the Third REICH. He was the GAULEITER of KOENIGSBERG and had more influence than any of us. ... Once he had the nerve to report to HITLER: "My FUEHRER. Between three and four million tons of grain were delivered to the REICH." I heard that myself. Soon afterwards I met BACKE, the minister of food, and told him: "Man! You have three to four million tons of grain. Germany needs only two million tons per year. So you have enough for two years. You are really doing fine." And he replied: "It is estimated

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that the harvest for the entire Ukraine will bring two to three million tons of grain this year. Deduct from that the needs of the local population and of the troops and you have only one and one tenth million tons of grain left for export." BACKE went to HITLER and reported the facts to him. The FUEHRER told him: "My dear BACKE. I have known KOCH much longer than you have. When he reports something, it must be correct." That shows you how strong KOCH was

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B: It was very difficult to get the different Russian tribes together. There are strong contrasts between the different people of Russia. If you put them all together, you could not say we'll take a Ukrainian, or a White Russian, or a Russian, or a Tartar, or a Moslem and make him a commander. We just took the strongest man available, and that was WLASSOW.

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B: There are hardly any Germans left (in the Ukraine). Most Germans were resettled in the WARTEGAU in 1941.

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B: A political committee which was recognized by our Foreign Office was formed under the chairmanship of WLASSOW. They were recognized, and therefore could use German funds. WLASSOW did not need these funds, because the Russian workers in Germany were very willing to contribute. For instance, on the day the manifesto was read in PRAGUE, WLASSOW received millions from the individual plants.

IO: Where are these funds?

B: WLASSOW has them.

IO: But he cannot have them in his pocket?

B: I can't tell you (where they are). He had some administrative offices in BERLIN. I do not know where he (WLASSOW) is. He was first in KARLSBAD and later on near the CHIEMSEE. There he was ordered to report to the 600th Div.

IO: Do you think that WLASSOW might have switched over to the Russians again?

B: No, I do not believe so.

IO: Were there still some sort of relations with Russia?

B: Yes. WLASSOW knew a number of Russian generals. Among these was the CG of the army which attacked BERLIN. WLASSOW knew the exact date of the attack.

IO: Did he report this to you?

B: Yes. Through SACHAROFF (phon).

IO: Do you still remember the day?

B: It was sometime in April. His information was correct to the day.

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IO: Did you also know the strength (of the attacking force)?

B: We had some idea of the armored units.

IO: How did he know that?

B: There were ways of getting to the other side.

IO: How is that possible? There was a front, after all.

B: The front was never sufficiently rigid to prevent our getting across. And I told you before, the grapevine functions very well with the Slavic people. Communications between WLIASSOW and the other side existed, without any doubt, up to the last day.

IO: What proof do you have for that.

B: For instance, on the 20th of July (1944), a General Staff Officer, a Major, whose name has escaped me, flew to the Russians from the HQ at INSTERBURG. WLIASSOW told me personally about the information this officer furnished to the Russians. This Major gave the information to the Russians and from them it got back to WLIASSOW.

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B: This is what I said to GEN WLIASSOW: "Do you realize that you command the 600th Div, six battalions of the 650th Div, the Ukrainians, the Turkomans, the Cossacks, and the Caucasian combat group (WAFFEN-VERBAND) - and that all these people were promised.....(unintelligible

IO: By Russia?

B: No from this side.

IO: Whom do you mean by that?

B: Great Britain.

IO: And what did Great Britain promise?

B: The representative of the joint combat group (WAFFENVERBAND) of Eastern Turkey and the Caucasus was a certain KAJUM KHAN. During February, March, and early April, he carried on negotiations with Great Britain. These negotiations took place in Switzerland, with the Polish Consul General acting as intermediary. This Polish diplomat must have been a remnant of the pre-war government. He wanted to get an assurance from England that these units which I have just listed, - the Cossacks, etc, would not be turned over to the Russians but interned by the Allies, France excepted. GEN DE GAULLE had made a statement, saying that he could not go along with such an agreement because of a previous treaty with STALIN dealing with the same subject.--Now I'll repeat to you the exact report as KAJUM KHAN gave it to me in my office on DUKLASSTRASSE, BERLIN. He came to me in February and asked me to tell him on my honor, whether I knew anything about a secret weapon which might decide the war (in Germany's favor). I replied to him: "My dear KAJUM KHAN, I have never told a lie yet. Since you are the representative of your people I will tell you honestly that I know nothing of such a weapon." When he turned pale I

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said: "I realize why you came here. I will see to it that you can go to Switzerland." He had told me previously of his connections in Switzerland, and I had told him that I had no objections to that. The only order which I gave him, was that he was not to limit his negotiations to his own Turkoman and Caucasian combat group, but to act for all similar units as well. Consequently I gave him an authorization to conduct such negotiations.

IO: What sort of an authorization was that?

B: It was a document which entitled him to conduct negotiations for all the Russian units which had fought with the German Army. ---He was taken to the Allies in Switzerland by one of our agents.

IO: And what was accomplished by this?

B: We were assured that he, as representative of the Russian units, was about to conclude a treaty with the Allies. But then he left again, and I have not seen him since.

IO: When did all this take place?

B: That was in the early part of April 1945.

IO: When did you have your conference?

B: That must have been toward the end of March.

IO: Who else was present at this conference?

B: There were no others present.

IO: Did you hear anything (of WLASSOW) after that?

B: No sir, I did not.---

IO: Where is KAJUM KHAN now?

B: I don't know that for certain.

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B: --- The PRAGUE manifesto had a great effect upon the Russian population. An extensive and savage guerilla war broke out immediately after its publication. I want to mention here, that HIMMLER had promised, no German soldier would ever enter the Ukraine as an oppressor again. --- This warfare behind the Russian lines took on unexpected proportions. In CHARKOW and KIEV, for example, the uprisings lasted 4 1/2 weeks. A number of divisions were required to quell them.

IO: Who was the leader of these uprisings?

B: That was a Ukrainian who operated under the name of TIMOSHENKO. He had a good name, and on the strength of this name he could be a leader. Col MELNIK and Capt BANDERA (also?) led these uprisings. MELNIK held the rank of Col in the former Royal Guards. He is about 60 years old, but gives the impression of being in good physical condition.

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IO: Where are these people now?

B: They are still over there.

IO: Does anyone know them?

B: The Russians don't know them. But, given the assistance of my aide, Lt Col ARLT (?), I could slip through the Russian lines and contact them within two weeks.

IO: Could you still get into Russia today?

B: Yes, because I have some people who could arrange that for me. ARLT (?) knows them all.

IO: In other words, ARLT (?) still has connections in Russia.

B: All right, if you want to say it that way.

IO: Does he still have his connections with BANDERA?

B: Yes, sir. --- These uprisings would have ended up in a catastrophe (for their originators) if we hadn't been able to supply the insurgents for 3 weeks with the aid of some 40 transport planes. It was through a mere accident, that all the heavy weapons had been removed from CHARKOW and KIEV for the refitting of some divisions, leaving the local population but a very limited amount of heavy artillery. The whole population was ready to attack.

IO: Where did you hear that?

B: I received very accurate reports from my men. They were checked. I can prove that to you. I also heard it through SS Brig Gen (BRIF) SCHOENENBERG of the German Intelligence Service. . . We dropped a number of extremely able German officers who could speak Ukrainian (behind the lines).

IO: Who were they?

B: One of them was a 1st Lt KIRN. However, he was not picked up by plane. The system was as follows: The guerillas would clear stretches of land 40-60 km wide, so that our couriers were able to pass through in automobiles. Three to four days later, the guerillas were shifted to a neighboring area, enabling our men to travel on. In this manner they could get back, moving by leaps and bounds. They were escorted from place to place until they arrived at our lines.

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IO: Did he (KIRN) report to WLASSOW?

B: He only had connections with SCHOENENBERG. WLASSOW had his own organization. There still was no coordination between WLASSOW and our Intelligence Service. Nor was there sufficient mutual trust to warrant my forcing such coordination. I passed on to SCHOENENBERG all the information which I had obtained from WLASSOW, and I passed on to WLASSOW all the information which he needed.

IO: I can well understand that, since there were two independent organizations.

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B: The older one of these gangs fought in the Ukraine under the command of Col MELNIK - he was the senior officer and founded this insurrection movement. BANDERA branched off, because MELNIK was not sufficiently radical to suit him. But they still worked in the same line. Both had been invited to a conference by Commissioner (REICHSKOMMISSAR) KOCH, were dined well, and then thrown into jail for six months to a year. After protests by the Ukrainian workers, I saw to it that they were set free. Then I would like to mention another name.

IO: Whom do you mean?

B: His name is SS Capt (HPTSTUF) ALBRECHT. He was my trusted advisor. ALBRECHT used to be a German Communist. He was a member of my regiment during the first World War (123 Inf Regt), holds the War Service of Merit Cross in gold. In 1920 or 1921 he emigrated to Russia. For years he was an important personality, a lumber commissar. He returned either in 31, 32 or 33. He has since written a book entitled "The Treason of Socialism" (DER VERRAT DES SOZIALISMUS). ALBRECHT was with Sepp DIETRICH's Sixth PANZER Army, together with SS Col (STAF) DAMBAUER. ALBRECHT supervised thousands of Russian workers. He was with me in BERLIN as head of the movement. He was allowed to enter all plants; he had full authority. He could report anyone who behaved badly - and those persons would be arrested within 24 hours.

IO: Who arrested these people?

B: They were reported to the German district leader (KREISHAUPTMANN) who had to arrest them. It made no difference to us whether that was a factory manager or a foreman, or a so-called confidant (VERTRAUENSMANN). We did that five or six times, and after that everything went all right. . . Now for the general picture: I organized various peoples with particularly strong nationalistic tendencies under one large banner which I called "WLASSOW's Army of Liberation" (FREIHEITS-ARMEE WLASSOW). The full name of this organization was "The Committee for the Liberation of the Peoples of Russia".

IO: Did the FUEHRER agree to that?

B: Only after we confronted him with the accomplished fact.

IO: When was that?

B: That was in October 1944.

II. SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE

B: After announcing our manifesto for the liberation of the peoples of Russia, we began to strengthen our ties with the Serbs, the NATIONAL-SERBEN.

IO: With whom did you carry on your negotiations?

B: With MIHAILOVITCH. --- As a result of our announced ideals I was visited by an officer of the Serbian Army one day. He came to BERLIN with a pass issued to him by our ZAGREB office. At that time we were quite generous and perhaps even careless; but then we already had reached a stage where there was nothing to lose and everything to gain. He asked me whether we recognized these ideals to be valid, and whether they were to apply to Serbia and Greater Serbia as well. I could confirm this with a clear conscience. I told him I would im-

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mediately send a report to the REICHSFUEHRER SS (HIMMLER) in order to get him to sign my manuscript. This was in October 1944. The officer was satisfied with my promise. Then I promised to get in touch with him without delay in case I should be unable to make the report, or in case I should fail to get HIMMLER's approval. Thus he would still have a free hand. This was a matter involving the people's confidence - an essential factor for their successful government. Thereupon he (MIHALLOVITCH) withdrew his men from the fighting in the Balkans. And from that day on they never fought the Germans again. That shows you what sort of a man MIHALLOVITCH was.

IO: In other words, he was now on your side.

B: Whenever something went wrong, he sent someone to me. And then I had to clarify the matter. After all, I am not an intelligence officer.

IO: But you certainly organized a smooth-functioning intelligence service for yourself.

B: But you can't call that an intelligence service. --- I merely saw to it that we maintained contact with the chief of police in ZAGREB, Maj Gen (GRUF) KAMMERHOFER (?) of the SS. It was his duty to see to it that these Serbs were no longer persecuted. They were to be treated as neutrals, provided they had a valid pass which he had signed.

IO: In other words you had a sort of personal army.

B: Well, that may be a slight exaggeration, though you're close to the truth.

IO: Is it correct that MIHALLOVITCH was your commanding general for Serbia?

B: He was my man all right. That was the first time that our Foreign Office backed me up. I don't mean the Foreign Office in BERLIN, but its BELGRADE branch headed by Ambassador NEUBACHER. He was in agreement with my ideas, and gave them his support.

IO: Wasn't BELGRADE occupied by the Allies at that time?

B: In October, when this affair began, it was still unoccupied.

IO: Where is Ambassador NEUBACHER now?

B: He withdrew to the REICH along with the GROSSERBEN (Serbian Nationalists). The largest portion of the civilians who went back along with our troops were people in the medium or advanced age groups. There were altogether 8,000 of them. They are probably in Styria by now.

IO: Do they have some sort of an organization?

B: Yes, they form the so-called Serbian Free Corps (SERBISCHES FREIKORPS). As late as Apr 45 they wanted to join up with the Cossacks to fight against the Russian Army.

IO: Did they want to join WLASSOW?

B: No, it wasn't quite like that. The Serbs were treated with some reservation, whereas there was more trust towards the Cossacks. The situation with the Cossacks was as follows: Two-thirds of them come from

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Russia, and one-third from Serbia. The latter part were emigrants (many with grown-up sons), who were thus reunited with their blood brothers.

IO: What role did the German Intelligence Service play in that particular case?

B: In the German Intelligence Service in VIENNA there was an SS Lt Col (OSTUBAF) GOETSCH. Those are real names and not pseudonyms. I think that WANNICK was with the criminal police (KRIMINALPOLIZEI) before 1938, if I remember correctly. GOETSCH comes from Central or Western Germany. GOETSCH was responsible for the affair with the British Intelligence officers, which occurred just before the French campaign.

IO: Which affair was this?

B: Two days before the French campaign started, a group of British Intelligence officers walked into a trap and were captured on the border between Germany and Holland. They were carrying plans of the British preparations for an attack (AUFMARSCH) which were already in progress. This gave us a perfect moral justification to invade the Netherlands. . . This matter really falls within the field of the Central Security Office (SICHERHEITSHAUPTAMT) under the authority of SCHOENENBERG and CANARIS. . . SCHOENENBERG worked for the Intelligence Service (NACHRICHTENDIENST), and CANARIS for the Joint Planning Staff (WEHRMACHTFUEHRUNGSSTAB). The main difference was that the REICH had placed large sums of money at the disposal of CANARIS and his service. Gold and foreign currency were plentiful in his office.

IO: Why did CANARIS have such large funds, and not SCHOENENBERG?

B: SCHOENENBERG did not have the necessary official sanction. And even then WANNICK had started to operate in Austria and in the Southeast. Later on, after the 20 July affair, SCHOENENBERG took over all that. And at the same moment WANNICK took over the whole counter-intelligence department for the Southeast under the Joint Operational Staff (WEHRMACHTFUEHRUNGSSTAB) as well as under the Intelligence Service. The two were to be gradually combined under his leadership. I am convinced that WANNICK as well as GOETSCH sold out to the British Intelligence Service.

IO: How do you come to this conclusion?

B: Because of the death of my son-in-law.

IO: How can you explain that?

B: My son-in-law was the leader of the German population (VOLKSGRUPPEN-FUEHRER) of Transylvania (SIEBENBUERGEN), Rumania.

IO: What was his name?

B: His name was Andreas SCHMIDT. According to the agreement of VIENNA, all German minorities were entitled to have a representative. Since 1940 the representative for this German population (in Rumania) was Andreas SCHMIDT. But I would like to emphasize that I had nothing to do with his nomination, and that he married my daughter only afterwards. And when Rumania collapsed - which was due mainly to the excellent work of the British Intelligence Service - Andreas SCHMIDT got from Marshal ANTONESCU. . . (unintelligible). Marshal ANTONESCU knew that the collapse and the overthrow of the government were coming - in fact, he knew it three days in advance.

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IO: How do you happen to know that?

B: Andreas told me himself.

IO: I suppose ANTONESCU was very much surprised?

B: There you are wrong.

IO: Why?

B: Because he knew what was coming up.

IO: Then why did he not take any counter measures?

B: Because he did not have the necessary moral fortitude to take these steps. ANTONESCU is over 60 year old. Shortly after the Treaty of TRIANON he contracted syphilis.

IO: But that doesn't excuse the fact that he broke down in the three days during which the existence of his nation was threatened.

B: It was quite a different story at the time. It was not a question of "to be or not to be". Nobody could foresee that the Russians would interfere in that way, neither the British nor the Americans could know that.

IO: What was the original plan?

B: It was still planned to install a democratic government and work hand in hand with England and America, and finish this war. Eventually Russia was to be given this space as an assembly area (AUFMARSCHRAUM) but we did not want to see it taken over by the Russians altogether.

IO: Do you know if there were any treaties?

B: There must have been some treaties!

IO: Who concluded this treaty?

B: It has been concluded in ALEXANDRIA or CAIRO. A Rumanian prince, the only man who could do the job, flew to Egypt and signed the treaty between Egypt and the new government.

IO: Who was the head of this government?

B: That was MANIU.

IO: Did ANTONESCU know about it?

B: Yes. Marshal ANTONESCU wanted to rescue my son-in-law, as a personal favor to me. My daughter had been killed some time before, when an attempt on her life was made. I was together with him several times, and we managed to get along very well. He (ANTONESCU) sent Andreas SCHMIDT on a mission to see the FUEHRER. Part of the purpose of this mission was to warn HITLER that he (ANTONESCU) could not go on much longer.

IO: When was that?

B: Just three days before the uprising took place. Andreas SCHMIDT came to BERLIN but could not see the FUEHRER. The REICHSFUEHRER

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(HIMMLER) forestalled his audience.

IO: Why did he do that?

B: Because the REICHSFUEHRER said it was a . . . (unintelligible) . . . report, and that it was not reliable. The FUEHRER was told nothing about it - and he would not have believed it anyway. These people were so sure of themselves! And because of this unbelievable self-confidence they deceived us cautious people all the time.

IO: Whom do you have in mind particularly?

B: I am speaking of Adolf HITLER and his Foreign Minister.

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B: (I told SCHMIDT to go) to Transylvania. "You have to be where your people are." He left BERLIN, traveled down there and established liaison with the newly formed government after eight or ten days.

IO: Is that government still in power?

B: No, they now have a Bolshevik government. A great number of notes were exchanged between Britain, America and Russia, because a Communist government was installed after a revolt by 20,000 workers. The MANIU government worked hand in hand with my Andreas (SCHMIDT). He had short-wave transmitters through which we got some very interesting information.

IO: Are they (the transmitters) still in existence?

B: Yes, of course. Communications are only interrupted now. In one of his messages SCHMIDT told me that he had been in touch with the new Regent and was coming to see me (under the Regent's orders) as soon as a plane was available. Only WANNICK (?) and I knew about it. SCHMIDT took off in a Rumanian bomber. Everything was in perfect order, but after ten minutes he was shot down. Nobody but WANNICK could have given that away.

IO: In other words, this man worked with the Russians.

B: That is right.

IO: Where is he now?

B: I do not know. Maybe he went over to the other side.

IO: Can you give me a short description of him?

B: I know that he was a detective in VIENNA in 1908-9. He was born there. About six feet tall, has blue eyes and a big bald spot on his head, surrounded by blond hair. He was one of KALTENBRUNNER's disciples.

IO: Do you think that KALTENBRUNNER knew of this affair?

B: Yes. When that accident happened I went to see the FUEHRER and told him that my son-in-law had died in a plane crash. He replied, "No. He only crashed. He has severe burns and broke both thigh-bones." I asked where the report came from and he told me that it came directly from the OKW. KALTENBRUNNER knew in advance that I intended to see the FUEHRER, and before I went there this report was sent in. Otherwise those incidents are never reported.

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IO: Do you think that KALTENBRUNNER and WANNICK have the same ideas?

B: Yes. . . I really hate those two and if I were still in office and the war finished, I would have caught them both and liquidated them.

IO: Did KALTENBRUNNER have any friends down there?

B: Neither KALTENBRUNNER nor WANNICK had any friends in Hungary, Rumania or Croatia. WANNICK worked as an agent with agents. He was not a very bright man. We never received any positive reports from down there.

IO: How about GOETSCH?

B: GOETSCH, that is a different story. He is connected with the revolution in Slovakia, the military uprising on 28 and 29 Aug 44. GOETSCH knew of this uprising, and did not report it. The news about the uprising became known in BERLIN only much later and it was a complete surprise. At least 35,000 soldiers were involved in the revolt.

IO: HITLER did not know either?

B: No. Nobody. Only GOETSCH knew about it. I received the order to arrest the rebellious Gen CZERLOS (phon) for the time being. GOETSCH had the same order 24 hours before I arrived down there and when I arrived the general was still at large. When I met him at Premier TISO's house I looked at him (the general) a little bit too sharply by mistake. He became suspicious and disappeared right away.

IO: Where did he go?

B: To the Russians. He was shot later on.

III. MISCELLANY

B: When I saw that everything was lost, I supported all attempts to swing a deal in the West. I thought to myself, "If the Germans are unable to pull any strings, perhaps. . . (unintelligible). . ."

IO: Do you know of any specific incident which might be of interest?

B: I am about to tell you some deep dark secrets. . . (unintelligible). . . Sweden is a very conservative country. She is mortally afraid of the threatening rise of Communism. She has been subjected to a strict control by the Western powers, especially by England. However, she has supplied us with merchandise, in order to gain an ally in her battle against Communism. She delivered these supplies with the stipulation that they would be used solely on our Eastern front. And we kept our promise. I have attended these conferences. The main item supplied by Sweden was ball bearings. And we definitely promised to stick to their stipulation.

IO: When did this conference take place?

B: That was in the Spring of 1944. It followed the second large attack on our SCHWEINFURT ball bearing factories.

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B: Four Swedes were caught in Poland doing espionage against Germany, inspired by Great Britain. They were important people - among them the son of the largest stockholder of the Swedish match monopoly.

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They sent reports to England, dealing with important troop movements, the capacity of various factories, their locations, etc. . . They were sentenced to death. Acting on Brig Gen SCHOENENBERG's suggestion, HIMMLER. . . (interruption). . . suggested to HIMMLER to release these Swedes in return for some shipments of Swedish ball bearings. This scheme was proposed to him by the Swedish Ambassador to Germany. --- These Swedes were later released.

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IO: When did the idea become known that the government and the German troops were to withdraw to the mountains of Austria?

B: That was during the first days of March this year. It was intended to convert Tyrol into a fortress to which the troops fighting in the SOUTH and the Sixth Pz Army of Sepp DIETRICH could withdraw.

IO: And what was the purpose of this?

B: The purpose was that our units could have held out in this area until autumn, at which time we could have come to an agreement with the Allies.

IV. A "FRIEND'S" ADVICE

B: If you were to start anything against the Russians, now would be a good time to go ahead, at the risk of but a few American lives. With this in mind I surrendered to you; not because of my prisoners of war. Because I felt it to be my deep moral obligation to do so. . .

5 June 1945.

SEVENTH ARMY INTERROGATION CENTER

Paul Kubala
PAUL KUBALA,
Maj. MI.
Commanding.

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