

US-Archive belasten Eduard von der Heydt

Zweimal in die NSDAP eingetreten

Thyssen Bank-Vorstand bezichtigt den „zentralen Bankier der Abwehr“

Lösegeld für rumänische Juden über seine Konten

Eduard von der Heydt taucht schon früh in den amerikanischen Akten auf. Doch zunächst sah alles noch relativ harmlos aus: Am 25. November 1944 kabelte die amerikanische Botschaft in Bern an das State Department, es gebe keine Anhaltspunkte für „pro-Nazi“ Aktivitäten von der Heydts. Aus Sicht der Botschaft sei er „harmlos“ und sein Anliegen liege hauptsächlich darin, auf der Seite der Sieger zu sein und seine Besitztümer zu sichern. Zu diesem Zweck versorgte von der Heydt sowohl das amerikanische als auch das britische Generalkonsulat in Zürich mit Informationen. Nach Aussagen des britischen Generalkonsuls, schrieben die amerikanischen Kollegen, sei von der Heydt ein „guter Kontakt“, dessen Informationen in der Regel „akkurat“ seien (**siehe Dokument 1**).

Die Akten geben Auskunft darüber, um was für Informationen es sich handelte. Am 17. Februar 1944 suchte von der Heydt das amerikanische Generalkonsulat auf. Er berichtete über Gespräche mit zwei Bekannten, dem Diplomaten Werner Otto von Hentig und Werner Freiherr von Rheinbaben. Letzterer, so von der Heydt, sei im Auftrag Himmlers in der Schweiz, um dort Kontakte zu amerikanischen und britischen Offiziellen herzustellen und über einen „Separatfrieden“ unter Ausschluss der Sowjetunion zu verhandeln. Rheinbaben, der lange Jahre Diplomat und Staatssekretär unter Stresemann war, kannte u.a. Allen Dulles, den Chef des amerikanischen Geheimdienstes OSS in Bern, und wollte zu ihm Kontakte herstellen (**siehe Dokument 2**).

Ob es zu diesen Kontakten gekommen ist und Rheinbaben tatsächlich diesen Auftrag von Himmler hatte, ist unbekannt. In seinen Memoiren wehrte sich Rheinbaben gegen die Behauptung des ehemaligen Danziger Senatspräsidenten Hermann Rauschning, er sei während des Krieges, „Chef der Gestapo“ in Portugal gewesen.¹ Jedoch bemerkte von der Heydt gegenüber den Amerikanern, von Rheinbaben sei in Lissabon mit der Gestapo verbunden gewesen. Es spricht einiges dafür, dass er diese Informationen in Absprache mit von Rheinbaben an die Amerikaner weitergab. Denn von der Heydt und von Rheinbaben waren, wie sie 1959 in einem gemeinsam veröffentlichten Buch, schrieben „seit Jahrzehnten befreundet“.²

Am 1. Juni 1945 informierte der britische Geheimdienst u.a. die amerikanische Botschaft in London, dass „large quantities of German gold, brought over from Germany by diplomatic bag during 1944, buried in the collars.“³ Eine Durchsuchung der Liegenschaften von der Heydts erbrachte keine Ergebnisse.

Spätestens nach von der Heydts Verhaftung 1946 in der Schweiz waren die amerikanischen Behörden nicht mehr von seiner „Harmlosigkeit“ überzeugt. Die amerikanische Botschaft übergibt der Schweizer Polizei Daten über von der Heydts Mitgliedschaft in der NSDAP, die er in den Verhören zunächst abgestritten hatte.

¹ Werner Freiherr von Rheinbaben: Viermal Deutschland. Aus dem Erleben eines Seemanns, Diplomaten, Politikers 1895-1954, Berlin 1954, S. 321.

² Eduard von der Heydt/Werner von Rheinbaben: Auf dem Monte Verità. Erinnerungen und Gedanken über Menschen, Kunst und Politik

³ Safehaven Report, London June 1, 1945 in: „NARA #8a&b, XL 2771 from the serials Intelligence Reports, XL Series, 1941-46 entry 19 of Record Group 226 Records of the Office of Strategic Services.

Das Telegramm der amerikanischen Besatzungsbehörde in Berlin an die amerikanische Botschaft über von der Heydts Mitgliedschaft in der NSDAP enthält eine wesentlich neue Information. Demnach war von der Heydt schon frühzeitig Mitglied der NSDAP, verließ die Partei im März 1930 und trat im April 1933 wieder ein (**siehe Dokument 3**).

Die amerikanischen Behörden begründeten die Beschlagnahmung des von der Heydtschen Vermögens und seiner Kunstgegenständen in den USA vor allem mit dessen Tätigkeit für den deutschen militärischen Geheimdienst, das Amt Ausland/Abwehr im Oberkommando der Wehrmacht. Von der Heydt hatte in der Strafuntersuchung immer wieder bestritten, wissentlich für die Abwehr gearbeitet zu haben. Er begründete dies mit seiner Unkenntnis der Verhältnisse in Deutschland und der Funktion der Abwehr. Die Aussagen des zu den Verschwörern des 20. Juli gehörenden Mitarbeiters der Abwehr, Hans Bernd Gisevius, hatten diese Schutzbehauptung schon eindeutig widerlegt, vom Schweizer Gericht wurde von der Heydt dennoch zugestanden, nicht über die Empfänger seiner Überweisungen für die Abwehr orientiert gewesen zu sein:

Von Heinrich Lübke, dem Vorstandsvorsitzenden der August Thyssen Bank, der von 1945 bis 1950 in der Sowjetunion inhaftiert war, erfuhren die Amerikaner nun aus erster Hand, dass von der Heydt exakt über den Charakter seiner Überweisungen an deutsche Agenten im Ausland informiert war. Und laut Aussagen der Chefsekretärin der August Thyssen Bank, Ilse Butry, wurden Überweisungen für neutrale und feindliche Länder „einzig“ von der Heydt getätigt. (**siehe Dokument 4**).

Neben der Tätigkeit für die Abwehr interessierten sich die amerikanischen Behörden besonders für von der Heydts Rolle bei der Erpressung von Lösegeld für von Deportation bedrohter Juden:

Über von der Heydts Konten wurden Lösegeldzahlungen rumänischer Juden abgewickelt. Das FBI interviewte ein betroffenes Ehepaar, das nun in New York lebte (**siehe Dokument 5**), und nahm Kontakte zu deren Schweizer Anwälten auf, die eine Zivilklage gegen von der Heydt vorbereiteten. Der Schriftsteller Robert Neumann, der einen der Anwälte gut kannte, schreibt in seinen Erinnerungen, es sei zu einer Klage gegen von der Heydt gekommen, die aber vor Gericht abgewiesen wurde. Dies ist aber bislang durch Nachforschungen in der Schweiz nicht bestätigt worden.⁴

Die amerikanischen Akten über von der Heydt bestätigen und vertiefen die bisherigen Erkenntnisse: Eduard von der Heydt war kein Mitläufer sondern ein Träger des nationalsozialistischen Unrechtssystems. Er war ein früher Unterstützer der Nazi-Bewegung, hatte als „Bankier“ der Abwehr eine zentrale Funktion für die deutsche Abwehr und profitierte von Lösegeldzahlungen verfolgtter Juden.

Die hier abgedruckten Dokumente stammen aus den National Archives (NARA) der USA, in denen Akten der amerikanischen Bundesregierung aufbewahrt werden. Aktenbetreffe zu Eduard von der Heydt sind zum Teil noch gesperrt. Welche Kriterien dabei vom National Archiv zugrunde gelegt werden, entzieht sich unserer Kenntnis.

Autoren: Dieter Nelles/Stephan Stracke

⁴ Vgl. Peter Kamber. Geschichte zweier Leben. Wladimir Rosenbaum, Zürich 2002, S. 292.- Diese Neuauflage unterscheidet sich gegenüber der Erstausgabe nur durch ein neues, hinzugefügtes Kapitel, das sich unter der Überschrift „Ergänzendes Kapitel zur Neuauflage“ ausführlich mit von der Heydt und Lösegeldzahlungen befasst.

NARA RG 59 File 740.54112a/242 (1940-1944)

REMARKS

From

BERN (via Lisbon)

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
WASHINGTON.

Date: Feb. 25, 11 a.m., 1944.

Rec'd: Nov. 6 - 1917

P a r a p h r a s e

SECRET

SECTION 1.

A-100, Feb. 25, 11 a.m.

Referring to Department's A-51, it would appear that the Treasury's information concerns Baron von der HEYDT (repeat HEYDT) and not Heide, drawn from a report to the Treasury contained in Legation's telegram No. 4793 of October 23rd, 1942, and from a letter of same date from Treasury Attache Braun, as well as a letter of November 2, 1942, to the Foreign Funds Control, which, in addition, concerned LIBERTAS, S.A.

44-38861-1000
In November 1943 no evidence of pro-Nazi activities was revealed by a further Treasury Attache check. Furthermore, it was reported by the American Consul General at Zurich on November 26th that, during the course of an interview, the Baron claimed to have been furnishing information to the British Consul General whereupon, in a check with his British colleague, it was revealed that the Baron, in fact, was a good contact and that the information furnished by him generally had been accurate. While defining his attitude as pro-German and monarchist, the Baron nevertheless claims to be anti-Nazi.

SECTION 2

For the sole purpose of convenience and for the protection of his property, the Baron acquired Swiss nationality on April 28th, 1937, after having reportedly made large expenditures of money. Apart from this there appears to be nothing irregular in connection with the circumstances under which his Swiss citizenship was acquired. In view of his wealth, importance and collection, interested parties hope that Swiss museums and the general public may benefit therefrom eventually.

1944 NS It is the view of the Legation that the Baron is harmless to our interests, and that his concern lies chiefly in being on the winning side and having protection for his properties. Nevertheless, the Legation is making a further investigation and will advise the Department should anything further come to light with respect to his naturalization, political activities or sympathies.

HARRISON

Decoded at Lisbon - Confidential code.
/hsb

U:13155 V.103A

Authority: NINE-765021

19m
3/2/44
MAR 11 1944
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS & RECORDS

740,54112A

RECEIVED
MAR 7 1944
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FBI
MAR 1 7 1947

740.5413A/242

242

NARA RG 84 File 820.02 Von Der Heydt (Box 18)

Sam E. Woods
American Consul General

DECLASSIFIED
DATE 03-07-99

116747 1004 2002

March 8, 1944

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100-20-100
DECLASSIFIED
AUTHORITY: 100-20-100

Strictly Confidential

Source: 232

Evaluation: B-2

820.02
VON DER HEYDE
1944

A well-known naturalized Swiss citizen of German origin who has known Baron Rheinbaben for many years stated that he had lunch with him about two weeks ago. During the meal Baron Rheinbaben proposed to rent a house from my informant and was refused. Rheinbaben allegedly stated that he had a permit to come to Switzerland for three months on behalf of Himmler to get in touch with American and English officials in this country concerning peace terms. Rheinbaben is reported to have said that Himmler was prepared to sacrifice the lives of Hitler, Goering, Goebbles and several other prominent Nazi officials in the interest of Germany. When reminded that it was very unlikely that the Allies would negotiate peace terms with Himmler, who was regarded as the arch-friend of Germany, Rheinbaben replied that the Allies would need some one to keep order in Germany after the collapse came and that Himmler was the only one who could do it.

Rheinbaben is reported to be writing a book - Under Three Flags - this title probably having been chosen as he has served under the Empire, the Republic and the Third Reich.

When asked with whom he expected to get in touch while here, Rheinbaben mentioned Sir Oliver Duncan and two prominent Americans whom he had known for a number of years.

FOR REPLY REFER TO 800
FILE NO.

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DEPARTMENT OF STAT

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
RECEIVED MAR 8 - 1944
BERN

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

Zurich, March 8, 1944

Confidential

Dear Mr. Huddle:

With reference to my reports # 232 of today, the person giving the information was Baron von der Heydt of Ascona and the two Americans mentioned were Mr. Dulles and the Minister.

Baron von der Heydt stated that Baron Rheinbaben claims to have known Mr. Dulles for several years and the Minister from the time they served in Rome.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Sam E. Woods
American Consul General

Enclosures:

Two reports.

J. Klahr Huddle, Esquire,
Counselor of Legation,
American Legation,
Bern.

File

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APR 8 1944

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Attached

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Baron is trying to pump
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for 9-10-1950*

ral

Dokument 3

NARA RG 84 File 820.02 Von Der Heydt. (Box 45)

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

From: Berlin

Date: February 8, 9 p.m., 1947

No.: 16

Code: Secret

Received: February 10, 9 a.m., 1947

Reference Bern's despatch 14622, December 4 and others.

Von der Heydt's NSDAP membership card located No. 1561948 dated April 1, 1933. Notation says left party March 1930 apparently meaning he rejoined 1933. Further notation says took Swiss citizenship 1937 but no indication whether this automatically separated him from party. Photostats follow of card and photograph.

Rest of investigation so far fruitless Foreign Ministry files negative.

MURPHY

In triplicate to files/mp

2 x EC

RECEIVED
FEB 10 1947

820.02
VON DER HEYDT, Baron Eduard
1947

Dokument 4

FBI-Bericht von J.E. Hoover vom 7. Juli 1952, in: NARA RG 65 FBI File 029424

SECURITY INFORMATION - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

121-37142

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Date: July 7, 1952
To: Mr. Samuel D. Boykin
Director
Office of Security and Consular Affairs
Department of State
Washington 25, D. C.
From: John Edgar Hoover, Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Subject: GEORGE KATONA
Aka George Kotona
Program Director - Applicant
National Security Resources Board
Washington, D. C.
LOYALTY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

A full field loyalty investigation is being conducted on the captioned individual based upon information furnished by a reliable confidential informant indicating that George Katona was acquainted with a former employee of the German Consul's Office at New York City who was one of the known contacts of an espionage suspect allegedly operating in the United States.

This same informant advised that George Katona was in Budapest, Hungary, in 1938.

Subsequent investigation has revealed that George Katona closely associated with one Baron Edvard von der Heydt of Switzerland, who was suspected by another Government agency that conducts investigations of an intelligence nature of being a German espionage agent remitting funds to other German agents operating in the United States and Mexico. Von der Heydt was arrested in Switzerland for making payments to German espionage agents in the United States and Switzerland in violation of the Swiss Neutrality Law in 1946. (Office of Alien Property, Department of Justice)

JDR:ar av

DUPLICATE YELLOW

NOT RECORDED
25 JUL 25 1952

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ON 10-27-01

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Holloman _____
Candy _____

65 AUG 4 1952

SECURITY INFORMATION - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: 5010-925021

ORIGINAL FILED IN 121-37142 - 70

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND-785231

This other Government agency advised that the basic elements of the financial transactions were admitted by von der Heydt and were also found to be true by a Swiss Military Court conducting a formal hearing in this matter. Eduard von der Heydt was indicted and tried by a Swiss Divisional Court 6 (a Military Tribunal) on May 18 and 19, 1948, in connection with his activities in the transfer of foreign exchange between the August Thyssen Bank, a.g., Berlin, Germany, (hereinafter called Thyba), and German agents abroad through Switzerland.

According to this other Government agency, the Swiss Court held that von der Heydt had conducted the transactions alleged in the indictment for the account of Thyba; however, von der Heydt was acquitted by the Swiss Court for want of "subjective culpability" since the court was of the opinion that von der Heydt's contention, that he could not be acquainted with the character of the recipients or the nature of the payments, had not been overthrown.

This other Government agency had the following comments concerning the decision reached by the Swiss Courts:

"A careful examination of the Swiss Court's opinion reveals a curious rejection of rather obvious conclusions to be drawn from the admitted facts and a tortuous reasoning which could stem only from a preconceived determination not to find guilty a man of von der Heydt's social and financial standing in the international community. It seems fair to state that the court's opinion was only a justification of a predetermination since the lengthy written decision was entered by the court on the afternoon of the second day of the trial. When, in addition to this, consideration is given to facts which either were not known to or not considered by the Swiss Court, the conclusion is inescapable that von der Heydt was well aware of the nature of his transactions on behalf of Thyba.

"Subsequent to the decision of the court additional information has become available (to this other Government agency). Heinrich Luebke, presently of Norden, Germany, formerly the First Member of the Managing Board of Directors of Thyba, was a prisoner of the Russians from 1945 until he was liberated in 1950. His testimony as to the transactions

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

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Authority: 6816-265/21

and understandings between himself, on behalf of Thyba, and von der Heydt was not available until September 14, 1950, when he executed an affidavit, in Norden, Germany, in response to questioning by the German branch of (this other Government agency).

"Luebke, in the affidavit, dated September 14, 1950, states that the Thyba was engaged in effecting foreign exchange transfers to foreign countries for the OKW (the High Command of the German Armed Forces) and that these transfers were effected by the purchasing of foreign currency from The Reichsbank in Berlin, which was credited by The Reichsbank to the account of Thyba with its correspondent abroad, which correspondent was, subsequent to 1939, Eduard von der Heydt. These funds were transferred to von der Heydt for him to credit to the account of Thyba. Thyba then had the transfer effected to the debit of its account with von der Heydt, and von der Heydt passed on the orders for payment which he received from Thyba to a Swiss bank, the Schweizerische Bankgesellschaft in Zurich where he kept the funds remitted to him by Thyba. Luebke states that the Thyba had been forbidden by the OKW to give the latter's name, in connection with its transfers, as the party issuing the order, but admits that Thyba did not have any foreign currency holdings of its own as this was forbidden by German foreign exchange laws. Luebke states that around 1940 (records show late 1939) he met von der Heydt in Lugano and asked him whether he was prepared to take care of money transfers to foreign countries which Thyba had to carry out for the OKW Foreign Department IV, Counter Intelligence, for which he would receive the usual turnover commission. Luebke states that von der Heydt was perfectly aware that the payments were of a confidential nature and that the identity of the party giving the order was to remain concealed. He further states that the business connection with von der Heydt extended from about 1940 to 1943 when Thyba had no more orders to effect payments for the OKW. Luebke states that if von der Heydt had ever declared his unwillingness to carry out money transfers in question for Thyba, the latter would have had to look for another foreign correspondent but that that was not the case and that von der Heydt carried out the orders to effect money transfers right down to the very last which were received by Thyba from the OKW.

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Authority: NND-925021

"The statements of Luebke are corroborated by two other employees of Thyba, Curt Ritter and Ilse Butry. Ritter, formerly of the Managing Board of Directors of Thyba and presently the trustee for the administration of its assets, states in an affidavit dated October 13, 1950, that Thyba executed confidential orders for the OKW and that on the occasion of Luebke's visit to Switzerland in 1939 he sounded out von der Heydt as to whether he would be prepared to execute orders which the bank had to forward confidentially to Switzerland for the OKW and that von der Heydt accepted this and that the business relationship began in 1940 and ended when the bank building was destroyed on November 22 or 23, 1943. Ilse Butry, former Secretary of the directorate of Thyba, in an affidavit dated October 13, 1950, at Berlin, stated that she was personally responsible for assorting, counting and preparing the foreign exchange accounts for shipments for the Intelligence Section of the High Command and that in addition she kept an informal personal record of this account; that payments for enemy and neutral countries were handled by Baron von der Heydt only (emphasis added) and were remitted by Thyba in sealed, registered letters containing exclusively Swiss francs or United States dollars; and that von der Heydt was instructed by Thyba to transfer funds to an addressee in a neutral or enemy country designated by the High Command. Ilse Butry states that she thinks von der Heydt knew that the payments were in the interest of the Intelligence Section. She states specifically that as long as there were any orders, they were executed by von der Heydt.

"In this connection, the affidavits of Luebke, Ritter and Butry seem determinative since they state that when Luebke arranged with von der Heydt for the entire business, he explained the matter to him and that von der Heydt was aware of the nature of the transactions. Von der Heydt's denials of this in all probability were based on the fact that so far as he knew Luebke had been a prisoner of the Russians since 1945 and it seemed unlikely that he would ever be contacted to testify against him, or that the other affiants would be located. His denials also affirmatively indicate that his testimony is generally unreliable. It appears that von der Heydt has always tried to hide these transactions as much as

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possible. For instance, he denied to the Swiss authorities the 1939 transaction until certain evidence was turned up by the Swiss Police which made it necessary for him to admit them. Also when the American Counter-Intelligence Service attempted to discover the sender of these funds through the Union Bank in Switzerland, von der Heydt had written to the bank, 'I ask you not to reveal my name under any circumstances' and it was only when the Swiss bank was threatened with being put on the blacklist that it revealed the identity of von der Heydt. Attention is directed to the fact also that von der Heydt insisted that when he became suspicious of the nature of the transaction in 1943, he terminated his relationship with Thyba but that this statement is contradicted by the testimony of Luebke, Ritter and Butry who state affirmatively that von der Heydt completed the very last transaction offered to him by Thyba.

"Furthermore, Hans Bernard Gisevius, formerly of the German Counter-Intelligence, of the German Embassy in Bern, Switzerland, in a statement dated March 12, 1949, said that through his work in the Military Security Service he knew that von der Heydt had been working for the Finance Director of the Military Security Service since before the war and that he heard of von der Heydt's work for the first time through the Finance Chief of the Military Security Service in Bern, where he learned later that von der Heydt was considered a satisfactory agent. When he first mentioned this to von der Heydt, he tried to deny it but he subsequently admitted it. At the time Gisevius, who was working with the German Resistance Movement sub rosa, and who engaged with von der Heydt in the transfer of dollar notes into Swiss francs and gold mentioned above, informed von der Heydt that he must draw a clear border line between the opposition activities and the work of the Military Security Service as such. Gisevius said that he thought it impossible that von der Heydt did not suspect the purpose for which he was transferring the Thyba funds since during the war great caution was exercised in security in connection with overseas transfers of money by German authorities. Gisevius states that von der Heydt could not have transferred any of the Thyba money involved herein for the Resistance Movement."

- 5 -

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

Dokument 5

Auszug aus dem Bericht des FBI, Büro New York, über von der Heydt,
27.5. 1954

NARA RG 65 FBI File 029424

INTERVIEW OF MRS. CHARLOTTE PERLMANN
240 CENTRAL PARK SOUTH
NEW YORK CITY

On May 20, 1954, Mrs. CHARLOTTE PERLMANN at the above address was interviewed and advised she was born on March 18, 1897, in Bucharest, Rumania, the daughter of MATILDA and OTTO KELLER. Mrs. PERLMANN related she went to school in Bucharest, and married MOSES U. PERLMANN on March 24, 1913, and that following their marriage they resided at the Mantuleasa 12 in Bucharest.

During approximately October, 1940, Mrs. PERLMANN recalled her husband, following the occupation of Rumania by the Nazis, was arrested and committed to the Bucharest Prison, where he remained for over 7 weeks. She stated that prior to her husband's arrest, her oldest son, ARNOLD, had immigrated to the United States, and a second son, HARRY, was living at home with her at this time.

Mrs. PERLMANN described that her husband, who was formerly in the textile manufacturing business in Rumania, convinced the Rumanian-Nazi-dominated officials that he could be of invaluable assistance to them in the purchasing of textiles for the Rumanian Army. Subsequent to this, Mr. PERLMANN was released from jail, given the necessary travel permits, and on July 15, 1941, left Rumania for the United States via Berlin, Zurich, and Lisbon. Mrs. PERLMANN explained that her youngest son, HARRY, immediately following her husband's release from jail, was allowed to immigrate to Palestine, and later from Palestine immigrated to the United States via Cuba.

Mrs. PERLMANN explained that the only reason for her husband being allowed to leave Rumania was for the purpose of making a purchase of textiles for the Rumanian Army, and that when she attempted to leave with her husband she was detained as a hostage.

During the weeks that followed, Mrs. PERLMANN related, she attempted by various and devious methods to leave Rumania, but all attempts failed.

She recalled that during late 1941 she was approached by a personal friend, named SIMON MOSKOWITZ LEGRAIN, who said he knew of a way to get her out of the country, but a great deal of money would be needed to accomplish this end. She reported that she did not have enough money to accomplish this purpose, but that LEGRAIN told her he would finance her escape from Rumania.

Mrs. PERLMANN recalled that a few days later LEGRAIN again came to her home and stated he wanted her to meet an individual named HANS WEBER, a Gestapo Agent who had an office in a building on the Bradianu Boulevard in Bucharest. She reported she talked with WEBER about leaving the country, and that WEBER informed her that it could be arranged for the price equivalent to \$15,000.00 American dollars. WEBER told LEGRAIN that Mrs. PERLMANN should have \$200.00 for expenses incurred by them in traveling, and on April 24, 1942, Mrs. PERLMANN, at WEBER's direction, went to a travel office in Bucharest and bought two first-class train tickets to the border of Yugoslavia.

Mrs. PERLMANN recalled that WEBER took her passport from her when they entered the train, gave her a visa for entry into Italy, and stated that she and WEBER, at his direction, stayed in different cars on the train.

Mrs. PERLMANN gave details of her trip from Bucharest to Belgrade, Yugoslavia, and then, after encountering almost insurmountable obstacles, finally arrived in Venice, Italy, where they finally proceeded from Venice to Rome.

Mrs. PERLMANN recalled that at all times WEBER was dressed in civilian clothes, and it appeared that in all manner he wanted to conceal his true identity.

Following their arrival in Rome, Mrs. PERLMANN recalled that WEBER and she went to a cable office where

NY 114-139

she watched him write a cable to Switzerland, which she attempted to read while peering over his shoulder in the cable office. Mrs. PERLMANN claimed that the cable appeared to be in some type of code, but was absolutely sure the cable was addressed to an individual in Ascona, Switzerland. Mrs. PERLMANN recalled that WEBER had stated to her that she would not be allowed to proceed any further until proper permission was received from "a baron in Switzerland", who was very important.

Mrs. PERLMANN recalled that the following day WEBER received a cablegram from a country which was unknown to her, which she presumed was from Switzerland, and that she was then released from his custody.

Mrs. PERLMANN stated that she at no time paid any money directly to WEBER, with the exception of the necessary expenses incurred during the trip, and that she, in Rumania, managed to raise a sum equivalent to almost \$2,000.00 American dollars, which she gave to LEGRAIN, and that LEGRAIN added \$13,000.00 of his own money to make the necessary \$15,000.00 to effect the escape. She stated that LEGRAIN was the actual individual who had paid this money to WEBER.

Mrs. PERLMANN recalled she remained in Rome several days, during which time she was attempting to leave by air, which she finally succeeded in doing, and proceeded to Lisbon, Portugal, where she booked passage on the SS SERPA PINTO, and proceeded to the United States where she joined her husband and two sons during July, 1942.

INTERVIEW OF MOSES U. PERLMANN
240 CENTRAL PARK SOUTH
NEW YORK CITY

MOSES U. PERLMANN was interviewed on May 20, 1954, at the above address, and advised that he was born in Poland and remained a Polish citizen during his entire residence in Rumania.

He furnished substantially the same information concerning his arrest in Rumania by the "Iron Guard", and his subsequent escape to the United States.

Mr. PERLMANN stated that he was naturalized during 1947, in New York City, and that his wife was also naturalized during 1948 in New York City. PERLMANN related that he had been a manufacturer of wool and cotton goods in Bucharest, had owned a department store in that city, and had other varied interests which he approximated the value of in excess of \$1,000,000.00.

Mr. PERLMANN stated that during approximately 1946, he went to Holland while he was engaged in a war surplus business. While in Holland he was visiting a friend by the name of HANS TIEGE, and claimed at this time, while discussing his payment of \$15,000.00 to the Gestapo in order to effect his wife's escape from Rumania, TIEGE told him that other persons, including his old friend LEGRAIN had also used this means of escape through the Gestapo Agent named WEBER. TIEGE was alleged by PERLMANN to have told him that these payments were not actually made to WEBER, but, in fact, were made to a Baron VON DER HEYDT in Switzerland.

PERLMANN stated he could furnish no source as to TIEGE'S knowledge of VON DER HEYDT, other than that VON DER HEYDT was a well known individual in Holland, and that rumors in that country following World War II were to that effect, which convinced TIEGE that VON DER HEYDT was the payoff man for the various escapes.

PERLMANN related that TIEGE furnished a current address for LEGRAIN in Paris, France, and that he immediately proceeded to Paris in order to locate LEGRAIN. PERLMANN stated that when he had located LEGRAIN he paid him \$13,000.00 which had previously been furnished by LEGRAIN for Mrs. PERLMANN'S escape, and that at that time LEGRAIN told him that in order to effect an escape for his own wife and two sons, and their wives, in addition to furnishing necessary expenses for the trip for WEBER and his family,

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he had furnished to WEBER the sum of \$60,000.00, and that LEGRAIN made this payment through the Union Bank of Switzerland in which bank LEGRAIN had a considerable deposit of money. LEGRAIN stated to PERLMANN that inquiry by him at the Union Bank of Switzerland revealed that the person to whom this \$60,000.00 was actually paid by that bank from his deposit was the Baron VON DER HEYDT.

PERLMANN stated that LEGRAIN was presently residing at 9 Rue Richepanse, Paris, France.

PERLMANN stated it was at this time that he and LEGRAIN decided that they would attempt to recover their monies that had been allegedly paid to VON DER HEYDT, and proceeded to Ascona, Switzerland, where they attempted to gain admittance to his home, but were unable to do so.

PERLMANN stated that both he and LEGRAIN have a current civil suit pending in the Civil Courts at Ascona in an attempt to recover their \$15,000.00 and \$60,000.00 respectively, and have engaged an attorney, JOSEPH RAPPAPORT, of 26 Livenstrasse, Zurich, in order to effect this recovery.

PERLMANN furnished further information to the effect that during approximately 1950 LEGRAIN was visiting in Montevideo, South America, and by complete accident had noticed the former German Gestapo Agent HANS WEBER walking on a street in Montevideo. Although LEGRAIN attempted to contact him personally during this visit, he was unable to do so, but PERLMANN alleged that LEGRAIN has corresponded with WEBER, and that he was certain that LEGRAIN could supply a current address for WEBER.

PERLMANN concluded that at no time had he had any contact with HANS WEBER or Baron EDUARD VON DER HEYDT, and could furnish no information concerning his activities other than set out above.

PERLMANN related he has had no contact whatever with HANS TIEGE, the individual who first told him of VON DER HEYDT, and therefore could supply no information as to where he may be presently located. PERLMANN was unable to furnish TIEGE's 1946 address.