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OFFICE OF THE U.S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL
FOR THE PROSECUTION OF AXIS CRIMINALITY

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of: OTTO SKORZENY
By : Col. Brundage, 11 September 1945, PM Nurnberg

PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS IMPLICATED AND SUBJECTS

1. SKORZENY:

- a. Membership in the MSDAP (pp 1-2)
- b. Membership in the Waffen SS (pp 3-4)
- c. The JACD Battalions (5-12)
 - (1) Wehrmacht Control--Jodl (p 9)
 - (2) Administrative Control--Schellenberg (pp 9-10)
- d. Sabotage Schools (p5, p7, p 11)
- e. Activities in Denmark (pp 11-12)
- f. Activities in Austria (pp 12-13)
- g. The Mussolini Action (p 8)
- h. Relationship with: Jodl (pp 7-8); Schellenberg (pp 7,8,9,10)
Col. General Student (p 8); Himmler (pp 8-9); Kaltenbrunner (pp 9-10,
12,13); Ribbentrop (p 11); Gauleiter Schirach (p 12); Gauleiter
Eigruber (p 12); Gluecks (p 13); Pohl (p 13); General Karl Wolff
(pp 13-14)

2. RIBBENTROP

- a. No connections with Skorzeny's operations (p 11)

3. SCELLENBERG:

- a. Administrative control of Skorzeny's Operations (pp 9-10)
- b. Chief of Sabotage Schools (p 7)

4. WOLFF, GENERAL KARL:

- a. SS and Police Leader in Italy. (p 14)

5. KALTENBRUNNER:

- a. Chief of Reich Security Chief Office (p 9)
- b. Schellenberg's superior Officer (p 9) see also p 10)

PERSONAL HISTORY:

Skorzeny is 37 years of age; married; completed technical high school education; graduate engineer (p 2). He was a tradesman, "I had my trade"; resident of Vienna in 1939 (p 3)

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MEMBERSHIP IN GERMAN MILITARY, PARA-MILITARY, POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

NSDAP :

Joined the Party in 1936. Held no official position in the Party. (p 2)

Waffen SS:

Skorzeny volunteered in 1940 (p 2). He was assigned as a technical officer in an artillery regiment on the Western Front. (p2) Commissioned in 1941 (p 3)

1941 to January 1942 he served on the Yugoslavian and Russian Fronts with SS "Division Reich" (p 3).

January 1942 became ill and was sent to rear (p 4).

May 1942 to February 1943 served variously with Motorized Student Training Division; then assigned to 5th Panzer Regiment. (p 4)

February 1943 transferred to "Leading Chief Office, SS Officer's Reserve, (p 4)

JACD BATTALIONS:

In May 1943 Skorzeny was made commander of Fighting Battalion 502 which in time was enlarged to include approximately six battalions. (p 7) These were all known as "Fighting Battalions" or JACD. (pp 5-6) Their purpose was to carry out special missions, fulfill commando functions. (p 8) Apparently there were two echelons of command one relating to tactics the other to administration; On p 7 Skorzeny states that they were under the command of the Wehrmacht Leading Staff. (Jodl was the Chief and orders were given Skorzeny through the Wehrmacht Staff). Then there was the second chain of command, the SS, referred to on p 9; Skorzeny to Schellenberg to Kaltenbrunner to Himmler. In this connection Skorzeny testified that Schellenberg attended merely to administrative matters. Kaltenbrunner had no command function; Kaltenbrunner "had nothing to do with the Fighting Battalions", (p 9,10) Nevertheless Skorzeny states that he made reports to Schellenberg who in turn "must have" transmitted the reports to Kaltenbrunner. (Also on p 12 Skorzeny refers to orders received from Schellenberg re the transfer of some of Skorzeny's men to another unit which would seem to indicate Schellenberg had some command function.)

SABOTAGE SCHOOLS:

Concurrently with receiving command of the Fighting Battalion 502, Skorzeny became group leader of Section 6S (under the SS and Reichs Security Chief's Office), a group of schools for the purpose of teaching sabotage, foreign customs, and demolition work (p 5 and p 11). The emphasis was on training for duty in foreign countries. At this time Skorzeny held the rank of Captain. (p 6) The schools were located in the Hague, in Heinrichsburg, Belgrade and in Neustrelitz. The schools were under direction of Brigade Leader Schellenberg (p 7).

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ACTIVITIES IN DENMARK:

Skorzeny admits that Section 4 started a resistance movement in Denmark in December 1943 or January 1944 (p 11), although the units in question were not under Skorzeny's command at the time (p 12). Orders regarding the matter came from Schellenberg. Skorzeny has no information regarding Kaltenbrunner's participation.

ACTIVITIES IN AUSTRIA:

On 6 April 1945 Skorzeny left Hof (upper Bavaria) to visit Eastern JACD units; then to Vienna (JACD units southeast). 9-10 April 1945 Skorzeny went to Jaidhof in Krems. Then he received orders from Kaltenbrunner to return to the Office of Gauleiter Eigruber in Austria to set up a patrol system for the apprehension of deserters from the eastern front in the vicinity of Linz (pp 12-13).

THE MUSSOLINI ACTION:

Re the kidnapping of the Duce, Skorzeny was ordered to report to Hitler by Schellenberg (p.8). Jodl was not present. Himmler was present during a portion of the interview.

KARL WOLFF

Karl Wolff was the highest SS and Police Leader with Mussolini (p 14)