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Informants

UB Activities

Collaboration With The UB.

SOURCE BERLIN: 26, was the son of a man who opted for German citizenship, became German, was drafted into the German Army. He fought on the Eastern Front, was wounded three times, taken PW and was released in 1945. He became a member of the AK, was captured, spent the next two years in jail, that is until October 1947. He joined the ZMP to help himself out of a tight spot with the UB, finally was coerced into acting as an informant for them. He claims he only informed on other UB agents or on Communists who were actually committing fraud or embezzlement. A chaotic young man who drinks, too much, allegedly as a result of the strain of acting as an informer, he tried hard to stick to facts, came back for repeated interviews, was quite cooperative. He constantly refused to give names, saying that he didn't want to get people into trouble. I suspect the real reason was that they had had blackmarket dealings with many of them, was genuinely concerned about them.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 1949 till recent

At the beginning of 1949 source lived at RYN, District GIZYCKO, Voivodship OLSZYN (ALLENSTEIN), formerly RHEIN, District LOETZEN, and he earned his living by making houseshoes for the natives of the village. During the middle of March 1949 a Miliz member from RYN, Traugutta-Street, came and asked source to accompany him to the Miliz Quarters. Source went along with him. In the guardroom of the Miliz station a man wearing civilian clothes was waiting for them and took Source into a separate room. There he pulled a form out of his pocket and noted down all Source's personal data. Then he asked why source, after his release from prison, associated with the (German) natives in RYN and seemed on friendly terms with them. Source told him that he had been in prison for having a German folkslist (having accepted German nationality at the beginning of the war,) and that somehow the Poles must have heard of it, because they snubbed him. Also he, Source, was Evangelist, and these two reasons were sufficient for the Poles to avoid him. Consequently he sought his friends among the Autochthoni who accepted him.

Source was then asked what he did for a living? He answered that he lived with a wheel-wright whom he helped a little, and that he also helped the local shoemaker in making house-

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shoes and thus earned his living. The man wanted to know if the wheel-wright was the local Baptist preacher. Source affirmed this. (Source refused to give the name of the wheel-wright.) He was then asked if he knew where his parents were? Source said that he didn't, that his parents were missing, and that he had already written to the Red Cross in WARSAW but had only received that much information. Theman noted down all these answers and told source that he would except him to be at the Militiastation one week later at the same time.

One week later Source went to the Miliz where the man was already waiting for him. He asked him many questions, some of which were:

Question: Would you like to go to Germany?

Answer: That doesn't depend on me but on the authorities.

Question: And if the authorities would permit it?

Answer: Yes

Question: Why?

Answer: Because I had a German folkslist and nobody here will forget it. I sat in prison for that reason. The Poles snub me. I can't get any office-work, and hard physical labor I'am unable to do because of injuries to my right hand.

Question: Do you think it was unjust to put you in prison?

Answer: Yes, because I was 14 years old when my father signed the folkslist, and later on I was drafted into the German Army.

Then the man told him that he, Source, should have gone into the woods and fought like so many others, but now "they" would give him a chance to make good, if he was ready to work for the welfare of the present Polish Republic (Polska Republika Ludowa.) Casually, he asked source what people came to see his landlord, the wheel-wright, and the Baptist preacher. Source claims that he answered that he saw many people there but didn't know any names. Then he was dismissed but was summoned back for one week later.

Source began to grow afraid and told his friends about it. His friends advised him to do anything within reason he was asked so he wouldn't go to prison again, but avoce all, they urged him to join the ZMP as soon as he could. The chairman of the ZMP of this locality was a certain CZYZYK Romuald, who was known to work with the UB, but was otherwise known as very easy to bribe. Source knew him personally. Deliberately he crossed CZYZYK's path one night and invited him for a glass of schnaps. The next evening he did the same and then gave CZYZYK to understand that "He would like to join the ZMP but it was necessary for him to have been a member for the past two months."

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CZYZYK was not disinclined; they made a deal. For 7,000 Zloty (old currency) source was promised a certificate of active membership in the ZMP, dated two months previously. This certificate gave CZYZYK to source on the third evening, while they "ate and drank and made good friends." The ZMP chairman also said, that if source "would think of him again" (meaning another bribe) "he would send him on some training course, so source wouldn't have such a hard time."

He went a little more courageously to the third meeting with the interrogator. This time he was asked no questions. The man merely forbade him to talk about these meetings and ordered him to report two days later to the UB in GIZYCKO.

In GIZYCKO he was asked point blank if he wanted to work for the UB. He was told that he would receive a cover name, and that his work would consist of watching people around him and reporting any demonstration of animosity against the government. As much money would be at his disposal as he needed; all he had to do was to come and get it from the UB. Source claims to have answered to this proposition that he "knew from experience how it was in prison and he didn't want to help put anybody else there; he would rather live and work quietly." He received the cynical answer that he was quite right about the prison but that he had apparently forgotten that nobody was sorry for him when he was sitting. "Then source refused nevertheless, he was sorely beaten, threatened with prison and then locked in a cell, where he was left without any food for almost 24 hours. Next morning he was taken out and asked "if he had enough?" Then he was handed a pen and a sheet of paper and an obligation of collaboration was dictated to him containing all the conditions and the penalties he had to expect in case of treachery. Among other things it contained the proviso that if he betrayed his undercover name "Boleslaw" and his collaboration with the UB, he would be tried by the Military Court and be sentenced to at least 10 years prison. He was dismissed with the remark that he should expect his first order within two weeks. In RYN he was to tell everybody that he had gone to GIZYCKO because of questions pertaining to his nationality. They refunded him his fare.

Back in RYN he confided in his friend PROSTKO Henryk. The latter told him that there was a course for bookkeepers for the cooperatives organized by the CRS (Central Committee of the Cooperatives,) but only members of the ZMP designated by the organization could participate. So the chairman of the ZMP was again invited to a big meal with a lot of schnaps, and was soon persuaded to delegate Source for this course, against a fee of 5,000 Zloty.

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This course started on 28 April 1949 in OLSZTYN (ALLENSTEIN) and was over on 4 June 1949. When Source returned to RYN, an invitation to present himself to the County Council in GIZYCKO was waiting for him. He went. They let him wait one hour, then the same UB man who had sought him in RYN came in and asked him where he had been and what had he done. Source showed him the degree from the course. The UB man was enraged and told him that he could have gotten an office job without attending this course. He asked him where he was supposed to work, and when Source told him that it was in BIALA PISKA, District PISZ (BIALLA, Distr. JOHANNISBURG,) the UB man told him to place himself at the disposal of the UB upon his arrival there.

Source did not call at the UB, but merely at the ZMP. Nobody bothered him, and it was his opinion that he was of interest of the UB only as long as he lived in RYN in the house of a Baptist preacher.

One evening during February 1951 a ragged looking worker came to see him and told him that a visitor had come who knew his father. Source left the office with the worker to go and see this acquaintance of his father. On the street this worker showed him a UB-card and asked him to come to the outskirts of town with him, because he had to talk to him. Source refused, and the worker showed Source the statement he had written in GIZYCKO, concerning his collaboration with the UB, and reproved him for not having called at the local UB. Source and the worker walked for a while, then the worker asked Source to give a report within two weeks on the political view point of the people acquainted with him, and also on the activities of the Party members with whom he worked. The man warned Source not to refuse or avoid this task, because otherwise "He would pay for it."

At that time Source worked as bookkeeper for the Community Cooperative in BIALA PISKA. The chairman of the cooperative was the Party member LAUDANSKI Franciszek. Source knew that this man had falsified accounts by certifying jobs which had never been done. On the other hand Source knew that LAUDANSKI was often seen with UB men, and he was convinced that LAUDANSKI was a collaborator of the UB, as was rumored about him. Source denounced this man to the UB in his first report. An auditor came from the CRS who checked the accounts and discovered the faults, but the chairman LAUDANSKI, being a collaborator of the UB, was merely transferred to another place (Source forgot where) far from BIALA PISKA.

Source had to continue to watch and report. The next person he denounced was again a Party member, KRAKOWSKI Józef, an employee of the purchasing department of the cooperative, who had also falsified accounts. During the following weeks he

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reported more Party members and collaborators of the cooperative: JASKULSKI Józef and the secretary of the Party group of the cooperative GAWRYŚ (fau). All three were fired and punished with prison sentences, because it could be proved that they all had committed several falsifications and frauds. Source did not feel sorry for them and felt no pangs of conscience "Because they were all big guys from the Party and lived a good life."

During the further course of his activity he claims to have denounced only Party members, or pretended overtiredness and claimed he had no time to stick his nose into other people's business. "In the office I've checked on them all, but I have no time to pry into their affairs outside." He also said that the persistence of the UB broke him spiritually and this was the reason he started to drink.

At the end of 1951 he was ordered to observe the chief of personnel of the cooperative - a man named ŚWIDERSKI Witold. Source was told that ŚWIDERSKI was a Party member but could not be trusted because he was a former "Anders Trooper" (Andersowiec) (he had allegedly come from the West in 1947.) One evening, about two weeks later Source was on his way to the shoemaker who lived near the Municipal Park. Even though it was dark, he took a short cut through the park. He walked very quietly on his rubber soles, when suddenly he heard low voices. He hid behind a tree. Shortly afterwards two men came slowly walking by, whose voices he recognized as that of ŚWIDERSKI - the same man he was under orders to watch, and the UB men who always gave him his orders and took his reports. Source says: "That's how unfair the UB worked - one spy had to spy on another and dig him his grave, without his knowledge."

Source claims all the time that he never took any money even though he was offered such for "business-expenses," that is, to invite people to a glass of schnaps and pump them.

About this time a friend A. decided to try to escape and promised to come back and fetch him if he succeeded in making all the necessary arrangements. He believed in his friend and was convinced that only a short time would pass till he could make his escape. For this reason Source tried to put a little distance between himself and the UB, and always pretended that everything was alright in the office and that he had too little time to go out among the people and observe their private affairs.

On 17 January 1952 he was arrested and kept in the UB in OLSZTYN (ALLERSTEIN) till 21 January 1952. He was beaten there because they wanted to know where his friend A. was. This was shortly after a trial in OLSZTYN during which A's brother

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was convicted to 15 years imprisonment. Source did not betray his friend and claimed he hadn't seen him in months. So he was dismissed, but was warned "that if he wasn't careful, he would also land in prison." Since then he lived in constant fear, because he noticed that he was shadowed. One day he met the chairman of the Gminna Rada Narodowa (National Council of the Community) - NIEDZWIEDZ Sawomir - and the latter, who had never before noticed or spoken to Source, now stopped, asked Source how his work was coming along and invited him to a schnaps. He asked Source a lot of strange questions, such as his opinion about the church and how he likes the present situation etc. Source knew that he was being pumped. In the office, too, he didn't feel safe any longer. In the office worked a pretty girl, LACHUT Halina, who had formerly never paid him any attention. Now she constantly tried to strike up a conversation with source to hear his opinion about this and that. "She certainly didn't do it for my 'beautiful' eyes" he said.

Toward the end of April Source was transferred to the District Administration of the Cooperatives (Powiatowy Związek Gminnych Spółdzielni) in PISZ. Here he received immediate orders from the UB to spy on his own friend, the store supervisor of the District Administration PUPEK Zygmunt. He was told that PUPEK though now Party member, had been an active warrent officer before 1939 and an AK member during the war and could not be trusted. But PUPEK was Source's friend and they had many times "pulled a fast one" together, so he told the UB that PUPEK "was o.k." Source did not warn his friend that he was suspected by the UB and said that "it would have been too dangerous because my friend liked to drink sometimes a little to excess, and I had to watch out for myself."

On 20 May 1952 the cooperative in PIENIEZNO had difficulties with the bookkeeping and Source, as head-bookkeeper of the District Administration, had to go there to straighten out the difficulties. Thus he had a brief respite in his work for the UB and could not be contacted by him. In PIENIEZNO on 8 June the news reached him that his friend had arrived. On 9 June he began his flight without returning to his apartment in PISZ.

EVAL. COMMENT: All names and incidents UNCONFIRMED.