

7. Statement of Lt. Col. Gerald Duin on Early Contacts with the Gehlen Organization [undated]

Statement of Lt. Col. Gerald DUIN on Early Contacts with the GEHLEN Organization

Lt. Col. Gerald DUIN was assigned as Chief Interrogator at the 1142 Interrogation Center, Alexandria, Virginia, in 1942 and was Capt. John BOKER's superior officer there following BOKER's arrival at 1142 sometime in 1943. Following further wartime interrogation work in North Africa and Europe, DUIN served as Chief Interrogator at the 12th Army Group Interrogation Center, to which BOKER also was assigned sometime in 1944 or 1945. In 1945 DUIN was at MIS headquarters in Paris and later was assigned to the Oberursel staff but never actually joined the staff for reasons of being hospitalized from May until October 1945.

In October 1945, while still on sick leave in the United States, DUIN visited the 1142 Interrogation Center and requested his former job as Chief Interrogator. He was informed that there was no job available for him there at that time but that a new project was being started at Camp Ritchie in which he might be interested. This project, called the German Documents Center Project, was one of two projects at Camp Ritchie, the other being a Far Eastern project of a similar nature, and was under the immediate supervision of Lt. Col. (Paul) GRONICH. Both projects, German and Far Eastern, were under the direction of Col. BIUNDA, while Colonel John LEVELL was overall chief in Washington.

The German project consisted of a group of former German officers and about 400 German PWs. The officer intelligence nucleus included about six German generals and 20-30 colonels, lieutenant colonels and majors. The remainder of the group consisted of about 100 captains and lieutenants who had been recruited from PW camps all over the United States to serve as stenographers and translators, and about 200 enlisted men, also recruited from PW camps to serve as cooks and general service personnel.

The intelligence nucleus consisted chiefly of officers who had been taken

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from a German armored train, captured in tete in May 1945, which had belonged to the German General Staff and which had ended the war in Austria. Members of this train had been taken to a PW camp near Bad Tolz, where they were kept for several months, and later had been sent to Oberursel after US Army representatives from Oberursel had visited the Bad Tolz to leak them over.

Personnel of the armored train included Colonel Johannes HAERTEL (HELLER), Lt. Col. Kurt RITTMANN and Major Walter LOBEDANZ (LOEWE), all still with the GEHLEN organization, General LAEGLER, Colonel KUEHNE, LITTELSCHIED, CARTELLIERI and BOGNER. At Oberursel a number of other German officers were added to this group, including the following: Lt. General BUEBLE, head of the Ruestungsamt of the OKW (possibly OKH) who had been working closely with SPEER at the end of the war, and General THOMALE, former German tank corps commander in the USSR and later assistant to General GUDERIAN.

This combined group initially was kept at Oberursel and in October 1945 was transferred to the United States, to Camp Ritchie. During October and November the recruiting of the junior officers and enlisted men from US PW camps took place and the entire group was assembled. In the meantime the documents on which the group was to work had arrived, including the GEHLEN documents which had travelled to the US with Capt. BOKER and the GEHLEN group. The latter documents had been brought to the United States, not for the GEHLEN staff but for the Ritchie group, Lt. Col. GRONICH's project, and were transferred to Camp Ritchie immediately upon arrival.

Colonel LOVELL's idea in assembling the German Documents Center Project was to collect a representative German General Staff group and put them to work writing a comprehensive history of German Army experiences on the Eastern Front in all sectors and all branches of the service. Results of their work were to be complete studies of combat under all types of circumstances and conditions. This work was started in November 1945 with the documents available

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and was continued until April 1946. Work was performed by the German officers in close association with a combined group of American, British and Canadian officers. After reports were completed by the German officers, who were in daily consultation with the Allied officers, the reports were given to the German captains and lieutenants for translation into English and typing, and were then received by the Allied officers for editing and decisions of final dissemination.

On 15 April 1946 seven members of the Camp Ritchie group were transferred to the 1142 Interrogation Center and attached to the GEHLEN group. These seven included HAERTEL, who was a transportation expert, which the GEHLEN staff lacked, and RITTMANN and LOBEDANZ, also transferred because of their specialties. At the same time all documents which had been located at Camp Ritchie and used by the German group were sent to a building in the center of Washington. About a month or so later they were moved to the basement of the Pentagon, and still later to an unknown location in Baltimore. DUIN states, however, that by this time GEHLEN had a large number of documents at his disposal at 1142, some or most of which DUIN presumes must have been sent to him from Camp Ritchie.

On 18 April 1946 Lt. Col. DUIN accompanied all members of the German group, except those seven who had been transferred, back to Germany. On his arrival back in the United States he reported to 1142 (22 May 1946), to which he had already been transferred, and became chief of the Interrogation and Research unit there. This branch then included two groups: the GEHLEN group, the larger of the two, under Captain WALDMAN, and a VLASSOV group which included a VLASSOV Air Force general and two VLASSOV Army colonels, under Lt. IVANOVSKI (now with CIA Washington).

In June 1946 the State Department decided that all Germans then in the US were to be returned to Germany. The Intelligence Division, WD, protested the ruling, inasmuch as it wanted to retain both groups in the United States, and

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the matter was taken up to the level of the Secretary of State (BRYNES). Secretary BRYNES decided, however, that there were to be no exceptions and that every German was to be returned to Europe prior to 30 June 1946. The GEHLEN personnel were dispatched, therefore, and DUIN later heard that they had been sent to Oberursel.

DUIN states that a very strict security wall was maintained between the group at 1142 and the one at Camp Ritchie. It was specifically desired to keep the two groups from learning about the presence or work of each other, particularly the Ritchie group from knowing anything about the GEHLEN and VIASSOV groups, in order to prevent any information from reaching the Soviets in the event that any of the Germans elected to enter the Soviet Zone after being returned to Germany.

The names of the other four persons who were transferred from Camp Ritchie to 1142 at the time of transfer of HAERTEL, RITTMANN and LOBEDANZ will be supplied by Lt. Col. DUIN at a later date, if possible.

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Corrections and Additions to Statements of Col. DUIN

1. HELLER was already working at 1142 at the time of transfer of Germans from Camp Ritchie to 1142. Time of his attachment to 1142 is unknown.
2. Eleven Germans, rather than seven, were transferred from Ritchie to the GENLEN group at 1142. These included the following:
  - General THOMALE
  - General TROTTA
  - General LEGELER
  - Colonel BERENDSEN
  - Colonel (7) Meyer DIETRICH
  - Colonel RITTMANN
  - Lt. Col. ENGELTER
  - Lt. Col. LINN
  - Lt. Col. LITTELSCHIED
  - Lt. Col. (7) LOBEDANZ
  - Capt. CARTELLIERI
3. The 45 staff has been interested in sending some of its officers to Washington to work on German documents located there. Lt. Col. DUIN was asked to find out whether anything could be done to make this possible and the Heidelberg reaction, that this was a question which would have to be handled through CIA channels, was conveyed to 45. DUIN took this occasion to inquire about the disposition of documents in the early days and learned that 20 packing cases of documents had accompanied the original group to the US; that Col. GRONICH after some argument had permitted the group to keep certain documents which they considered the most important (G-2 documents); that the remainder had been taken by Col. GRONICH, a few being taken to the Documents Center in the Pentagon but the majority going to Camp Ritchie. When the Camp Ritchie group of Germans completed its work,

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the documents at Camp Ritchie were also sent to the Documents Center. At the time HIRTH was in the US (1142), he had access to the Documents Center and was permitted to select and take those documents which were of interest to 1142 for use by the GEHLEN staff.

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1. The documents which arrived in the US with the GEHLEN group included daily Eastern Front operational reports, daily situation maps, G-1, G-3, G-4 estimated, orders and reports, etc. These went to Camp Ritchie, while GEHLEN took with him to Fort Hunt those G-2 documents which he considered essential to his work for the Americans.
2. General GEHLEN and his group worked primarily for the Eastern European Branch of the Intelligence Division while at Fort Hunt. His group was under the physical control of the Prisoner of War Branch of the Intelligence Division, headed by Colonel SWEET and then by Colonel John M. WALKER. This Branch ran Fort Hunt, which was under the command of Lt. Col. Monte CONE. One of the Eastern European Branch operations contact men with the group was Capt. WALDMAN. There was an officer detailed exclusively to take care of the wants and needs of the group (Capt. EISENAUER).

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