



ORIGINAL PAPER

Information about SD Activities in Romania Based on the Interrogation of Iacob Lendermann by the SOE

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Abstract:

JACOB LENDERMANN arrived in Aleppo from Bucharest on April 12, 1944. Upon arrival he was interrogated by SOE and MI5 agents. From the above, it can be seen that LEDERMANN knows much more than an ordinary Jewish refugee, being asked how he obtained this information. He says that he did not speak to any of the above-mentioned persons, except FUSS, who provided him with all the above information, He volunteered information when questioned about the investigation into Jewish refugees. This work presents new data on the organization of the SD in Romania during World War II.

Keyword: *Jacob LENDERMANN, SD, SECURITY, ALEPO, ABWEHR.*

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Iacob LENDERMANN arrived in Aleppo from Bucharest on April 12, 1944. Upon arrival, he was questioned by agents from the SOE and MI5. A copy of his C.E.V. form was attached. He voluntarily provided the following information when questioned during the investigation into Jewish refugees and the SD agents in Romania:

1. Regarding Radu Lecca (B. February 15, 1890—D. 1980), it has been claimed that he was a Romanian spy in France, an anti-Semitic journalist, a Nazi agent in Romania, the Romanian government's representative responsible for regulating the status of Jews in Romania, and a war criminal.³

2. (a) While TITULESCU was foreign minister, that is, until 1937, LECCA served as an official at the Romanian legation in Paris. It has been claimed that while he was there, he was used as a spy by the German Secret Service and that his activities were monitored by French counterintelligence.

(b) He assumed the position of Romania's representative for Jewish affairs in 1941. That same year, LECCA became deputy director general of the Police and Security under General Leoveanu, commander of the 7th Army Corps, headquartered in Timișoara. LECCA, together with Stranti STRATILESCU, an inspector with the Police and Security Organization, attempted to remove LEOVEANU from office, so that LECCA could take over.⁴ LEOVEANU sensed the move and transferred LECCA to CONSTANȚA. Alecu Ghyka served as chief of police during the National Legionary State, having been appointed by the head of state, Marshal Ion Antonescu, and by Minister Horia Sima on September 16, 1940. STRATILESCU STRATE, GENERAL INSPECTOR, took over the leadership of the General Directorate of Security following Maimuca's arrest on January 21, 1941.

STRATILESCU STRATE, GENERAL INSPECTOR, took over the leadership of the General Directorate of Security following Maimuca's arrest on January 21, 1941. As he stated during interrogations conducted by security agents, upon his appointment, Colonel Petre Cameniță was named Director General of the Police. General Petre Cameniță (1889–1962) graduated from the War College (1921), served as prefect of Argeș during the dictatorship of Carol II (1938–1940), and commanded several military units, including the 6th Army Corps [appointed in September 1940, disbanded in 1945], earning several hundred thousand lei and introducing him to the organization, of which he recalled: R. Georman (deputy general director), C. Maimuca (director of the Security Police Directorate), Șteflea (director of the Judicial Police), Alimănișteanu (personnel director), and Bădulescu (assistant), S. Stratilescu (head of the Detective Corps), Ovidiu Măcelaru (head of the Passport Service), and Fl. Cernăianu (Intelligence Bulletin).⁵ Following the Legionary rebellion, Alecu Ghyka and Constantin Maimuca were arrested.

(c) In December 1943, LECCA was appointed General Commissioner for Jewish Affairs, working in conjunction with the Minister of Labor and supported by the wife of SS Captain RICHTER. This man was not known in Jewish circles until 1941, when the Federation of Jewish Communities was dissolved by the Germans, and central control of Romanian Jews was established.

³ Radu Lecca's role in the Romanian Holocaust <https://www.bzi.ro/rolul-lui-radu-lecca-in-holocaustul-romanesc-756273>

⁴ General Emanoil Leoveanu was born on April 16, 1887. He was promoted to the rank of major general effective June 8, 1940. General Emanoil Leoveanu, Director General of the Police in 1941, was arrested in 1947, released, and then sentenced to prison in 1951. He died in his cell at the Făgăraș prison at the age of 72—Alesandru Duțu, Florica Dobre, *Drama generalilor români (1944–1964)* [The Tragedy of the Romanian Generals (1944–1964)], Editura Enciclopedică, Bucharest, 1997, pp. 159–165.

⁵ <https://fericiteieiprisoniti.net/comunistii-nu-l-au-incovoiat-printul-alexandru-ghica-directorul-general-al-politiei>

3. (a) Jacob Lendernan was a Transylvanian Jew with a German, Aryan wife. His wife was the cousin of Richter's wife. This man was well-known in Jewish circles until 1941, when the Federation of Jewish Communities was dissolved by the Germans, and central control over Romanian Jews was established.

(b) As president of this organization for the control of Jews—a position he obtained because RICHTER recommended Lecca, who works closely with RICHTER—, he is the only Jew he claimed to know who collaborates in any way with the Germans.

(c) His description is 35 to 40 years old, shorts, average build, black hair, and nothing particularly distinctive other than his face being very oval, and quite long.⁶

Gustav Richter. In April 1941, Richter was sent to Bucharest (Romania) as an advisor on Jewish affairs. He worked alongside Manfred von Killinger. The main Romanian contributor was Radu Lecca (B. February 15, 1890–D. 1980), who contributed with Richter, a former Romanian spy and government official, appointed by Ion Antonescu as “General Commissioner for Jewish Affairs and Director without title of the Central Office for Jews in Romania.”

After the war, he was sentenced to death for “bringing disaster upon the country by committing war crimes” during the Great National Treason Trial; his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment on the very day set for his execution (June 1, 1946). Lecca was known to have been imprisoned in France for espionage, and he became one of the main propagators of anti-Semitic and fascist ideas, acting as an agent of influence for Nazi Germany in Romania.

A close associate of Ion Antonescu, Lecca became involved in Romanian politics during World War II and, in particular, served as the chief executor of “The Cleansing of the Land,” the code name used by the Antonescu regime as the equivalent of the German term “Final Solution” for the extermination of the Jewish minority.

Starting in 1941, Lecca was tasked with “solving the Jewish problem in Romania” and, at the suggestion of Manfred von Killinger and Gustav Richter, founded the Central Office for Jews in Romania, through which he persecuted and plundered Romanian Jews, threatening them with deportation to Transnistria. This system was known to be corrupt, with much of the money ending up in the pockets of Lecca or other high-ranking officials. Radu Lecca worked closely with the German ambassador's assistant, Gustav Richter, on the development of the “Final Solution in Romania.” Lecca proposed sparing 3,000 Jewish specialists so they could be sent to Mandatory Palestine in exchange for 3 billion pounds. However, the plan was never carried out due to German defeats on the front.

After the coup d'état in 1944, Lecca was sentenced to death, though the sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment. After his release, he wrote his memoirs, in which he downplayed his own involvement and that of Marshal Antonescu in the Romanian Holocaust. On August 23, 1944, Richter was in the German Embassy building in Bucharest, where he was captured by Romanian royal forces and handed over to Soviet military forces.

3. (a) Richter was an SS captain known to be the head of the Gestapo in Romania. He was a personal friend of HITLER, with whom he is said to have been very close. He is described by the SOE as “an advisor on Jewish affairs at the German Embassy.”

b) RICHTER's office was located on ORLANDO Street in BUCHAREST. The source had never seen RICHTER, but he was believed to be a very young man. Lendernan could not remember his first name. Gustav Richter was a devoted Nazi. He was a member

⁶ TNA KEW Gardens KV/3152, Divers Telegrams, pp. 1–3.

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of the Nazi Party and Richter's primary mission was to conduct a census of all Jews in Romania. He planned to intern 300,000 Romanian Jews in ghettos and subsequently exterminate them after deporting them to the Belzec extermination camp in occupied Poland. Another task entrusted to him was to prevent the emigration of Jews (including children) from Romania to Palestine under British mandate.

Richter's activities in Romania. In April 1941, Richter was sent to Bucharest (Romania) as an advisor on Jewish affairs. He worked closely with the German ambassador to Romania, Baron Manfred von Killinger. After visiting Berlin in September 1941, Richter insisted on the reintroduction of repressive measures against Romanian Jews. On September 3, 1941, as a result of his intervention, the order requiring Jews in Romania to wear the yellow star was reinstated.

On July 22, 1942, Richter received permission from Romania's *Conducător* (Head of State), Ion Antonescu, and from Foreign Minister Mihai Antonescu to deport the Jews of Romania to Belzec. However, Richter's plan to deport Romanian Jews to Belzec failed.

On January 21, 1945, while in Soviet custody immediately after World War II, Richter shared a prison cell with Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg at Lubyanka Prison. On March 1, 1945, Richter was moved from the cell and never saw Wallenberg again. He testified in Sweden in 1955 that Wallenberg had been interrogated at least once by the Soviets for about an hour and a half. According to Richter, this interrogation took place in early February 1945.

After several years in Soviet prison camps, Richter was tried and convicted in 1951 for war crimes. In 1955, he was handed over to the authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany, who wished to try him. Preparations for Richter's trial began in Germany in 1961, but his trial did not begin until December 1981. The main charge against him was the development of a plan to deport Romanian Jews to Belzec. In early 1982, Richter was sentenced to four years in prison but was released on the grounds that he had already served this sentence in prisons in the Soviet Union.

5. Lenderman described Tester as an Englishman born in Germany who was evidently in intelligence service, but many people believed that he was in fact a British agent who lived at 85 Victoria Road, Bucharest. No description of him was available.

6. (a) FUSS Albert (or Alfredd) was a lawyer from Transylvania, half German and half Romanian.

(b) FUSS also told Lendermann that he was a member of the SS but that he disagreed with RICHTER, who was dishonorable in his dealings and was involved in financial schemes with LECCA.

7. From the above, it is clear that LEDERMANN knew far more than the average Jewish refugee, and he was asked how he had obtained this information. He said he had not spoken to any of the people mentioned above, except for FUSS, who provided him with all the information above, with the exception of that regarding TESTER (Arthur Alfred/Albert).

Tester was born on August 23, 1895 (according to other sources, in 1898), in Stuttgart, Germany, to an Anglo-German family. At that time, Romanian intelligence agencies considered Alfred (Arthur) Tester to be one of the leaders of the Gestapo in Romania. He was in possession of a German passport and had close ties to the German Secret Service. He obtained visas to travel abroad through the Romanian SSI, "the only institution in Romania that had official ties to the German Secret Service." An

investigation ordered by the Soviet authorities (in 1949) “concluded that Tester... had died.”⁷

8. The source states that he met FUSS only once. He was introduced to him by a lawyer named FOCSANEANU Gheorghe Focsaneanu (1897–1982) Also known as: “Focseneanu.” Date of birth: May 17, 1897. Place of birth: Bucharest, Romania. Date of death: June 14, 1982, Avenue Ingres 75016 Paris, Île-de-France, France. Immediate family: Son of Maurice Focsaneanu and Ernestina Tinca Focsaneanu Husband of Alice Focsaneanu Father of Daniel Falvert and Dr. Dina Sergiescu Brother of Dr. Magheru Alice Occupation: Lawyer.⁸

They met in April 1943. FUSS was wearing civilian clothes at the time, and although the Source was Jewish, FUSS told him that he was a member of the SS, and that RICHTER was also an SS member. He told Lederman that he was working for KILLINGER, the German ambassador in BUCHAREST.

KILLINGER provided him with the information mentioned above—with the exception of point 2(c), which is a rumor the source heard from another person.

9. When it was pointed out to LEDERMANN that it was rather strange for a German to open his heart to a Jew in such a manner, LEDERMANN said that, although FUSS was a good German, he himself was anti-Nazi and had lived his entire life in Romania, and in that sense he was not anti-Jewish.

10. The source states that the information about the TESTER was provided to him by a Greek shipowner, Jean PANDELIS, who had a business in CONSTANZA aimed at bringing Jewish refugees to ISTANBUL.

11. In the interrogating officer’s opinion, much of the above should be taken with a grain of salt, but it is presented in case it may prove useful. Although Ledermann seemed sincere and appeared to believe everything, he said, there is no doubt that much of it was exaggerated by him.⁹

The investigating officers in Aleppo were (Sgt.) W.B.P. Watering, a captain, and Major A.D.Z.C. Noghern.

The Sicherheitsdienst (SD) provided personnel and leadership for the Einsatzgruppen, mobile extermination units formed under the auspices of the Reich Main Security Office (RSHA) in June 1941 in preparation for the invasion of the Soviet Union, where they carried out mass executions of Jews, Roma, communists, and others deemed enemies. These units, consisting of approximately 3,000 men from the SD, the Security Police, the Order Police, and the Waffen-SS, operated in four main groups (A, B, C, D) that directly executed over 1.5 million victims, primarily by shooting them at prearranged locations.

SD members organized the operations, including rounding up the victims, transporting them to the execution pits, and carrying out the shootings themselves, often forcing the victims to dig their own graves before shooting them at close range to conserve ammunition. A prominent example of SD leadership in these atrocities was Otto Ohlendorf, head of the SD’s internal intelligence office (RSHA Amt III), who commanded Einsatzgruppe D from July 1941 until mid-1942 in southern Ukraine, Bessarabia, and the Crimea. Under his leadership, the group, consisting of approximately 600 members, killed

⁷ Marian Zidaru, *The British Archive About the Activity of Dr. Arthur Tester in Romania*, in *International Scientific Conference “Strategies XXI”*, 2018, pp.

⁸ <https://www.geni.com/people/Gheorghe-Focsaneanu/60000001834527298210>

⁹ Jean Pandelis, a Greek shipowner, purchased the Struma to transport Jews to Palestine. Minor modifications were made to it, and an engine was added. The engine would operate for only a few hours during the voyage to the Bosphorus, Struma – https://respiro.org/Issue4/FILM_StrumaStelianTanase.htm

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about 90,000 civilians—mostly Jews, but also Roma and alleged partisans—through systematic executions, with the killings expanding to include women, children, and the elderly by mid-1941.

In an operation reported to have taken place between November 16 and December 15, 1941, in Western Crimea, Einsatzgruppe D killed 17,645 Jews, 2,504 Krimchaks, 824 Roma, and 212 communists or partisans. Ohlendorf later testified to these methods during his trial in 1947–1948. SS Oberführer Horst Hoffmeyer (1903–1944), a German SS officer and Nazi official involved in the Holocaust and the Germanization of occupied territories. Within the SS, Hoffmeyer was promoted to the rank of SS-Oberführer in October 1941 and attained the rank of Brigadeführer in November 1943. He was also appointed police major general in 1943.

Toward the end of the war, he served in Odessa, Kiev, and Bucharest. After Antonescu's fall and Romania's change of sides, he led a combat group, the command of which he shortly thereafter handed over to Wehrmacht Lieutenant General Alfred Gerstenberg. Hoffmeyer committed suicide in captivity along with his collaborator Erwin Müller on September 11, 1944, in Craiova.¹⁰

Other SD employees in Romania

Hans Joachim. Born in Constanța. Representative of the company Deutsche Levant-Linie. Clerk at the German Consulate in Constanța. In 1943, he served in the Wehrmacht, working alongside Captain Witelere.

Julius, Karl Ernst, born in Germany in 1902. German passport, no. p8/43, issued in Istanbul on April 6, 1943. Attached to the German Legation in Tehran; April 1941. Head of the Istanbul office of the Deutsche Levante Linie company; requested exemption from military service in March 1943, on the grounds that the information he had provided made him indispensable. Returned to Germany on August 19, 1944. Other SD representatives in Romania: SS officers. Otto Albrecht von Bolschwing, Kurt Geißler, Hans Koenen, Waschinowski, Karl Count von Meran, Karl Kräutle, etc. Following the Legionary rebellion, German plenipotentiary Manfred von Killinger drafted a report in which he requested, “in the interest of internal order” and the “sound defense of our common interests”, the recall of: 1) SD representatives in Romania (Otto Albrecht von Bolschwing. Otto Albrecht Alfred von Bolschwing (October 15, 1909–March 7, 1982) was a German officer with the rank of SS-Hauptsturmführer, an intelligence officer, and an international businessman. Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party came to power in Germany in January 1933. In September of that same year, von Bolschwing traveled to the British Mandate of Palestine to identify potential business opportunities and soon established an import-export firm, Amaneh, in Jerusalem.

In March 1940, von Bolschwing received a prestigious appointment at the German Embassy in Bucharest, Romania, as Sonderbeauftragter (special representative) to the government of King Carol II. In this capacity, von Bolschwing was tasked with coordinating the SD's intelligence operations in Romania, including overseeing all SD agents operating in the country.

In Bucharest, von Bolschwing quickly became close to the ultranationalist Iron Guard, the most significant fascist and anti-Semitic political movement in Romania. Von

¹⁰ See—Ottmar Trașcă, *Atașaii de poliție SS din cadrul Legației Germane din București și influența activității lor asupra evoluției relațiilor româno-germane, 1940–1944* [The SS Police Attaches Within the German Legation in Bucharest and the Influence of Their Activity on the Evolution of Romanian-German Relations, 1940–1944], in “Historica”, Year XLVI, 2007, Issue No. 46, pp. 319–383.

Bolschwing's efforts to promote the political rise of the Iron Guard were initially highly successful. Acting on his own initiative, von Bolschwing conspired with Iron Guard leaders Horia Sima and Valerian Trifa to organize a violent attempt to overthrow the Antonescu government. Subsequently, von Bolschwing arranged for the Iron Guard leaders to flee Romania to Bulgaria.

After leaving his post in Romania in March 1941, Von Bolschwing traveled to Sofia, Bulgaria, to facilitate the "safe transport" of the Iron Guard leadership into exile in Germany. During his stay there, Von Bolschwing received orders from Berlin to serve as the SD's chief intelligence officer in northern Greece during the rapidly approaching Balkan offensive.

Von Bolschwing was officially expelled from the SS in February 1945, and by April of that year he was working directly with the headquarters of the U.S. Army's 71st Infantry Division. Postwar Espionage.

In his attempt to join the CIA, von Bolschwing found a supporter in James H. Critchfield, the influential station chief of the CIA in Pullach, Bavaria, and the Agency's former primary liaison with Ausodeum. Despite the mediocre results of his operation in Romania and his questionable abilities as an agent, Critchfield nevertheless considered von Bolschwing important.

In January 1954, von Bolschwing, accompanied by his wife and son, departed from Genoa, Italy, aboard the SS Andrea Doria bound for New York, using the pseudonym of U.S. Army Captain Albert D. Eisner, a fictitious identity provided by the CIA. After their arrival on February 2, the family was housed in the Boston home of a former military intelligence officer who had previously worked with von Bolschwing in Europe. In the U.S., he worked for various companies. He died in 1982.

Kurt Geißler (1902–1963). Police and SS officer. He is likely the best-known historical figure by this name, having close ties to Romania: During World War II, he served as a special representative of the German Security Police (Sipo) in Bucharest. He was a police commissioner and SS-Sturmabführer. He headed important departments within the Reich Main Security Office (RSHA) and served as police director in Riga. He survived the war and later became police commander in Cologne.¹¹

Other SD officers included:

- 1) Karl Count von Meran, Karl Kräutle, and Wenzel;
 - 2) the head of the NSDAP/AO in Romania, Artur Konradi, and his deputy, Langenecker;
 - 3) the German consuls in Orșova.¹²
- The recall of SD representatives from Romania undoubtedly represented a major victory for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in its dispute with the SS. The SD's prestige was so severely damaged that Heinrich Himmler was forced to issue an order on March 5, 1942, prohibiting SD members involved in the events in Romania from further dealing with Romanian affairs or maintaining any kind of contact with Romania. In accordance with the will of the Reichsführer-SS, the police attaché would in the future become an attaché representing, within the diplomatic missions, the entire range of interests of the Reichsführer-SS; consequently, predictably: the Waffen-SS, matters related to ethnic Germans, the Security Police, the SD, political matters (n.b.—O.T.), and matters pertaining to the regular police."

¹¹ https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/EDER%2C%20ALOIS_0001.pdf SS Police Attachés at the German Legation in Bucharest 345.

¹² *Consular Representation in Romanian Cities During the Interwar Period (1919-1939)*, in "Scientific Bulletin of the «B.P. Hasdeu» State University of Cahul. Humanities Series", 2 (22), 2025, ?

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On May 23, 1942, Reinhard Heydrich sent a letter to the Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Martin Luther, informing him that Horst Böhme, an SS Standartenführer and police colonel, had been appointed to serve as SS police attaché at the German Legation in Bucharest, requesting, in accordance with the provisions of the agreements concluded, the approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (SS_officer) Killinger nominated SS Oberführer Horst Hoffmeyer for this position, who was well regarded by the Romanian authorities and enjoyed “great prestige.”

In terms of intelligence activities, Richter collaborated with Legation Secretary Willy Roedel (Willy Roedel, also known as Willy Rödel (March 16, 1897, in Hanau—†October 15, 1947 near Moscow) was a German police officer, SA leader, and senior advisor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. After the invasion of the Soviet Union, he provided “from the Embassy in Bucharest, to the Russian command together with Romanian units, information about alleged double agents among Romanian Jews.”

Following the royal coup d'état in late August 1944, Roedel was arrested, along with other members of the German diplomatic mission in Bucharest, by Romanian military personnel and handed over to the Soviets. On September 7 or 8, 1944, he was taken to Moscow. Roedel was imprisoned at Lubyanka and at Lefortovo Prison, where he shared a cell with Raoul Wallenberg.

In mid-October 1947, according to the statements of a former KGB officer, he was assassinated “on orders [...] during his transport from Moscow to MVD Camp No. 7 in Krasnogorsk” by means of a lethal injection. Historian Andreas Weigelt speculates that “Roedel’s violent death may have served to cover up the traces left by Raoul Wallenberg”—the head of the Legation’s intelligence service—and, on occasion, the illegal resident of Department VI of the RSHA, SS Hauptsturmführer Kurt Auner¹³.

(C) SS Hauptsturmführer Kurt Auner, born on May 5, 1914 (Mediaș, Romania), was an ethnic German from Romania who served for one year in the Romanian Army as a lieutenant in the artillery. He was also a member of the Hitler Youth, a war volunteer in the Waffen-SS (artillery) in Poland, and, shortly thereafter, a member of a Sonderkommando. Auner officially joined the Waffen-SS in 1942. At that time, he was already part of an Einsatzkommando. World War II (1939–1945) Rank: SS-Hauptsturmführer (Captain) Awarded on: December 23, 1944.

He was arrested by US Forces on 22 Jun 45 in VIENNA, Austria, and charged with being a member of the SD, Amt VI-E/7, RSHA in VIENNA. On 28 April 1947, 421ER was released to town arrest and, on 13 August 1947, HE was re/eased from Ali arrest, with residence listed as SALZBURG, Austria. Further information indicates that MJNER was a member of the Waffen SS during an unspecified period and was the Assistant Chief of the RSHA Amt VI-E/7 in BUCHAREST, Rumania from 1939 until 1944. While there, SUBJECT was allegedly responsible for establishing “the best intelligence net in the Balkans.” During and after HIS confinement, AVNER allegedly associated with USI; however, the type and exact dates of this association were not indicated. Additional updated information indicates that AUNER was reportedly engaged in the collection of intelligence information, not further clarified. (Unevaluated) Additional information concerning AUNER may be available from LfV, Bavaria. No far ther pertinent information available.

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¹³<https://www.deutsche-digitale-bibliothek.de/item/JCCKBDJJVE3XXKDAHFUN5FVVZQWX36K7?lang=en#item-detail>

a lieutenant in the artillery. He was also a member of the Hitler Youth, a war volunteer in the Waffen-SS (artillery) in Poland, and, shortly thereafter, a member of a Sonderkommando. Auner officially joined the Waffen-SS in 1942. At that time, he was already part of an Einsatzkommando. World War II (1939–1945) Rank: SS-Hauptsturmführer (Captain) Awarded on: December 23, 1944.

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Crop Hans Joachim. Vi(BE) Constanza 1943.

Representative of Deutsche Levant-Linie. Clerk at the German Consulate in Constanza. In 1943 was in the Viehrmacht working with Captain Witelere.

The Situation of SD Officers in Romania After August 23, 1944

Friedrich Sigmund Cloos, known as Fritz Cloos (B. May 1, 1909, Braşov, Braşov County, Austria-Hungary; d. May 3, 2004, Waakirchen, Germany) was the head of the Nazi organization of German Workers in Romania until the end of World War II and a foreign agent of the Securitate in West Germany from 1961 to 1987.

In 1934, Cloos was appointed regional leader of the youth organization. Cloos made repeated trips to Berlin to meet with his SS commanders.

After Andreas Schmidt was appointed leader of the ethnic groups, all German institutions in Romania were brought into line in September 1940. On November 9, 1940, Cloos became Schmidt's right-hand man and assumed important political and organizational roles within “national group leadership.”

Following the royal coup in Romania on August 23, 1944, Cloos went underground and participated as an agent of the Sicherheitsdienst (SD) in resistance operations with officials of the former “Volksgruppe” who remained in Transylvania and members of the Legionary Movement as part of Operation Regulus, including several groups of paratroopers who landed behind enemy lines in Romania in late 1944 and early 1945 to carry out acts of terror and sabotage. preparing an internal uprising against the Soviet occupation.

After his arrest, Cloos was interrogated at the secret Lubyanka prison in Moscow and then sentenced to 20 years in the Soviet labor camp at Vorkuta.

Upon his return to the country, the Romanian secret police recruited him under pseudonyms such as Ion Lăzărescu, Gheorghe Mihăilescu, Konrad, or Radovan as an employee. On April 1, 1956, Cloos signed a handwritten declaration of commitment as an unofficial collaborator with the Securitate and was released.

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In 1961, he moved to the Federal Republic of Germany with his wife, Gerda (née Polony, born in 1910), a kindergarten teacher, and their children, Erika and Friedrich. Cloos provided the Securitate with information about the role of the Gehlen Organization, the Bundesnachrichtendienst, and Romanian Legionnaires in exile.

Andreas Schmidt: His writings, published by Krafft & Drotleff in Sibiu, were placed on the index by the Soviet authorities,¹⁴ and the conflict between KALTENBRUNNER and RIBENTROP, which VI E (WANNEOK) perpetually exacerbated, gave rise to divisions and differences of opinion among members working for the German secret services. All these disputes – which eventually came to affect the family lives of the individuals involved – led to a weakening of security and were, without a doubt, one of the causes that led to the collapse of the entire preparatory structure. The only source who made a W/T transmission at a later date was Hauptsturmführer Gunne.

Roland Gunne: In the final stages of the war, Roland Gunne was in charge of sabotage operations in Romania, in collaboration with Dienststelle 3000, under the command of Begus,¹⁵ a Volksdeutscher, a highly trained intelligence officer with a network of contacts spanning all strata of the Romanian population. For a period of time, he was in charge of the Erdoelschuttkommando Ploesti (Oil Protection Command)—also on behalf of the MIL sector; and, at the same time, he was entrusted with sabotage preparations—this is the nature of a Mission I. At a later date, GUNNE made contact with Schmidt, who had been parachuted in, but despite the situation, old differences flared up again.

Eventually, serious doubts arose regarding GUNNE's channel, as he reported that he had reconnected with some old contacts, which could not have been true.

Over time, the L funds grew to approximately \$300,000, including a considerable amount in lei and also several thousand Goldstuecke. This sum was quite sufficient for the scale of the network that was reestablished, especially since the most important liaisons used the money only for expenses. Dienstaltersliste der Schutzstaffel der NSDAP, as of December 1, 1936.

Romania Eventually, the SD began to have serious doubts about GUNNE's channel, because he reported that he had reestablished contact with some old contacts, which could not have been true.

In the course of time the L-funds increased to (as far as I remember) about \$300,000, including a considerable amount in lei and also several thousand Goldstuecke. This sum was quite sufficient for the scope of the network which has been created, especially as the most important link—men only used expenses money.

During the work of preparation, I personally had nothing to do with the I-network in the MIL sector, and so I can say nothing either of the money position or about personnel. I know that eventually only 2 or 3 links came through definitely, and these, as time went on, fell away because/ lack of support.

In Sector VI, extensive preparations had been made, but in the end, only a single radio link was established. The personnel were recruited entirely from among the German elements of the population, whose status in the country was, from Romania's perspective, that of Romanian citizens.

The lack of internal agreement within the (German) group's leadership and the pronounced animosity between the group's leader, Andreas SCHMIDT, and

¹⁴ https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andreas_Schmidt

¹⁵ Army CIC NETS IN EASTERN EUROPE_0002.pdf.specialCollection/nwceda8/192/ARMY CIC NETS IN EASTERN EUROPE/ARMY CIC NETS IN EASTERN EUROPE_0002.pdf accessed April 12, 2017

KALTENBRUNNER—which VI E (WANNEOK) constantly exacerbated—gave rise to discord and differences of opinion among the members working for the German Secret Service. All these quarrels—which eventually came to affect the personal lives of the individuals involved—led to a weakening of security and were, without a doubt, one of the causes that led to the collapse of the entire preparatory structure. The only source that made any radio communications at a later date was that of a Hauptsturmführer Gune, a Volksdeutscher, a highly trained intelligence officer with a network of contacts spanning all strata of the Romanian population. For a time, he was in charge of the Erdoelschutzkommando Ploiești (Oil Protection Command)—also on behalf of the MIL sector—and, at the same time, was tasked with sabotage preparations—this being a Type I mission. Circumstances did not allow him to carry out this mission.

Subsequently, GUNNE contacted SCHMIDT, who had been parachuted in, but unfortunately, despite the circumstances, their old disagreements resurfaced.

Andreas Schmidt traveled to Bucharest, where he met with Roland Gunne, the deputy head of the SD agent network in Romania from 1940 to 1944, and with Fritz Cloos. Both the Romanian and Soviet authorities had detailed information about the agent parachute drops in November 1944 and were aware of the intended targets. The second group of paratroopers landed in Transylvania on the night of December 24–25, near Brașov, and consisted of prominent leaders of the ethnic German community. Members of this group were later captured by Russian authorities. Another group was parachuted into Banat in January 1945, and all members managed to make contact with Sicherheitsdienst agents and organize secret weapons depots in the Sibiu and Brașov areas. Approximately 1,500 people, mostly German officers and soldiers still hiding in Transylvania, were contacted and prepared for this plan.

By the end of January 1945, Romanian authorities had extensive information about the preparations underway, and the term “fifth column” was used in internal correspondence. This information also reached Soviet authorities. Among the informants was Alexandru Țăranu, who served as a double agent and radio operator for the Abwehr from 1940 to 1944. Țăranu was captured by the NKVD in September 1944 and was forced to work for the Soviets under threat of execution. Through Țăranu, the Soviets were constantly informed about radio communications between Germany and Romania. Although the radios experienced technical problems, members of the resistance movement managed to transmit important information to Germany about the political situation, the atmosphere in Romania, troop movements, and military capabilities.¹⁶

Conclusions

Lenderman was a Transylvanian Jew with a German wife. His wife was the cousin of Richter’s wife. In April 1944, he fled Romania and arrived in Aleppo, Syria. There, he was interrogated by two officers from the SOE and MI5. The interrogation revealed that the most important SD officer in Romania was Gustav Richter, who was tasked with resolving the Jewish issue within the German embassy in Bucharest. After the Legionary uprising, some of the SD’s Romanian collaborators, Alecu Ghyka and Constantin Maimuca, were arrested.

At the request of Richter, in December 1943, LECA was installed as General Commissioner for Jewish Affairs, working in conjunction with the Minister of Labor, and was supported by the wife of SS Captain RICHTER. This man was not known in Jewish

¹⁶ TNA KV/3152, Kew Gardens, 1944. Divers Telegrams, p. 4.

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circles until 1941, when the Federation of Jewish Communities was abolished by the Germans, and central control of Romanian Jews was established. After the coup d'état of August 23, 1944, the majority of SD officers in Romania were arrested and transferred to the USSR. Few survived the camps and repatriated to the FRG after the war.

Authors' Contributions:

The authors contributed equally to this work.

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