

53a

Note for VAN DER WOUDE.

It is plain from the description which Captain HOOPER has given of ~~the~~ ~~MERTENS~~ contained in the letter from S.O.E. of 17.1.45 that this woman who kept an S.O.E. house in Brussels is not identical with the MERTENS who has appeared in a number of cases of agents went here under the auspices of Abt. II Ast Brussels.

Hib/KRS
21.1.45.

E.B. STAMP.

File No. P.F.600,479.....

SERIAL 53b.....

has been removed from this file.

SEE P.F.603,031.....

Removed by DJH/H4D.....

Date.....

BB
2/1

SECRET

52

PP. 600,479/Blb/ERS

Your

21th January 1945.

RAW/KV/2450
/2445

Dear Tom,

500 512
Thank you for your two letters
of 16.1.45 and 17.1.45 regarding Mrs.
MERTON. It is plain from the descrip-
tion given by HOOKER that Mrs. MERTON
cannot be identical with the woman of that
name who I referred to in my letter
of 12.1.45.

Yours sincerely,

Major M. Johnstone,

Major R.A. Wells,
S.O.S.

ERS/JEB

24/1

TOP SECRET & PERSONAL

51

RAW/KV/2450

17th January, 1945.

Dear Mark,

~~MRS. MERTEENS~~

Since writing you my RAW/KV/2442 of the 16th January, 1945, I have been fortunate in getting hold of Captain HOOPER who is, no doubt, known to you as an ex-member of the old firm, and is at present working in our interests at R.H. Prince Bernhard's H.Q.

HOOPER has actually met the MERTEENS personally, and so is in a position to give a first-hand description, though it is only fair to him to place on record his own qualification of the description, which is that he has only seen Mrs. MERTEENS once for about half an hour, and then in not a very good light. However, he describes her as follows:-

5'6"; very stout; aged, apparently 45; light, brown, bobbed hair; round, pudding face with irregular features;

When seen by HOOPER she was working with her daughter NELLY in the bar of the Hotel LEOPOLD III, and was wearing a brown dress. HOOPER did not try her in any language other than French, but says that she is a terrific talker and a great gossip, and now delights in producing from her bag for the inspection of visitors, photographs of the ex-filtees whom she has assisted.

All of this ties in exactly with what we already know of the lady in question. The daughter who was also in the bar on the occasion of HOOPER's visit to the Hotel LEOPOLD III, he is unable to describe very exactly, but says that so far as he can remember, she had dark curly hair, was of slim build, with an oval face.

Two other small points arose in the course of our conversation, the first of which was that either NELLY MERTEENS (the daughter) or else the waitress in the bar had told HOOPER that she had seen VAN VLIET in one of his usual haunts a few days after the liberation; this we believe to be true. The second point was that HOOPER says that to his own knowledge, RENE MERTEENS has been very active, rushing round trying to contact any and every Allied Authority which might be interested in finding VAN VLIET. HOOPER gave it as his opinion, that this great interest seemed to bear the mark of someone who was doing his best to create a favourable impression.

Yours sincerely,

R.A. Wells

R.A. WELLS, MAJOR.

Major M. Johnstone,
M.I.5.

B/S
2/1/45

TOP SECRET & PERSONAL

RAW/NO/2442

16th January, 1945. 500

Your Ref: PP.600,479/B1b/EBB

Dear Mark,

~~MERTENS~~

Thank you for your letter of the 12th January, reference as above. I fully agree that the evidence available all points to the fact that contact with such characters as VAN VLIET, does not necessarily give grounds for suspicion, since they were cunning enough to keep their true activities extremely dark, and it was obviously not in the interest of the Germans to place those who might be coming to this country in a position in which they could "blow" these carefully laid plans.

Mrs. MERTENS, and also her daughter MELLY, are very well known to us as the wife and daughter of Rene, and in this connection I would refer you to the Bayswater Interrogation Report of Lt. John Kennard HURST, No. 679307 of the U.S.A.A.F, dated 3rd February, 1944.

In this report HURST, who, within his limits was extremely reliable, stated that MERTENS kept a hotel at 5, Rue Des Croisards, Brussels, but that he himself lived with his wife and daughter MELLY, in a private house, the wife and daughter doing no work, but Rene himself supervising his manager at the hotel.

HURST's description of Mrs. MERTENS states, "She delights in showing off her English, and has no fear of speaking English loudly and publicly." She told source with some relish that her husband had recently been in Munster, implying that he had been there on clandestine business."

It is to be noted that HURST stated that the MERTENS lived at their private house and not at the hotel. APOLLO (Bayswater report, 22nd December, 1943) also apparently stayed at the MERTENS private house. He states that Rene MERTENS "is the owner of the Hotel Leopold III, and also keeps a safe house used by VAN VLIET".

Further information given by APOLLO is to the effect that VAN VLIET said that Rene MERTENS had been twice imprisoned. Before the invasion of Belgium, he was working for the French Intelligence, and had been arrested by the Belgians after the Government had left, and before the Germans took over. His second arrest was done by the Germans, who sent him to prison in Germany for several months. Subsequently he was released, but thereafter kept under control for a long time, indeed he still plays the role of being friendly with the German Officials.

APOLLO also described Mrs. MERTENS as being extremely indiscreet, and stated that at a dinner party given in his honour at the MERTENS' house, she went around telling all her friends in audible whispers that APOLLO had just come from London.

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2/11

- 2 -

I am sorry to say that we have no description of Mrs. MERTEMS, and know nothing of her equestrian propensities. However, I hope that the foregoing may possibly be of some use to you.

Yours sincerely,


R.A. WELLS, MAJOR

Major M. Johnstone,
M.I.5.

6-

File No. P.F. 600,479

SERIAL 47a

has been removed from this file.

SEE P.F. 603,031

Removed by DJH/H4D

Date 2.9.45

Van der Waerde

48

War Room

Before Andre de SMIDT left O20 he stated in connection with Mme MERTENS, the woman who worked in the Abwehr Office at the rue Royale, Brussels, that she used to ride horseback and hire horses from a riding school near the Boulevard de Tervueren. He states that as one had to write to reserve a horse and give one's name and address it might be possible to trace the lady in this way. De SMIDT believes that Mme. MERTENS' address is in the Avenue de Gaulois, which runs into the Avenue de Tervueren.

There is a Mme MERTENS known to S.O.S. and I am endeavouring to find out if this lady could be identical with Mme MERTENS of the Abwehr.

nlb/ZBS
13.1.45.

E.B. Stamp.

EBS/JEB

*TAB
B/A
1/11*

File 460

Your Ref. ~~PP. 600,479/123/W/3~~ 12th January 1945.

Dear Tom,

Thank you for your letter of 9.1.45 regarding ~~Mrs MERTENS~~ which we are very glad to see. As indicated in my letter of today's date regarding KNOPPERS' case we do not think that mere contact with Van VLIET, however close, ought to be regarded as evidence that a man has been working for the enemy. We think that MERTENS falls within this category of persons and in the absence of other evidence to the contrary I entirely agree with you that no action is called for.

On the other hand we have information of a very adverse character regarding a Mrs. MERTENS of Brussels who might possibly be identical with the character known to you. Could you conveniently obtain a prescription of Mrs. MERTENS and an answer to the question whether she used to ride horseback or hired horses from a riding school in the last 4 or 5 years.

Yours sincerely,

M.S.

78 ✓
M.S.

in any confidential work for an allied security detachment
This mater is being taken up by 21 A.G.I(b) with the
American authorities concerned.
.....

45a

B.I.B./GEN/MJ 10th January, 1945

Dear Tom,

Many thanks for your RAW/KV/2410
of 9.1.45. relating to Rene MERTENS.

I am passing this information on
to the officer concerned.

Yours sincerely

MJ

M. Johnstone.
Major

Major R.A. Wells,

S.O.E.

MJ/MO

BIB
Feb.
13/1

EXTRACT.

H/C

Extract for File No. P.F. 500.479 Name: Van Der WOUDE.
 Original in File No. I. 397/Belgium/1 Serial: 31b Dated: 9.11.44
 Original from: S. E. Under Ref. No. JD/KV/2128
 Extracted on: 11.1.45 by: DJH Section: R.R.

Extract from reports received from Brussels forwarded
 by S.O.E.

.....
VAN VLIET, Georges.

This man was a double agent during the occupation and was responsible for betraying a number of British airmen and some agents working for the Dutch Section. He was seen in Brussels three days after the liberation and there is always a possibility that he may still be in Belgium. This case has been handed over to Army Group F.S.P. who have been given a description, the last known address and the usual haunts, such as cafes, etc., of this man.

One of his close associates, Etienne DESMET of Bastogne has been working ever since the liberation for the C.I.C. Det. U.S. Army in Bastogne and he is being removed from this employment now. It is not clear whether he was merely a dupe of Van VLIET whom he may have presumed to have been working for the allies, or whether he was himself an active agent of the enemy, but as his father was a traitor during the 1st war sentenced to 20 years imprisonment and as he is known to have collaborated during the occupation, he is certainly unfit to be employed

20 /in

Mr. Stamb. 44a⁻⁵⁸

SECRET & PERSONAL

RAW/KV/2410

9th January, 1945.

Dear Mark,

I am sorry to hear from your secretary that you are, or may be, suffering from an attack of 'Flu, and I hope that this will quickly be over.

X Rene MERTEYS X

You will recall this gentleman as being a very active assistant of George VAN VLIET in the travel business, for which the hotel in Brussels was used. I think John Delaforce probably spoke to you about a report that we had, that he was now working for the Belgian Surete, and on the 20th December, John wrote to our Mission in Brussels for further particulars of the present activities of this character, MERTEYS.

I have now received the reply which is as follows:-

"This man is not working for the Surete in any official capacity. He is merely a police mark who provides information from time to time.

He has been interviewed both by Capt. Hooper and SPU.47 Security Officer and makes no secret of his association with VAN VLIET. His defence is the same as Etienne DESMET's. They both say they thought VAN VLIET was really working for the Allies.

MERTEN's chief interest was doubtless money and VAN VLIET was one of the best customers in his hotel.

As the Surete know all about him and as he has no access to their dossiers and does not hold any official position, there is nothing that the British Security Authorities can do about him unless evidence of a more reliable

R/S
YES
13/1

character is produced against him. As he is not a member of the Surete, it has not been thought necessary to approach 21 AG I(b) with a view to having him removed."

Yours sincerely,

R. A. Wells
R. A. WELLS, MAJOR

Major M. Johnstone,
M.I.5.

File No. P.F. 600,479

SERIAL 44b

has been removed from this file.

SEE P.F. 603,031

Removed by DJH/H4D

Date 2.9.45

SECRET.

CAMP 020.

REPORT dated 31st December 1944

D.D.B.

DE SMIDT

In a statement dated 27.12.44 DE SMIDT writes as follows-

"Regarding ~~Madame~~ ^{heard in P.F. 600,008} ~~MERTENS~~, the woman who ~~de SMIDT~~ worked in the Abwehr office at Rue Royale, Brussels, I have now remembered something which might help to identify her.

"She used to ride horseback and hired her horses from a riding school in the street near the Boulevard de Tervueren. As one had to write to reserve a horse, and give one's name and address, it might be possible to trace her from there."

DE SMIDT was shown a town plan of Brussels and asked to position the street, but as he had never been to this riding school he was unable to do so.

He remembers, however, that Mrs. MERTENS gave him the address on one occasion and he believes it to be in the Avenue de Gaulois, which runs into the Avenue de Tervueren, near the Parc du Cinquantenaire.

/RW

S. Powell
for Colonel Stephens.

BIB
13/11

43a
Van der
Woude
Jelle
Copy in
de Smidt

EXTRACT.

42a

Extract for File No. PF 600,479 Name VAN DER WOUDE @ CHERWY.
 Original in File No. PF 600,719 LAROCHE Serial: 23a Dated: 22.12.44
 Original from: Camp 020 Under Ref. i.....
 Extracted on 2.1.45 by JB Section: RB

Extract from statement by Paul J.J. LAROCHE, captured German agent.

Statement handed in by LAROCHE on 21.12.44.
(No. 2)

GERMAN AGENTS.

.....
14. SOLA.
.....

I know that SOLA very often want to Paris too in his trips; he was accompanied by a man introduced to me as Mr. CHERWY. I was told to be careful talking with him because he was not an agent. Both SOLA and CHERWY where on their way all the time HINCKFUSS told me. I last saw him about the month of August. However, my wife reported that a man telling he was SOLA had brought a parcel for me, but when he was told I was not home he said he'd find another way to deliver it to me refusing to leave the parcel at my home.

BES
13/1

*Van der Woude
Derray +
Buissonet*

OO: V/48/35M
VW/13/1/454
R/127.3/30

818
12/12/44

Copy - P/603.031

16th December 1944.

4/10

12700/C:

Reference Louis DERRAY

1. An attempt is being made to establish the identity of VAN DER WOUDE known to subject. It was thought that VAN DER WOUDE might be identical with RIDDERHOF & VAN VLIET. This now appears doubtful from the further questioning of VERLOOP and DAMEN at Camp O20.
2. We are now informed that one Rene MERTENS, owner of the Cafe "Napold II, near the Gare du Nord, Brussels on the right hand side coming from the main exit, has several photographs of VAN VLIET taken by a friend of MERTENS in front his cafe. MERTENS is described as follows: Age 40 or 42. Height 1.70 to 1.82 m. Build medium, well proportioned. Hair dark. Face full, cleanshaven. Nose small. Wears thick glasses. Wears 7 or 8 small medal ribbons, two of which have crowns on them. Will you please attempt to get these pictures from MERTENS?
3. The DERRAY report from Camp O20 refers to a meeting at the Hotel Automatic with VAN DER WOUDE at which meeting DERRAY was asked to take Mme. VAN DER WOUDE to Paris. Your report on Mlle. Marie BUISSET refers to a meeting with DERRAY and his chief at the Paris Bar, Place de Broukers at which she was asked to accompany the wife of this man to Paris. It seems probable that these meetings were identical. Can you get from Mlle. BUISSET a careful description of this meeting with dates and descriptions of those present.

19 DEC 1944

B/B
13/1

EXTRACT

P.A. in P.P.600,479 Name Van Der WOUDE. 406
Original in P.P.600,513 LINDEMANS Serial 149a Dated 12.12.44
Original from Camp 020
Extracted on 21.12.44 By DJH Section R.B.

Extract from Interim Interrogation report on LINDEMANS/VERLOOP,/DAMEN,
Abwehr III agents, forwarded by Camp 020

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT IN THE CASES OF LINDEMANS/VERLOOP/DAMEN

Additional information obtained since the Interim report of
29.11.44, 2.12.44 and 23.10.44 respectively.

.....
PART ONE.

NEW PERSONALITIES.

.....
Rene MERTEENS.

This man is the proprietor of the Cafe Leopold II, rue des
Croissades, (near the Gare du Nord), Brussels. It is agreed by

DAMEN and VERLOOP that he is a thoroughly bad character, who, in
addition to living on the earnings of prostitutes in his cafe,
worked for whichever side was willing to pay him. His cafe was
frequented by members of the German Intelligence Service as well
as patriots of the Underground Movement. VERLOOP often went there
with DAMEN and Van VLIET.

On the 4th January 1944, DAMEN was instructed by Van VLIET to
take an Allied pilot from Rene MERTEENS to a car in the market place,
in which there were two civilians. This DAMEN did and the pilot
was taken away in the car. DAMEN says that he is certain that
MERTEENS handed over this pilot, who was very dark skinned and looked
like a Mexican, to Van VLIET simply because Van VLIET was one of
MERTEENS best customers.

Both VERLOOP and DAMEN state that Rene MERTEENS has several
photographs of Van VLIET, which were taken from across the street
by a friend of MERTEENS without Van VLIET's knowledge. These
photographs were required by members of the Resistance Movement.

Rene MERTEENS' description is as follows:-

Age:	40/2.
Height:	1.70/2m.
Build:	Medium, well proportioned.
Hair:	Dark.
Face:	Full, cleanshaven.
Nose:	Small.
Eyes:	Wears thick glasses.
Appearance:	Well dressed, wears 7 or 8 small medal ribbons in his lapel, two of which have crowns on them.

.....

MELCHIOR, or MELCHIORA. (This is one of two names comprising his full surname.)

LINDEMANS described this man as a Spaniard who lived in Brussels (Belgium) and Holland. He had had a post in the Spanish Embassy in Brussels and was a big importer of citrus fruits into Belgium. He did business with the Germans and collaborated with LINDENBANK in various deals from which the two made a great deal of money. LINDENBANK supplied MELCHIOR with German identity papers and a Waffenchein (fire-arms permit). He was in touch with REDDHOFF in Brussels. LINDEMANS never saw this man, but knew his wife, whose description is as follows:-

Van VLIET's wife.

VERHOFF and DAMEN have described in similar terms Van VLIET's wife, whom they both knew. This woman lived with Van VLIET at 28 rue de Troie, Brussels, where, according to DAMEN they went under the name of SAIN. She is described as follows:-

Age:	36/8.
Height:	1.65m.
Build:	Slight.
Hair:	Fair.
Eyes:	Blue.
Appearance:	Smart, good looking.

According to DAMEN, she suffers from a weak heart. He thinks she has full knowledge of Van VLIET's activities.

PART TWO.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PERSONS ALREADY MENTIONED IN INTERIM REPORTS.

RIDDHOFF & Van VLIET.

It is possible that this man is still somewhere in Belgium (probably Brussels or Namur) and is using as cover some British I.S. agents whom he has refrained from reporting to the Germans, and who, therefore, believe in his good faith. He probably had large quantities of bar gold and jewellery. Owns a house at Waterloo, near Brussels. Was often to be seen in the cafe of Piet van KAMPEN, the well known cyclist, where he was known as a diamond merchant. This cafe is near the Place Roger.

Everet LINDENBANK.

This Dutchman, born in The Hague, is stated to be living in Brussels with his cousin and between them they own two cars. Their

address is in the Chauxee Waterloo near the Avenue Louise. LINDEMANS, who had provided LINDENBANK with Allied identity documents and a Resistance armband, gave information to the Germans that LINDENBANK was a member of the Resistance and the latter was arrested and later set free. He was in close contact with Van VLIET in Brussels. Before the war LINDENBANK had worked at the LINDEMANS garage as chauffeur and mechanic, and it is therefore fairly certain that LINDENBANK is his real name.

EXTRACT.

40a

Extract for File No. P.F. 600,479 Name Van Der WOUDE
 Original in File No. P.F. 600,388 DAMEN Serial 99a Dated 10-12-44
 Original from Camp 020 Under Ref. _____
 Extracted on 21.12.44 by JMcG Section P.S.B.

Extract from Camp 020 Internal Memorandum re DEBRAY/VERLOOP/
 DAMEN, German agents.

.....

He (DEBRAY) was again interrogated regarding van der WOUDE, but had never heard him called either van VLIET or RIDDERHOF, and his description of van der WOUDE differs considerably from the descriptions given by DAMEN and VERLOOP of van VLIET, both of whom describe him as being very fat and of an alcoholic appearance. They also give his age as between 45 and 47, whereas DEBRAY puts van der WOUDE at about 40 and says he was well built and healthy looking. DEBRAY also says that Van der WOUDE always wore glasses with bi-focal lenses, whereas van VLIET is described as not wearing glasses except occasionally for reading.

Both VERLOOP and DAMEN are emphatic that van VLIET has a peculiar walk, occasioned by a wound in the left knee. They also say that he is of a slovenly appearance.

P.T.O.

098/13
13/1

DEBRAY describes van der WOUDE as walking normally and being very well dressed.

The only points of similarity are that both van der WOUDE and van VLIET are described as wearing a diamond ring and being heavy smokers, mostly of English or American cigarettes.

VERLOOP and DAMEN have described in similar terms van VLIET's wife, whom they both knew. This woman lived at van VLIET's house, 24 rue du Trone, Brussels, according to DAMEN under the name of SALM. She is described as 36/8 years of age, about 1.65m. in height; slightly built, with fair hair, blue eyes, good looking, smart appearance, and according to DAMEN she suffers from a weak heart. DAMEN thinks that she has full knowledge of van VLIET's activities.

DEBRAY states that he was told in September 1943 by van der WOUDE to collect the latter's wife from the Hotel Automatique in Brussels and bring her to Paris, where DEBRAY took her to a cafe at which van der WOUDE was waiting for her. This woman he describes as about 35 years of age and having a good figure, but can give no further details. He thinks she was coming from Holland.

.....

39a

War Room (for the attention of Lt. Martin)

Reference your memorandum of 5.12.44 calling attention to the apparent connection between Van VLIET and Van der WOUDE.

We are having DEBRAY questioned as to his knowledge of Suzanne MANTOU. We entirely agree with you that VAN DER WOUDE is probably an alias of RIDDERHOF G VAN VLIET. Everything that has been said about each man seems to support that identification.

MLB/ENI
7.12.44.

H.B. Stamp.

DEBRAY file and folder
VAN VLIET file

10 1944

B.B.
13/11

copy

Minute Sheet

380

1. In a memorandum of 21.11.44 on VERLOOP an escape route from Brussels to Paris via Erquelinnes and Jeumont is mentioned as being used by ~~VAN VLIET~~ with a girl named Suzanne MARTHAU. This seems to be the route used by Louis DEBRAY but no mention is made of MARTHAU. Could he be questioned as to whether he knew this girl?

2. This memorandum seems to me to increase the likelihood that ~~RIESENHOF~~ / VAN VLIET is identical with VAN DER WOUDE mentioned in the DEBRAY case. In particular I note the reference to VAN VLIET's arranging the arrest of escape route organizers toward the end of 1943. Compare this with the sudden recall of DEBRAY in October 43 and the reason given. (O20 Report on DEBRAY p. 24). I would appreciate having the comment of MI5 on this point.

V/48/BSM
5.12.44.

VERLOOP file & folder
DEBRAY file & folder
VAN VLIET file

28 DEC 1944

[Handwritten signature]

EXTRACT.

382

Extract for File No. PF 600.479 Name VAN DER WOUDE O. CHERWY
 Original in File No. PF 600.710 LAROCHE Serial 22 Dated 3.12.44
 Original from The Field (Camp. 030) Under Ref. No. 0368/1
 Extracted on 2.1.45 by JB Section RB

Extract from Field Report on Paul J.J. LAROCHE, German
 W/T agent, arrested in Belgium in November, 1944.

.....
 V. DESCRIPTION, DETAILS & WHEREABOUTS OF OTHER AGENTS KNOWN TO AGENT.

26. SOLA SD agent, formerly Waffon SS, age 29 - 30, ht 170 cm, build: medium, hair: black, moustache, small, neat, eyebrows dark and very hy, complexion dark, face round and small, good teeth. Nationality believed Belgian by birth. Languages, Flemish, French, German, probably Spanish. Address: might be known to Mr. CHERWY, black market dealer, Atelier Rockane, near SOUTH Station Brussels, who knows SOLA. Activities: Believed by LA ROCHE to be special Political Agent based on frequent calls at the Spanish Embassy and frequent trips to Spain. Last known as calling on LA ROCHE's wife between 5 and 12 Sept 44.

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 13/1

EXTRACT

06

FF
38/

P.N. in P.F. 600,479 Name Van Der WOUDE.
 Original in P.F. 600,516 VERLOOP Serial 55a Dated 2.12.44
 Original from Camp 020
 Extracted on 18.12.44 By DJK Section R.B.

 Extract from Interim report on Cornelis VERLOOP, Abwehr III agent,
 23.10.44 arrested at Mindhoven. Forwarded by Camp 020

.....
SUBSEQUENT MOVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES GENERALLY.

On VERLOOP's return to Brussels, he met Willy KUP at the Atlanta Hotel, who took him to a room on the 2nd floor of a private villa in the Boulevard Leopold, where he was introduced to a Dutchman, George van VLIET, (whose name VERLOOP later learnt to be REEBERHOF). This house was used by Van VLIET as his office. He also saw there a woman secretary.

Here he also met Antonio DAMEN (KROELEN), with whom he was to work.

Van VLIET was at this time considered a very successful agent, who, posing as a patriot, had penetrated many of the escape routes. (see Appendix VI). He told VERLOOP and DAMEN that they would have a very easy time. He himself knew a lot about the Brigade Blanche and would write a report every week to Willy KUP at Driebergen, who would be unable to supervise them closely. VERLOOP was to receive a salary of 6,000 Belgian francs a month, paid by Willy KUP, when he came to Brussels. In addition, Van VLIET would be responsible for general expenses and entertainment. Most of their time was spent drinking in cafes, making acquaintances and entertaining their girl friends.

VERLOOP and DAMEN went to live in the house of Mme. LAMBOT, 19 rue d'Alliance. This was arranged through a girl friend of Van VLIET's, who was also living there, and was employed by the Germans on an airfield. Van VLIET, knowing her sympathies to be pro-Allied, told her that he was working for the British and asked her to supply information about the airfield, which he could pass on to England. Shortly after VERLOOP's arrival, this girl left the house.

.....
 During his stay in Brussels, VERLOOP was known as Leo de HUGGER, and posed as a representative of a building firm in St. Omer, for whom he was travelling on business. In the German Service in Holland and Belgium he was usually known as NELIS, a corruption of his first name CORNELIS, and signed receipts in this name. He fetched his mistress, Josee La GANCKE, from Lille, and also installed her at Mme. LAMBOT's. At the end of February, DAMEN left Brussels for work in Holland, taking with him a letter from VERLOOP to Dr. GERHARD. In this letter, VERLOOP stated that they were wasting their time in Brussels and that most of Van VLIET's reports were largely invented in order to give the impression that they were doing important work, whereas in fact they were merely enjoying themselves. VERLOOP therefore asked to be given a fresh posting. This letter was actually handed to Dr. GERHARD's successor, Major KESSEWITZER, who had taken over the Driebergen Stelle in GERHARD's absence in Germany. As a result of this, Van VLIET was dismissed and VERLOOP never saw him again. Willy KUP, a personal friend of Van VLIET, was furious about VERLOOP's letter and came to Brussels and reprimanded him severely. He also told VERLOOP that Dr. GERHARD would shortly be coming to Brussels to see him and give him other employment, and that in the meantime, he was to wait in Brussels for further orders.

*check
 2/11/45
 2/11/45*

184

.....
APPENDIX I
.....

b) Enemy Intelligence Service Addresses.
.....

3. 24 rue du Trone, Brussels. Private address of Van VLIET.
4. Corner house in the Boulevard Leopold, Brussels, on the left hand side looking from the Place Rogier. Office used by Van VLIET.

.....
APPENDIX II
.....

a) Suspected Enemy agents operating or in training.
.....

18. RIDDINGH, George & Van VLIET

Dutch, aged 45, very corpulent, 1.70m. in height, hair going grey, fat face, pale complexion, strong nose, double chin, bad teeth with several missing, discoloured, fat hands, looks like a business man, fairly well dressed, has the voice of a habitual drinker, flat-footed, walks with his toes turned out, speaks Dutch, but French, bad English and bad German. Former musician and porter in a bar. Atached III F agent. VLIET worked with him in Brussels. Address: 24, rue du Trone, Brussels.

.....

32. Secretary to Van VLIET.

Belgian, aged 24 - 26, thin build, 1.66m. in height, 56 lbs. weight, brown hair, wears glasses. Seen at Van VLIET's office, Boulevard Leopold, Brussels in January 1944.

.....
APPENDIX VI.

Escape Routes Penetrated by Van VLIET.

Most of the escape routes penetrated by Van VLIET started from the Brabant area of Holland, at such places as Tilburg, Breda, Rosendaal, Bearle-Nassau, or else in Antwerp. The main route, which ran through Brussels, Ninove, Grammont, Courtrai and Menin, was broken by Van VLIET about the end of 1943, and many arrests were effected.

Another route ran via Brussels, Nivelles and Mons, from where the route branched either through Valenciennes or Maubouge.

A third route, which Van VLIET worked with the assistance of Suzanne MARTEAU, ran from Brussels to Paris via Erquelines and Jeumont. (S.E. Mons).

Suzanne MARTEAU was a girl of about 17, seduced by Van VLIET on the understanding that he would get her brother out of forced labour in Germany. (A frequent device of Van VLIET).

SUZANNE also helped Van VLIET in connection with infiltrating Allied escape routes from Brussels to Paris, which crossed the frontier near Maubouge and went through Jeumont, where a baker and cafe proprietor near the station helped the escapees.

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VERLOOP does not know exactly how Van VLIET managed to break the escape routes, but of course he always posed as a member of the Underground Movement. He managed to trace a number of W/T agents, and the Germans were always very quick to turn them round, and frequently had them transmitting on their behalf within 24 hours. In this way, by forcing Allied W/T agents to operate under control, the Germans were able to capture a tremendous amount of arms and food supplies dropped by the Allies, and VERLOOP heard of at least thirty train loads of these being transported into Germany. 38

As far as the actual crossing of the frontier was concerned, Van VLIET would go to the frontier guards in advance and present his papers. His identity was then checked with the Abwehr by telephone, and it was arranged that his escape party should be allowed to cross at a certain time. Van VLIET then returned and told the escapees that he had found a point on the frontier where there was no control.

At one time Van VLIET had a job as doorman in a bar and restaurant and this gave him the opportunity of getting to know a large number of people.

On one occasion, Van VLIET supplied a list of names of loyal patriotic Dutchmen, including that of a man named Bram van OORT, and had them published in "Vrij Nederland" as being members of the S.D. After this, of course, the Resistance Movement would have nothing further to do with them. VERLOOP believes that Bram van OORT was captured by the Gestapo and shot, but the Dutch people were unaware of this, as they thought he had already gone over to the German side.

VERLOOP recalls a taxi ride through Brussels in February 1944, which he made with Van VLIET and DAMEN and a party of Allied airmen, whom Van VLIET was pretending to help escape. There was an Englishman, an Australian and a New Zealander. They travelled through into France and were all captured in Paris.

Original in VAN VLIET file.
Copies in: DAMEN file and folder
VERLOOP file
VERLOOP.

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It may be convenient to have on this file a note regarding VAN VLIET and his associates.

VAN VLIET has been described by DAMEN and VERLOOP. He was an agent of Abteilung III C of The Hague and as appears from this file has played a very prominent part in the penetration of resistance and escape organizations in Holland/Belgium.

VAN VLIET is described by the agent Apollo (see 8b) as about 50 years of age, graying hair, heavily built and rather fat bulging pouches eyes, receding chin and bad teeth, physically unfit with a weak heart.

DAMEN describes VAN VLIET as about 47 years of age, very stout, fair hair, fat face, lives too well, drinks too much, round face, redish-blue complexion, bad teeth.

DAMEN says of VAN VLIET that he was a most successful German agent, that he was responsible for the arrest of many Orangemen and Allied airmen. According to DAMEN he cooperated with Willi KUPF and Jan WITTE. He moved from Holland to Brussels in the summer of 1943 to combat the Brigade Blanche. DAMEN last saw him in Brussels in February of this year. He was, according to DAMEN, been wounded in the left knee and he describes him as walking like a seaman.

DAMEN gives the following information about VAN VLIET's associates.

HUMMERMANN HUMMER, known in the office as the "Englishman". This man is in fact a German aged about 38. HUMMERMANN is said to be the brains behind KUPF and VAN VLIET. He is said to have been in W/F communication with England which is ~~is~~ doubt a reference to the various S.O.E. transmitters which have from time to time been turned round in Holland. HUMMERMANN lived in Driebergen and was last seen by DAMEN in the middle of September of this year when he left for Berlin. He was formerly a German shipping agent on the West coast of Africa.

Willi KUPF O SAHN, a German of about 30 believed by DAMEN to be a Gefreiter, is described by DAMEN as working with VAN VLIET. He was last seen by DAMEN in Brussels in February 1944. VERLOOP says of KUPF that his address was a certain cafe in Elten near the German Dutch frontier. VERLOOP describes him as a Gruppe III Officer at Driebergen, carrying out liaison duties between the Abwehr and the S.D.

ARNAUDS or ARNUP or ARNAUD. ARNAUD appears to have carried out similar functions to those carried out by VAN VLIET. According to VERLOOP he comes from Amsterdam. He is a man of between 35 and 40 (VERLOOP puts him at 38 while DAMEN describes him as being about 35). The agent Apollo puts the age slightly lower, at 34. There is a substantial difference of opinion as to ARNAUD's height. DAMEN says it is about 1.76m. VERLOOP puts it at 1.65 m. while the agent Apollo says he is 1.60 m. All agree that his hair is fair and DAMEN and VERLOOP agree that he has blue eyes. He does not wear glasses. VERLOOP says of him that he licks and blinks whilst DAMEN describes him as having very nervous-looking eyes. All are agreed that he speaks good French and he appears to be presentable and well-dressed. We have a good deal of information regarding ARNAUD. DAMEN has given a graphic description of an expedition in September 1943 having for its object the discovery of an escape route from Paris to Perpignan. He is known to have passed out several agents and at one time so far as one can judge, S.O.E. regarded him as a trusted agent of theirs. Recently he has conducted two men, namely DAMEN and LINDSEMAN, acrossed the German lines. VERLOOP regards him as an Abwehr III Officer.

VAN VLIET and ARNAUD are the only two agents of Abteilung III who have become well known to us over a lengthy period. In addition to this, however, there are, according to DAMEN, a number of other individuals working with VAN VLIET. There is a man called GERRIT of 45 Huis Ter Noornkade, Reijswijk. This man worked under VAN VLIET in 1941 and 1942 but has not been seen by DAMEN since the latter year.

Karel HASVELD,.....

Marcel HANVELD, a Dutchman of about 35, previously owned a hotel at The Hague which he sold in 1943. He then went to Brussels and worked there under VAN VLIET. He speaks Dutch, German and French.

MEYERSON, a Dutchman, aged about 45, who looks like a rat and speaks Dutch and a few words of German. He was a member of the Dutch Nazi party and worked under VAN VLIET.

PIAT, a Dutchman aged about 27 of 7a Kolentraat, The Hague. DAMEN has little information about this man beyond the fact that at the end of 1942 DUCHEN was ordered by VAN VLIET to shadow the man and later heard he was a German agent.

Etienne de SPIET, a Belgian of about 27, who lived at the Hotel de l'Automobile in Brussels in the early part of 1944. He pretended to work for the Brigade Blanche and is described by DAMEN as a contact of VAN VLIET. He is said to speak English, French, German and Flemish.

Jan WELRING @ VAN DER BEEK, a Dutchman, aged about 48, a keen member of the Dutch Nazi party, and a member of the police force. Works with VAN VLIET and KUPP and also for the SPO at the Hague. In December 1943 he was made head of the police in the town of Woerden. Speaks Dutch and very bad German. He is possibly identical with a character working with VAN VLIET who has come to notice on more than one occasion, described as a police inspector who has assisted VAN VLIET to smuggle refugees across the Dutch frontier.

DE WILD (called Kleine George) @ WILDERING, a Dutchman aged about 40, a member of the Dutch Nazi party who was a policeman before the war (he might also well be identical with the policeman who smuggled refugees across the Dutch frontier in association with VAN VLIET). He started work in the Abwehr under Willi KUPP in 1943. He took part in the expedition described by DAMEN for penetrating the escape route to Perpignan. He lives at Groesbeek, Houtlaan 7 or 9. DAMEN went to contact this man on his final mission to Nijmegen in the middle of September of this year.

E. B. Stamp

E. B. Stamp.

Blb/SRS
17.11.44.

was still working for a patriotic organization and that he had a sergeant working under him, who had been with him since before the war. Van VLIETH was anxious to contact this sergeant also, but DAMEN does not know whether he was successful in this. DAMEN KNOWS THAT Van VLIETH was very pleased about this meeting, as he thought it might develop into something big, and that he made an appointment to see Colonel KOPPEKKT again.

S. Form 51/B.P./5000/10.44

EXTRACT.

36a

Extract for File No. P.R. 500,479 Name Van Der WOUDE
Original in File No. P.R. 500,515 VERLOOP Serial 26b Dated 14.11.44
Original from Camp 020 Under Ref.
Extracted on 18.11.44 by DJH Section R.B.

Copy of internal memorandum re DAMEN and VERLOOP, Abwehr III agents, captured in Holland, forwarded by Camp 020.

.....
DAMEN, in a written statement, gives the following information:

MARTEAU

Full name, Suzanne MARTEAU; parents live at Mons, Belgium. Brother well-known in Erquelinnes (8 miles south-west of Mons).

This girl worked under Van VLIETH in Belgium, making an escape route from Brussels to Paris via Erquelinnes - Jeumont (S.E. Mons):

She is well known to the porter at the Hotel Automatic in Brussels, also to VERLOOP.

VERLOOP has given the following information about this girl:

She was a young girl of about 17 - 18 years, whose brother had been called up for forced labour in Germany. RIDDERHOFF (Van VLIET) whom VERLOOP states is a rotter, offered to obtain exemption

[Handwritten signature]

exemption for the brother, if Suzanne would become his mistress. This, according to VERLOCP, was a common practice of his.

Suzanne was also supposed to work for RIDDERHOF in connection with infiltrating an allied escape route from Brussels to Paris, which crossed the frontier near Meuberge and went through Jeumont, where a baker and a person working in a cafe near Jeumont station helped the escapees. VERLOCP does not think that Suzanne actually did much work in this connection.

EXTRACT.

362 a

Extract for File No. P.F. 600,472 Name Van der WOUDE
 Original in File No. P.F. 600,398 DAMEN Serial 70c Dated 13.11.44
 Original from Camp 020 Under Ref. _____
 Extracted on 5.12.44 by D.J.H. Section R.H.

Extract from Internal Memorandum on Antonie DAMEN, Abwehr III agent captured on 20.9.44, forwarded by Camp 020.

DAMEN saw Mrs KNOPPERS twice; the first time when he went to her house and greeted her with a password, and the second time the following day when they met in a cafe in Antwerp. He knows very little about her, but was told by Van VLIETH at the beginning of this year that she was working for him and was being paid by him. Mrs KNOPPERS had the reputation of being a good patriot, although DAMEN had his doubts about this, and because her name was unlikely to be suspected in Holland, Van VLIETH was using her to penetrate escape routes. DAMEN thinks that Mrs KNOPPERS believed Van VLIETH to be working for the Allies. She lived near Utrecht and travelled all over Holland for Van VLIETH.

DAMEN has heard of Colonel KOPPERT. Van VLIETH met this man one day in a second class compartment of a train in which they were both travelling. They spoke to each other, and as was his custom, Van VLIETH introduced a strong anti-German trend into his conversation. Van VLIETH learnt that Colonel KOPPERT

/was

2/11/44

22nd December 1943.

INTRODUCTORY

Source, whose real name is Jan SCHELLE @ STOKKERS @ APOLLO @ BADMINION, is a young Dutchman. He was sent into the Field via Belgium with another Agent BRUTUS. Source's mission was quite different from that of BRUTUS: it was

1. To deliver money to the 'passeurs' in BRUSSELS and Holland, who were running the escape line from the latter country;
2. To follow and report on an escape line beginning at a farm in Belgium, whose name Source no longer remembers, which line had recently failed to pass out some airmen who had been delivered to them.

BRUTUS' mission was to contact the underground press in Holland.

ARRIVAL IN THE FIELD

The two Agents left on the night of the 18/19th, October 1943. It was intended that they should be dropped at TREMELCO, near AARSCHOT, but before the aircraft arrived at the pin-point, it was attacked by a night fighter. The port engine caught fire and the pilot had to make a crash landing. Owing to the skill of the pilot, this was achieved without any of the crew being seriously injured. As the aircraft came down, it struck and set on fire a haystack and, as soon as it had landed, the pilot ordered everyone to disembark at once, as the aircraft was burning fiercely, and he felt that the tanks would soon explode.

Accordingly both Agents got out, leaving their gear behind them. BRUTUS had his wallet and documents inside his strip-tease, but he took this off shortly after leaving the aircraft, and left it on the ground: presumably this was found by the Germans.

The aircraft continued to burn with ammunition exploding in all directions for half an hour, when the petrol tanks went up, but Source thinks that, in addition to the wallet and strip-tease which BRUTUS left on the ground, the Germans found in the wreckage of the aircraft ample evidence of the purpose of the flight.

The aircraft had in fact landed near GEEL, close to the canal, about 40 km. E. of ANTWERP.

Under the pilot's directions the party separated and Source never saw BRUTUS again. He went off with the despatcher whom he had, however ultimately to leave in a wood. He himself went into hiding in the neighbourhood until the 24th October, when he proceeded by train from GEEL to BRUSSELS via ANTWERP and, on the 25th October, reached his contact address, ~~SCHMIDLER, rue de l'Aubepine~~.

SOURCE'S SHORT STAY IN THE FIELD AND CONTACT WITH VAN VLIET

The day after his arrival, SCHMIDLER took Source to the Hotel Automatique where, on the 27th October, he was contacted by van VLIET, who said he had just arrived from Holland. Source gave the following description of van VLIET:

apparent age 50; height 1.80 m. heavily built and rather fat; bulging puffed eyes; receding chin; bad teeth. Physically unfit and has a weak heart. Graying hair. Speaks Dutch with a 'platt' accent, probably Rotterdam; also has a little German and a little French. He is vain and talks much about himself.

Source was, however, impressed with his energy and organising capability and stated that he was doing excellent work, but he was not impressed by his security and considers him to be so indiscreet that it is amazing that he has not so far been detected and arrested.

Van VLIET informed Source that BRUTUS had arrived in BRUSSELS before Source, and had been taken by him to Holland. BRUTUS had stayed with another contact, Rene MERTENS who is the owner of the Hotel Leopold III and of a house which is used as a 'safe House'. Shortly after meeting v. V. Source himself was moved to MERTENS' house.

On the 28th October van VLIET returned to Holland, promising to send a signal for Source, the exact text of which Source does not remember, but was something as follows:

WANT TO COME BACK. ARRANGE EVERYTHING FOR TRIP NOVEMBER.
GIVE ROUTE THROUGH SPAIN.

N.B. On the 29th October, GOLF had in fact signalled that APOLLO had just arrived and on the 2nd Nov. the same suspect wireless operator sent an urgent signal from BRUTUS that it was desperately important that APOLLO return to the U.K. as he had some information of paramount importance.

It is quite clear that APOLLO himself does not consider either that he has such information or that that was the reason for his return to this country.

The only information that Source obtained of BRUTUS was from van VLIET who told Source that BRUTUS had been delivered to and was successfully working with a very secure organisation in Holland, known as the BRAM ORGANISATION.

As to the wireless operator used by van VLIET, van VLIET specifically informed Source that this wireless operator was located in a very safe place - Source thinks an island was mentioned - where it was impossible for him to be D/P'ed, and that the only person who ever contacted him was van VLIET himself.

van VLIET further gave Source some information about himself. He stated that his father had had some connection with the (?) Navy, presumably meaning the Belgian Mercantile Marine, and that he himself had, in ordinary life, been the owner of a factory manufacturing construction materials, which had brought him in 2,000 francs a week. He also stated that he was an inventor and had perfected a new form of artificial manure. He had also spent considerable time upon experiments with a fatal ray which could be used against aircraft, but this discovery had not been completed yet. van VLIET said that, before the war, he had met in the HAGUE and got to know a certain Major HOOD, who was now in England, and who would remember him in connection with the s.s. HELENA. (N.B. This appears to be a reference to D/P who, I understand, has no recollection of the matter at all). van VLIET also mentioned a certain MAAS, whom he had sent to warn about the question of VAN 'T SAINT, and he asked Source if VAN 'T SAINT had been shot. Source eluded this subject and consequently never elucidated this cryptic reference.

*extracted from original - P.F. 60,388
DAMEU*

van VLIET told Source that he was not connected with any organisation in particular, but assisted all of them in passing Agents to and fro when so requested. He claims to have worked a lot with the BRAM organisation, which he had helped financially and with advice, and of which he knows all the details.

He is violently anti-Semitic and anti-Communist and stated that the latter were dangerous to work with and indeed, in some cases, had betrayed other resistance movements.

/His work

- 3 -

36000

His work consisted of passing persons clandestinely between Holland and Belgium mainly; he himself acting as 'passeur' in both countries, though he does not take the agents across the actual frontier himself. This is done by one of his assistants, a policeman in uniform who takes the man across on the pillion seat of his motor-bike. His uniform and papers enable him to cross the frontier without control.

van VLIET himself had a pass of some kind, issued by the German authorities which, he told Source, enabled him to carry arms and travel without control of any kind except from the German authorities, who apparently allow him to go where he wants to, upon sight of this document. Source was very anxious to see this paper, but van VLIET would never let him study it, although he did see it was typewritten and had van VLIET's photograph on it. van VLIET appears to have his permanent home in BRUSSELS, where he lives with his wife.

van VLIET appears to have a great many German contacts many of them in big positions. He boasted to Source that he was acquainted with several German generals, stating that the reason for this association was to obtain military information of which he gave Source samples as set out below.

His cover is that of a smuggler and he stated to Source that he devoted the considerable sums which he earned by this profitable profession to the running of his escape line. He also said that German officers and other personnel were among his best clients.

Source informed the opinion that van VLIET was a very good man but hopelessly insecure, indiscreet and foolhardy. He thinks that he can bluff himself out of any situation, however difficult or dangerous. On one occasion when he and Source were in a bar in BRUSSELS together, a drunken German sailor came in with some stockings to sell. van VLIET immediately made the sailor sit down at his table and waved his pass before him, telling him that it was issued by the ABWEHRSTELLE. Source is quite certain that van VLIET used this word, which did not seem to impress the sailor, as when van VLIET boasted of his assistance to the Germans and expressed his confidence that Germany would soon win the war, the sailor replied that he did not think so.

On another occasion, when the two were in another bar, Source mentioned that he had lost his gun in the crash, whereupon van VLIET immediately pulled out his own revolver and displayed it to Source.

He further asked Source to procure for him a supply of our K-tablets (twelve hour sleeping draught). He wanted them for the purpose of drugging German officers and extracting plans and other documents from them. When Source pointed out the folly of this fantastic scheme, van VLIET stated that he would avert suspicion from himself by taking one of the tablets also.

Finally van VLIET asked Source to bring back to Belgium with him the sum of 400,000 Belgian francs for him. He said he had no use for Dutch money.

van VLIET on several occasions asked Source to work for him and Source made non-committal replies. Under no circumstances would he consent to work in the Field with such a man, on account of his gross insecurity.

On the question of money van VLIET was very insistent. He was upset at not getting the money which Source had brought with him and lost in the crash (100,000 Belgian francs). He told Source that the expenses of running his line were enormous. Source considers that he alone must have cost van VLIET 15,000 francs and BRUTUS at least as much. van VLIET told him that he had sold all his wife's Jewellery. He made no complaint about having to do this but confessed that when the funds so obtained had been expended he would not be able to continue with his work. Apart from his escape line he stated that he helped BRAM's organisation financially and now had also BRUTUS to support. He had quite a lot of people as well who had gone underground near AMERFOORT and whom he had to provide with food. He was unwilling to borrow money in Holland, as this was very dangerous, in his opinion. He stressed the fact that money should be sent from the U.K. much sooner than it is whenever it is asked for from the FIELD. He understood, however, the difficulties of transport and suggested the following method:

There are Belgian groups working in Holland and Dutch groups working in Belgium. van VLIET suggested that in order to get money into Holland, Belgian francs should be sent to a Dutch group working in Belgium. This money could then be taken across the frontier into Holland where, on the black market, van VLIET gets 1 Guilder for 8 Belgian Francs. He was very insistent that it was Belgian money and not French or Dutch currency that he required, as the Belgian currency is far more in demand than either of the other two. To carry Dutch Guilders over the Dutch/Belgian frontier is extravagant and unnecessary.

Alternatively, he suggested that the matter could be arranged by agreement between the Dutch and Belgian Governments in the U.K.

When money was required by the Dutch Section for use in Holland, the Dutch Government could buy Belgian francs at the official rate, and by order of the Belgian Government, Belgian francs could be paid over to ~~Rene Mertens~~ or someone else connected with van VLIET in subversive work. This could all be done by wireless signal and would avoid the delay and danger attendant upon the courier system.

With regard to the courier system, van VLIET suggested that a fast courier service should be established between himself and LONDON; he considers it should take seven to ten days per trip. This courier should bring a list of questions from L.Q. of what was wanted (he should preferably commit the list to memory) and would go back with the last month's bag of information, documents and plans.

With regard to the reception of Agents, van VLIET told Source that if left nothing to be desired, but he asked that the warning system should be more accurate - at least if the exact day of arrival could not be given, the periods between which landings were to be expected should be indicated, as well as the precise spot at which these landings were to be effected.

He also wanted to control the safe addresses of Agents in Holland, and on this point he was particularly insistent, because he stated that it was very important that the Agent should ascertain on each occasion whether the safe address was still safe.

RENE MERTENS is a Belgian who is friendly with van VLIET. He is the owner of the Hotel Leopold III, and also keeps a safe house used by van VLIET. van VLIET told Source that Rene had been twice imprisoned. Before the invasion of Belgium, he was working for the 'French Intelligence' and had even been arrested by the Belgians after the Government had left and before the Germans took over. His second arrest was done by the Germans, who sent him to prison in Germany itself for several months. Subsequently, he was released, but thereafter kept under control for a long time. Indeed, he still playing the rôle of being friendly with German officials. Source states that Rene appears to be more secure than van VLIET.

Rene wanted some proof from Source that Source was indeed working for us. The final arrangement was that a signal should be sent to Belgian H.Q. LONDON under a name known only to Source and Rene, for which signal Source was to enquire on his arrival in London. In this signal, some easy and unimportant question would be asked, the answer to which Source would be bound to know after having stayed with Rene in BRUSSELS. Source was to answer the question and the reply would be sent back to Belgium by the same channel. The signal would be cast after Source in LONDON under the name of CHARLES TRENT. Source is anxious that this procedure should be carried out, because the group for which Rene was working were suspicious of Source and unwilling that Rene should assist him, before proof of his genuineness had been given. Source considers that in spite of Rene's hostile assistants he is all right.

/Rene's wife,

3670
Rene's wife, however, is exceedingly indiscreet, and this, in Source's view, completely spoils the house as a safe address. It was at Rene's house that a dinner-party was given at Source's honour during the course of which Mrs. MENNENS went round telling all her friends in audible whispers that Source had just come from LONDON.

Description of Rene: 1.84 m.; apparent age 48 years; powerfully built; heavy lines running vertically along the corners of his mouth, especially when he smiles. Wears frame spectacles.

MILITARY INFORMATION GIVEN BY VAN VLIET TO SOURCE.

1. Plans of the BRUZZER FACTORY in BRUIN (producing fighter aircraft). van VLIET stated that he was expecting the plans of this factory from a man named CAMFON who worked with BOKKER in AMSTERDAM normally, and had been forced to go to BRUIN.
2. ROCKET GUNS: These were being installed all along the coast from CALAIS to WASSENAARE HAV. They would be electrically fired and had an area of destruction of 1 sq. kilometer. These would be ready in February 1944, and would cause the destruction of England if something were not done about it before that date. van VLIET stated that he had a man who was actually working on the installations, and could get the plans for Source to send to the U.K. very shortly.

van VLIET stated that these guns could be made harmless by rows of ships capable of projecting a magnetic field, on passing through which the projectiles would explode. Source was quite definite that van VLIET gave him this fantastic information. Source is a very intelligent young man, and as a result has little confidence in the value of any of van VLIET's information, but he has no suspicion of van VLIET's loyalty, nor does he know that the man is suspected by us.

3. Lists of Names of Dutch Gestapo Informers in ROTTERDAM: these are paid men, not members of the N.S.B. There are 1300 names with details on a list which van VLIET stated that he had. His idea was to have this list sent over to the U.K. so that Radio Orange could announce batches of them every day. He promised to give the list to Source, but at the last moment stated that Source would get it the next time he came over.
4. Communist Activity: The Communist H.Q. in Holland, Belgium and France are in liaison. Their transmitter to England is at OTTIGNY, through which they send information to their organisation in the U.K. and vice versa. van VLIET stated that the DIEPPE raid was betrayed to the Germans by the Communists, but that he had at last succeeded in infiltrating his agent into the Communist organisation in Belgium, who could break the cipher in which their wireless traffic was sent. van VLIET promised this also to Source the next time the latter came to Belgium.
5. WESTERKAMP: is an engineer Captain in ROTTERDAM. He was one of the first Dutch pilots. During the invasion of Holland he worked under Capt. KOPPE, who has since been criticised for his part in the invasion. Source has no other knowledge of KOPPE than this fragment, which van VLIET passed to him.
WESTERKAMP works for the French, buying industrial diamonds in Belgium and smuggling them into France for use in factories. He knows of a new 'passeur' line which is safer than the others and which S.O.E. Agents would be allowed to use also.
WESTERKAMP and van VLIET are in contact with ~~Source~~
SCHELEKELS and ~~WESTERKAMP~~. Source has no details about these persons. He met WESTERKAMP by arrangement with van VLIET and found him quiet and discreet.

21 DEC 1944

/TARGETS SUGGESTED BY VAN VLIET

ARRIVES BRUSSELS BY AIR TRAIN.

- a) FINISAVANT.
- b) REVISION: (making large quantities of freight waggons for the Germans.)
- c) SOCIETY of ROTTERDAM, who are making E-boats.
- d) WANDER (making aircraft)

SOURCE'S DEPARTURE FROM BRUSSELS.

*detested for original i P.F. 600,383
DAMEN*

Source left BRUSSELS for PARIS on November 6th. He was escorted by ~~X~~ AND whom he knew as ~~X~~ ROBERT and was handed over to him by van WERT at the station. Source describes AND thus:

Age about 34; height 1.60 m. Fair hair receding from the temples. Speaks French well and looks like a Frenchman.

He made a good impression on Source.

Source stayed at two safe houses in PARIS, at the rue Percelet and the rue Emile Zola (where the owner of the safe house was one Pierre COLLINS). Source left on November 16th, escorted by a woman courier called JEANNE, and arrived safely at LYON. Source was very impressed by the security of the escape line. He travelled with ARNAUD, and JEANNE sat in another compartment of the same train. Source does not know the name of the safe houses where he was taken in LYON. He remained in the town until November 26th. On the last night GEORGES (VIC's second) came to see him and told him to prepare for the journey into Spain. GEORGES told Source that they would be using the "Emergency route" and said the journey was rather hard. Source was given a lottery ticket to show the Spanish frontier guard. (He has kept this as a souvenir).

Source arrived in PERPIGNIAN from LYON on November 27th, and left for Spain on the night of the 28th. But for heavy rain the party would have left the same night they arrived. Source has no idea of the route they followed. They walked for 2 1/2 hours, rested the next day then walked through the next night for 12 hours. After being shut up in the safe houses and eating large quantities of excellent food, the men were out of training and found the going hard.

They crossed the frontier on December 1st, stayed at a farmhouse near FIGUERAS on the 2nd, and arrived at TORDERO on the 3rd. They were never troubled by the Spanish police. Source was greatly impressed by the high standard of security maintained throughout the line.

CRITICISMS AND ADVICE.

Source has various criticisms to make of the crossing. He thinks that Agents should be warned they have a really stiff journey in front of them (GEORGES made light of the hardships.) Also they should be given warm clothing - overcoat and woolies, especially gloves - and two pairs of shoes. The rope sandals are worn out after 6 or 8 hours hard going. Source complains that his sandals did not fit to begin with. More sustaining rations should be provided, such as beef cubes. Source was given 'iron rations' to carry before he left. These consisted of chocolate, tea (which they could not drink but managed to smoke) milk powder (which they ate dry) and cigarettes. Source was in a party of Allied airmen. They stood up to the journey well, though one of them had been wounded on landing.

Source makes the following suggestions for Agents arriving in Spain; the best nationality to choose is British or Colonial.

/Never tell

- 7 -

30 x

Never tell the Spaniards you are French. It is best to be a civilian. Say you are under 20 or over 40 (it does not matter what age you look). Represent yourself as coming from the Zone Libre. Do not try and carry money across; the penalties for this are severe. For having 100 francs, one is liable to seven days' in prison.

FOOD SITUATION IN BELGIUM

The food situation is quite good in Belgium. (In Holland it is bad. Source is not in a position to comment on the food in France). When one goes into a restaurant in BRUSSELS one is asked if one 'has any coupons' i.e., if one wants a black market meal or a legal meal. Eggs (one of the most expensive items on the Belgian black market) cost 10 to 16 Belgian francs each. A dish of two fried eggs costs 50 francs. A meal consisting of meat, vegetables and pudding also costs 50 francs. Cheap or free meals are available for the poorer people in Belgium; therefore life is not too bad for the vast majority. The presence of the Germans is regarded as a necessary evil. Source considers the black market in Belgium much better than a London restaurant. There are plenty of spirits, wines, cigarettes and ice-cream.
Exchange: 1 Belgian franc = 2 French francs.

CLOTHING

During his first days in BRUSSELS, Source was impressed with the high standard of clothing to be seen everywhere. The people looked well-dressed and well as well fed. Clothes are rationed, but no one bothers much about the coupons. As elsewhere in the occupied countries, one can buy anything one can afford.

MORALE AND PROPAGANDA

One contact told Source he did not care who won the war, as long as they were left in peace. Most of the people are anti-Communist because they fear them. (This is the result of years of German propaganda. How the Germans are plugging anti-Semitism, and this is having a similar effect on the population). Otherwise, Source does not think that German propaganda is much good. The Gestapo has been making fewer arrests in Belgium recently.

THE BRAM ORGANISATION

The BRAM organisation was, according to van VLIET, working under the orders of an AMSTERDAM organisation, but BRAM quarrelled with them, and set up on his own. van VLIET says that BRAM now has 'thousands' of men. He put BRUTUS in touch with his organisation.

BRUTUS

During Source's stay in Belgium, he received via van VLIET a letter from BRUTUS who was then in Holland. It was dated 3rd or 4th November 1943 and Source memorised the letter and then destroyed it. To the best of his recollection it ran as follows:

'Arrived safely in Holland, and am now in a safe house. Contacted new but excellent organisation working on principles as set out in orders, and with whom I have started to work. Made contact with GOOP, and I will bring him as soon as possible with the others. Contact will probably be made in a couple of weeks. In the panic which followed the crash everything got lost - set, code, papers and money. I will need a new set, new code and money - at least 20,000 francs. It is important that I should have it as soon as possible. A W/T operator is available. When in possession of absolutely safe code will give you details of organisation, which I have called X. Also safe address and grounds.

My impression so far is that what they need most here are weapons. Things are difficult here, but with some luck, will be able to bring it off.

Give my love to DOREEN and tell her that I will keep my promise. I have gone but I will come back. (signed) BRUTUS.

/van VLIET.

EXTRACT.

36X

Extract for File No. PE. 600, 479 Name Van der WOUDE
Original in File No. P.F. 600, 388 DAMEN Serial 608 Dated 3.11.44
Original from Camp 020 Under Ref.

Extracted on 29.11.44 by DJH Section R.B.

Extract from Internal memorandum on Antonie Damen, Abwehr III agent captured on 20.9.44. Ref B. I. B. (Mr Stamp's) memorandum dated 1.11.44

DAMEN has been interrogated on the question raised, with the following results:-

DAMEN is unable to state the exact time or date when Van VLIETH first met DESMET. He states, however, that Van VLIETH was in the habit of visiting Namur regularly from October 1942 to June 1943. It is possible that he met DESMET on these occasions as the letter came from the Ardennes. In June 1943, Van VLIETH moved to Brussels permanently. In January 1944, when DAMEN went to Brussels to assist Van VLIETH, he was introduced to DESMET, AND says that Van VLIETH and DESMET appeared to know one another very well.

.....
DAMEN, whilst not certain, thinks that both Van VLIETH and DESMET knew of one another's dual role. Both posed as good patriots, DESMET as a member of the Brigade Blanche and Van VLIETH as an Orangeman. DAMEN is under the impression that both in fact were working against their respective organisations.
/van VLIETH

Van VLIETH lived in Brussels at Rue du Trone 15. The house is situated at the corner of the Rue du Trone and the Rue du Commerce (Map Reference 8868 4420, Scale 1/12,500. Brussels (South) Square P9). The flat occupied by Van VLIETH is on the 5th floor, and the name on the door plate is "SALM" by which name Van VLIETH is known to the concierge.

DAMEN states that as far as he knows, Van VLIETH has no hide-out in Brussels, but may still be living at the Rue du Trone. Failing this, he may have fled from Brussels and be in hiding at Willy KUPP's house in Germany (near the Dutch frontier).

Rene MERTENS^{is} the proprietor of the Hotel Leopold II, Rue des Croissades, near the Gard du Nord. Here again, DAMEN thinks that MERTENS is fully alive to Van VLIETH's work for the Germans, although he always behaved to him as if he were a patriotic Orangeman.

Early in January 1944, an American airman, probably from Texas or Mexico, owing to his dark skin, was in hiding at the Hotel Leopold II MERTENS, carrying on the pretence that he believed Van VLIETH to be a patriot, reported this man to Van VLIETH, so that he might help on his way to England. Van VLIETH instructed DAMEN to collect the airman at 07.00 hours and take him to the Wehrmacht Kino, and there hand him over to two men waiting in a civilian car. This was duly carried out.

DAMEN states the MERTENS' chief interest was money and that he is thoroughly unscrupulous. Van VLIETH was in the habit of spending large sums of money at the Hotel Leopold, and it was for this reason that MERTENS kept in with Van VLIETH.

DAMEN admits to having heard the name KING KONG vaguely as having been mentioned probably by Van VLIETH, when speaking either to his wife or to MERTENS.

.....
General

P.T.O.

BRAM

DAMEN again states that this was the name of a man, not an organisation. BRAM was used by Van VLIETH as a courier between Brussels and Van VLIETH's so-called Orange organisation at Doorn. BRAM left Brussels on January 4th 1944 and has not been heard of since. At first Van VLIETH was very worried about his disappearance but later was highly amused at the idea that BRAM may have been shot by Dutch Mounted Police, under the impression that BRAM was working on behalf of the Germans.
.....

EXTRACT

26x

For P.F. 600,479 Name Van der WOUDE.
Original in P.F. 600,516 VERLOOP Serial 10a Dated 9.11.44
Original from Camp 020
Extracted on 14.11.44 By D.J.H. Section R.B.

Extract from interrogation report on VERLOOP, Abwehr III agent,
captured at Eindhoven on 23.10.44. Report dated 27.10.44 and
forwarded by Camp 020.

.....
1.44 13. At the beginning of Jan.44 he received the promised summons
and went again to the Hotel Atlanta, Brussels, where he met Obergefreiter
Willy KUP alias SAIM; who kept a cafe in Elten on the German frontier.
KUP stated that he was to introduce source to the "big man" in Brussels,
and the same day, by appointment, met source at a building in the
Boulevard Leopold, where the head agent, who was introduced as "GEORGES",
rented an office. (Details of this office have been given by Antonio
DAMEN.) In addition to GEORGES van VLIET and KUP, source met there
Antonio DAMEN and Van VLIET's FEMALE Secretary, who had been engaged
to a Spaniard who lost his life fighting for the Nationalists in the
Civil War.

(Note: Source did not know that van VLIET's real name was
George RIDDERHOF.)

He was not able to give RIDDERHOF's private address, but described
a building which must have been that given by Antonio DAMEN.

14. During his stay in Brussels, source received expenses from
GEORGES, on which he lived, but did no work. Although having quite
a luxurious time, he got rather tired of the inactivity and expressed
his dissatisfaction to DAMEN. DAMEN doeried GIESKENS and praised
his own chief, Major KIESEWITZER, of the Abwehr Stelle in Drieburgen,
and suggested that source should work for him. Source thereupon wrote
a letter to KIESEWITZER asking for work, and, in reply to this, KUP
came from Holland, upbraided source for writing direct to the Major,
but told him to remain with DAMEN in Holland and not to make further
contact with GEORGES. Source remained another fourteen days with
DAMEN and lived on the expenses, which were now provided by KUP.

.....

EXTRACT.

36w

Extract for File No. P.F. 600,472 Name: Van Der WOLDE
 Original in File No. P.F. 66224 DEBRAY Serial: 131A Dated: 3.11.44
 Original from: Camp 020 Under Ref.:
 Extracted on: 15.12.44 by: DJH Section: R. R.

Extract from Internal memorandum on Louis de BRAY, Abwehr penetration agent, captured on 26.9.44. Forwarded by Camp 020

The names RIDDERHOF, Van VLIET, Van der WELDER and KNOPPERS convey nothing to DEBRAY.

DEBRAY maintains that the MASS known to him is a baker, and an old family friend. He cannot recall his Christian name and the initials "P.A." convey nothing to him.

It is noted that KNOPPERS' account of crossing from Holland into Belgium (the policeman, the bicycle and the localities) corresponds quite closely to that given by HURST, the time interval being just four months. This would suggest a connection between RIDDERHOF and Georges van VLIET.

BIB
 138
 1/1

35d.
Copy for: PF.600. 479 WOUd Van der
Original in : PF.600. 474 BRUYCKX at 6a.

MR Bird.

Both Buster and I, when we read this report thought that the man was lying. I do not believe his story. I am inclined to think that the identification of "GEORGES" tends to confirm this view. Do you think it would be possible to obtain from the Field a photograph of BUYCKX with a view to having it shown to DAMEN , DEBRAY Andre de SMIDT, De COORTE etc. I think this ought to be done if possible.

B.1.b/ EBS.
1.11.44.

E.B. Stamp.

[Handwritten signature]

3501
Copy for: PF.600. 479 WOULD Van der
Original in : PF.600. 474 BRUYCKX at 6a.

MR Bird.

Both Buster and I, when we read this report thought that the man was lying. I do not believe his story. I am inclined to think that the identification of "GEORGES" tends to confirm this view. Do you think it would be possible to obtain from the Field a photograph of BUYCKX with a view to having it shown to DAMEN , DEBRAY Andre de SMIDT, De CORTE etc. I think this ought to be done if possible.

B.1.b/ EBS.
1.11.44.

E.B. Stamp.

Stiff

EXTRACT.

35c

Extract for File No. P.F. 600.479 Name: Van der WOUDE

Original in File No. P.F. 600.388 DAMEN Serial: 57b Dated: 31.10.44

Original from: Camp O20 Under ref.:

Extracted on: 28.11.44 by: DJH Section: R.E.

Extract from copy of statement submitted by Antonio DAMEN, Abwehr III agent, captured on 20.9.44

.....
About van VLIETH.

Madame LAMBOT knows the number of the car of that man RALPH of III F in Brussels. Van VLIETH once told me he sometimes used the alias: ~~"The Scarlet Pimpernel"~~

RV
5/10/44

COPI

P.A. in P.F. 600,479 Van der WOUDE.

Original in P.F. 600,388 DAMEN 53a

356.

SECRET & PERSONAL

JD/KV/2076

30th October, 1944

Dear Mark,

A. DAMEN and ETIENNE DESMET.

I should be glad if you could have following questions put to DAMEN: -

- 1) How long was DESMET in contact with Van VLIET, and up to what date?
- 2) Was he a dupe of Van VLIET, or in the know as to the latter's double-cross work?
- 3) What was Van VLIET's address in Brussels?
- 4) Is Rene MERTENS considered a collaborator of Van VLIET?
- 5) What hide-out has Van VLIET in Brussels?
- 6) Does he know a man called Chris Lindemans @ KING KONG and could he give any information about him?

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) John DeLaforce, Major.

Major Mark Johnstone, MI.5

JD/KV

Copy for :- PF.600,479 WOUd Van der
Original in F.F.600,474 BUYCKX. 5a.

35a

Major J.F.E. Stephenson, War Room.

Rene Louis BRUYCKX.

I attach R.B. trace summary on field report 4104/310 of 13.10.44. His story sounds plausible, as far as it can be checked, but as the account of the patriotic services which he claims to have performed has been omitted, it is impossible to verify BUYCKX's bona fides completely. Could the field be asked to give particulars of these claims and also to state if the W/T equipment found was all of German manufacture. ?

" GEORGES" may well be identical with VAN VLEITH @ Dikke GEORG or de DIKKE mentioned by DAMEN. VAN VLEITH is a notorious penetration agent who has the same peculiar walk (owing to a wound in the left knee) as "GEORGES"

B. Information.
M.I.5.
28.10.44.

R.E. Bird.

[Handwritten signature]
14/10/44

EXTRACT.

346

Extract for File No. P.F. 500,479 Name: Van der WOUDE
 Original in File No. P.F. 500,388 DAMEN Serial: 54b Dated: 24.10.44
 Original from: CAMP 020 Under Ref.:
 Extracted on: 5.11.44 by: DJH Section: R. B.

Extract from Internal memorandum on Antonie DAMEN, Abwehr III penetration agent, who surrendered to the Allies on 30.9.44 at Wychen. Report forwarded by Camp 020

.....
12th September 1943

On arrival at Brussels at about 20.00 hours, they went to the Hotel Metropole, where HARGER had a permanent room, as much of his worked to place in Brussels acting as liaison between Van VLIETH and the German authorities.

KNOPPERS

DAMEN again stated that he has never met this man and knows him by no other name. Van VLIETH told him he was in England. KOPPERT Lt. Col.

DAMEN had heard Van VLIETH and Willy KUPP talking about this man. Van VLIETH had met him travelling second class in a train in Holland in June or July, 1943. He had got into conversation with him and apparently formed the idea that KOPPERT was a good patriot, working against the Germans. Van VLIETH therefore tried to make friends with him, so that he could try and find out his real work.

/van

[Handwritten signature]

Van VLIETH had also heard of a sergeant who had worked under
KOPPERT in the Dutch Army and was trying to trace him.

EXTRACT

342

P.A. in P.F.600,479

Name Van der WOUDE.

Original in P.F.600,388 DAMEN

Serial 32b

Dated 23.10.44

Original from Camp 030

Extracted on 5.11.44

By D.J.H.

Section R.B.

Extract from Interim report on the case of Antonie DAMEN, Abwehr III penetration agent, who surrendered to the Allies on 30.9.44 at Wycheh.

.....
ACTIVITIES FROM JANUARY, 1942.

Oct. 1942

In October, 1942, DAMEN was introduced by a Willy KOPPE to PLAT, a German agent working under PIERRE SCHREUD (Obersteuermann), Chief of the Abwehr in Holland, to Van VLIETH (called 'De kleine GONGELA') at Kink's room in the Hotel Terminus, The Hague.

According to DAMEN, Van VLIETH is one of the most successful German agents. He used to co-operate with KOPPE and was sometimes assisted by a Dutch policeman named Jan LAMBOG to VAN DER WOUDE.

Their chief task was to penetrate Allied organisations, trace British agents who had been dropped in Holland, and try and find out when and where agents, supplies and weapons were likely to be dropped.

Nov. 1942

Early in November, 1942, DAMEN was told by KLEINWITZ to go and see a Mr. Grooten (name unknown) at Eendracht 7, The Hague. The latter told DAMEN that he wanted him to work in Belgium, but that he must first go to Antwerp for training. On arrival, he was to telephone to a man named 'G' and say that he had come from Holland. DAMEN reportedly went to Antwerp on November 7th and telephoned to 'G', who told him to go to a house in Amstelveen Rijswijksebaan (number unknown, but thought to have been over 200). There DAMEN met two Germans, aged 25-30, speaking French and Flemish, who told him he was to undergo training and live in the house. There were about ten other people of various nationalities being trained in the house, some of whom were to be sent to England as German agents and the remainder to be used in resistance sabotage organisations under Allied control, whose real members had been arrested by the Germans, in order to give the impression in England that the organisations were still functioning. DAMEN never saw any of these things, and as he considered this work unattractive, he returned to The Hague the same day. He now told KLEINWITZ that he did not wish to be sent to England as an agent or to go and work in Belgium. He was anxious not to leave Holland, as Miss Van WOUDE was expecting a baby by him.

On his return from Antwerp, DAMEN was told by Van VLIETH to keep an eye on a Miss Grooten from the Dutch East Indies named PLAT, living at 7a Eendracht, The Hague. After shadowing him for three days, he found nothing, so set his end the plan was dropped. In January, 1943, DAMEN again tried to shadow his unsuccessful in Amsterdam. Later DAMEN heard that PLAT was a German agent.

.....

May 1943

In May, 1943, Van VLIETH and KIPP directed various members of an organization called "WIK", operating under a few in Brussels. This organization specialized in helping men and British pilots to escape from Holland, first sending them to Brussels and then to England. The Germans were also successful in getting hold of the "WIK" organization's wireless sets in Brussels. KIPP suggested to DAMEN that he should pretend that he was a member of this organization, who had managed to escape himself by the Germans. KIPP said that he would always be able to find out whether a person was a genuine member of the organization or not by asking if he wore "WIK" shoes. If the individual concerned did not know what DAMEN was talking about, then he was not a member. The Germans got hold of an important member of the organization, who had been arrested in the Alway. His name was SALT and he had been the owner of the "WIK" Shoe Shop in The Hague.

Oct. 1943

In the early part of October, 1943, DAMEN received instructions from a certain ROBERTUS or HUBERT, who had joined him in Brussels some months previously, to go to the house of Mrs. KROPPERS in Brabant. DAMEN was to greet Mrs. KROPPERS with the password "My car is ready" (the time is approaching), to which she would reply "De klok staat stil" (the clock has stopped). ROBERTUS had told DAMEN that Mrs. KROPPERS would introduce him to someone as Mr. Y. Knew, but he was not to show any signs of recognition. DAMEN visited Mrs. KROPPERS on a Sunday afternoon and after the password and correct answer had been exchanged, Mrs. KROPPERS told DAMEN that the man he wanted to see would be there the next day, and he should go to a restaurant opposite the Central Station in Amsterdam at 11.00 hours. The next day DAMEN went to the rendez-vous and found Mrs. KROPPERS there accompanied by Van VLIETH. Mrs. KROPPERS formally introduced them and Van VLIETH and DAMEN greeted each other as if they had never met before. When Mrs. KROPPERS had left, Van VLIETH said that he could go, as his mission was now ended. DAMEN states that during the conversation, Van VLIETH boasted about not having six or eight lines under his control in Holland and thirteen lines of communication work with England. He also stated that he was expecting to catch five more Allied pilots that week, who were hoping to escape from Zeeland (Noord-Oost-Polder).

Jan 1944

On 3rd January, 1944, DAMEN was sent to Brussels to assist Van VLIETH (who had moved there in June or July, 1943). For this visit DAMEN was given a false Belgian Identity Card, issued at the town of Schaerboek, in the name of Johannes WITTOBS, by Willy KIPP. DAMEN states he never used this card, as he could speak neither French nor Flemish. On arrival in Brussels, he was told by Van VLIETH to stay at the Hotel de l'Automatic under the name of Jan KROBEN. Van VLIETH's job in Brussels was to try and contact the Belgian Resistance Movement "The Brigade Blanche".

Van VLIETH had maintained constant contact with Doorn through a Dutchman, named BRAM, who had passed the frontier regularly at a secret place. This man was, however, not seen after January 4th, 1944.

After a week DAMEN was ordered by Van VLIETH to leave the hotel and to take up residence with a Mrs. LAMPOT, 15, rue d'Alliance, Brussels. This woman was a good patriot and had helped many prisoners of war to escape to France; her husband was in goal in Germany for the same reason. DAMEN was joined here by another man called WERLOOP, from Lille. Shortly afterwards Mrs. LAMPOT was arrested and imprisoned at St. Gilles, but was released a few months later, as she was in child birth.

Van VLIETH's chief haunts in Brussels were the Hotel de l'Automatic, where he was well-known to the porter, one Jans, a cafe at the corner of the Place Rogier, owner KNOX, the "Atlantic" bar and an office belonging to "Van", a Swiss registered company.

His other contacts were a Belgian, Erasmus de BOUT (Hotel de l'Automatis), a German called WILZI, working for Abwehr III F, and a Dutchman Karel van VLIETH, former owner of Hotel Solene, Rajewijksteeg 10, The Hague.

34a

DAMEN states that KUYP showed him on a map he had discovered, an escape route to England, coming from West (Belgium) via Willems (South of Antwerp) and Mouscron (North of Brussels). This line was to be cut at Mouscron.

DAMEN left Brussels at the end of February, 1944, and stated that he has not seen van VLIETH since.

.....
AGENTS

During the summer of 1943 the AGENTS were busy with pigeons in their by-ways over the German border. Schreiber Dr. JOHANN G. ROSSIGER told DAMEN that he was in charge of these boxes, took the English CODE out and distributed the CODE cards from Hilversum. A German plane had to be used to carry the CODE cards and AGENTS were busy over Holland, in order to get the

- (1) How many birds the AGENTS used and how many were lost.
- (2) How many birds were used.
- (3) How many birds returned to Hilversum and how many were lost.

DAMEN never saw what went at the house of AGENTS.
.....
this man lived at 45 Huis Ter
Hoornland, Soewijk (South Holland) Not seen since September, 1943.

.....
APPENDIX I

a) Enemy Intelligence Service Contacts.

.....
HURTERMAN or HURTER.

(Known in the office as "The Englishman"). Nationality: German. Age: about 38. Build: normal. Height: 1.70m. Hair: fair. Eyes: blue, wears glasses sometimes when reading. Wears sun glasses. Face: long. Complexion: white. Nose: normal. Thin lips. Teeth: in good condition. Clean-shaven. Appearance: well dressed, well preserved, does not speak much. In what capacities employed: Reported to be the brains behind KUYP and Van VLIETH, sending messages to England by W/T. Worked for the Abwehr in Driebergen. German shipping agent West Coast Africa before the war. Languages: German, English (fluent), some French. Last seen by DAMEN 16th September, 1944, when HURTERMAN left for Berlin.

.....
Nicolaas KUYP & Willy SALM.

Nationality: German. Age: about 30. Build: normal. Height: 1.72m. Hair: fair. Eyes: blue, no glasses. Face: long. Chin: normal. Clean-shaven. In what capacities employed: Never seen in uniform although DAMEN believes he is a Gefreiter. Languages: German, Dutch, French (poor). Works with Van VLIETH. Last seen by DAMEN in Brussels, February, 1944.