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N E T

NET PROJECT  
MOUNT VERNON

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2001 2007

FOR COORDINATION WITH <sup>ed</sup> ARMY

Approved for Release  
by the Central Intelligence Agency  
Date: 2001

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

C-71

SECRET

NET PROJECT

- A. Activation Date - Description (combined w/B)
- B. Mission
- E. Control Chief
- G. Administrative Personnel
- F. Operations Chief
- I. Sources - Evaluation (combined w/H)
- J. Subsources
- K. Methods of Communication
- L. Control Methods
- N. Summary of Information
- M. Processing
- P. Costs
- R. Documentation Futu
- Q. Future of Personnel
- T. Expansion Possibilities
- S. Cover Installations
- D. Mistakes and Compromises
- Schematic Diagram
- Map Sketch

C-81

**SECRET**

Activation Date - Description

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Underlined

Network "MOUNT VERNON" was activated on 1 October 1948 by the CIC Gmunden Field Office.

This net is generally described as a network of Austrian informants operating in the Russian occupied zone of Austria who are charged with reporting all information that would be of value to the U.S. Armed Forces.

Thomas A. Lucid  
Chief      CIC  
Land Upper Austria

On each introductory page (all sets) →

C-81

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Mission

Capa  
sterline

Penetration of the Central KPOe Committee, the KPOe  
itself, the Cominform and all other Communist organi-  
zations, espionage of all Soviet activities to in-  
clude industrial, information, scientific and military.

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C-81

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Control Chief

*Copied  
underline*

HOETTL, Dr. Wilhelm alias GOLIBERG, also known as "WILLI" (10/6333), "Operator" of project "Mount Vernon". Born 19 March 1915 in Gumpendorf, Vienna, presently living at Alt Aussee 53, (telephone Alt Aussee 16) Permanent address, Salzburg, Ernst Thunstrasse 9. Description: Oval face, 179 cm tall, grey eyes, black hair, no scars or marks. Married to Elfriede (ZELINGER) born 11 April 1912, has two children. HOETTL is a writer by profession and holds *Austrian* ID Card No. 64.788 issued 19 December 1947 in Salzburg. Brief History: HOETTL graduated from the University of Vienna in 1938 with a degree of Doctor of History. In May 1938 he was appointed Chief of SD Foreign Political Intelligence Section in Vienna, with the rank of SS Hauptsturmfuehrer. He was thrown out of that job in October 1941 and became a war correspondent for the Waffen SS until February 1943 when he was reinstated to his former rank and made Deputy Chief for Southeast Europe of Amt V<sup>1</sup> RSHA. He moved his headquarters to Budapest in March 1944 and during his stay in Budapest was in contact with the Americans in Bern, Switzerland. In December he was promoted to SS Sturmbannfuehrer and shortly thereafter retreated in front of the advancing Soviets until he reached Steyrling, Bezirk Kirchdorf in March 1945. In March 1945 he contacted OSS authorities in Switzerland and in May 1945 surrendered himself to American authorities in Bad Aussee. HOETTL was then taken to Germany where he was confined until October 1947 when he was transferred to Austria and confined in Lager Klessheim, Salzburg. He was released from confinement in December 1947. Subject first came to the attention of this office in late March 1948. He is presently ~~control chief~~ *control chief* for Projects "Mount Vernon" and "Montgomery".

Evaluation: "B" (usually reliable); "3" (possibly true) During the past twelve months that this ~~operator~~ *Hoettl* has been in contact with this office he has proven to be an excellent source for ideas, <sup>both</sup> concrete and theoretical, on the expansion of American Intelligence in Austria. His background as a former Deputy Chief of Amt VI RSHA for southeast Europe enables him to evaluate incoming reports on the Soviets with ~~accuracy~~ *fairly complete* accuracy.

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Administrative Personnel

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ MOSER, Werner (assistant in the Gmunden Center). Born 14 March 1903 in Vienna. Is a Dipl<sup>om</sup> Kaufmann and a specialist in economics, speaks English, is married but has no children. Is a former SD officer, presently residing at Villa Schneditz, Gmunden, Upper Austria.

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ KOLLER, Maria (Secretary and translator at Gmunden Center). Born 17 May 1915 in Vienna. Has worked for the past fifteen YEARS as secretary and co-worker of KOWARIK. <sup>(operations Chief)</sup> Presently resides at Ort<sup>53</sup>, Gmunden Upper Austria. Speaks, reads and writes English.

**SECRET**

C-81

SECRET

Operations Chief

KOWARIK, Karl alias BERGER Karl (10/5553) "Key Operative". Born 22 April 1907 in Vienna, Gersthof, presently living at Ort 55, Gmunden, Upper Austria. Description: oval face, blue-grey eyes, dark blonde hair, 186 cm tall, no scars or marks. Married to Gertrude (DOERFLER) born 15 March 1913. KOWARIK is an engineer for civic culture and also a journalist by profession. He holds <sup>Austrian</sup> ID Card No HN. 46968/48 issued in Vienna 26 February 1948.

Evaluation: "B" (Usually reliable); "3" (possible true) KOWARIK has been working as a Key Operative for this network since July 1948 and during that time he has always shown a conservative attitude <sup>regarding</sup> all work done by sources and subsources. <sup>Kowarik</sup> ~~he~~ is not one to over-evaluate information received, <sup>on the contrary more often</sup> ~~if anything~~ he tends to under-evaluate.

C-81

SECRET

SECRET

Sources - Evaluation

"HERBERT" (10/5543) located in Vienna. Bezirkshauptmannschaft official who reports on all possible VP activities in the Vienna area, also reports items of interest that may be followed up by other sources or subsources.

Evaluation: "C" (fairly reliable); "3" (possibly true)

"WALTER" (10/5573) located in Vienna. Employed as an office clerk. Manager of dispatch and courier post for subsources; processes reports for forwarding to the Gmunden Center.

Evaluation: (C-3) Although this source is not personally known to the Control Agent he has turned in some well received reports during the past few months.

"ERWIN" (10/5583) located in Vienna. Is a Doctor of Technics, is a long-time friend of ~~SCHLINDERER~~ many <sup>Austrian</sup> scientists. Reports on all possible phases of the scientific field, also follows leads as assigned by the Gmunden Center.

Evaluation: (C-3) According to reports coming back from Technical Intelligence Section, this <sup>work</sup> ~~man's~~ work is excellent.

MASCHER, Josef alias ROMANY, Josef, also known as "SEPP". (10/6343) Presently living at Linke Wienzeile 56/II, Vienna VI. Gathers all types of information from six subsources, and acts as dispatch-post manager for the group, and forwards information to Gmunden by courier.

Evaluation: (C-3) MASCHER who is well known in CIC circles has, during the past seven months turned in a tremendous number of reports, covering all phases of intelligence activity. From information received here, from ODI, the majority of his reports include <sup>much</sup> ~~new~~ information <sup>which presently</sup> ~~and~~ can neither be denied nor confirmed.

SECRET

C-51

6



SECRET

"EDI" (10/6353) located in St. Valentin. Is a former SD Captain who is now a salesman. Manager of a ~~dispatch-courier~~ <sup>and</sup> post, ~~and~~ exercises control over a number of sub-sources, <sup>and</sup> also processes reports of these sub-sources.

<sup>write out</sup>  
Evaluation: (C-3) As a former Captain in the SD he is capable of good evaluations on reports received from his sub-sources and has submitted a few excellent reports.

"FRANZ" (10/6363) located in Vienna. Has excellent USIA contacts. Is a wholesaler by trade. Reports all possible USIA information.

<sup>write out</sup>  
Evaluation: (C-3) This man is fairly new to the Network and has as yet to prove himself, although several of his reports have been reported confirmed.

<sup>Land</sup>  
"WALTHER" (10/7113) located in Leoben. Is a former SS Lieutenant who worked under SKORZENY and is presently occupied as a mechanic. Reports on items of general intelligence value covering the southern part of Burgenland and Styria.

<sup>write out</sup>  
Evaluation: (C-3) This man is also a new addition and has to date submitted only a few reports, but according to ~~my~~ <sup>own chief</sup> Operative, is a very good intelligence man, particularly in the industrial field.

"ERWIN" (10/7143) located in Linz. Is a former Lieutenant of the SD and presently a secretary in the OeVP Headquarters in Linz. He manages a dispatch-post and letter-drop. Reports on the VP and KPOe through sub-sources ~~██████████~~

<sup>write out</sup>  
Evaluation: (C-3) Good reports have come from this source and have been well received by ODI.

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Subsources

"HERBERT" (10/7883) located in Fischamend. A mechanic by trade. Reports on items of general intelligence interest in the Fischamend area.

"WALTER" (10/8433) located in Zistersdorf. A locksmith by trade who reports all items of general intelligence interest and follows any specific leads from the Gmunden Center.

"GEORG" (10/8443) located in Lilienfeld. A Gemeinde clerk who reports on all items of general intelligence interest and follows any leads as assigned by the Gmunden Center.

"KARL" (10/8453) located in Wiffler-Neustadt. Is an electrical engineer by profession who reports on items of intelligence interest and follows leads as assigned by the Gmunden Center.

"HANS" (10/8463) located in Neunkirchen. Is a factory foreman who reports on items of general intelligence interest as personally observed.

"MAX" (10/8473) located in Neusiedl/See. Is an office worker who reports on items of intelligence interest as personally observed.

"FRANZ" (10/8472) located in Eisenstadt. Is a shopkeeper who reports on items of general intelligence interest and follows leads as assigned by the Gmunden Center.

"TONI" (10/7872) located in Linz. Is a former NCO in the Wehrmacht and a Doctor of Law. Is presently in the Linz Land Government and is also a member of the KP Headquarters Upper Austria. Reports on KP activities.

"FERDINAND" (10/8462) located in Amstetten. Is a former Lieutenant of the Wehrmacht, now a salesman who reports items of general intelligence interest as personally observed and follows leads as assigned by the Gmunden Center.

**SECRET**

81

-8-

**SECRET**

*reports* "HANS" (10/8452) located in Waidhofen/Y<sup>th</sup>. Is a teacher by profession; ~~reports~~ on items of general intelligence value and follows leads assigned by Gmunden Center.

"HANS" (10/8442) located in St. Poelten. Is an office clerk in St. Poelten, ~~reports~~ gathers information of general intelligence value.

"GEORG" (10/8432) located in Korneuburg. Is a Doctor of Law, reports information of intelligence interest as observed and follows leads as assigned by the Gmunden Center.

"KARL" (10/7882) located in Krems. Is a shopkeeper by profession, ~~reports~~ reports on items of general intelligence interest as observed and follows leads as assigned by the Gmunden Center.

"HEINZ" (10/7123) located in Vienna. A construction engineer, ex-Wehrmacht officer who, primarily reports on Soviet military activities in the Vienna area.

"HANS" (10/7133) located in Eisenstadt, a former NCO of the Wehrmacht and presently a storekeeper. Reports on general information of intelligence interest in the Eisenstadt area.

"FRANZ" (10/7843) located in Baden. A former Wehrmacht Sergeant, who is presently employed in Soviet Headquarters in Baden, <sup>as an</sup> interpreter. He speaks Russian and reports on Soviet military activities as controlled by Bad Headquarters.

"JOSEF" (10/7853) located in Vienna. Is an employee in the offices of the Central Committee of the KPÖe who reports on activities of that office.

*Drop down* "MARIA" (10/7863) located in Vienna. A secretary <sup>Branch of the</sup> in the office of Dr. HOLITSCHER of the Vienna Cominform. She reports on the activities of that office.

"FRANZ" (10/7873) located in Vienna. A civil engineer who is now a clerk in the office of the Communist provincial Headquarters in Vienna. Reports on the activities of that office.

C-81

Methods of Communication

All reports are handled either by courier or letter-drop. The breakdown of these methods by sources is as follows:

- 10/6343 - Makes a trip once weekly from Vienna over the Enns bridge to Attnang-Puchheim where a package containing reports is picked up, from the courier by a representative of the Gmunden Center. When traveling through the Russian zone the courier wraps his reports in an old newspaper and places them on the baggage rack above the person opposite him in the train compartment, upon which bags, coats and other items are placed. Source also makes one monthly trip to the Gmunden Center, <sup>at which time</sup> he hides his package of reports inside the water tank of the men's toilet when passing through the Russian zone.
- 10/5573 - The same methods as mentioned above are used except that different couriers are used and the contact point is in Steyr.
- 10/6353 - The courier travels to Linz by train, crossing at Enns. He is met in Linz by a representative of the Gmunden Center who picks up the reports from the courier.
- 10/7143 - Reports are picked up from a letter-drop in Linz by the same representative who contacts 10/6353.
- 10/5543  
10/5583  
10/6363 - A special courier who travels by motorcycle takes reports from all three of these sources and delivers them to a representative of the Gmunden Center at Wels. The courier does not receive the reports direct from sources but through three cut-outs.

C-81  
SECRET  
-8-

**SECRET**

10/7113 - The Linz letter-drop as mentioned above is also used by this source for transmitting information.

NOTE: None of the couriers are known to any of the other couriers and none of them are in direct contact with the Gmunden Center; in special cases all sources can be contacted by special courier from the Gmunden Center. Information, once it has been processed by the Gmunden Center, is delivered to CIC Gmunden by 10/5553 twice weekly.

**SECRET**

C-81

**SECRET**

Central Methods

Contact

— All sources, who are unknown to each other, upon receipt of information from subsources give all reports a check for completeness and correctness, and if there are any glaring or obvious errors the reports are immediately returned to subsources, otherwise they are forwarded to the Gmunden Center by courier.

— Upon receipt of information from sources through couriers and letter drops the information is again checked for its accuracy and completeness.

— For cross-checking purposes the Gmunden Center receives information from several sources who are unknown to each other, on the same topic, by which the Center is able to check on the accuracy of reports or on the reliability of a particular source or subsource. In instances where there is any great doubt about an important report or *where the* reliability of a source or subsource is doubted, several sources and subsources are asked to check the points questioned.

**SECRET**

C-81

**SECRET**

Summary of Information

The type of information supplied by each source and subsource is indicated after the name of each individual. The percentage of reports by type is as follows. (This is based on reports received during the past four months):

Economic and Industrial	15%
Technical	5%
Military	20%
Political ( <del>GEN</del> ) (GENERAL)	10%
Political (Communist)	50%
Total	<u>100%</u>

Information received covers all fields:

- Communist political
- Communist para-military
- Scientific, Austrian and Russian
- Soviet military activities
- Soviet industrial activities
- Soviet economic activities
- General political

**SECRET**

C-81

**SECRET**

Processing

Upon receipt of information by sources from subsources it is carefully checked. Once the source feels that the information is as complete and correct as possible he forwards it by courier to the center in Gmunden. When it arrives in Gmunden it is first processed by KOWARIK who is a political and economics specialist, and also by MOSER a former SD officer who fought against the Russians during the past war. The information is then passed on to KOLLER who checks the new reports with reports previously forwarded and makes references on the reports to the ~~past~~ <sup>new</sup> ones. Once the information has gone through these three persons it is translated either by KOLLER or MOSER into English.

When the information has been completely processed by the Center it is taken to CIC Gmunden by the ~~Key Oper-~~ <sup>operations</sup> ~~ative~~ who makes at least two weekly trips to CIC. The ~~Key Operative~~ <sup>operations</sup> and Control Agent take each report separately and go over it point by point for discrepancies and detail. If there are any points that cannot be cleared upon the spot the report is returned by the ~~Key Operative~~ <sup>operations</sup> to source for clarification. This is only done, however, if the time factor is of no great importance on the information being reported. The accepted reports are then prepared by CIC Gmunden for forwarding as SOIs. The same procedure is ~~used~~ <sup>followed</sup> when evaluation slips are received from ODI and there are questions to be answered.

**SECRET**

C-81



**SECRET**

**Costs**

The total amount given to "Mount Vernon" per month is presently set at 33,000 schillings. This is broken down into the following categories:

**Gmunden Center Workers:**

5553

10/952 2,000  
MOSER & KOLLER (total) 1,900

**Sources:**

10/6343 4,000  
10/7853 1,000  
10/7863 1,000  
10/7873 1,000  
10/7143 3,000  
10/6353 2,000  
10/5573 2,000  
10/5583 2,000  
10/6363 2,000  
10/5543 1,000  
10/7113 1,000

Amount being used to expand  
USIA reporting and Bacterio-  
logical information. 4,000  
Payment to 4 couriers (total) 3,000  
Payment to people at crossing  
point in Steyr 600  
Office Expenses:  
Rent 600  
Heat and lighting 400  
Miscellaneous Expenses 500

Sub - Total 33,000 Schillings

Estimated cost of maintaining 4  
radios in Russian occupied zone. 8,000

(EXPECTED TO BE IN OPERATION  
1 MAY 1949). TOTAL 41,000

*See information for notes*  
~~igated and...~~

*Miss Schepis;  
get proper  
numbers here  
from Wilson*

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C-81

**SECRET**

Documentation

All individuals carry Austrian <sup>Identities</sup> ~~So.~~ Cards. All  
are Austrian citizens.

**SECRET**

13

C-81

**SECRET**

Future of Personnel

The future of all personnel connected with Network "MOUNT VERNON" appears to be fairly stable as all are Austrian citizens. None are planning to emigrate. There are no projected changes in personnel except for a few possible additions in the USIA and bacteriological <sup>reporting</sup> fields.

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C-81

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Expansion Possibilities

It is anticipated that in the near future  
radios will be established in four areas of the  
Russian occupied zone of Austria for expeditious  
reporting of <sup>Soviet</sup> military movements. Approximately  
8,000 schillings per month would be necessary  
for this operation.

**SECRET**

C-81

15

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COVER INSTALLATIONS

The Gmunden Center for Project "Mount Vernon" is located in the Villa Bauer, Ort 55, Gmunden, Upper Austria. The house is in the name of KOWARIK who is registered as a journalist. HOETTL has his own home in Alt Aussee 53.

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C-81

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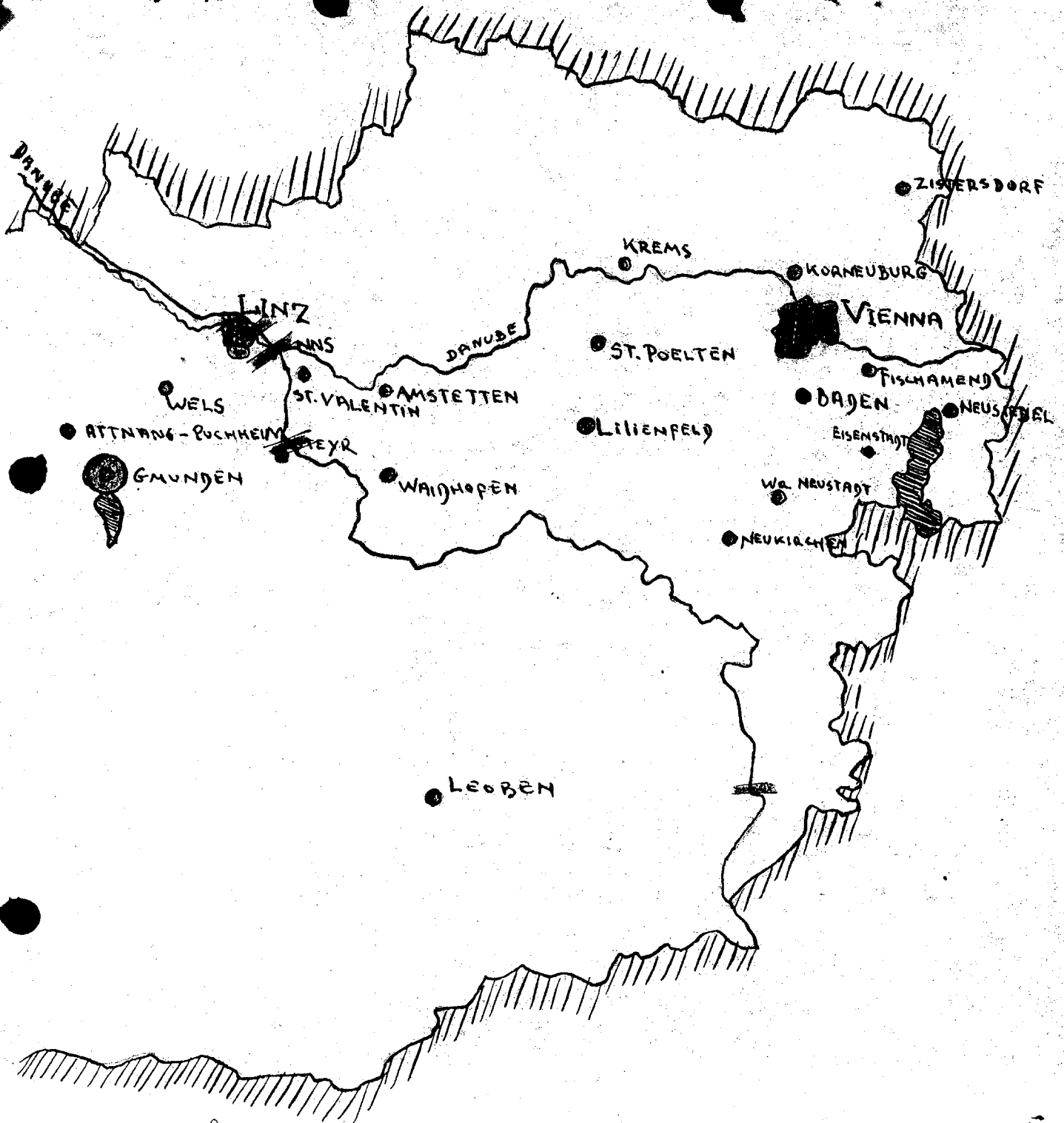
Mistakes and Compromises

Insufficient liaison with sources, which accounted for a great deal of time wasted by informants on reporting information of little or no intelligence value. More direct control of sources required by *QIC* Control Agent.

Injudicious selection of sources and subsources by *your chief* operative without consulting *QIC* Control Agent.

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- COURIER PICK UP POINTS
- MAIN SOURCES
- RESIDENT AGENTS
- GMUNDEN CENTER
- ▨ BORDER CROSSING POINTS

MOUNT VERNON

C-81

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MOUNT VERNON

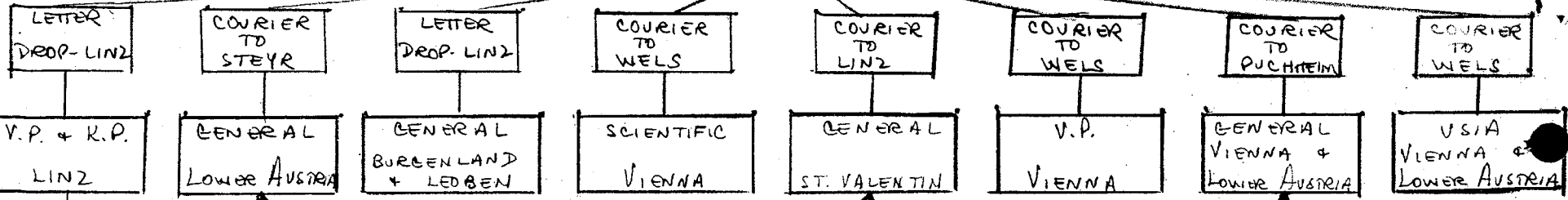
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EMUNDEN  
CIC

WILLI  
OPERATOR

EMUNDEN  
CENTER

Type OF INFORMATION  
AND LOCATIONS -



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