

8th October, 1943.

80

SERGEANT

KNOPPERS 2 SERGEANT.

SERGEANT's name is Hendrikus KNOPPERS. He was born on the 18.5.1908 and is a technical radio engineer. Before the war he was very interested in the Boy Scout movement, in which he played an active part for seven years. He was also employed as an electro-technical engineer by Nederlandsche Sein Toestellen Fabriek at Hilversum until 1938, when he was their testing engineer for aircraft instruments.

In 1931 he married Cornelia Johanna Allegonda SCHENKEL. He has two small children and his wife and family are still in Holland, living at 6c Smeedenweg, Blaricum.

In 1938 SERGEANT joined the Military Air Force and became chief inspector of a radio technical school at Soesterberg. This school was transferred to Rotterdam at the mobilisation in 1939. The Commandant was Lt. Col. A.M. KOPPERT. After the invasion of Holland, SERGEANT was a prisoner of war for five days and he then entered the Opbouwdienst, where he was seconded to the Afwikkelings Bureau which dealt with claims for compensation as a result of the war mobilisation. The Colonel was the head of this office also. The work came to an end about 1st May 1941. The Opbouwdienst then became absorbed by the Arbeitsdienst and as this had a Nazi tinge, SERGEANT refused to remain in it. He was offered a job with his old firm, Nederlandsche Sein Toestellen Fabriek, but since this merely meant working for the Germans, he refused it also. For some time he did odd jobs of a technical nature for various people, but finally he got employment with a German Jew named Gustav LANDAUER, who had fled to Holland about 1937 and who was in the upholstery business under the name of HOVECO in Rotterdam. SERGEANT acted as a traveller for this firm until March 1942, when LANDAUER being a Jew, was put out of business. SERGEANT then set up in the same sort of business on his own at Blaricum. This business is still running and is being looked after by SERGEANT's wife with the assistance of Hendrikus JEMSTER, who helps with the bookkeeping. SERGEANT's wife apparently does not know where he is, but he has always told her not to worry unless and until she receives news that he is dead.

Meanwhile SERGEANT had done a certain amount of illegal work as a member of the Ned. Unie, helping in the distribution of pamphlets prepared by VOUTE, the nephew of the Burgomaster of Amsterdam and a director of Amsterdamse Superfosfaat Fabriek. SERGEANT was twice asked to join the O.D. once by RIDDER, a blacksmith of Martinsdijk, in August 1940, and once by BEROMAN, an ex-army man of Blaricum, in November 1940, but he did nothing about it on either occasion. In each case he said he was willing to join and was told that in due course he would receive information and instructions; but nothing ever happened. SERGEANT also knew VISSER, a printer, who lived at HUIZEN, and who made up some advertisements for SERGEANT's business. SERGEANT soon learned that VISSER was printing "Vrij Nederland", and thereafter he often carried letters to and from VISSER in the course of his business travels round the country. He also

/did

did occasional courier jobs for other people - e.g. carrying money to be given to the wife or family of someone who had been arrested by the Germans. On all such occasions he made it his practice simply to do what he was asked and not to ask any questions.

It was not until the end of 1942 or beginning of 1943 that SERGEANT started any regular resistance work. At this time he was approached by RIDDERHOF @ George van VLIET. Van VLIET had apparently been keeping an eye on SERGEANT for some time through the agency of Jacob VOS of the Cafe Vos, Blaricum, where SERGEANT often went, and SERGEANT thinks that Van VLIET delayed making any approach until VOS had assured him that SERGEANT was a safe man.

Van VLIET was apparently working for a man called the "General" (whose name sounded something like MAHIEU) in Belgium. He used to spend half of each week in Belgium and half in Holland, travelling to and fro on official frontier passes issued by the Germans. According to SERGEANT, VAN VLIET was in possession of a forged letter of authority purporting to have been issued by the Gestapo, on production of which he obtained official frontier passes valid for a fortnight at a time. Van VLIET had a regular place of residence in Blaricum, and was registered as residing there under that name, though it seems that it was generally known that he was very seldom there, and SERGEANT had little difficulty in finding out from the registration authorities that his real name was RIDDERHOF. Van VLIET apparently had no cover occupation in Holland, but relied on his documents from the Gestapo.

PP 00439

Van VLIET told SERGEANT that he had been commissioned by "the General" to find out as much as he could about the set up and requirements of secret organisations in Holland generally, but that he was not to make any direct approaches to such organisations himself. Van VLIET therefore wished SERGEANT to acquire as much information of this sort as he could, and pass it over once a week. SERGEANT agreed to do so, and for the next five or six months he met Van VLIET once a week at different places in Holland. Van VLIET would ring him up each time he returned from Belgium and would say where the rendezvous was to be. In pursuance of these instructions, SERGEANT got into some sort of touch with three organizations, viz: (a) the RINUS organization, about which he found out quite a lot, and the head man of which (BART) he met; (b) the "Hoofdorganisatie" of which Dobby WOLZAK was the secretary, about which he found out very little until after he left Holland; and (c) "Organisation X" which was under the control of the person at Bussum, about which he found out nothing at all (since the person was out when he called) except a method of making contact with it.

On behalf of the RINUS organization, he asked Van VLIET, who claimed to have a wireless channel to England from somewhere near Utrecht, to send a message asking for a broadcast on Radio Oranje which would serve as a password on which the organisation would be able to get funds from a certain banker. According to Van VLIET the message was transmitted to England, but the answer was that the RINUS organisation was not known and Radio Oranje therefore refused to play. (this apparently is substantially correct). Van VLIET

/then

then arranged to finance BART himself and made a rendezvous through SERGEANT to meet him at Breda. This was on the day that SERGEANT himself left the country and BART never turned up.

Doddy WOLZAK was the non-Jewish sister-in-law of the Jewish Reserve Lieutenant WEINBERG who was in the business M.V. Kermopa of Amsterdam, dealing in fashion goods and rag dolls. SERGEANT dealt with WEINBERG in the course of his own business and met Doddy WOLZAK through him. Doddy would not tell SERGEANT any details about the "Hoofdorganisatie" but claimed that it was the most important resistance movement in Holland.

In addition to making inquiries for Van VLIET about these organisations, SERGEANT also passed over to him such information as he picked up on his travels about the location of firms and factories working for the Germans etc. On this subject SERGEANT is not very convincing. He admits that he reported to Van VLIET once a week for about five months, but apart from the specific matters mentioned above he is unable to say what he reported about. On the contrary, he says that he carried all his information in his head, and made it his business to forget it as soon as he had passed it over.

On the 20th June Van VLIET asked SERGEANT if he would go to England and report on the various organisations, and return with instructions for them. As SERGEANT understood it, the idea was that the several resistance movements needed co-ordination and central direction, as well as official recognition and support from London, and this could best be obtained by the sending of an emissary from Holland, and his return as a liaison officer with London credentials. SERGEANT at first said that he was hardly the right person to send, as he had found out little about any of the movements and practically nothing about the "Hoofdorganisatie" which he understood was far the most important of all. (He himself agrees that it would have been more appropriate for the "Hoofdorganisatie" to send some influential member of their own body, but he is of opinion that none of them trusted the safety of the escape route.) Finally he agreed to go.

He subsequently saw Doddy WOLZAK who said that, now that he was going to England, he would be given full particulars of the "Hoofdorganisatie" to take with him. As it turned out, this report was not ready by the time he left and he did not get it till he reached Paris.

On the 13th July at 12.30 he had a meeting with Van VLIET at Breda, and was handed over to a so-called police inspector. This man took SERGEANT on the back of his motor cycle to a shed near the Belgian border in the neighbourhood of Baarle-Nassau. They then went on foot across country to a small village where they arrived at about 17.00 hrs. At about 1800 hrs. they took the train to Turnhout, where they met Van VLIET at his flat in Brussels. Van VLIET was living there with his wife and father-in-law (named VON DER VELDS). The flat was in a block called St. Cécilie, which is reached by a No. 98 tram from the Gare du Nord, being about ten minutes run in the direction of Laeken. On the 13th a new passeur turned up in the person of HOLLEVOET. SERGEANT went with HOLLEVOET from the Leopold Station to a station near the border (probably Erquelinnes) situated opposite the French station of Jeumont. HOLLEVOET left him here at the Cafe du Sport and went off to find a passeur, who turned out to be a heavily-built fat Fleming of about 40 years of age, who owns a draper's shop, to which SERGEANT was brought to

/meet

again in a café.
at time of house
he went by train
to Antwerp.
He went over
travelling with a
21 year identity
card in the name
H. Z. A. MANS. He
went by train
from Antwerp to
 Brussels and
 stayed with
 Van VLIET.

meet him. The three of them then walked for about ten minutes and went to a cafe in a small lane quite close to the frontier. The new guide asked the proprietor whether there were any German patrols about, and on being reassured, they went out and passed the customs post and went into France. In Jeumont they went to the house of a dentist and here SERGEANT was provided with a French identity card, again in the name of MAES, showing that he was a Belgian residing in the Quartier Lesquin, Paris. This card was provided by VAN VLIET, who turned up again in Jeumont. After these formalities SERGEANT was taken to a small cafe to get some food and then to another near to the railway station. Here VAN VLIET met him again and introduced ARNAUD, who took over his conduct to Paris. VAN VLIET and HOLLEVOET went back to Belgium from Jeumont. SERGEANT was held up in Paris for about five weeks. While he was there ARNAUD gave him Boddy WOLZAK's report, which VAN VLIET had fetched in the meanwhile, and also another report in the form of a very reduced photograph about the organization of JEREMIAH (of which SERGEANT previously knew nothing). He was told to read these reports and memorise them as far as possible in case he was not able to carry them into Spain. In fact he gave them up to the escape organization which conducted him across the Pyrenees, but he recited their contents fairly fully since his arrival over here. He reached Madrid on the 29th August and London on the 9th September.

Even on these facts SERGEANT's mission seems somewhat lacking in purpose and precision, but it is made infinitely more mysterious by his tie-up with Lt. Col. KOPPERT. Although SERGEANT is quite satisfied that it was Van VLIET who invited him to go to England, the first notice we received of his proposed visit was in a telegram from our agent BROADBEAN dated the 6th June and reading: "Have come into contact with Col. KOPPERT, leading man O.D. He wishes urgently to send over his best man for a few weeks. May we send him?" (Later telegrams make it abundantly clear that the Colonel's "best man" is SERGEANT.) It is therefore pertinent to consider the Colonel's position.

He is said to be an exceedingly clever man who, besides being a professional soldier, has obtained legal qualifications. During his service with the Afsikkelings Beureau, SERGEANT acted as chauffeur, general handyman and factotum to the Colonel to whom he is extremely attached, and who he says has been a real "father" to him. Ever since the German occupation of Holland, the Colonel has been incurably optimistic about a British invasion, and has frequently claimed to have inside information that it was on the verge of being launched. To deal with this situation he has arranged that as soon as the invasion starts SERGEANT will pick him up in a car. (SERGEANT has got the car ready at Blaricum in running order and with sufficient petrol to move at a moment's notice). They will drive to a rendezvous at Maartensdijk where they will meet other ex-officers and men of the Dutch Army who will then take action to assist the British. The only particular action which SERGEANT knows of is a plan whereby a man called POORVLIET, who is President or Secretary of the Netherlands Red Cross for an area in the neighbourhood of the Hague, will capture the Ypenburg aerodrome. Apparently POORVLIET's garden backs on to the aerodrome and with the help of about 20 other Red Cross workers, who will draw weapons from a hidden store, he will execute a coup de main. What other plans the Colonel has SERGEANT does not know, but he thinks it likely that this is not the only one.

The Colonel has also taken a great interest in the plight of the Jews in Holland and has helped them in various ways. In particular, he has saved the WEINBERG business of N.V. Kernopa from being confiscated by the Germans. When this was threatened in July 1941, the Colonel came forward with proofs that it did not really belong to the WEINBERGS at all but had been taken over on the 1st May, 1940 by Messrs. WOLZAK and HUSTING (both of Amsterdam) and that he himself had been a member of the Board since that date. WOLZAK is the father of Lieut. WEINBERG's wife and sister-in-law, Dobby WOLZAK, and since the Colonel is now living (partly at any rate) on his remuneration as a Director of this business and Dobby W. is intimately concerned in the management of it, it is most improbable that the Colonel does not know something about the "Hoofdorganisatie" of which she is the secretary.

About the end of 1941, the Colonel was sent to Germany as a prisoner of war together with all the other regular Dutch regular officers but by about April 1942 he was back in Holland again. It appears that the Colonel's P/W camp at Nuremberg was about to be moved to Stanislaw and the Germans decided to send back to Holland those officers who were invalids instead of transferring them to another place in Germany. For this purpose, they needed one fit man to act as conducting officer for the party, and selected the Colonel. Why they did so is not clear. Sergeant says that the Colonel had been very active in the camp at Nuremberg in badgering the Commandant about the feeding, housing, clothing and general welfare of the prisoners. He is quite clear, however, that it was not the invalid prisoners themselves who asked to have the Colonel as their conducting officer. Indeed, he says that the Colonel was rather unpopular in the camp in spite of his welfare work. Sergeant thinks that the Commandant had found the Colonel's complaints such a nuisance that he seized on this opportunity to get rid of him.

As soon as he got back to Holland, the Colonel got into touch with General CHRISTIANSEN (the Wehrmacht Commandant) about conditions in German P/W camps and persuaded him to authorize the sending of necessary supplies from Holland. Thereafter he was constantly in touch with CHRISTIANSEN about one thing and another and, in particular, obtained an official permit to visit Jewish concentration camps. In this work he put his legal knowledge at the disposal of the inmates (doubtless for a consideration) and helped many of them to make out their genealogies in such a way as to prevent their being reckoned as Jews within the meaning of the German decrees. Sergeant has been present at least twice when the Colonel rang up Major EHRHARDT (the General's adjutant) and made appointments to see CHRISTIANSEN.

In addition to this and other work on behalf of the Jews, the Colonel is something of a specialist in the production of bogus certificates testifying that young men of military age, or with previous military service, are engaged on essential war work in Holland, thus making them exempt from transportation to Germany. Sergeant himself has such a card provided by the Colonel and certifying that he is a technical employee of N.V. Kernopa, which is now supposed to be making some essential commodities.

Apart from all these activities, the Colonel claims to be in touch (presumably by wireless) with England in connection with his invasion plans, though Sergeant does not believe this to be true. On the other hand, the Colonel has always disclaimed any connection with any resistance organisation. Here again, Sergeant does not entirely believe him. He thinks that the Colonel has probably got his fingers in a good many pies but always takes care to arrange matters in such a way that there is no direct connection between him and any of them. Nevertheless, Sergeant is fairly confident that the Colonel has nothing whatever to do with the O.D., of which both he and Sergeant have a very low opinion.

/The Colonel

The Colonel has many enemies and few friends. This is due partly to the fact that, in his military capacity, the Colonel has been very much of a martinet and has not hesitated to block the promotion of junior officers whom he has disliked, and partly also to his somewhat mysterious release from Nuremberg and subsequent contact with the Wehrmacht. (Sergeant explains this by saying that General CHRISTIANSEN is really anti-Nazi and under surveillance by the Gestapo but is a good soldier whom the Army cannot afford to get rid of.) The Colonel is also a master of subterfuge, according to Sergeant, who says that in spite of all the work he is doing for the Jews, he really dislikes them cordially and only helps them in order to relieve his feelings by thwarting the Germans.

Ever since the Dutch capitulation, Sergeant has been in constant touch with the Colonel, who seems to have known more or less what he was doing at all stages. When Van VLIET asked him to go to England, Sergeant at once consulted the Colonel, who advised him strongly against it. The Colonel said he needed Sergeant's services in Holland against D-day, which he again predicted as imminent. When Sergeant decided to go in spite of this advice, he asked the Colonel whether he could carry any messages for him to England. The Colonel refused even this and repeated that when he had any need for communication with England, he always had an available channel of his own. Although Sergeant admits that Van VLIET knows the Colonel (he claims to have introduced them himself) he is satisfied that the Colonel was no party to his mission to England. He says indeed that although the Colonel knew he was coming to England, he did not know the purpose of his visit or that it was intended that he should return to Holland.

If Sergeant's account is correct, it would seem that BROADBEAN's message is wrong in every possible particular. Obviously, however, Sergeant's account is not correct. On the other hand, Sergeant himself makes a good impression and no one has yet doubted his sincerity. It is plain, therefore, that he has been duped by the Colonel, and the important question arises as to the extent to which he has been duped. By all ordinary security standards, the Colonel's background is deplorable. He has been released from Germany in circumstances which are not satisfactorily explained; he is on good terms with the Wehrmacht; he is being nice to the Jews for reasons which, at any rate, are obscure; and he has never failed to be extremely evasive when Sergeant has tried to find out what he is really aiming at or connected with. Sergeant, however, seems to regard all this conduct as being in keeping with the Colonel's evasive character and talent for mysteriousness. It is also understood that there are one or two people in this country (including, according to Sergeant, Capt. J. MOLENAR, who served under the Colonel in the Afwikkelings Bureau) who know him and are able to reconcile his behaviour with that of a loyal Dutchman. Nevertheless, it would seem that the only sound view to take is that it is at least an even chance that the Colonel is working for the Germans. It is obvious that Van VLIET has much more connection with the Colonel than Sergeant knows of, and if the Colonel is a German agent, it seems again to be about an even chance that Van VLIET is also.

In these circumstances, the question whether Sergeant should be sent back to Holland (which obviously must be done soon, if at all) is a very serious one. If Sergeant ~~returns~~ returns, together with a W/T operator, as official liaison officer between London and the "Hooforganisatie" and other movements, he will soon get to know the principal persons concerned in those organisations. He will also, no doubt, become an increasingly important figure in general Dutch resistance. It is difficult to believe (whatever Sergeant may say) that the Colonel will not very quickly worm out of him all the information he gets. (Sergeant does not give the impression of being particularly clever, while the Colonel by all accounts is excessively so.) If, therefore, the Colonel is

/really

really working for the Germans, the probably effect of sending Sergeant back to co-ordinate the Dutch resistance movements will be to kill them all stone dead.

A further and most unsatisfactory feature of the case is Sergeant's own intense personal regard for the Colonel. It is easy to imagine circumstances arising where the only possible course of action would be to liquidate the Colonel. Sergeant's reactions to such a proceeding would certainly be unfavourable, and the conflict between his personal feelings and his duty as a liaison officer with London might produce results which are difficult to foresee but which would very probably be lamentable.

For these reasons, it may very well be thought undesirable that he should return to the field.

VAN LOOY @ VINUS @ FINA

In Feb. 1942 was doing
subversive work in Aldam.

A journalist, writing for
an indolent newspaper
called VERZET.

Also concerned in supplying
false identity papers.

Engaged in seeking out
landing grounds, safe
houses, etc.

Apparently only contact
with England was by
means of coded letters
to MAX SLUYSER.

19015

VAN ES

19009 Van Looy

ALEX WINS, @ TOP

of TOPAAS STRAAT 21,
II Amsterdam

Cut out for VAN LOOY.

Considered at first by
BONI (E SPINACH) to be too
dangerous (28.8.42) but
later contacted (Nov. 42) by
him.

ANTON DE WILDE

70 cm. tall, slender build,
hands with protruding veins,
fairly large ears, small,
slightly crooked nose;
light skin, more or less
slit eyes, black hair,
growing a thin. Age 34 to
38.
Face marked by pimples.

Tend of calling himself
also VAN WISSEL or
TON.

Reported arrested beginning
of April.

Reported assassinated in
Rotterdam under
name Antonius van
der WAALS, 19.7.43.

K E Y

to Note on SERGEANT - Connection with the C.D.

<u>AGENT</u>	<u>REAL NAME</u>	<u>FIELD NAME</u>
✓ HOCKEY	Jan Christian KIST	Johannes KCK
✓ TENNIS <i>(Hockey's w/f)</i>	Pieter van der WILDEN	P. van den BERG
✓ BILL	E.W.A. PEUKEMA THOE WATER	P. KUIPERS
✓ BROADLEAF <i>(Hockey's w/f)</i>	Gerard VAN OS	G. VAN EMDEN
✓ GOLF	Willem VAN DER WILDEN	Willem WINTER

ARMAGI = *Heads of VIC: myelin (LOS)*

5th November, 1943

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM.

To R.B. From B.I.A. Mrs. Thurston.

I am sending you List 397/Holland/3 KNOPPERS to ask you to help us over a point.

You will see Miss Wadson's note at 80b re the possible identification of the Andre HOLVOET with the wellknown Georges HOLVOET. She says "Mr. Stamp and Major Wethered seem to think they are identical".

I should have rather said that they do not think it impossible that they are identical, but am not quite clear whether we are supposed to treat them as ?id. or to extract for Georges HOLVOETS file or what.

So sorry to bother you with this.

Date..127.44.....

Signature.....

Form 151 (B.P.) (10000) 9.48.

A.T.O.

Notes re Censorship

Intelligence obtained from passengers or crew

Information about persons who may require

Notes regarding information sent to Offices

W.S. Form 1.

WT 40164 4007 10,150 12.28 K.I.L. 9072 C.P. 673.1
WT 4008 9271 10,150 12.28 K.I.L. 50 C.P. 673.2

RB. It has been decided that there was a
no possibility of Andre + Georges Holwert being
identical, so no further registery action is necessary.
BIB. / 27.7.44 Hand Thru.

86A

CONFIDENTIAL

L. 397/HOLLAND/3/B.1.B

23rd May, 1944.

Dear Hindmarsh,

You will remember that a Dutchman named Hendrikus KNOPPERS was detained in a segregation cell at Camp 001 last December and was released just before Christmas. I have just had a request from S.O.S., who were interested in KNOPPERS, for the return of certain documents belonging to him. These consist of the following:-

Army Driving Licence	} All Dutch
Army Pay Book	
Identity Card (civilian)	
Army Identity Disc	

There is no trace of any of these papers in his file and I am wondering if you have any record of them at the Oratory Schools.

Yours sincerely,

Capt. H.H. Hindmarsh, CBE,
Camp 001.

G.P. Wethered

Handwritten:
H/W
24 5 44

RAW/1332

Helen can find us
trace of
documents in file

71

84B

17th May, 1944.

Dear Geoffrey,

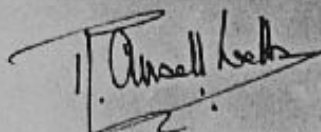
With reference to KNOPPERS, I have now had a request passed to me from KNOPPERS via our country section for the return of his documents.

We last saw these documents in the hands of one Major Williams, who I presume is probably at the Oratory Schools; they consist of:-

Army Driving Licence	}	All Dutch
Army Pay Book		
Identity Card (civilian)		
Army Identity Disc		

I do not know whether you have any views on this request, but if you are agreeable to their return, I would be very grateful if perhaps you could make some enquiries as to their present whereabouts.

Yours sincerely,



R.A. Wells, Major.

Major G.P. Wethered,

M.I.5.

HC/S/B
14/5/44

840

L.397/Holland/3(B.I.B./CPW.

10th. May, 1944.

Dear John,

I have been discussing with Dick White the case of Hendrikus KNOPPERS, who you will remember occupied our attention about last December. We are agreed that there is no necessity to re-open the case in view of OVERLORD conditions.

Dick has however asked me to take an early opportunity of discussing the case with Colonel De Bruyne, and making sure that he agrees that KNOPPERS is above suspicion. We think we should also discover what sort of work KNOPPERS is now engaged on with the Dutch. Dick, who has only met De Bruyne once, suggested that I might ask you if you would be kind enough to put me in touch with him. It would be very good of you if you could send him a line or perhaps a telephone message introducing me, or saying that I will ring him up and ask for an appointment.

Yours sincerely,

Commander J. Senter, R.N.V.R.,
S.O.E.

Major G.P. Wethered.

✓

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM. ~ 806

From B. I. D. Information Section

To B. I. B. Mr. Milmo

I am returning to you the L.397/Holland/3 for KNOPPERS, as requested.

With reference to Mr Stamp's minute at 79a, the HOLLEVOET, mentioned by KNOPPERS, was referred to in his interrogation at the L.R.C. without a Christian name. In view of the S.I.S. trace summary at 5a(1) on Andre HOLLEVOET, KNOPPERS was then asked (vide 7a) whether HOLLEVOET's Christian name could not perhaps be "Andre", and KNOPPERS replied that he thought it was. For this reason I made only the very tentative suggestion, at 73a, that he might possibly be identical with Georges HOLVOET. I am interested, however, to see that Mr Stamp and Major Wethered (vide Minute 75 and the letter at 77a)

Date.....

Signature.....

seem to think they are identical.

The organisation by which KNOPPEFS escaped from Holland was of course not the same organisation as that in touch with the priest LOURELSESIS.

With reference to the last para. of Major Warden's letter at 80a, we think that Georges LEVIN (real name) is probably identical with Georges LENOIRE, the alias used when he first landed in France in early 1941. But this in no way affects your interest in the HOLVOET / HOLLEVOET question.

27.4.44

D. C. M. Wadson
D.C.M. Wadson

I have kept a copy of 80a, as you suggested, from which we can do the necessary carding. Dchw
27/4.

RHAW/1268

21st April, 1944.

Dear Geoffrey,

In reply to your L.397/Holland/3(B.1.B.)GPW. We are interested to note that you have recently obtained further and conclusive evidence, upon the activities of Georges HOLVOET. I have looked up the SERGEANT case again, which is, so far as I know, the only case of ours in which HOLVOET or HOLLEVOET has been involved. I find that reference to him is contained on page three para six of a report dated 8th October, 1943. His part in the organisation as referred to in this report, is a comparatively minor one of passeur in the escape line which is run under the auspices of George van VLIET (F.C. 600,437).

This escape line as described in the report mentioned, is the normal line which is operated by Van VLIET, and which is so well known to us in a number of cases. It is the one which employs the services of a uniformed policeman on a motorcycle, who takes the bodies to a wood near the Dutch/Belgian frontier, and from there they make the actual crossing with the policeman, on pedal-cycles.

This HOLVOET (HOLLEVOET) appears to work as passeur between Belgium and France being, in the case of SERGEANT, the link in the chain between George Van VLIET himself, and the well known passeur ARNAUD who took the bodies over for the journey to Paris. (F.C. 600,437).

It is pointed out for your information, that there has never been any doubt in our minds that this part of the route from Holland i.e., from Holland to Paris, has been entirely German operated, and steps have been taken accordingly, with the result that this part of the route has been carefully isolated. Bodies passing over it have been in the sole care of the German operated route up to Paris, where they have been delivered to a "dead end" house, from where they have later been collected by a representative of VIC's organisation at some time, and by some method of his own choosing. There has, therefore, been no contact between the two lines. VIC has said that on one, or perhaps, two occasions, he has himself seen ARNAUD by arrangement, when he formed the opinion that, although ARNAUD undoubtedly knew his business, he was certainly not a man to be trusted. Since the exfiltration of an American Airforce officer, who was moved at short notice from the "dead end" house in Paris on the 28th November, 1943, there has been no further interchange of traffic between the lines of George Van VLIET and VIC. On this date the "dead end" house was finally cut out by VIC, as he thought that there had been enough of this kind of traffic.

Under the circumstances it can, I think, be taken as being absolutely certain, that there can be no possibility of people appearing in one section of the line, being anything to do with those who appear in the other. I further confirm that the Georges who holds

an important position in the VIC organisation is, so far as we can tell, a person entirely different, and under no circumstances whatsoever to be connected with, Georges HOIVOET. This Georges is, so far as we can ascertain at the moment, a man of the real name of LEVIN, not LENOBLE as stated in your letter. This identification is a trifle vague, but VIC is no longer available in London for consultation, and the officers of the section believe that LEVIN is the correct name, but are not absolutely certain. It is certain, however, that Georges is an alias which the man was using, but is now discontinued, his present alias being ANDRE. Over the whole of the relevant period, this man LEVIN © Georges was working in Lyons, from where he has subsequently moved to Toulouse, where he now is. According to the section, at no time has he been further north than Lyons.

Yours sincerely,

Dick Warden.

R.H.A. Warden, Major.

Major G.P. Wethered,

M.I.5.

Register No.

Minute Sheet No.

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79a

Major Wethered, B.I.B.

I am not sure that I agree with you that the Dutch organisation has *nothing* to do with DEBRAY. I think there are good grounds for supposing that the Georges HOLLEVOET who is mentioned in the KNOPPERS file as the man who conducted KNOPPERS to Brussels is identical with the Georges HOLVOET alias HULLIN who figures as a collaborator with DEBRAY in more than one case with which we have dealt. Was not the organisation by means of which KNOPPERS escaped from Holland the same organisation as was in touch with the priest LOUREIJSENS? if so they would appear to be another link between the Dutch organisation and DEBRAY.

I entirely agree with you that there is no possibility that VIC's GEORGES could be identical with Georges HOLLEVOET.

B.I.B./EBS
21.4.44.

E. B. Stamp
E. B. STAMP

77a
L.397/Holland/3(B.I.B.)GPW

18th, April, 1944.

Dear Dick,

We have recently obtained conclusive evidence that one Georges HOLVOET is working with the Germans on a German-controlled escape route. You will remember that this man was in touch with Fandrikus KNOPPERS SERGEANT before the latter came to the U.K. His name was then given to us as HOLLEVOET.

I am looking into the KNOPPERS file again, though at the moment I do not see that his connection with HOLVOET need necessarily cause us to alter our view about KNOPPERS who, as always has been agreed, certainly came out of Holland under German suspicions, though probably as an innocent dupe.

I am writing to you however to clear up a small point in connection with Georges HOLVOET. I take it that there is no possibility whatever that this man can be identical with your agent GEORGES, who has an important role in VIC's organisation? I understand from the L.R.C. that VIC's GEORGES is referred to in an early report as Georges LENOBLE. Would you very kindly confirm that this is in fact his name, and let me know whether any other aliases of the man are known to you. This would dispose of the question of identity, and would also be of value to the Information Section at the L.R.C.

Yours sincerely,

Major G.P. Wethered.

Major R.H. Warden,
S.O.S.

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

You will remember discussing with me the slight possibility that Georges HOLVOET might be identical with the S.O.E. agent GEORGES who is a member of VIC's organisation in Paris and Lyons.

The main reason to feel anxiety about VIC's organisation is that it does undoubtedly have some link in Paris with a Dutch escape organisation by means of which KNOPPERS escaped from Holland. This Dutch organisation however, ~~which so far as I~~ know has nothing to do with Louis de BREY, is undoubtedly penetrated by the Germans; whereas VIC's organisation, which has been responsible for a number of escapes from France into Spain, is thought to be functioning efficiently and successfully.

As I told you, I have already discussed the change over between these two organisations with VIC himself when he was in London and more than once pointed out the dangers to S.O.E. All the people concerned, however, are confident that the VIC organisation is unimpaired, though in my view a considerable danger persists.

I do not think that there is any possibility that VIC's GEORGES could be identical with HOLVOET. The matter has been gone into at the L.R.C., and the following is a brief resume of the discrepancies between the two men:

VIC's GEORGES is aged 40; I understand that HOLVOET is much younger. There is no evidence that VIC's GEORGES is working anywhere but in France, notably in Paris, Lyons and Chateauroux. Early information about VIC's GEORGES indicates that his name is

/LENOBLE

LENOBLE. He is an accredited agent of S.O.E. and has been to this country and sent back to France by S.O.E. He is rather more than a passeur, being also a W/T operator who has acted as VIC's second-in-command. VIC, who is an impressive character, has a very high regard for GEORGES, whom he recruited personally.

I have written to S.O.E. to-day to confirm with them that GEORGES' name is LENOBLE and that he has no other aliases. We should I imagine be able to obtain a photograph if there is any doubt about identification.

B.4.44.

.1.B.

Major G.P. Wethered.

76a
Miss Wadeson says there seems to be no likelihood that the GEORGE working for VIC could be identical with Georges HOLLEVOET. The former is aged 40, and the latter much younger. There is too no evidence that VIC's GEORGE has worked anywhere but in France, notably Paris, Lyons and Chateauroux.

L.R.C. has always assumed that VIC's GEORGE is named Georges LENOBLE, though this surname has only occurred in early information about him. He is an accredited agent of S.O.E., and has been to this country and sent back by that organisation. Therefore S.O.E. would be the best people to confirm the distinction between him and HOLLEVOET.

Incidentally, Miss Wadeson would like conclusive confirmation from S.O.E. that VIC's GEORGES is really named LENOBLE. If you mention the HOLLEVOET business to them could you ask them for his name. He was VIC's second-in-command and W/T operator, and was of considerably more importance than a passeur.

17.4.44.

Hazel Thornton

Copy for file of HOLLAND 3 (L.397) (KNOFFERS)

21/1/44
Pl. no
756

SECRET.

R.V.P.S. 144444

18,788.

KOCH, Andries, Bernard Jan.

Nationality.

Dutch.

NOTE FOR FILE.

1. At A3A in L.397 HOLLAND 3, KNOFFERS states that when he was in France in July, 1943 he received documents through the courier ARMAND given to him by Georges Van VLIET from DODDY WOLEAK for transmission to Major SOEKES of the Dutch Intelligence Service. Receipt of these documents in the U.K. was to be acknowledged by a message from 'Radio Oranje' addressed to DODDY WOLEAK and approval of the reports was to be registered by the addition to the message of the text 'R.N.C.I. cement 3 parts to 1.

2. KOCH stated at L.R.C. that one of his associates working in his group of the RINUS Organisation was Herk NOS alias WOUTERS, the manager of the R.N.C.I. (CEMENT IMPORT CO.) of Heerengracht, Amsterdam.

3. It would appear from the above that the documents of which receipt was to be acknowledged in the manner KNOFFERS describes or, alternatively, DODDY WOLEAK herself must be in some way connected with NOS and, consequently, with the RINUS Organisation. This appears to be particularly likely in view of the fact that KNOFFERS had already had independent connection with the RINUS Organisation. In view of the fact that it is now generally accepted that Georges Van VLIET is a German 'Agent Provocateur' one must assume that the position of NOS is, at the very least, highly prejudiced.

PF 62-0,439.

...../continued.

✓

18,788.

KOCH, Andries, Bernard, Jan.

It seems sufficiently significant to note these circumstances in connection with the cases of KLIJZING, GUYT and GOEDHUIS in view of the fact that they were introduced to the Escape Organisation which arranged their evacuation by De JONG of Leiden who has been identified with Jaap De JONG, KOCH's other immediate assistant and successor in the RINUS Organisation who was working with MOS alias WOUTERS.

VLFZ. 14.4.44

B. Thompson (Capt.).

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM.

From... B.1.B. (Mrs. Thurston)

To B.1. Registry

Herewith the papers for KNOPPERS. The third man I had in mind for carding is Anton DE WILDE, who I think is mentioned in early KNOPPERS reports, and also in one of the extracts attached. Colonel KOPPERT is also now established as a traitor - at least DE GRAAF (see extract attached) says so.

I will try not to ask for this file at once, but might have to.

Date 28.3.44

Signature Hazel Thurston

S. Form 161/B.P./10000/9.45.

MAR 1944

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM.

67BA

From... B.1.D. Information Section

To B.1.B. Major Wethered

P.F. 660,439. It has occurred to us that the HOLLEVOET (Christian name ? Andre), who conducted KNOPPERS (your L.397/Holland/3) from van WILLET'S flat in Brussels to Jeumont on 15.7.43, might possibly be identical with the Georges HOLVOET @ HULLIN in whom Mr Milmo's section is at present particularly interested in view of his work for the German Intelligence as a 'guide'. B.1 files P.S. 66207 for LEJEUNE and their file on NEUCHEMANS, refer.

Georges HOLVOET would seem to be rather older than HOLLEVOET, but the descriptions are otherwise not dissimilar.

I should be very interested to have your comments on this, and those of Mr Milmo.

Date 28.3.44

Signature D.W. Wethered

S. Form 161/B.P./10000/9.45.

70

L. 397/Holland/3(B.I.B.)GW.

11th. March, 1941.

Dear Dick,

Many thanks for your RHW/KV/1157 of the 9th. March. I agree with your reasoning, and it seems extremely unlikely that there could be any connection between your agent CHAMOIS and "The General." My query really only arose from the fact that I was told in December that the General was really named "Maurice HOUTEN." If this is not so there is clearly no substance in the possibility.

Yours sincerely,

Major G.P. Wethered.

Major R. H. Warden,
S.O.S.

69c

EXTRACT FROM BAYSWATER INTERROGATION REPORT OF
DE GRAAF, R.P.S.18967, dated 10th. March, 1944.

Colonel KOPPERT.

Asked if he had ever heard the name of Colonel KOPPERT, source stated that he has heard the name, knows the man to be a traitor, and is aware that his name figures on the list drawn up by C.S.6 of people to be executed. He has no idea why KOPPERT's name is on the list; details no doubt arrived at C.S.6 after source's departure. The C.S.6 list of traitors to be executed is a long one and source found it impossible to memorise the details of every case. (The name of KERMOCA means nothing to source.).....

EXTRACT FROM BAYSWATER INTERROGATION REPORT ON
DE GRAAF, RPS.18967, dated 10th. March.

"GEORGE."

In November 1943, just before CELOSSE and source left for the U.K. source heard from the R.V.V. that they had just sent one of their members out under the guidance of a man called GEORGE. On C.S.6's list of dangerous Gestapo members was the name of J.J. GEORGE of Amsterdam, and although source was not sure that this was the same man who was pretending to help the R.V.V. escapee, he felt that the whole thing was dangerous. There are several GEORGES who are members of the GESTAPO. The R.V.V. gave a description of their GEORGE and it tallied with the C.S.6 description of the dangerous GEORGE of Amsterdam.....

..... Source was asked whether, in his experience, any Gestapo agent had tried to establish his bona fides by announcing that a certain message (which he knew was, in fact, to be broadcast) would be broadcast over Radio Oranje. Source replied that such a thing happened with J.J. GEORGE (not ^{p.f.600}George VAN VLIET) who turned out to be a Gestapo agent living in Amsterdam. GEORGE informed Hans KATAN that he was an agent who had come from the U.K. and allowed KATAN to listen to Radio Oranje, stating that two messages would come through. The messages were as follows:- (1) DE ZAAK HEEFT GEKLOPT ALS EEN ZIVERENDE DIUM (2) GEORGES RECOIT QUATRE PLUS CINQ PECHES. These messages were duly broadcast and KATAN was perfectly convinced that GEORGE was trustworthy.....

69c

EXTRACT FROM BAYSWATER INTERROGATION REPORT ON DE GRAAF,
RPS 18967 dated 10th, March, 1948.
Anton DE WILDE.

Source stated that Anton DE WILDE is well-known as a dangerous traitor; many small organisations have tried to liquidate him, but have not succeeded as too many meddle in the affair at once. So far as source knows, DE WILDE is still operating in Holland. Source heard that he had disappeared, but later discovered he was somewhere in Gouda. There was a rumour, just before source left, that he had been shot, but no confirmation of this was forthcoming; source is inclined to disbelieve it as C.S.6 always knows details of the liquidation of traitors. Although many of the small groups tried to kill him, it must be presumed that he is still alive as there are reports of his being seen recently. Source has no reason to believe that DE WILDE and either of the GEORGES work together, apart from their obvious liaison through the Gestapo.

DE WILDE arrived in Holland, announcing himself to be a B.S.C. or T.S. agent and succeeded in contacting two of the main cells of the organisation of Kooa VORRINK and was even given orders from the organisation to establish contact between England and the organisation. Source was told that DE WILDE even sent messages to London in a special code which he knew. He told some of the principal members of VORRINK's organisation that he had orders from England; of this source is absolutely sure. Source has definite proof that DE WILDE was dropped from a German and not a British plane. (This piece of information came from RUTGERS). It is apparently a method much employed by the Gestapo at the present time to infiltrate underground organisations by dropping several of their agents from planes over the North of France. The agents claim to be British pilots, speak good English, and say they want to get into communication with various French organisations. DE WILDE must have been dropped before September 1943. Source described DE WILDE thus: an unforgettably ugly face which is large with a thin mouth, very narrow eyes; an untrustworthy face which does not

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gives a good impression; he is one of the most cleverest members
 of the Gestapo in Holland. Source thinks DE WILDE lived in
 Holland before the war. VAN DROOG @ Johnny DROOGE and
 DE WILDE probably work together; at least, there is more
 probability of that than that DE WILDE should be working
 with J.J. GEORGE.
DE WILDE

Source stated that after DE WILDE is well known as
 a dangerous leader; many small organizations have tried to
 contact him, but have not succeeded as he has many contacts
 in the street. Source heard that he had been arrested
 but later discovered he was not in Holland. There was a
 rumor that he had been arrested, but he had been seen
 in Holland. Source believes it is always known to the
 Gestapo. Although many of the small groups
 tried to kill him, it was not successful. Source has no
 doubts as to the loyalty of his own group.
 Source has no doubts as to the loyalty of his own group.
 the G.D. work together, apart from their own
 interest through the "Gestapo".

DE WILDE arrived in Holland in 1940 and worked in an
 office in the Ministry of War. Source has been
 the main cause of the organization of the G.D. and
 even given orders from the organization. Source was
 between England and the organization. Source was
 DE WILDE even sent messages to London in a secret
 code. He told some of the details of the organization
 that he had seen in Holland. Source was
 in definitely seen. Source was
 was dropped from a German and got a British
 place of information came from the G.D. Source
 a method much employed by the G.D. in the
 to infiltrate messages and information in a
 of their agents from London and other parts
 agents must be kept in contact with the
 and they went to get into contact with the
 of information. DE WILDE has been seen in
 in London. Source has been seen in
 probably very close contact with the G.D.
 very narrow area in the street, but Source has

L. 397/Holland/3 KNOPPERS.

696

EXTRACT FROM DAYSWATER INTERROGATION REPORT ON GELOSSE
(RPS 18968) dated 9th, March, 1944.

9.F. 6001239
VAN VLIET AND J.J. GEORGE.

Asked if he knew of VAN VLIET in Belgium source replied that he had heard of George VAN VLIET of the Gestapo, who pretended to be a member of the British Secret Service and a Captain in the Belgian Army, and that he pretended to be a good Dutchman or a good Belgian, according to where he was. Source said he was well-known in Holland, but did not know of anything VAN VLIET had done there. Source had never seen VAN VLIET, but had given his description.

Description: About 6 ft. tall, broad shoulders. Colour of eyes not known, but not blue. Inclined to puff and pant. Not very well dressed.

Source said there was also another man in Amsterdam called GEORGE (J.J. GEORGE), and he did not know whether it was the same man as VAN VLIET. Source thought he might have seen this man once from a distance, but was not sure if it was GEORGE. He had been given his description:-

About 6 ft tall, broad shoulders, aged about 53, but seems about 45. Blue eyes; hair turning grey; red complexion. Always wears yellow gloves and carries a yellow dispatch case. Wears a grey or light brown felt hat of the "Eden" type, and is well dressed. Has a military bearing and is fairly fit. (This, source says, is the chief difference between VAN VLIET and GEORGE.)

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SECRET & PERSONAL.

69 a

RHM/KV/1137

9th March, 1944.

Dear Geoffrey,

Would you please refer to your L.397/Holland/3(B.I.B.)
GFW of 24.2.44.

With reference to your second paragraph, my reading
of the SERGEANT report of 8.10.43 is that SERGEANT was told
by VAN VLIET that he (VAN VLIET) was working for a man called
"The General", whose name sounded like MAHIEU without a "T".
This was end '42 - beginning '43.

With reference to your third paragraph, I think there
must have been some misunderstanding between you and our
Dutch Section in December, 1943, as I can find nothing to
substantiate the information that "this General MAHIEU was
really named HOUBEN".

With reference to your fourth paragraph, the L.R.C.
information given therein tallies with our information about
our agent CHAMOIS. We believe him still to be working in
France, and I understand that recent mention of him is made in
R.P.C. 189M. Y Box 4783 of 28.2.44, Robert DOCLOT. CHAMOIS'
particulars are as follows :-

Code Name: CHAMOIS.
Real Name: Maurice Mathieu Francois HOUBEN
alias MATHIEU (with a "T").

In reply, therefore, to your sixth paragraph, I cannot
at present see any reason to believe that CHAMOIS alias HOUBEN
alias MATHIEU can be identical with the man whose name
sounded to SERGEANT like "MAHIEU".

Yours sincerely,

Rick Warden
R.H. WARDEN, MAJOR.

Major Wethered, M.I.5.

P.A. 4397 / Holland / S.
Knoppers 68C

Captain Thompson,
L.R.C.

With reference to the suggestion that FLAMTUA should be asked whether the HENK whom he met might be identical with ~~KNOPPERS~~ HENK, I am afraid that there is no photograph of KNOPPERS available. Wethered, however, describes KNOPPERS as follows:

Aged 35; very tall, about 6'3"; dark brown hair; dark eyes; clean shaven; long, rather expressionless face; strong bones; prominent chin; broad and well made; quiet and rather serious in manner; a chain smoker, with tobacco stained fingers.

Would you let me know whether this description in any way tallies with FLAMTUA's description of HENK.

B.L.B.
3.3.44.

SHL
S.H.Noakes.

Register No. L. 397/Holland/3

Minute Sheet No.

686

B. I. B. (Captain Noakes.)

I am afraid no photograph of KNOPPERS is available either with us or with S.O.E. and we should have to go to the Dutch to get one, which would be rather undesirable. His description, however, is as follows:-

Aged 35; very tall, about 6' 3"; dark brown hair; dark eyes; clean shaven; long, rather expressionless face; strong bones; prominent chin; broad and well made; quiet and rather serious in manner; a chain smoker, with tobacco stained fingers.

It might perhaps be worth while putting this description to the Dutchman who met HENK while in Holland.

G.P. Wethered.

Major G.P. Wethered.

B. I. B.
29.2.44.

68a

→ 24 Knoppers

L.397/Holland/S(B.I.B.)OPW.

24th. February, 1944.

Dear Dick,

I am afraid I have been troubling you a great deal lately with matters of research concerning the situation in Holland. I am writing now about another matter which has cropped up when the papers concerning KNOPPERS were being reconsidered. It may be that you will think that Margaret Sample or someone else might with advantage look into the matter.

SERGEANT KNOPPERS referred during his interrogations to one "General MAHISU" (see page 2 of his Doywater interrogation report dated 8.10.43). According to P.F. 600 ⁴⁷⁷ MAHISU was the chief of VAN VLIET in Belgium, and VAN VLIET was acting in Holland under instructions given to him by MAHISU.

In December 1943, Messrs told by your Dutch Section, with whom as you will remember I was then in touch, that this General MAHISU was really named Maurice HOUBEN, that he was handed over by the Surete to the Deuxieme Section to go to France.

We have traces in the L.R.C. Information Index of one MATHISU or HOUBEN, who is referred to as the S.O.S. agent CHAMOIS. This man appears to have been arrested by the Germans in Belgium about August 1942, escaped to France and by October 1942 was working under SABOT in the latter's organisation, of which he was reported as being SABOT's right hand man in February 1943.

Major R.H. Warden,
S.O.S.

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At this date the SABOT organisation was already
nearing its collapse. I assumed that these two men
must be identical, but now the L.R.C. tell me that
this identification is unlikely, because the HOUBEN
CHAMOIS was in the Montauban/Toulouse area from
August 1942 to April 1943, whereas the "General"
appears to have been working in touch with VAN VLIET at
about the same date and was then said to be in Belgium.

I wonder if you could let me know, if only for
the benefit of our records, whether your agent CHAMOIS
could be identical with the man referred to by KROPPERS.
If so, the matter might be of some interest to
yourselves.

Yours sincerely,

Major G. P. Wethered.