

0129

FILE CLOSED

L IST :397 - HOLLAND - 3.

VOLUME 1.

KNOPPERS, HENDRIKUS.      DE GEUS, HENK.  
KOOTSAARGENT.

00275

See Also

R.P.S. No. Q 247 Y. 3993 : KNOPPERS, H

MF

Officer or Serial No.	Section	Date	Officer or Serial No.	Section	Date	Officer or Serial No.	Section	Date
	PA	16 MAY 1960						
	PA	29 NOV 1960						
	RS	6 JUN 1961						
	PA							
	BS	19 SEP 1968						
DD	FC	5 MAY 1967						
	PA							
	PA	16 NOV 1971						
	Pa	10 JAN 1974						
BA	RS	19 MAR 1975						
	RS							
	PA	20 MAR 1975						
	K/S	9 APR 1981						
	PA	13 APR 1981						
	RS	1 MAY 1981						
	RS							
	RZ	26 MAY 1981						
	RU	28 MAY 1981						

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D.P.B.

13.

You will remember the attached case of KOOT and Colonel KOPPERT which gave rise to the correspondence between yourself and John Senter. I send these papers to you because I think it needs urgent consideration by yourself or D.B.

When I knew that you agreed that the case was of M.I.5 interest I returned to it at Bayswater, and read Cyril Harvey's summary, which is now attached. Having read this summary and discussed the case with Harvey, I heard the following facts:

In spite of Harvey's recommendation that doubts about Colonel KOPPERT and, to a lesser extent, about KOOT himself made it too great a risk to send the man back to Holland, S.O.E. have decided to do so. Bingham, head of the S.O.E. Dutch Section, feels that it would be a great pity to miss the opportunity, now that KOOT is in this country, of establishing much-needed liaison with resistance organisations in Holland. As Harvey had stressed the security danger, Colin Brook was called in to give a deciding vote, and he voted in favour of Bingham. It is now proposed to send KOOT back to Holland, if possible this week. I gather that Section V. have been consulted. Although they have no trace of KOOT or Colonel KOPPERT, VAN VLIET, who used the services of KOOT in Holland and engineered his departure to this country,

would be cast on [VAN VLIET] S.I.S. If Colonel KOPPERT is wrong, much suspicion regard VAN VLIET as all right, and I gather that they have no objection to KOOT returning to the field. S.O.E. are however trying to obtain further information from their agent, BROADBEAN, about his original message and about KOPPERT.

The matter is primarily one for Section V., since the dangers of KOOT's return would primarily affect the security of their undertakings in Holland. It seems to me, however, that the matter is also one for M.I.5, as KOOT is still in this country. Moreover, he was only a side-door case at the L.R.C. and you will, I think, see from the L.R.C. report attached that the examiner did not apparently have time to obtain the full background about Colonel KOPPERT etc. in Holland, nor was he told anything by S.O.E. about the BROADBEAN message.

I wrote last night to Senter, suggesting that for the above reasons the matter seemed to be still one for M.I.5, and asking him if he would have any objection to my showing a copy of Cyril Harvey's summary to you or D.B. He told me by telephone this morning that he would have no objection at all, and I am therefore sending it to you. You may feel that our interest in the matter is not direct enough to warrant interference with the arrangements which have already been made. If so, I will tell Senter that we do not wish to interpose. I have spoken to Vesey, who tells me that KOOT's L.R.C. file is still in action, as it contains correspondence between the Dutch Section and Bingham of S.O.E., in which certain doubts felt by the L.R.C. examiner are mentioned and S.O.E. is asked for further information. KOOT has not yet been landed, and this is being held up until S.O.E. furnish the additional information. It would appear that in spite of this S.O.E. are proposing to send KOOT into the field again forthwith. I mention this because if you think that the matter should be held up it seems that the best way to do so is to stress the fact that KOOT has not yet been cleared.

Incidentally you may be interested to hear that Senter, who had received your letter, now seems to be quite in agreement with our view, and expressed his only uneasiness as being the risk of S.O.E. information being passed to Section V. by us. I reassured him about this, and said that both you and I were aware that this was no part of M.I.5's function.

*G. P. Wethered*  
Major G.P. Wethered.

B.L.B.  
14.10.43.

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IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
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ACT 1958. Feb 2003

MOST SECRET

Register No. L.397/Holland/3.

Minute Sheet No.

14.

B.I.D. (Major Baxter.)

I think I should refer to the case of Hendrikus KNOPPERS @ Henk de GEUS, known to S.O.E. as KOOT or SARGENT. This man is the subject of your R.P.S. Q.247 (Y.3993) of the 10th. and 15th. September 1943. He was a side-door case and was interviewed twice only by Captain Sands of your Dutch Section. It seems to me that the L.R.C. has been very badly treated by S.O.E. in this case.

In the first place, it is within my knowledge that sometime about May or June 1943 S.O.E. received a wireless message from one of their agents in Holland, code name BROADBEAN, to the effect that a certain Lieut. Colonel KOPPERT, holding a prominent position in the O.D., desired to send his best man to the United Kingdom for conferences, etc. KNOPPERS was the man referred to. BROADBEAN asked if he might make arrangements for the journey. S.O.E., I gather, raised certain queries with BROADBEAN, but in the end instructed him to arrange for KNOPPERS to be sent through the channel which is described in your L.R.C. report.

None of the above information was, as far as I know, given by S.O.E. to you or your examiner. I have not seen the L.R.C. file, as this is still in action, but I have seen copies of both the examiner's reports. These contain only very brief references to Colonel KOPPERT, and this is understandable considering that the examiner had apparently no advance information about this man.

In fact, when KNOPPERS was interviewed at Bayswater I was present. Cyril Harvey interrogated him and we ascertained:

- (1) That so far as KNOPPERS knew, Colonel KOPPERT had nothing to do with the O.D. or any other resistance organisation.
- (2) That, shortly before leaving for England KNOPPERS had been to see Colonel KOPPERT, whom he regards as a sort of father, and that the latter had said that he did not want KNOPPERS to leave Holland as he was relying on him for assistance when the invasion happened.
- (3) Cyril Harvey then went with some care into the background of Colonel KOPPERT. Information is contained in the Interrogation Report which is at present with D.D.B. but which I will see that you have as soon as possible. Briefly, Colonel KOPPERT had been a prisoner of war in Nuremberg, but was repatriated from Germany in circumstances which are not quite clear although he was not medically unfit. He had thereupon established himself as a sort of representative of more than one Jewish firm, using his knowledge as a lawyer in order to prevent the Germans from taking these firms over. He told KNOPPERS that he did this in spite of having anti-Semitic sentiments and solely in order to thwart the Germans. KNOPPERS also understood that Colonel KOPPERT was in fact in touch with certain resistance work. KNOPPERS believed consistently in Colonel KOPPERT's bona fides, but it seems odd to me that the Colonel should have chosen such peculiar cover if he was doing resistance work or prepared to do it. Moreover, KNOPPERS told us that on his return from Germany the Colonel had established himself very friendly relations with a German general named CHRISTIANSEN, with a view to improving the lot of Dutch prisoners in Germany. He had had several interviews with the German general.

It seems to me a very serious omission on the part of S.O.E. that they did not give you information about the original BROADBEAN traffic, as this would have led your examiner to go into the background of Colonel KOPPERT, with the above results.

/Cyril Harvey

[P. T. Over]



Cyril Harvey and I agreed that the Colonel was not above suspicion, and that in these circumstances it was a security risk to send KNOPPERS back into the field. Harvey in fact recommended that KNOPPERS should not be sent back. Bingham however is very anxious to send him back, as he lacks good liaison with Holland. Colir Brook was called in to give the casting vote, and he took Bingham's part. The position at present is that S.O.E. propose to send KNOPPERS back to the field this week if possible.

At this stage I thought M.I.5 should take a part. With some difficulty I obtained a copy of Harvey's summary, and told Senter that I thought Dick White or Liddell should be consulted. The matter is of course primarily one for Section V, who, I am told by Senter, have no views as to the security angle and are prepared to abide by S.O.E.'s decision.

When I had obtained the S.O.E. papers I spoke to Vesey and to Sands. Both of them told me to-day that KNOPPERS has never in fact been landed, as certain enquiries from the L.R.C. to S.O.E. are still outstanding. It was evident that S.O.E. had either forgotten that KNOPPERS had not been landed or intended to disregard this fact. Senter is now aware of the position, and will presumably get in touch with you. The papers are at present with D.D.B. and I have asked him for his view as to whether he thinks M.I.5 should make any objection to KNOPPERS being returned to Holland forthwith.

I send you all these facts because it seems to me that this is a very strong example of the undesirability of the S.O.E. side-door procedure, about which I know you hold certain views. If they wish this procedure carried out, surely it is up to them to see that you have full information about the man in whom they are interested?

*G. Wethered*  
Major G.F. Wethered.

B.I.B.  
14.10.43.

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3.12.43.	To S.I.S. re KNOPPERS.	29a
	30.	
3.12.43	To Oratory Schools: arrangements to be made for KNOPPERS	30a

I discussed this case with Major Bingham of S.O.E. this afternoon. He tells me that an S.O.E. agent named APOLLO was dropped in Belgium some time in September with instructions to enter Holland using, in reverse process, the same route which KNOPPERS & SERGEANT used in order to leave Holland. APOLLO was mentioned in wireless traffic between S.O.E. and the GOLF organisation, as was the date of his arrival and the channel he was to use. It appears from the traffic and from subsequent information that APOLLO succeeded in reaching Holland, and a report has just been received from the S.O.E. French agent VIC that APOLLO is now on his way through France, having left Holland on his return journey to the United Kingdom. (750,017)

More interesting still, the S.O.E. agent [ARNAUD] referred to in this file, is also said by VIC to be on his way to Spain. These two men should both have a great deal to say which may be relevant to the KNOPPERS case. VIC himself is also on his way to this country, and is expected in the next two or three days. Flight Lieutenant Miller of S.O.E. will inform me as soon as VIC arrives, as he also will have information of value to the present enquiry.

The two S.O.E. agents in Switzerland who were responsible for the wireless message on which this enquiry is based are also due to make an attempt to come to the United Kingdom forthwith. They will travel through an escape route organised on behalf of the Dutch through the South of France. If their escape is successful they may be expected in this country in between three and five weeks' time.

Bingham says that he has heard a great deal from various Dutchmen about Colonel KOPPERT, and is personally convinced that KOPPERT would not and is not working for the Germans. KOPPERT is apparently a man of ambition who hopes that he will be the Dutch Minister of War after the Germans have been thrown out. Bingham is however convinced that [VAN VLIET] is a German agent and, apart from the information contained in this file, there is apparently a Belgian officer attached to the Surete at the moment who has information at his disposal to the effect that VAN VLIET was working for the Germans as early as 1941. Bingham has made arrangements for this officer to be asked to state in writing the details of his reasons for this suspicion, and will forward me a copy as soon as this is available.

Arrangements have been made for Flight Lieutenant Miller and me to discuss this enquiry with Commander Senter next Monday, December 6th., by which time Miller will have prepared some sort of resume of the relevant information available in S.O.E. records.

3.12.43.  
B.L.B.

*C. P. Wethered.*  
Major C.P. Wethered.

32.

"General MATHIEU" @ Maurice HOUBEN seems to be identical with the subject of RPS.6221. The subject of this file - Maurice Mathieu Francois HOUBEN - arrived in the U.K. on 11.3.42, having escaped from France to Lisbon. His case is not entirely satisfactory in one respect though he was released from the L.R.C. to the Belgian authorities and finally vetted for S.O.E. - N.R.A. The point of interest about his case is that he had in 1941 hidden a consignment of twenty revolvers in a garage in Liege which was searched by the Gestapo. He was arrested and interrogated. On being threatened with the arrest of his mother he disclosed the whereabouts of the revolvers, but when the Gestapo took him back to find them they had gone. He was then taken away towards the Gestapo H.Q., but almost at the door he was able to escape owing to the fact that it was dusk and that a very large lorry was drawn up almost outside the door and obscured the view of the guards so he was not fired on. After this escape he went into hiding and left France a few weeks later. Nothing further has been heard of him since the date of his vetting form, which was April 1942, but it is I suppose conceivable that the escape described above may have some bearing on his present function and connection with [Van VLIET] P.F. 602, 427. which should be borne in mind.

B.I.B  
5.12.43

*C. P. [unclear]*

33.

B.I.B Mr. Hart *Hart*

You said you would like to read this file over the weekend. You will find I think most of the relevant papers are now filed and I think you will get the best idea of the general set-up in the report at 12a. The present position is set out at 31. Until the expected arrivals have taken place it does not seem to me that we have very much substance on which to base further interrogations of KNOPPERS. The only point of suspicion against him which emerges from his previous interrogations seems to me his inability to account adequately for his participation in resistance work before and even after meeting Van VLIET. It would be interesting to have your comments on his story.

It is generally admitted that [Van VLIET] must be a German agent. I am inclined to regard Colonel KOPPERT with considerable suspicion but hardly like at the moment to express an opinion about such characters as [ARNAUD] (P.F. 61) "General MATHIEU", etc. We must act on the assumption that KOPPERT himself is guilty, but I think there is more than a possibility that he was to be used as a dupe and only employed as a German agent after his return to Holland.

I am speaking to KNOPPERS at Room 055 tomorrow morning and shall ask him if he has any statement to volunteer in the light of certain additional information of a damaging nature which has reached us since he was last interviewed. After that unless KNOPPERS offers some satisfactory statement, arrangements have been made for him to be taken to the Yard.

[P. T. Over.

42.

8.12.43. From LRC enclosing translation of letter from KNOPPERS to Major Bingham. 42a.

43.

9.12.43. B.I.B. report of first interrogation of KNOPPERS at Oratory Schools, with Appendices. 43a.

44.

9.12.43 To S.O.E., forwarding letter to Major Bingham from KNOPPERS 44a

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 11.12.43. Internal memos between B.I.B. and R.O. and B.I.Reg. asking for IU 45b  
 12.12.43. To S.I.S. requesting L.U. on PONT, VOS, BERGMANN re 45a. 45c.  
 Filed 28.3.44.

46.

B.I.B. (Mr. Hart.)

As spoken. Would you very kindly look at my two interrogation reports in this case, at 43a and . It will not be before Wednesday that I shall see the S.O.E. report which is now being prepared and have a full discussion with Commander Benter and Flight Lieutenant Miller on the whole background.

You will note that I have still not seen the original message from Switzerland. I am to be shown this on Wednesday. It seems to me a hardship to KNOPPERS that he should be left in detention for a long time, but we obviously cannot release him until further information is available.

I shall be glad to know whether you have any comments to make on the case as it stands at present.

*G.P. Wethered.*  
 Major G.P. Wethered.

B.I.B.  
 13.12.43.

47.

17.12.43 To S.O.E. (Miller) attaching 43a and 45a and re JEREMIAH I letter. 47a

48.

I had a conference with Flight Lieutenant Miller yesterday evening at Bayswater. He showed me the voluminous document which he has drawn up dealing with the background of the S.O.E. setup in Holland. We shall eventually be sent a copy of this document but in the mean time very little in it has any bearing on the case of KNOPPERS.

P.T.O.

The message from the two agents in Switzerland, CHIVE and SPROUT, who had escaped from a German concentration camp at Haaren, was to the following effect. They had both been arrested immediately on landing, that is to say, their reception committees were Germans. One of them arrived in November 1942, the other in March 1943. Both were taken immediately for interrogation and were then sent to a concentration camp. In interrogation both found that the Germans knew their field names and had a wealth of information not only about the S.O.E. setup in Holland but also about offices, addresses, training schools, etc., in England. In the concentration camp both agents met eight other members of the S.O.E. organisation in Holland, including GOLF. The names of these agents were set out in the S.O.E. report. The agents' message stated that each one of the eight had had exactly the same experience as they had. This is, however, not thought necessarily to mean that all the eight were received by German reception committees as there is independent evidence that at least two of them operated for some time after arrival. It is impossible, however, to explain the matter on the basis that these two agents in Switzerland were lying, and it must therefore be assumed, as is stated in Fl/Lt. Miller's report, that almost the whole of the S.O.E. undertaking in Holland has been under German control for many months.

This does not seem to have very much bearing on KNOPPERS who is not thought to have been contacted by any member of the organisation and appears only to have known [VAN VLIET] and ARNAUD. The S.O.E. agent APOLLO, however, has now reached this country and will immediately write out his own report. Fl/Lt. Miller and I hope to interrogate him on Tuesday of next week. It is by no means certain that APOLLO will have anything to say which is relevant to KNOPPERS. The two agents referred to above are on their way back to this country from Switzerland but cannot be here for some time. [ARNAUD] is now thought not to be coming back. VIC, who was responsible for KNOPPERS' passage through France is in England but has flu.

B.1.B  
17.12.43

49.

dated. Note of information on MATHIEU obtained from L.397/France/5. 16.6.43.

50.

18.12.43. To S.O.E. re MATHIEU or MATHIEU.

50a

54.

I was present at Bayswater yesterday when the S.O.E. organiser, VIC, was interrogated. This man is one of the most efficient officers that S.O.E. have in France and told a most impressive story of his escape route from Lyons over the Spanish frontier. This route has been operating successfully for a number of months and VIC himself came out along it. So far as the KNOPPERS case is concerned the only point was whether the extensive penetration in Holland could have infected the French route. On this point VIC was most emphatic and convincing. He gave us a long explanation as to the security precautions taken in Paris to

ensure that Dutchmen, etc., taken over from (ARNAUD) <sup>Ref 100-17</sup> are met at some neutral place such as a cafe, or in the street, and that ARNAUD's representative accompanying them does not know where they are going nor whom he is handing them over to. In addition to this every move during the French route is carried out at night so that the agents themselves do not know the address of their "safe house" or the names of their keepers. Arrived in each "safe House" the agent is not allowed to go out and if he asks to do so this matter is reported to VIC as being potentially suspicious. If therefore the Germans have introduced an agent to VIC's channel the chances are very much in favour of that agent's not being able to give any coherent story of the route he followed. Something of the sort has in fact happened since VIC says that George DEMAND (who figured in the KNIGHT case - L. 397/FRANCE/7 and who is known to have been arrested in Paris by the Germans) has undoubtedly talked and there is evidence that he must have told the Germans all he knew. DEMAND had been down VIC's escape route earlier in the summer, but it appears he could not have learnt much about it as the route still functions and has brought a large number of bodies since DEMAND's arrest. Moreover addresses and agents are changed once every three months as a security measure, or more often if there is the slightest reason to fear suspicion by the Germans.

VIC has met ARNAUD who on one occasion came from Paris to Lyons for a conversation with him. On this occasion ARNAUD said that he would be back in Lyons shortly, escorting an important Dutch agent who flew to this country. It seems from the description that the reference might have been to SERONANT. ARNAUD did not, however, return. VIC has not seen him since. VIC says he does not like ARNAUD very much, but has no reason to suspect him. He could not help as regards KNOPPERS' actual journey because he was in England during August and early September which was the time when KNOPPERS was making his journey through France.

B.1.B  
21.12.43

From Oratory Schools with letters for KNOPPERS. 52.

51b.

As regards KNOPPERS' future disposal, I had a talk with Mr. Hale and told him that we had still to interview the S.O.E agent APOLLO who was now writing out his report, but that it seemed most unlikely that APOLLO would have any material relevant to KNOPPERS. If so, we had insufficient information to hold KNOPPERS any longer at the Oratory Schools and the man, in the view of D.D.B., should be released but kept in London in case he was wanted for further interrogation. On Mr. Hale's suggestion I then rang up the Old Bailey (Home Office) and spoke to Mr. Newton of the Aliens Department who is now handling Mrs. Lee's case. I asked him to look out the papers for KNOPPERS, explained the situation to him and said that we might probably communicate with him in a day or two with a view to KNOPPERS' release.

B.1.B  
21.12.43

22.12.43. To S.O.E. forwarding letters to KNOPPERS.

52b.

S.I.A. Mr. Hoie

S.I.S.H.

I saw KNOPPERS at the Oratory Schools again to-day, having first interviewed the outstanding S.O.E. agent. As I expected nothing emerged from the latter interrogation and there was therefore nothing further to ask KNOPPERS, I therefore told KNOPPERS that he might expect to be released shortly, though I warned him to say nothing of the matters which had been discussed with him.

I then telephoned to the Old Bailey - Mr. Roy who is dealing with this special case. I told Roy that we did not wish to hold KNOPPERS any longer and I explained the circumstances. Roy asked us to let him have a letter confirming this and said that if that letter reached him tomorrow he would probably be able to put the matter in to force so that KNOPPERS was released tomorrow. Would it be possible to send off a letter tonight to this effect?

I asked Roy to let us know when the release was signed and delivered to the Oratory Schools. When we have this information I have promised that we will let Bingham of S.O.E. know so that he can send a car to meet KNOPPERS and take him back to the S.O.E. flat. If this message does not come through until tomorrow afternoon I shall be away and I wonder if you would very kindly let Bingham have the information so that arrangements may be made between him and the Oratory School.

B.I.B  
22.12.43

G.P. Wethered.  
G.P. Wethered

23.12.43. To H.O. recommending release of KNOPPERS.

54a.

S.I.A. Major Wethered

To see that I can ask Sgt. Accountant at the O.S. to let Major Bingham know in advance of Knoppers' release, and I think he will be out by his leaving.

S.I.A.

23.12.43

S.I.S.H.

31.12.43. Extract from S.I.B. Monthly Summary for Holland, giving particulars of VAN VLIET @ RIDDERHOF

55b.



56.

Since the last serial in this file a report made out by the S.O.E. agents CHIVE and SPROUT in Lerida prison where they are still detained, has been received by S.O.E. This report gives in detail the circumstances of the arrests of both men, their interrogation and internment at Haaren Concentration Camp, the other S.O.E. agents who were already interned there, their escape from Haaren and subsequent journey through Paris to Switzerland. The main point which emerges from these reports is that according to the two escaped agents the Germans had had full control and knowledge of all S.O.E. undertakings in Holland for far longer than we had supposed. It seems beyond a doubt that all agents arriving in the field have been received by the Germans for the last two years, i.e., since December 1941. The only exception which might apply to this is that two S.O.E. agents were dropped blind in the winter of 1942/43 and may therefore conceivably be at large. During the interrogation of both CHIVE and SPROUT it was quite apparent to both of them that the Germans had the fullest possible details of all training establishments, officers, training procedure, etc., concerning S.O.E. in this country, as well as of all S.O.E. concerns in the field. It may therefore be accepted (since there appears no reason why SPROUT and CHIVE should be lying or relating a German inspired story) that S.O.E. activity in Holland is at present at an end.

B.I.B.  
17.1.1944

*Philips*

57.

28.1.44. To S.I.S. concerning information given in their summary (extract filed at 55b)

57a

58.

31.1.44. From S.I.S. in reply to 57a.

58a

59.

11.2.44. S.I.S. report re RIDDERHOF & VAN VLIET & GEORGES.

59a.

60.

2.2.44. To S.I.S. acknowledging receipt of letter at 59a.

60a

61.

5.2.44. Minutes between B.I.B. and B.I.D./IRC re S.I.S. report at 59a.

61a.

[P. T. Over.]

62.

8.2.44. To S.I.S. informing them that we have no traces of J.J. GEORGE mentioned in S.I.S. letter at 59a. 62a

63.

14.2.44. Int. Memo. from B.I.B. to L.R.C. attaching letter from S.I.S. dated 12.2.44. giving particulars of J.J. GEORGE. 63a.

64.

14.2.44. Notes from L.R.C./Information Section re HUBERT & MAHIEU and the SABOT organisation. 64a.

65.

13.2.44. Minutes between LRC/Information Section and B.I.B. re queries raised in HURST report re VIC, VAN VLIET and ARNAUD escape routes. 65a

66.

20.2.44. To S.O.E. re points raised by LRC/Information Section in connection with VIC, ARNAUD, and VAN VLIET escape routes. 66a

67.

22.2.44. B.I.Reg. note re information on the RINUS ORGANIZATION. 67a

68.

26.2.44. To S.O.E. requesting information re "General MAHIEU" mentioned by KNOPPERS. 68a.

29.2.44. Minute from B.I.B. Major Wethered to B.I.B. Capt. Noakes re KNOPPERS 68b

3.3.44 B.I.B. Note to L.R.C. re KNOPPERS 68c

9.3.44. From S.O.E. in reply to 68a 69a

9.3.44. Extract from report on Interrogation of CELOSSE re 69b

10.3.44. Extract from Interrogation of DE GRAAF 69c

11.3.44. To S.O.E. acknowledging 70. 70a.

71.

B.I.D./L.R.C. Colonel Baxter.

Reference the point raised by the Information Index at 64a, you might like to see the letter from Major Warden at 69a. I suppose we must take it that I was misinformed by the S.O.E. Dutch Section as to the real name of the General. It does not therefore seem that there is any connection between the General and the S.O.E. agent CHAMONIS.

B.I.B.  
11.3.44.*Hazel Thurston*  
for Major G.P. Wethered.

72.

B.I.B. Major Wethered.

Information in Min. 71 is noted with relief. We now await an answer to your letter of 66a, which we presume you have not yet had, as the information would be of interest to our records, from the point of view of future escapees arriving via VIC's channel.

LRC/Information Section  
14.3.44.*L.S. Mason*  
for D.C.M. Madson

73.

28.3.44. From LRC Information Section re identification of HOLLEVOET, mentioned at 4a etc.

73a.

74.

B.I.B. (Mr. Stamp.)

You may be interested in the query identification raised by the L.R.C. Information Section at 73a.

The references to HOLLEVOET (? Andre) are contained in p. 3 last para. of the S.O.E. report dated 8.10.44 (in cover at beginning of file); paras. 30-35 of LRC report at 4a; and paras 10-12 of Second Interrogation Report at 7a.

Could we have your comments on whether there is a possibility that HOLLEVOET might be identical with your Georges HOLVOET?

B.I.B.  
2.4.44.*Hazel Thurston*  
for Major Wethered.B.I.B. Major Wethered <sup>75.</sup> *Mr. Milmo*

I think HOLLEVOET who assisted KNOPPERS' escape through Belgium is probably identical with the Georges HOLVOET who works with Louis DEBRAY, for no other reason than that he is known to arrange escapes on behalf of the Germans, and this was a German escape. It seems quite clear that KNOPPERS was sent to this country by the Germans and I am bound to say that I should have thought

that the burden was upon him to satisfy us that he was ignorant of that fact - a burden which it does not seem to me he has discharged.

B.I.B.  
4.4.1944

*E.B. Stanton*

- 14.4.44 Note from R.P.S re KNOPPERS 76. 75b
- 17.4.44. Note on distinction between HOLVOET and GEORGES of VIG Organisation 76a
- 77.
- 18.4.44. To S.O.E. concerning HOLLEVOET 77a
- 78.
- 18.4.44. B.I.B. Minute to B.I.B./Stamp concerning HOLLEVOET 78a.
- 79.
- 21.4.44. B.I.B. Minute replying to 78a 79a.
- 80.
- 21.4.44. From S.O.E., replying to 77a 80a
- 27.4.44. From LRC/Information Section re identification of HOLLEVOET 80b.
- 81.

Major Wethered. B.I.B.

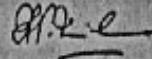
We spoke about this case and although I think in the light of the arguments which you put forward, the case against KNOPPERS is not so dark as I was originally disposed to think, I am bound to say that I still entertain very profound doubts as to the man's bona fides and my opinion, for what it is worth, is that he certainly should not be at large at this time.

Even before the tightening up of standards in consequence of OVERLORD we have worked upon the principle that once it is established that a man has been in touch with the German Intelligence Service and has been sent here by them, the onus passes to him to establish his bona fides affirmatively. It is universally conceded that KNOPPERS was in fact sent here by the Germans, the only point at issue being whether or not he was aware of this fact. In other words the question is whether he is an agent or a dupe. Whatever anyone's guess may be on the subject, I think it would be going very far to suggest that the man has positively proved his innocence; he certainly has not done so to my satisfaction. Ought he not therefore to be /detained

Min. 81 (contd)

detained if we are to be consistent in the application of a principle which we ourselves have announced. It may be contended that this principle should only apply where a man admits that he voluntarily and knowingly accepted employment by the German Intelligence Service and that it would be unfair to attempt to apply it in the circumstances of the present case. I would submit that this contention is founded upon a fundamental fallacy. It is not a question of the deserts of the individual. It is a question of the security of the State and if the security of the State demands the application of this principle in one set of circumstances, it demands it equally forcibly in the other.

I appreciate that you may not agree with the above views but I put them forward for your consideration and for what they are worth.



H.P. MILMO

B.I.B./29.4.44.

82.

D.D.B.

I think I should ask for your views on this case in the light of Milmo's minute at 81. You will remember the facts of the case, which we have discussed on various occasions. The case as it first appeared on KNOPPERS' arrival in the United Kingdom is set out in the report filed at 12a. At that time our main concern was the suspicious background of Colonel KOPPERT and the fact that although a wireless message from the field indicated that KOPPERT had wanted his right-hand man, KNOPPERS, to come to the U.K. KNOPPERS said that KOPPERT had in fact been rather against his journey.

Shortly after the original interrogation of KNOPPERS news came through and was established that the S.O.E. organisation in Holland responsible for the wireless message and for KNOPPERS' escape journey was being run by the Germans. This cast a different light on the case, and you will remember that we thought it enough to arrange for KNOPPERS' detention under Article 12(5A). He was detained at the Oratory, and I interrogated him on various occasions. I do not think it is really necessary for you to read through the interrogation reports, which are filed at 27a, 43a and 45a. Briefly, however, the main point was the accepted fact that [George VAN VLIET] who had arranged KNOPPERS' departure from Holland and journey was undoubtedly working for the Germans. KNOPPERS made a good impression on me, as he had on all other interrogators and people who knew him, and I came to the conclusion that he was quite unaware of any German control. After some consideration, and after you and I had discussed the case and S.L.A. had agreed, KNOPPERS was released.

Since then two additional points have come to light. The first concerns a man ~~xxx~~ referred to by KNOPPERS as HOLLEVOET, a passeur who assisted KNOPPERS on his escape journey through Belgium and appears to have been in touch with VAN VLIET. This man might

/possibly

[P.T. Over.

possibly be identical with Georges HOLVOET, a known German agent working under Louis DE DREY. We have rather assumed that the two are identical, but on re-consideration I think this is no more than a possibility, since KNOPPERS failed to recognise the photograph of Georges HOLVOET and rather thought that the christian name of his HOLLEVOET was Andre. In any event this does not seem to have any additional bearing on the case since it has always been admitted that KNOPPERS' journey was German controlled.

The second point which has emerged is a statement by an S.O.E. agent cleared at the L.R.C. who, when re-interrogated at Bayswater, gave as his view that Colonel KOPPERT was a known collaborator. He had no direct evidence for this statement, but said that it was common knowledge. Again, though this bears out our original suspicions against KOPPERT, it does not necessarily involve KNOPPERS.

Further  
L

You will see from Milmo's minute that he is of the opinion that KNOPPERS should have been detained even before the present OVERLORD period on the basis that a man who has been in touch with the German Intelligence Service and has been sent here by them must establish his bona fides affirmatively. Milmo is thinking of cases in which the man has knowingly accepted training or employment by the German Intelligence Service and comes to this country with the ostensible intention of confessing this connection. In these cases it is obviously necessary for his interrogators to be certain that he is telling the whole truth. This does not altogether seem to me to be a criterion to apply to KNOPPERS, who professed ignorance throughout his internment as to the reasons for his detention. His attitude, which I felt able to accept, showed that he did not know that he had been in touch with the German Intelligence Service.

An additional point seems to support my belief that KNOPPERS is no worse than an innocent dupe. George VAN VLIET has been responsible for the escape journeys of at least two other persons. One was the S.O.E. agent APOLLO, who was destined for Holland but dropped by mistake in Belgium. He evaded capture, but a chain of circumstances led to his meeting VAN VLIET in Belgium. VAN VLIET hid him and arranged for his return journey to the U.K. without having allowed him to enter Holland at all. VAN VLIET was insistent that APOLLO should obtain money and further instructions (both of which had been lost when he was belled out) and then should return again to the field, making contact with VAN VLIET. No suspicion seemed to attach to APOLLO in these circumstances, and though I understand that he is not to be used again in the field it was thought quite clear that he had been used by VAN VLIET to create confidence in London that VAN VLIET was bona fide. The second case is that of an American Air Force Officer named John Kenward HURST, who was also sent out of Holland along George VAN VLIET's escape channel. This officer unfortunately only spent a couple of days in this country before returning to the States. He was seen in Scotland by an S.O.E. officer, who came to the conclusion that his story was genuine and that he fell into the same category as APOLLO. It seems for these reasons that the Germans have recently been using a technique connected with innocent dupes and have taken some trouble in their endeavour to build up such a man as VAN VLIET in the hope that he will be used as a contact in the field by bona fide agents. I have explained this argument to Milmo verbally, and it is I think this to which he refers in the first paragraph of his minute.

Van der Griende D  
479  
RIDERHOLOVAN VLIET  
TF 6-2-47

The argument is of course no more than a hypothesis, and I cannot deny that affirmative proof of KNOPPERS' bona fides cannot be said to exist. If he had returned to this country during the OVERLORD period considerations would have been different. He has however been released to the Dutch since December 1943, and he is now a commissioned officer in the Dutch Army. I raised recently

/at a

82 (cont)

at a 12 o'clock meeting taken by Colonel Robertson the question as to whether changed conditions should reopen the KNOPPERS case. Robertson felt that this was not necessary.

I must say I do not agree that the interests of security call for the re-internment of KNOPPERS at this stage. I hope that I have made my reasons for this view apparent in the notes I have set out above. In view however of Milmo's strongly phrased minute at 81 I thought I should submit the case to you, and I shall be very grateful for your views.

In any event you might perhaps like me to have an interview with Colonel De Bruyne or another appropriate Dutch Officer so that I may find out precisely what KNOPPERS' job is and repeat the word of warning to the Dutch, who of course already know that KNOPPERS was at one time under considerable suspicion.

*G.P. Wethered.*

3.5.44.  
B.I.B.

Major G.P. Wethered.

83.

*B.I.B.*  
B.I.B. Major Wethered.

As spoken. Please do as you suggested and interview de Bruyne, arranging it through Commander Senter. When you have done this please let me know the result verbally. - There is no need to minute the matter further - and I will give you my final views on the matter.

D.D.E.  
10.5.44.

*D.G. White.*

84.

10.5.44. To S.O.E., re appointment with Col. de Bruyne

84a

17.5.44 From S.O.E. asking for return of KNOPPERS' documents

84b

85.

D.D.E.

I visited the Dutch Intelligence this morning in order to discuss this case in accordance with your minute at 83. I found that the most appropriate officer for this conversation was Major Liefing, in whose office KNOPPERS has been employed since his release to the Dutch.

Major Liefing told me that he had Colonel de Bruyne's authority to handle the case. I outlined the position to him,

85 cont.

and asked him for his views on two points:

- a) his view of the reliability of KNOPPERS in the light of his background, and
- b) the type of work which KNOPPERS is now doing.

His replies were as follows:-

a) He is perfectly convinced that KNOPPERS is 100% loyal and safe. He knows the background of the case very well, and agrees that it must be admitted that KNOPPERS' journey out of Holland was directly arranged by the Germans. He is however convinced that KNOPPERS was an innocent dupe.

I told Liefing that when I had interrogated KNOPPERS I had not thought it wise to indicate to him the main grounds of our suspicion. KNOPPERS therefore was unaware that <sup>479</sup> Georges VAN VLIET was a German agent. Liefing agreed, and said that he had given KNOPPERS this information in February when he was certain that KNOPPERS was all right. KNOPPERS had been flabbergasted to hear it, and Liefing felt certain that his amazement was genuine.

b) At first Liefing gave KNOPPERS work which did not involve anything very secret. As his confidence in KNOPPERS grew, however, he was able to relax this standard, and KNOPPERS is now working on confidential material and apparently has access to most of the information available in Liefing's office. Liefing expresses complete confidence in this arrangement.

One could not really have received a more definite reply, and in the circumstances it was difficult for me to ask Liefing to keep an eye on KNOPPERS, since he would do so for his own sake in any event, and does not even think it necessary. Personally I feel satisfied that we may leave the matter as it stands and should be glad to know if you agree.

22.5.44.  
B.I.B.

*Plushkin*  
Major G.P. Wethered.

86.

23.5.44 To Camp 001 asking if they have record of documents requested at 84b

86a

*G.P. Wethered*  
87.

B.I.B. Major Wethered.

Reference the last para. of your Minute 85, I agree.

D.D.B.  
25.5.44.

*D.G. White*

FILE CLOSED.





SECRET & PERSONAL.

MS/(I.I.)4/179.

11th February, 1944.

Miss Wadeson,  
M.I.5. (B.1d).

With reference to your enquiries of 31.1.44 and 1.2.44, the following information may be of assistance to you :-

1. ARNAUD, the Belgian caseur.  
32-34 years old, height 5'8", fair hair, slightly tinged with gray and receding from the temples, looks like a Frenchman, speaks French well, speaks broken English.
2. AGAZARIAN & MARCEL.  
Height approximately 5'5"-6", slight build, dark hair, very large brown eyes, oval face, ruddy complexion, speaks very quickly and with enthusiasm, looks intelligent, speaks perfect French.
3. I am afraid that I am unable to answer your enquiry as to whether MARCEL would be likely to know the identity of the man who arrived at the Hotel l'Odeon, Paris, and addressed ARNAUD as EUGENE.
4. Maurice Mathieu HOUBEN.  
HOUBEN is identical with the S.O.E. Belgian agent, CHAMOTS.

*Margaret Lamb*

Miss Sample  
S. C. N.

Further to my note of today's date, asking for a description of ARNAUD...

May we have a description of AGAZARIAN O MARCEL, and did the latter at any time say anything about ARNAUD, whom he apparently knew fairly well. This might be of interest in view of the fact that KNOPPERS says that ARNAUD knew VAN VLIET for a long time and trusted him completely. X

Would MARCEL be likely to know the identity of the man who arrived at the Hotel L'Odeon, Paris, and addressed ARNAUD as 'EUGENE' ? X

X ( These statements are taken from C.P.W.'s interrogation of KNOPPERS at Oratory Schools, 11.12.43. )

LMS/Information Section  
31.1.44.

Miss Sample  
S.O.E.

Still struggling with the  
'Dutch' problem. Could we have a  
description of ARNAUD, the Belgian  
passeur, whom VIC does not like very  
much.

After that I suppose there is  
nothing to do but sit back and wait  
for your two new 'hopes' to arrive  
and clear everything up!

LRC/Information Section  
1.2.44.

Miss SAMPLE  
S.O.E.

COPY.

1) On 25.10.43, you sent a list of names and addresses to l.u. connected with SERGEANT report of 8.10.43. Amongst them is 'ROODE WILLY' of Ruizen - I cannot see this name in the report, so do not know how he comes into the story.

When I did the l.u. this was n.t., but we have since had a trace of one 'WILLY' ? Belgian, acting as passeur to party of Dutch escapees in Belgium, he has red hair, (I don't know if the 'ROODE' applies only to the politics of your man). If you consider this of any interest, you will find the trace in RPS 17547 KORNSENH, report sent to S.O.E.

\*\*\*\*\*

2). re your Dutch Intelligence file no.12, that I keep on bothering you about - the point is that it gives information about the formation of an organisation (40.7.41) with the usual functions, one of which is to form a body out of which the future Dutch Army can be created, and in connection with this are mentioned the head, a Col PALM, and cooperators Lieuts QUANT and WOLZAK.....

In SERGEANT's LRG report (see para 15), he states that he had heard Dobby WOLZAK mention the name of Admiral QUANT, presumably in connection with her organisation, the so-called HOOFDORGANISATIE. The association of the names WOLZAK and QUANT twice, makes me wonder a) whether they are the same people/families in each case, and b) whether one can assume that the organisation is in that case, definitely part of the O.D. (You will see that Lieut QUANT, son of the Admiral, was later reported shot, and was a member of the O.D.)

\*\*\*\*\*

3). Do you consider that if KOPPERT is suspect, that it is likely that he took over the firm N.V. KERNOPA as cover for his other activities (in July '41), or in order perhaps to blind the families WOLZAK and WEINBERG to the fact that he might be working for the Germans, (KOPPERT presumably knowing that these people were working for a patriotic organisation?)

\*\*\*\*\*

*See - home file*  
*Ans*  
*Norman*  
*26.11.43*

SECRET AND PERSONAL (80)

Ref. NS/RV/6

12th November, 1943.

Miss Wadeson (for the attention of Mrs. Mace)  
M.I.5.

With reference to your memo of 9.11.43 re the SERGEANT case, I attach a note giving what replies we can to your queries. I am returning your copies of the reports as requested.

I will come down and discuss this case early next week, if I may. In the meantime, would you very kindly let me know as soon as possible whether you have now or have had recently a body in the L.R.C. who claims to have known KOPPERT. I understand the body knows nothing of KOPPERT's connection with the C.D., but a lot about KOPPERT's personal character. (May I add that this information is unquestionably adverse.)

*Margaret Lapse*

Verbal reply - no information - KOPPERT  
from my Body in L.R.C.

AMM:  
14/11/43

12th November, 1943.

SERGEANT1. a) RINUS organisation

The aim of the organisation was to obtain military intelligence, and for this purpose they had divided Holland into sections. They had no arms and did not wish to have any.

Reports were sent to Bergen-op-Zoom, whence they were taken to Antwerp through a man called WILLY and given to a butcher. WILLY was arrested in May 1943 and the organisation is now without contact with either England or Belgium.

b) RINUS himself and BART

SERGEANT states that RINUS was a Dutchman who had left for England but, according to a message received in Holland about the beginning of July, 1943, had been arrested in Spain. However, according to a message received from the C.I. on 6th August, 1943, the first RINUS was a French communist staff captain and had disappeared.

Since RINUS left for England his work has been taken over by BART, of whom SERGEANT gives the following description:-  
Age 38-40; 5ft. 9in.; fairly dark hair,  
clean-shaven, medium colouring; does not  
wear glasses and smokes; quite a usual  
type, his only striking feature being  
prominent cheek-bones.

He is said to have contact with the Witte Brigade in Belgium.

SERGEANT was introduced to BART by JAN DE HAAN, a member of the RINUS organisation. The organisation was short of money, and BART asked SERGEANT if he could get help from England; this SERGEANT tried to do through VAN VLIET.

2. We don't know whether or not HOCKEY was transmitting for VAN VLIET, but it would appear from the similarity of the messages that the same person (i.e. someone in the OD.) was responsible for them.
3. Yes, extremely odd!
4. We have since received further information from SERGEANT on this point, as follows:-  
KOPPERT was in the habit of wearing a large-size official Dutch decoration; according to VAN VLIET, the latter was once travelling in a train and noticed that the only other occupant of the carriage was a gentleman wearing such an outsize decoration. He began a conversation which gradually led to an exchange of names, and the hint that both were interested in work not pleasing to the enemy. When VAN VLIET made it clear that he would like to have a quiet talk elsewhere some day, KOPPERT gave him SERGEANT's name and address, saying that this man was his trusted helper and could always arrange another meeting. It was apparently after this that VAN VLIET kept SERGEANT under observation at the Cafe VCS, Blaricum (page 2, para.1 of SERGEANT report of 8th October). SERGEANT later arranged a meeting in a cafe in Utrecht, but KOPPERT did not turn up. SERGEANT then arranged for VAN VLIET to meet KOPPERT at his house, whence he returned after half-an-hour's interview, saying that KOPPERT was not dangerous, but that he could not be used for any organisation.
5. With regard to para.2 of Lieut. Smith's letter, you will note that at the beginning it simply states that VAN VLIET is claimed to have no contact with any organisation; from the information in our possession, however, it is obvious that this is not so. We are unfortunately unable to give you any further pertinent details about BOTTEMA.

6. Before enquiring further into our information about BILL and the I.D., may I see your information dated February 1942, in order that I may check the source? I will have a look at it when I come down.
7. The name of JUTEN was given to HOCKEY by U.K. We know nothing further of the activities of JUTEN with regard to the RINUS organisation.  
As far as we know, SERGEANT does not know JUTEN - at least not under that name.
8. We do not think that this is a possibility worth considering - at any rate yet!

'Pianist VAN DER WILDE' stumps us too! He might be almost anyone, though the fact that he is referred to as 'Pianist' would seem to indicate that he is a wireless operator.

With regard to ANTON DE WILDE, we have now got hold of the H.P.S. report on STRIEP - thank you very much for this trace.



QUESTIONS RAISED ON ATTACHED REPORT OF 5.11.43.

1. a) Further information re RINUS organisation, area covered, contacts etc.,  
b) Description of BART - How did SERGEANT contact him -?
2. re w/t messages of June mentioned in reports of 8.10.43 and 5.11.43.  
From JUIEN via HOCKEY to SOMER  
. JUIEN . HOCKEY . RINUS  
. SERGEANT (on behalf of RINUS ? JUIEN) via VAN VLIET (his wireless channel to U.K. from Utrecht) to U.K.  
Is it considered possible that HOCKEY was transmitting for VAN VLIET?

3. Is it not odd that according to SERGEANT, VAN VLIET tried to contact BART (Rinus org. also), having been warned that this was not known?

4. How does one reconcile the fact that, according to SERGEANT, it was entirely VAN VLIET's idea that he came to U.K., with the message saying that SERGEANT was KOPPERT's best man? Any further information from SERGEANT as to the introduction mentioned para 2, p6 of 8.10.43.

5. re information contained in Lt Smith's letter WGM/IV/1158 of 16.10.43, from your Dutch section re VAN VLIET - the beginning and ending of para 2 are somewhat conflicting? Who is BOTTNERA (if pertinent)?

6. How is BILL in contact with the I.D. originally. The only information we have about I.D. is dated Feb'42, and was taken from your Dutch Intelligence file.

7. Was JUIEN's name given to HOCKEY by U.K. or in Holland. Does SERGEANT know JUIEN?

8. Has it been considered possible that HOCKEY could have been duped by VAN VLIET, the latter masquerading as KOPPERT?

'Pianist' VAN DER WILDE stumps me completely, or did VAN VLIET's father-in-law play the piano!

(NOT AN EXACT COPY.)

*hmm*

*Thin Water.*  
*1815*

SECRET and PERSONAL.

(80)

SERGEANT - Connection with the O.D.  
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In February, 1943, HOCKEY and his wireless operator TENNIS were sent to Holland with instructions to make contact with the I.D. with a view to collecting from them information of a military nature and transmitting it to England. The original contact with the I.D. was to be made through BILL.

On 30th April, HOCKEY was given the name of JUTEN of Bergen-op-Zoom as a contact for military information. JUTEN was the O.D. leader of Bergen-op-Zoom, and HOCKEY was instructed to use a cut-out when making this approach. Later, on 19th May, HOCKEY, when asked if he could get in touch with the O.D., replied that he could not contact the top leaders. On 25th May HOCKEY reported that he had contacted JUTEN, who wanted him to establish his bona fides by means of a message over the B.B.C. about "Tante Jo". This message was sent on 27th May.

On 6th June, BROADBEAN, who was wireless operator for our sabotage organiser GOLF, informed us that he had come into contact with Col. KOPPERT, the leading man of the O.D., and that KOPPERT wished urgently to send over his best man for a few weeks. From later traffic, it appears that this man was SERGEANT.

On 16th June, HOCKEY asked us to pass on to SOMER a message from JUTEN to the effect that the RINUS organisation was without a leader, code or orders. On 27th June, a further message was received via HOCKEY, this time from JUTEN to RINUS (whom JUTEN believed to be in the U.K.), asking for a message to be broadcast by the B.B.C. saying that the chickens required food and RINUS agreed (see in this connection our report on SERGEANT of 8th October, page 2, last para.). HOCKEY was told on 30th June that SOMER had told the O.D. 'via own channel' not to deal with RINUS, and that RINUS was not in the U.K. We also warned HOCKEY to avoid entanglement with RINUS.

~~In the meantime, SERGEANT had left Holland and reached Paris on 16th July.~~

On 11th August, TENNIS reported that he had lost HOCKEY and that JUTEN had gone to ground; he asked for instructions. On being asked to give a rendez-vous address, he gave an address in Blaricum, which was later confirmed by GOLF via BROADBEAN as being that of SERGEANT's wife. It was decided that BROADBEAN and TENNIS should come out together via ARNAUD's route; we understand that they were later caught in the PYRENEES.

On 10th September, the day after SERGEANT reached London, GOLF told us that SERGEANT's friends (?O.D. friends) were alarmed as they had not been notified of his safe arrival, and were apprehensive for the material he was carrying.

We have since heard from another source that on 14th October the O.D. (O.L. set referred to in our report on "BILL and the O.L." of 8th July 1943) was enquiring whether the original B.B.C. message about "Tante Jo", broadcast for HOCKEY on 27th May, was our work, and naming the man who arranged for it as "Pianist VAN DER VELDE".

*Harold G. ...*  
8.11.43.