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C O N F I D E N T I A L

CI - IIR/29
22 Oct 45

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES FORCES EUROPEAN THEATER
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE CENTER
APO 757

CI INTERMEDIATE INTERROGATION REPORT (CIIIR) NO 29

PRISONER: Brigf u Gen Maj d Pol RODE, Ernst August

Brigf u Gen Maj d Pol Ernst August RODE was Chief of Staff of Kdo Stab RFSS from 1943 until the end of the war. He is well acquainted with the last days of the Nazi regime. His information is considered reliable.

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1. REFERENCES

PIR, 12th Army Group Interrogation Center, dtd 12 June 45. Memo to G-2 (CIB), HQ 12th Army Group, dtd 12 June 45.

Extra
copies
not
available.

2. REASON FOR REPORT

Information contained in this report is believed to be of immediate interest.

3. REPORT

Life History

1894	Born 9 Aug, WUESTENWALTERSDORF, Silesia
1911	Completed school
1911-1913	Clerk
1914-1918	German Army, discharged as Lieutenant
1918-1920	Clerk
1920	Entered Schupo(later Orpo)
1924	Commissioned as police officer
1929-1939	Taught police tactics and police law
1933	Entered NSDAP, 1 May
1939	Campaign in Poland
1940	Bdo Norway
1941	April-May, in charge of police battalion in Yugoslav campaign; June, assigned to Kdo Stab RFSS as Stubaf; later became Id.
Jan 42- Feb 43	Ia of Kdo Stab RFSS
Feb 43- Apr 45	C of S of Kdo Stab RFSS
1943	May-September, in charge of 19 Lithuanian Waffen SS Div, committed on East Front
1944	Promoted to Brigf and Gen Maj d Pol und Waffen SS

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4. CONCLUSIONS

None.

5. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

RODE spoke freely. Information given by him is considered reliable.
He falls into the automatic internment category.

For the Commanding Officer:

George Henzel
for LEROY VOGEL
Captain, Inf
CI Section

22 Oct 45

Distribution "D"

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A N N E X I

RODE's ACTIVITIES DURING LAST DAYS OF WAR

PRISONER: Brigf u Gen Maj d Pol RODE, Ernst August

RODE received an invitation from KALTENBRUNNER, 22 Apr 45, to attend a conference to be held on that same day in AIGEN (nr SALZBURG). The following men were present: KALTENBRUNNER, Brigf SCHULTZ, O/Fuehrer PANZINGER, Standf HUPPENKOTHEN, O/Stubaf SKORZENY, O/Stubaf HUEBER, Stubaf RADL, and two adjutants whose names RODE does not recall.

SKORZENY was present in order to receive the Oak Leaf to his Ritterkreuz, which KALTENBRUNNER had brought him from HITLER. KALTENBRUNNER reviewed the seriousness of the war situation and disclosed that WOLFF had signed a truce with the Allies in Italy, that Gau Leiter HOFER of INNSBRUCK could no longer be trusted, and that a collapse of the whole Southern front was imminent.

KALTENBRUNNER showed RODE a power of attorney from HIMMLER making KALTENBRUNNER the sole representative of HIMMLER in the South. KALTENBRUNNER used this power to overrule an order by HIMMLER that HSSPf VON EBERSTEIN be replaced by Gen WINKELMANN, and instead appointed WINKELMANN chief of the Orpo in the South. O/Gruf BERGER, at that time in MUENCHEN, had a similar power of attorney and disapproved KALTENBRUNNER's action. RODE informed KALTENBRUNNER and BERGER that he would not recognize their power of attorney in his sphere of interest, and that he was in touch with HIMMLER through O/Stubaf GROTHMANN. He sent a message to HIMMLER to that effect, but never received an answer.

From subsequent conversations with KALTENBRUNNER, Standf BAUERT (chief of HIMMLER's personal staff), and with Gen KOLLER, C of S of the GAF, and from Frau HIMMLER's departure from the Koenigsee to MERAN, RODE concluded that HITLER and HIMMLER were no longer able to control all of Germany. RODE, therefore, decided to take the initiative and asked Gen/FM KESSELRING to appoint O/Gruf HAUSER as chief of the Waffen SS in the South in order to assure an orderly retreat of the Waffen SS.

RODE continued to maintain contact with the OKW through Geb WINTER and established HQ first in HIMMLER's personal train in TAXENBACH, and later, turning the train over to the OKW, set up HQ in HOLLERSBACH (nr ZELL AM SEE).

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A N N E X II

RODE's RELATIONSHIP WITH HIMMLER

PRISONER: Brigf u Gen Maj d Pol RODE, Ernst August

RODE met HIMMLER for the first time in 1941, at the beginning of the Russian campaign. RODE was at that time made Ia of Kdo Stab RFSS upon the recommendation of Gen Maj FREITAG. RODE considered HIMMLER to be a man of outstanding qualities even before he was able to observe him closely as C of S of Kdo Stab RFSS. HIMMLER was, according to RODE, a very hard worker, but wasted much of his time with unimportant matters. He wished to have a hand in every activity. He was easily convinced. He was not averse to lying if it were to his advantage, and placed blame for the failure of his own plans or orders on his subordinates. If he desired to rid himself of some associates he would play one against the other until they resigned. In this way he sent away Gruf EBRECHT, Gruf KORSELMANN, Obst Von BONIN, Gen/Maj BUTTLAR, and others.

RODE states that HIMMLER often acted like a despot and would accept no arguments. For this reason the HSSPfs were often more willing to accept orders blindly rather than to behave as energetic and conscientious officers. RODE believes that all HSSPfs were well aware of conditions in the concentration camps in their districts, and that they should have attempted to improve conditions there even against HIMMLER's orders.

RODE was not afraid to argue with HIMMLER, even at the risk of losing HIMMLER's favor, because he believed that his thorough knowledge of the police system was indispensable. HIMMLER did not like to associate with men who were older than he, fearing that they would possess more knowledge and might try to correct him.

HIMMLER's ambition was to become HITLER's successor, but he erred in breaking with BORMANN. BORMANN drew closer to FEGELEIN after the debacle of HIMMLER's Army Group Weichsel. HIMMLER then turned to GOERING, but GOERING was arrested shortly thereafter by order of HITLER. RODE thinks that HIMMLER began to fear BORMANN after GOERING's arrest. At this time, HIMMLER was preparing for a flight to Sweden. His Finnish masseur, KERSTEN, left for Sweden early in 1945(?) to prepare a possible future hideout for him.

RODE saw HIMMLER four times after September 1944.

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A N N E X III

GOERING's ARREST

PRISONER: Brigf u Gen Maj d Pol RODE, Ernst August

On the morning of 23 Apr 45 RODE was visited by one of GOERING's adjutants, with the request that he transmit the following message to HITLER:

"Mein Fuehrer, nach Vortrag des Generals KOLLER befuerchte ich, dass Sie nicht mehr die volle Handlungsfreiheit besitzen, sondern in BERLIN eingeschlossen sind. Ich nehme deshalb an, dass meine Vollmacht in Kraft tritt, falls ich bis 22 Uhr keine Antwort habe. GOERING."

"My Fuehrer, according to the report of Gen KOLLER, I am afraid that you no longer have a free hand, but are encircled. Therefore, unless I hear from you by 2200 hrs, I shall assume full power. GOERING."

On the following night RODE received a phone call from O/Stubaf FRANK, summoning him immediately. FRANK informed RODE that HITLER, through Dst BORMANN (under Landes Gericht Praesident MUELLER) had ordered GOERING's arrest. Additional messages expelled GOERING from the NSDAP and ordered him to relinquish all his duties. GOERING complied by wire.

GOERING was put under house arrest by guards of the Waffen SS. Dr LAMMERS was also arrested in BISCHOPSWIESEN. Later an order arrived from BORMANN to shoot GOERING and his associates in the event that BERLIN surrendered. RODE ordered FRANK to shoot no one under any circumstances.

RODE visited Gen KOLLER in BERCHTESGADEN, 28 Apr 45, in order to ask if any further instructions regarding GOERING had been received from Gen/FM von GREIM, GOERING's successor.

GOERING was transferred to MAUTERNDORF by order of KALTENBRUNNER because of air attacks on OBERSALZBERG.

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A N N E X IV

KDO STAB RFSS

PRISONER: Brigf u Gen Maj d Pol RODE, Ernst August

Kdo Stab RFSS was organized, Spring 1941, along the lines of a military HQ. Its first functions were to establish liaison between RFSS and the HSSPFs in occupied countries, to combat guerillas, and to collect stragglers. It moved, July 1941, from BERLIN to ARYS, E Prussia, where it remained until June 1942 as a liaison agency between HIMMLER and the three HSSPFs in the East: PRUETZMANN (Russia-South), Von dem Bach (Russia-Center), and JAECKEL (Russia-North). The staff consisted of the following men:

Brigf KOBLAUCH	C of S
Obst/Lt FREITAG	Ia
Stubaf MAY	Ic
Maj RODE	Id
Stubaf KOENIG	I-N(communications)
H/Stuf REICHHERZER	IIa
O/Stubaf BENDER	III
Stubaf OTTO	IVa
Gruf Prof Dr CRAWITZ	IVb
O/Stubaf BUERGER	VI

Kdo Stab RFSS moved to ZHITOMIR, June 1942, and back to E Prussia to KRUGLANKEN, September 1942. Part of the unit always accompanied HIMMLER to SALZBURG whenever the Fuehrer Haupt Quartier was moved to BERCHTESGADEN.

RODE became IA, January 1942, and replaced KNOBLAUCH as C of S early in 1943. Kdo Stab RFSS, in addition to its original functions, had to maintain liaison between OKH, OKV, and SS Fuehrungs Hauptamt. This additional duty was handled by Gruf FEGELEIN, 20 Jul 44 - April 1945, after which RODE took over once more.

Because of the German retreat in the East, Kdo Stab RFSS moved to GLASENBACH (nr SALZBURG), September 1944. It maintained liaison between HIMMLER and HSSPFs ROESENER (Alpenland), WOLFF (Italy), GLOBYCZEK (Trieste), and KALLERHOFFER (Croatia).

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In April 1945, Kdo Stab RFSS contained the following:

Gen Maj RODE	C of S
O/Stubaf BUEHNEMANN	Ia
Stubaf MAURER	Ib
Stubaf WEISBRECHT	Ic
Maj BOULLEY	I N
Stubaf KUENZEL	III
Maj HOFMANN	Adj
H/Stubaf SACHARON	Ordonanz
U/Stuf HOPPE	2nd "

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A N N E X V

PERSONALITY LIST

PRISONER: Brigf U Gen Maj d Pol RODE, Ernst August

-
1. ATTENBERGER, Georg Obst d Schupo SS Standf, Moravia Insp d
Protectorate Pol in Moravia in BRUENN 1938-45

lives BRUENN, Lehmgasse 1.68 m

Misc: Married; 2 children. Wife lives above address. CPI Buff
Card 410203.
 2. von dem BACH, Erich CG Oder Corps, Feb-Apr 45

lives BRESLAU last in RIEZLERN

Career: Until 1939 HSSPf in BRESLAU. Until 1943 HSSPf in Central
Russia. 1943-44 CO of the anti-partisan units (Banden Kampf
Verbaende).

Misc: Married; 5 (?) children. Wife lives RIEZLERN. CPI Pink
Card 57779; LFIU #4 CIR 4/6 dtd 31 May 45.
 3. BAUMERT, Paul SS Standf C of S Personal Staff Reichs Fuehrer SS,
AIGEN nr SALZBURG until the end

lives BERLIN last in TEGERNSEE(?) 1.70 m muscular blond
hair blue eyes

Misc: Married. CPI Pink Card 2137.
 4. BENDER, Horst SS O/Fuehrer d Waffen SS Chief Judge (Chef Richter)
with Teichs Fuehrer SS, AIGEN nr SALZBURG, 1939-Apr 45

lives TEGERNSEE(?) PW of US(?) born 1906 in E Prussia 1.76 m
blond hair brown eyes

Misc: Married; 1 child. Wife lives TEGERNSEE(?). Speaks English
and French.
CPI Buff Card 78014.
 5. BOULLEY (fnu) SS Standf Maj d Schupo Signal Officer Kdo Stab
Reichs Fuehrer SS, ZELL/See, May 45

lives PRAGUE last in HOLLERSBACH nr ZELL/See born 1910 1.65 m
slender blond hair brown eyes

Misc: Married; 2 children. Wife lives PRAGUE(?)

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6. BUEHNEMANN, Werner SS O/Stubaf Obst/Lt d Schupo I-a Kdo Stab
Reichs Fuehrer SS, ZELL/See until 1945

last in HOLLERSBACH near ZELL/See 1.78 m muscular blond hair
blue eyes

Misc: Married; 2 children.
CPI Buff Card 85230.
7. GRUENWALD, Hans Dietrich Bdo CRACOW, dismissed 1943

lives PRIEN/Chiem See(?) 1.85 m muscular blond hair ruddy
complexion blue eyes

Misc: Married; 2 children. Wife lives PRIEN. Speaks English and
French.
CPI Buff Card 31243.
8. HALLWACHS, Kurt (?) SS Stubaf I-a Feld Kdo Stelle Reichs Fuehrer
SS, AIGEN nr SALZBURG, later ZELL, until the end

last in HOLLERSBACH nr ZELL/See born 1912 1.75 m muscular
black hair brown eyes

Misc: Married. Speaks English and French.
Cf CPI Buff Card 432.
9. KEILHAUS, Wilhelm(?) SS Brigf Chief SS u Pol Signal Officer,
SALZBURG until Apr 45

last vic ZELL/See 1.75 m slender gray hair

CPI Buff Card 400146.
10. LORENZ, Erika Head Secretary to Reichs Fuehrer SS, NEUKIRCHEN, until
the end

last in NEUKIRCHEN nr ZELL/See born 1910 1.76 m slender
blond hair gray eyes

Career: Administered property and correspondence of Reichs
Fuehrer SS.
CPI Pink Card 108903.
11. MASCUS, Helmut SS Brigf Bdo Holland until the end

1.65 m frail black hair brown eyes mustache slight limp

Misc: Speaks English and French.
CPI Buff Card 84376.
12. MAURER (fnu) SS O/Stubaf Obst/Lt d Schupo Motor Officer Kdo
Stab Reichs Fuehrer SS, GLASENBACH nr SALZBURG until the end

lives HAMBURG last in HOLLERSBACH nr ZELL/See born 1912
1.75 m muscular blond hair

Misc: Married. Wife lives HAMBURG.
CPI Buff Card 420.

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13. MEISSENER (fnu) Gen/Insp d Gend, BERLIN until the end
presumably prisoner of US born 1888 1.95 m slender gray
hair blue eyes
Career: Until 1943 HSSPf in Serbia.
Misc: Married.
13. SCHMALOER (fnu) SS Stubaf Signal Officer Reichs Fuehrer SS,
AIGEN nr SALZBURG until the end
born 1915 1.80 m black hair wears glasses one eye
Misc: Married. Wife lives AIGEN.
14. SUCHANEK, Willi O/Stubaf Obst/Lt d Schupo Pol Adj to Reichs
Fuehrer SS, NEUKIRCHEN until the end
lives NEUKIRCHEN nr ZELL/See 1.78 m muscular blond hair
gray eyes
Career: Associate of KALTENBRUNNER.
Misc: Married; 2 children.
CPI Pink Card 205438.
15. TIEFENBACHER, Joseph Sepp(?) SS Standf HQ Commandant, Reichs
Fuehrer SS, AIGEN nr SALZBURG, Apr 45
lives TEGERNSEE
CPI Buff Cards 3479; 80519.
16. WEIBRECHT, Hans O/Stuf d Waffen SS, Leib Standarte ADOLF HITLER,
Apr - May 45
born 1910 1.80 m blond hair fair complexion blue eyes
Career: 1942-Apr 45 SD Officer. With I-c Feind Nachrichten.
Misc: Married; 3 children.