

PA Kwattas 670
397/822/3

NOTES.

Further information on the RINGUS ORGANIZATION appears in the L.R.O. file, RPS/18,788 KOOH, Y.B.4516.

B.1 Reg.
22.2.44

✓



copy in L397/Holland/1
copy in ~~ARNAUD~~ ~~ARNAUD~~ ~~ARNAUD~~ ~~ARNAUD~~ ~~ARNAUD~~
HOLLAND/1

file

66a

L. 397/Holland/3(B.L.B.)GPW.

20th. February, 1944.

Dear Dick,

Further to my L. 397/Holland/1(B.L.B.)GPW of the 12th. February, concerning the junction of the VIC escape channel and the highly suspicious one organised by VAN VLIET and ARNAUD, the L.R.C. Information Index has raised a point which seems relevant. They refer to the fact that Hendrikus KNOPPERS when being interrogated said that two days after his arrival in Paris, i.e. on Sunday July 18th., he was taken by ARNAUD to 16 Rue de Sevres, Ville d'Avrey, the house of Mr. J.M. HALLOT, where he stayed for a month. He was then introduced to a Mrs. Louise LEFORT and the agent GEORGES.

P.F. 600, 479.

It would appear that HALLOT was a contact of the ARNAUD - [VAN VLIET] organisation, while Mrs. LEFORT and GEORGES are known to be used by VIC. Would it perhaps be worth while enquiring whether there is any contact between the HALLOTS and the VIC organisation? I raise this point because of the fact that we now know the VAN VLIET channel to be penetrated. You may think it worth while asking KNOPPERS exactly where and how he was introduced to Mrs. LEFORT and GEORGES. There is at present a gap in his story which might turn out to be of some importance to VIC. If you agree that this point should be raised with KNOPPERS I should be very interested to have his answer, and would pass it on to the L.R.C. Information Index.

Yours sincerely,

Major G.P. Wethered.

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

✓

65a

B. I. B. Major Wethered.

With reference to para 2 overleaf, please see 27a, para. 2...
It is not quite clear from this whether Knoppers actually met LEPFORT
and GEORGES, a) at 16 rue de Serres, through M. HALLOT.
b) at another address through someone else
c) through ARNAUD himself

If a) this hardly coincides with VIC's system of out-outs in public
places, particularly as set out in Min. 51.

b) is it possible to get further information of through whom and
where? (f b o s b 7)

c) it appears that ARNAUD must surely be the contact between
VAN VLIET's and VIC's escape routes. (Knoppers states that ARNAUD had
known V.V. for some time and trusted him completely!)

In any case, whether or not VIC's channel has been penetrated,
it is clear that VAN VLIET and ARNAUD are in a position to send their
escapees (?potential suspects) through the VIC route - see cases of
Knoppers and Hurst.

LRC/Information Section
18.2.44.

L.S. Mace

Register No.

479 Vander Woude

Minute Sheet No.

~~Copy of 100, 139. RIDDERHOFF & VAN UHET~~

65a

B.I.B./L.R.C. (Miss Wadson.)

Reference your Look-ups on the report of the American officer Lieut. John Kenneth HURST, you raise a good point in your notes, and I quite agree that the connection between the Dutch and Belgian escape route and the part of VIC in France is important. As you say, VIC was here in December, and I was present at an interview with him. He was asked a lot of questions about the point of contact between his own escape route and that of Geroge VAN VLIET at that interview.

The meeting point between the two is in Paris, and VIC had no idea whatever of the course the channel took before it reached Paris. There is no particular address where the two routes converge, but according to VIC a system of careful security exists. Meetings are arranged by cut-outs in public places, such as cafes or boulevards. In no circumstances do the two routes converge at a particular address. Each point of meeting is arranged by a cut-out verbally, and all are altered regularly. I have always thought that there was some danger of VIC's channel being penetrated. There is however no doubt that VIC himself is an excellent organiser who is one of the only representatives of S.O.E. in France who to my knowledge deals with security on a strict and consistent footing.

As a result of your enquiry however I am writing again to S.O.E. so as to make quite certain that no addresses or individuals are common to both escape routes. When I have a reply from them I will confirm the above.

B.I.B.
12.2.44.

RECEIVED
12 FEB 1944

Check and
Major G.P. Wethered.

[P.T.OVER]

B.I.B Major Wethered.

Hazel
Pl. join KNOPPERS file as 484
has (can look into this) 6/4a
Dec 20/2.

With reference to our telephone conversation of 12.2.44, before sending you the list of sources of information, referred to in my note of 4.2.44 on HOUBEN @ MATHIEU, would it be possible to get S.O.E. to confirm that this man is definitely identical with the vague 'General MATHIEU or MAHIEU' referred to by Knoppers, and to give their reason(s).

The identification of the two does not appear possible to me from our records of HOUBEN -

P.F. bec. 4/4

a) Because he was quite certainly in the Montauban/Toulouse area of France from August 1942- early April 1943, whereas VAN VLIET appears to have contacted Knoppers at the end 1942 or early 1943, and was already working for 'the General' in Belgium.

b) It does not appear likely that a man of 25 (HOUBEN) would have been known as 'the General'.

The answers to your queries in brief are:-

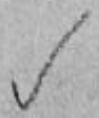
The collapse of the SABOT organisation took place about 28.1.43, the date of SABOT's own arrest, but we have records of MATHIEU up to 3.4.43, when he was still assisting escapees (being contacted at Toulouse,) he is also reported to have made an abortive attempt to secure SABOT's release.

We have no indication of MATHIEU ever having been suspected by any of our informants as other than a 'good chap', in fact source DESCAMPS. RFS 15855, who actually lived with him for a time in Toulouse, could not speak too highly of him; on the other hand from my first note you will see that the first three people with whom he was in contact in Belgium, were all arrested shortly afterwards, although he himself managed to escape.

We have no record whatsoever of MATHIEU later than 3.4.43, this has also been confirmed by the Belgian Surete via Capt. Thompson.

Admace

LRC/Information Section
14.2.44



Major Wethered
B.I.B.

In connection with your Min. 32, and 27a page 6
para 1, - we have traces from various sources of HOUBEN @
MATHIEU (S.O.E. agent CHAMOIS) - the story in brief is:
July '42. Returned to Belgium with Robert WOUTERS and
Andre FLOTTE, went to house of Charles WILBERS in Brussels.
Aug '42. MATHIEU escaped from German arrest to France, and
stated that FLOTTE had been arrested. Same source later
heard that WILBERS had been arrested on 17.8.42.
Sept '42 WOUTERS was reported to be arrested.
Oct '42 SABOT put MATHIEU in charge of an alternative
escape line for his organisation.
Jan '43 MATHIEU @ HOUBEN took over duties of ADOLPHE in
SABOT's organisation in Toulouse.
During this month MATHIEU is mentioned as also
being in touch with Airforce Personnel org. in Toulouse
Feb '43 Reported as SABOT's right hand man.

As the attached file is wanted urgently by you, we have not
been able to give list of sources of above information, but
can do so if you wish them.

LRG/Information Index
4.2.44.

small

LRG (Inf. Index) the trace.

*Many thanks for above. I should like to know
how far, if I may. I still think we should look into
case with the surrounding circumstances of HOUBEN. Is it
known what happened to him after the collapse of the Sabot
organisation? Was he a really close hand? Was HOUBEN
ever involved in any suspicion? No violent hints
about this. S. Phelan. 8/2.*

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM.

63a

From...Major.Wethered..(B.I.B..)

To...L.R.C..(Miss.Watson..)

Please connect the attached letter, which will be of interest to you, to the KNOPPERS file. I should like to have the Dutch files back as soon as is possible, though I realize of course that there must have been a very large amount of work to be done in connection with them.

RECEIVED
14 JUN 44
R.V.P.S.

Date...14.2.44.....

Signature... Hazel Thornton ✓

Secret.

win. L.R.C.

472

62b

In reply, state NUMBER and DATE.

dated 12.2.44.

Dear Wethered,

Add B.I.C.C.

Reference your L.397/HOLLAND/3/B.1.B. dated 8.2.44, we have now received a report which states that J.J. GEORGE is on the pay-roll of the S.D. at Amsterdam.

Particulars of him are as follows :

X J. GEORGE, born 1.8.69, married, no children, address 38 Noordermarkt, Amsterdam. *X*

The report further states that he is paid 200 guilders per month by the Amsterdam S.D. office.

The C.S.VI organisation, which we cannot at present identify with the G.S.III, which concerns itself, as far as we know, with collecting military intelligence, takes upon itself the administering of justice to Dutch traitors, and claims for itself the responsibility for the various political assassinations, such as those of General van SEIJFFPARDT and REIJMAN.

A member of the C.S.VI, N.J. GELOSSE @ van LOON @ LUNT, has just arrived at the L.R.C., possibly with a fellow member. We look forward to obtaining further details from him regarding the organisation and its attempted penetration by S.D. agents and such will no doubt reach you in the form of M.I.5 and M.I.6 reports.

We are sending a copy of this letter to Commander John SENNER.

Yours sincerely,

N. G. P. ...

for

Major G.P. Wethered,
M.I.5.

ENCL.....
13 FEB 1944
TO..... <i>R.I.B.</i>
EF.....

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A/B1 Reg. 62a

L.397/HOLLAND/3/B.1.B 8th February, 1944.


Dear Pidcock,

Thank you for your letter of 1.2.44. I find that we have no traces in our records of J.J. GEORGE or his Amsterdam address. We should, however, be most interested to have any other details about him which may reach you. I suppose you have no description or personal particulars of the man?

It does not appear to have any records of the Dutch sabotage organisation referred to as C.S.VI. It seems just possible that this organisation may be in fact the Generale Staf-dienst III, which is sometimes referred to as G.S.III, but this I should think was very doubtful. Have you any further particulars of this organisation or its constitution?

I have not yet passed on any of the information in your letter to S.O.R.. They are, as you know, very interested in anything which may have a bearing on George VAN VLIET. I should like to ask them if they have any note of the organisation C.S.VI but before doing so I wonder if you would have any objection to my making a reference to the matters contained in your letter.

Yours sincerely,


G.P. Wethered
Major

W.W. Pidcock, Esq.,
S. I. S.

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Register No.

Minute Sheet No.

61a

B.1.D/LRC Colonel Baxter

59a

You will see from the attached letter that there is a slight possibility that George VAN VLIET ⁴⁷⁹ may be identical with J.J. GEORGE, about whom Section V have had recent information.

Could your Information Index very kindly let me know anything available about the Dutch Sabotage organisation referred to as C.S.VI.

B.1.B
3.2.1944

Therick

L.397/HOLLAND/3

B.1.E Major Wethered

We have no trace of J.J.GEORGE, nor of his Amsterdam address.

It seems just possible that the organisation referred to as C.S.VI may in fact be the Generale Stafdienst III which is abbreviated to G.S.III, but unfortunately we have no information about that organisation dated as late as October 1943 from which we could see whether 19 members had been executed.

B.1.D Information Section
5.2.44

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

we should be very glad to have the description of J.J. GEORGE drawn from other files, particularly about how you may receive from 815.

(25493) W1.5140/5529 200,000 2/43 A.R.E.W.Ltd. Cp.698 13310

PTOVER

pa. 60a

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

3rd February,
1944.

Dear Pidcock,

Many thanks for your letter,
of the 1st February,
1944.

I am very glad to have this
information, in case, as you say,
~~N. J. GEORGE~~ may be identical with
~~RIDDERHOFF~~ ⁴⁷⁹ ~~477~~

Yours sincerely,

G.P. Wethered

W.W. Pidcock, Esq.,
S. I. S.

OPW/HDL

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Secret.

In reply, state NUMBER and DATE

of 1.2.44.

150
59a

Dear Wethered,

Further to our ¹²⁷⁹ of 31.1.44 concerning RIDDERHOF @ Van VLIET
@ GEORGES we have now received a report of a J. J. GEORGE of 28 NOORDERMARKET
Amsterdam, who is alleged to be an important agent provocateur working for
the S.D.

J.J.GEORGE is said to have posed as a British agent and to have
legitimated himself by "radio and by papers" to a Dutch patriotic sabotage
organization, C.S.VI. It is not known, however, whether "radio" refers
to Radio Orange messages.

After obtaining for the C.S.VI weapons and ammunition with which
certain traitors, including Van HOFF and Police Cadet POSTMA (see Press reports),
were eliminated, GEORGE fully gained the confidence of the organization,
whereupon he gave all the information he had gathered to the S.D., with the
result that nineteen members were executed in October 1943.

GEORGE is reported by the same source to be one of the most
dangerous S.D. Agents in Holland, who, however, also works in Belgium and
France, where he is active in penetrating organizations, specialising in
assisting refugees and escaped R.A.F. personnel.

Although we cannot identify J.J.GEORGE with "GEORGES" (RIDDERHOF), I
think there are certain common features worth noting.

Yours sincerely,

W. W. Piddock

for

Major G.P.Wethered,
M.I.5.

ENCL	-
TO	2 EB 1944
REF	BIB

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Secret. LRC (Miss Wethered)

to see & connect.

580

In reply, state NUMBER and DATE.

dated 31.1.44

Dear Wethered,

Held Billings

Will you please refer to your L.397/HOLLAND/3/B.1.B. dated 28th January 1944.

The ~~RIEDERHOF~~ @ VAN VLIET mentioned in our Report on Axis Intelligence Activities in Holland for December 1943 is almost certainly identical with KNOPPERS' George VAN VLIET, who was concerned in the penetration of an S.O.E. organization.

Unfortunately we only received the report of his 1941 and 1942 activities in December last and it was quite correct that we had no trace of this man when the L.R.C. asked for a look-up in September 1943.

I am sorry that we have no further details to add to the information contained in our December report, but will forward to you any which we may receive.

Yours sincerely,

W. P. R. Lock

For

Major G.P. Wethered,
M.I.5.

ENCL. 5
31 JAN 1944
to B.I.B.
-F

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✓

57a

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

28th January, 1944.

Dear

You will remember hearing all about the S.O.E. enquiry into the antecedents and intentions of Hendrikus KNOPPERS, who came to this country by means of an S.O.E. organisation about last September. As you know, it has now been established that the S.O.E. organisation concerned was under German control at all relevant times. The case of KNOPPERS himself has been discontinued as we are all of the opinion that the man was used by the Germans as an innocent dupé and was not himself aware that his contacts in the organisation were German stool-pigeons.

At the time when KNOPPERS first arrived I believe that S.O.E. asked you for any traces that you had of the main characters in the story, particularly of one George VAN VLIET @ RIDDERHOF who was the individual who had been in close touch with KNOPPERS for weeks before his departure and who actually arranged KNOPPERS' escape journey. More recently we asked for a similar look-up when we were considering the case of KNOPPERS from a security point of view. At that time we had a reply to the effect that you had no traces for VAN VLIET.

I have just read in paragraph B (1) of your Report on Axis Intelligence Activities in Holland for December 1943, a résumé of information concerning RIDDERHOF @ VAN VLIET. I see that the

Major
S. I. S.

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2.

Major

28th January, 1944.

description you give there corresponds almost exactly with that given by KNOPPERS, and the last paragraph of the extract is a resume of the background as revealed by KNOPPERS. Paragraphs 3 and 4, however, of your report refer to information which I had not previously seen, and give details of RIDDERHOF's activities in 1940 and June 1941. I assume from the fact that you had no traces of the man when the L.R.C. asked for a look-up in September 1943, that the information contained in these two paragraphs has only recently come to your notice. Firmston-Williams in his letter of the 7th December, 1943, also told me that you had no other information about this man than was known to S.O.E. Would you very kindly let me know whether it can be elaborated in any way and whether it is certain that it refers to KNOPPERS' George VAN VLIET. It may be very valuable for me to have this information, as I understand that two S.O.E. Dutch agents who recently escaped from Holland to Switzerland, are now in Gibraltar awaiting transport to the U.K. and I shall have to consider their case in a few days.

Yours sincerely,

G.P. Wethered
Major

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Extract from S.I.S. Monthly summary on German Activities in Holland, for December 1943, dated 31.12.43.

..... B. (1) (a)
~~P.F. (a.c.)~~

~~RIDDERHOF~~, alias George van VLIET, alias GEORGE, has been recently successful in penetrating patriot and Allied organisations in Holland. He is described as follows:-

Age about 50, height 6 ft. 1 in., fairly heavy build, dark greying hair, wronkled and irregular features; walks with a slight stoop, often lame through rheumatism.

In 1940 he was introduced by a Gestapo agent ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ SCHONBRUNN alias JANSEN, or "the big boss", and claimed to have worked for the Belgian Secret Service in 1914 - 1918.

About June 1941, when the Dutch had discovered a connection between a known Gestapo agent, STELBRINK, and JANSEN, RIDDERHOF disappeared and apparently resumed his work in Belgium.

At some unknown date he returned to Holland, travelling backwards and forwards over the frontier with Gestapo papers, which, he claimed, were forged. Associating with a Lt. Col. KOPPERT, of SOESTERBERG, formerly of the East Indian Army, he claimed to be anti-Nazi, and had, in fact, helped several Jews in return for money payments. RIDDERHOF has proved a most dangerous penetration agent.....

✓

MOST SECRET

54a

L.397/Holland/3/3.L.A.

23rd December, 1943.

PERSONAL.

Dear Roy,

I write to confirm the substance of Wethered's conversation with you yesterday about Hendrikus KNOPPERS (your ref: K.27929/2).

Since KNOPPERS was detained on the 14th December his case has been fully investigated, and we have interrogated both him and other people who, it was thought, might be able to throw light upon it. I am glad to be able to say that we have come to the conclusion that the possibility, which I mentioned in my letter to Mrs. Lee of the 30th November, that KNOPPERS himself is innocent of complicity in German designs is established as a fact. We should therefore be glad if he could be released as soon as possible. KNOPPERS is an officer in the Dutch Army, and on his release he will be looked after by the department which brought him to this country.

Yours sincerely,

(s/d) T. H. Hale

I. Roy, Esq.,
Home Office (Aliens Department),
10 Old Bailey,
E.C.4.

✓

file 52 B

L. 597/Holland/B.1.B

Major S. Pingleton,
S. O. E.

Major Wetlirod has asked me
to send you the attached two letters
written by ~~KNOX~~ at the Oratory
Schools, and addressed to you.

M. I. 5/B.1.B
22.12.43

Wetlirod

2 letters attached

✓

21/Dec/43.

51B.
617

Major G.P. Wethered,
Box 500,
Parliament Street B.C.,
LONDON. S.W.1.

H. KNOPPERS

Herewith for your information and
disposal 2 letters from the above-named
to Major Bingham.

V.A. Perrini T-Sgt

for Capt. H. H. Hindmarsh, O.B.E.
Intelligence Officer.

Oratory Central School,
Stewarts Grove,
CHELSEA. S.W.

ENCL. 2 letters

21 DEC 1943

TO B.I.B. ✓

REF

500

L. 397/HOLLAND/3/B.1.B 18th December, 1943.

Dear Cyril,

I have come across a trace which may possibly have some relevance in the Dutch investigation. I find that in your letter CTM/KV/460 of the 16th June, 1943, occurs the following extract:-

"The Belgian Section, however, have an agent called MATTHEY, real name HOUBEN, who has not reached this country, and is thought to be somewhere in France. This man is mentioned in RPS report DE MOUX 26.4.43 No. 15,654. SEVRENET may have met this man in France, but certainly in so far as we know, he never reached Gibraltar."

In addition to this Mathieu HOUBEN is referred to in another report in this office as a member of the SABOT Organisation, who had put a Frenchman subsequently an inmate at the L.R.C., in touch with a passeur in Perpignan who eventually took him out of the country. This apparently happened in the early months of 1943. X

You will remember that ~~General MATHIEU~~ Maurice HOUBEN has been referred to by KNOPPERS as a man whom VAN VLIET said he was representing. VAN VLIET indicated that HOUBEN was the chief of an

479
PP/609/479

ds 19/12/43

organisation in Belgium and used VAN VLIET to collect information from him in Holland. This may of course be a creation of VAN VLIET's imagination, but it should perhaps be followed up. You might like to ask your Belgian Section what information they have about the man who appears to be identical with VAN VLIET's HOUBER.

If you find anything significant I should be grateful if you would let me know.

Yours sincerely,

G.P. Wethered

Fl/Lt. C.T. Miller,
S. O. E.

GPW/RML

To be filed in L.397/Holland/3 KNOPPERS

EXTRACT from L.397/France/5 (BISHOP)

Aga

LETTER from S.O.E. in answer to query about
S.O.E. agents named MATHIEU, dated 16.6.43.

..... The Belgian Section however have an agent called MATHIEU, real name HOUBEN, who has not reached this country, and is thought to be somewhere in France. This man is mentioned in R.P.S. report DE HOUX 26.4.43 No. 13654. SEVENNET may have met this man in France, but certainly in so far as we know he never reached Gibraltar.....

Extract of information referred to above, from
PE.65863 Y.B. 3474 DE HOUX.

Immediately after the departure of the Germans DEHOUX took refuge with BENDEGES, brother of the Mayor of Campsas..... Here he was contacted two days later by Mathieu HOUBEN (sp?) member of the SABOT organisation whom DEHOUX describes as follows:

Very tall, born c.1918, a Liegeois, fair straight hair. Connected with the Service de Passage, not an important member of the organisation. Had been dropped in France by parachute, date unknown. In September 1942 DEHOUX had married this man to a Liegeoise in the Bishop of Montauban's chapel. As the papers were apparently filled in by the Bishop, he cannot remember names.....

(Report goes on to relate how HOUBEN put DEHOUX in touch with a passeur in Perpignan, who eventually took him out of the country.)

This information is given as having taken place in early months of 1943.

✓

47a

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

17th December, 1943.

Dear Cyril,

43a 745a

As promised I am sending you copies of my two interrogation reports on KNOPPERS. You will find little in them which adds to the information we already have, except possibly that he has now made statements which tend to make VAN VLIET even more suspicious than before.

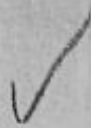
479
2200/479

The only other point of interest lies in the papers which are referred to in the second report as having arrived in this country from France. KNOPPERS, who left them behind in France was handed them by ARNAUD when the latter returned from Holland. They included the letter addressed to Major SOMERS signed by JEREMIAH I, and a list of three names on a separate piece of paper, of whom JEREMIAH I is one, his name being given as A.G. DER GALESTIN. These names are at present with Bingham, to whom I returned all the papers. It was stated by KNOPPERS that the only person who would know the identity of these people would be ARNAUD. If the latter should arrive we should have to question him closely about them.

On consideration I think we shall probably have to leave KNOPPERS where he is until at any rate we have seen APOLLO and interrogated KNOPPERS once more together. If, however, we come to any different view about KNOPPERS in future I will let you know by telephone.

Yours sincerely,

F1/Lt. C.T. Miller,
S. O. E.



S.I.B. TELEPRINTER FORM.

45C

Note.

Serial No. LN 5512

(To be inserted by Teleprinter Operator).

- 1 = Surname.
- 2 = Christian names.
- 3 = Place and date of birth.
- 4 = Nationality.
- 5 = Last address.
- 6 = Other particulars.

Message.

QUERY 1. RONT 2. Mesdames
 3. 4. Dutch
 5. Hevelaan 16, Bussum, Holland
 6. Acted as rendezvous for men connected with a
 resistance organisation in Holland which is suspected
 of being under German control.

Our Reference L. 397/Holland/3

From Major Wethersd Section B.I.B. Date 11.12.43.

For use of Teleprinter Section. Sent: Date 12.12.43 Time 0955 hr.

ATTACH REPLY HERE.

Code:

- QUERY = Have you any particulars of
- ZZZ = Not available
- NT = We have no trace of
- LF = We have traces and letter follows

S.I.S. TELEPRINTER FORM.

45C

Note.

- 1 = Surname.
- 2 = Christian names.
- 3 = Place and date of birth.
- 4 = Nationality.
- 5 = Last address.
- 6 = Other particulars.

Serial No. LN 5573

(To be inserted by Teleprinter Operator).

Message.

QUERY 1. VOS..... 2. Jacob
 3..... 4. Dutch.
 5. Cafe Vos, 2 Huizerweg, Blaricum
 and/or
 6. Cafe Ruimsicht, Blaricum.

Has a son called Kees. Both in contact with an organisation in Holland which is suspected of being controlled by the Germans.

Our Reference L. 397/Holland/3

From Liaison Wethered..... Section B.1.B...... Date 11.12.43.....

For use of Teleprinter Section. Sent: Date 12.12.43..... Time 1115 hr.....

ATTACH REPLY HERE.

Code:

- QUERY = Have you any particulars of
- ZZZ = Not available
- NT = We have no trace of
- LF = and letter follows

S.I.S. TELEPRINTER FORM.

45 C 7

Note.

Serial No. L.V. 5514

(To be inserted by Teleprinter Operator).

- 1 = Surname.
- 2 = Christian names.
- 3 = Place and date of birth.
- 4 = Nationality.
- 5 = Last address.
- 6 = Other particulars.

Message.

QUERY 1. BERGMAN 2. Sergeant
 3. 4. Dutch
 5. Molenweg, Blaricum, Holland.
 6. Sergeant in Dutch Army. Contact of man suspected
of being in German-controlled resistance organisation.

Our Reference. L.397/Holland/3

From Major Wethered. Section B.I.B. Date 11.12.43.

For use of Teleprinter Section. Sent: Date 12.12.43 Time 1118 hrs

ATTACH REPLY HERE.

Code:

- QUERY = Have you any particulars of
- ZZZ = Not available
- NT = We have no trace of
- LF = We have traces and letter follows

L397/Holland/3.

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM.

450

From... B.L.R./G.P.W. To B.L. Registry

Could you please Look-up, here and at Ryder Street the following names:

- 1. ? X Sargeant BERGMAN, X sargeant in the Dutch Army, of Molenweg, Blaricum, Holland. Aged about 43.
 NT NT MSS NT (C.I. under plain name of)
- 2. Jacob VOSS and his son Kees VOSS (or VOS), of Cafe Vos, 2 Huizerweg, Blaricum, Holland and/or Cafe Ruimsicht, Blaricum.
 NT MSS NT MSS (Fail are covered cards)
- 3. The Misses PONT, Hpuvellaan 16, Bussum, Holland.
 NT MSS NT MSS

Hazel Thurston

Date 11.12.43

Signature

Form 161/B.P./10000/4.43

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM.

B13/15/13/62

From... B.L.R. Major Wethered To... ~~L.R.C. Information~~

NT Would you very kindly let me know if you have trace of a man called SCHILP, said by Henrikus KNOPPERS to be a First Lieut. in the Dutch Navy, and in the Dutch Military Intelligence in Holland. KNOPPERS passed information to this man re production of factories, etc.

11.12.43.

Hazel Thurston
in Major Wethered.

RECEIVED
12 DEC 1943
B.L.R.

Date

Signature

Form 161/B.P./10000/4.43

Copy in R.F. Leo. 479 Van der Woude @
RIDDERHOF @ VAN VLIET.

SECOND INTERROGATION OF KNOPPERS AT THE ORATORY SCHOOLS. 45H

I saw KNOPPERS again yesterday afternoon. I first asked him to be rather more explicit on the precise work he did for VAN VLIET. KNOPPERS replied with apparent frankness as follows: VAN VLIET asked KNOPPERS if he might use the latter's address as a boîte aux lettres. KNOPPERS agreed to this, but the address was never in fact so used. KNOPPERS does not know for what purpose VAN VLIET made the request.

KNOPPERS continued to see VAN VLIET about once a week from the time of their first meeting until he left Holland. They usually met at KNOPPERS' own house, but sometimes in a cafe. The reasons for these meetings were various. In the first place, the members of resistance organisations with whom KNOPPERS slowly came in touch often wanted either to meet VAN VLIET or to have a question asked of him. Thus for example Jan de HAAN, referred to already in this file as a member of RINUS, wanted to have a discussion with VAN VLIET and to ask the latter for addresses to which he could send information. Apparently de HAAN had used an address in Rotterdam and a Belgian address as a channel for sending military information (as for example German dispositions, armaments etc.) to England. The Rotterdam man had been arrested, and de HAAN wished to consult VAN VLIET. KNOPPERS arranged an address for these two men to meet, c/o Misses PONT, Hoevellan 18, Bussum, who were known to KNOPPERS as thoroughly patriotic Dutch people. They may have been in touch with a resistance organisation, but KNOPPERS never asked them. De HAAN and VAN VLIET met at this house and VAN VLIET said that he would ask the General about the addresses. KNOPPERS does not know if he did ask the General, but imagines that he may have done nothing about it as he, KNOPPERS was the only communicating link between VAN VLIET and de HAAN, and he had no further message from either of them on this matter. BART also wished to meet VAN VLIET in connection with the matters referred to on page 4 of 27a.

In addition to this, KNOPPERS collected certain pieces of information about production and factories which he gave to VAN VLIET at their various meetings. He does not think VAN VLIET asked for this information but he appeared to be interested by it, so KNOPPERS continued to collect it. He could do this fairly easily as he knew a Mr. de JONG, Director of a big insurance company which insured different firms and factories for war risks and other risks. De JONG was therefore able to give VAN VLIET information as to the size, production figures etc. of various Dutch factories, as for example Fokkers and various chemical factories. Besides passing this information on to VAN VLIET KNOPPERS also gave it to a Mr. SCHILP of the Dutch Military Intelligence in Holland, whose rank was that of First Lieutenant in the Dutch Navy.

About a fortnight after VAN VLIET had contacted KNOPPERS he expressed his desire to meet Colonel KOPPERT. This suggestion certainly came from VAN VLIET, in KNOPPERS' recollection. There then followed the episode of the rendezvous at the cafe, where Colonel KOPPERT did not turn up. This has already been related. At this rendezvous KNOPPERS and VAN VLIET waited for over two hours. VAN VLIET brought with

him a man in civilian clothes, who he then said was a Dutch policeman. KNOPPERS saw but did not speak to this man. He heard no more about him until the day of his escape, when he met and recognised the same man in Breda. It was this man who took KNOPPERS over the Dutch/Belgian frontier on his motorcycle. KNOPPERS describes him as follows: Age 40-45; Height 1m.75; Broad Build; Fat face; rather pale complexion; skin rather pock-marked; nose a little turned up; clean-shaven; medium fair hair brushed flat. VAN VLIET mentioned afterwards on the escape journey that this man was not in fact a Dutch policeman but had various papers made out as such.

VAN VLIET told KNOPPERS that he had once been a member of a reception committee and had received several consignments of arms from this country at a place near Stenweg. He showed KNOPPERS a piece of sponge rubber taken from a container. KNOPPERS thought that he did this as evidence that he was to be trusted.

I next asked KNOPPERS a question or two about his activities in resistance work before he met VAN VLIET. As regards the work that he did for VOUTE, referred to on page 1 of the report at 12a, KNOPPERS explains that he merely distributed pamphlets through letter boxes from time to time and also helped to print them on a duplicator worked by VOUTE at Martinsdijk. KNOPPERS also carried various letters for VISSER, also referred to as above. The position was that while KNOPPERS was travelling about Holland in the course of his own business he would hear from time to time at one of the chemical factories which he visited news which would be of interest for the underground press. On these occasions he asked the man concerned, if he could trust him, to write out the information, and he carried the papers to VISSER. VISSER also gave KNOPPERS copies of the underground paper to carry to various towns in Holland and to post them there. These papers could obviously not be posted where they were printed.

In addition to this KNOPPERS often carried sums of money contributed by himself and his friends for the benefit of wives and families of Dutchmen arrested by the Germans. He used on his travels to hand in these sums of money to the local Government office concerned and ask them to use it accordingly.

On these points and also in connection with his work for VAN VLIET KNOPPERS struck me as giving quite reasonable replies. I shared the S.O.E. examiner's slight doubt when KNOPPERS was questioned on these matters at Baywater, but it seems to me that he has now given a rational account of them.

As regards the passeur, ARNAUD, KNOPPERS told me that he had met him for the first time at Jeumont, where ARNAUD met him for the escape journey. They had to wait for a train, and had a long talk, in the course of which ARNAUD said that he had been married but was now divorced, that his home was with his sister, and that he came from Alsace Lorraine. He asked KNOPPERS to say in England that he, ARNAUD, was very happy to continue to act as a guide in the escape organisation, that he did not want money for his work, but would like to come to the front when the war started. He indicated to KNOPPERS

KNOPPERS thought one other episode worth mentioning in connection with ARNAUD. When they arrived in Paris ARNAUD took him to the Hotel l'Odeon, Place de l'Odeon. Soon after they arrived at this hotel a friend of ARNAUD was shown up to their rooms. This man was surprised to find that they had arrived so early, and said he had come to the hotel in order to reserve rooms, as arranged. He called ARNAUD "EUGENE". KNOPPERS thought he was a Dutchman and for no particular reason imagined that he might be identical with JEREMIAH E. He had the impression that the visitor had come from Holland. He describes him as follows (but says that the description must be considered very vague): height about 6 ft; age 28-30; long face; clean-shaven; no spectacles; fair, rather curly hair; normal complexion; rather hooked nose.

KNOPPERS told me that ARNAUD stated that he had known VAN VLIET for a long time. It was apparent to KNOPPERS that ARNAUD trusted VAN VLIET completely. KNOPPERS, who could probably see that I was particularly interested in VAN VLIET, added that having thought the whole matter over he still thought that VAN VLIET was a loyal Dutchman.

At the end of this interrogation I asked KNOPPERS if he had given the matter careful thought in the last few days. He said he had and that he was still quite unable to understand why he was regarded with such great suspicion. He again professed his willingness to tell us anything he could. I asked him if he had had any contact with the Germans while he was living in Blericum, or anywhere else in Holland. He said that, apart from ordinary visits to travel offices he had only spoken to the Germans on one occasion when just before he left Holland he had been to visit Lieut. WEINBERG in the camp where the latter and other Dutch Army officers were interned prior to being taken to Germany.

Until further information is to hand from S.O.E. I do not see how any useful purpose can be served in interrogating KNOPPERS again. It is agreed that he cannot be released until further information has been assembled, but I must state that at this stage of the enquiry I feel with some confidence that KNOPPERS may be regarded as harmless. It is however possible that the Germans proposed to use him as a dupe and to make use of him for their own purposes only after he was sent back to Holland. In these circumstances it is admittedly astonishing that German-controlled organisation should have sent a wireless signal on June 5th, stating that they had come into contact with Colonel KOPPERT, leading man in the O.D., who was urgently to send his best man to the United Kingdom. It is evident that KNOPPERS was referred to in this message and it is to be assumed, as we must at present, that this and subsequent messages were German-controlled, it is very difficult to understand how such a bad mistake could have been made. It must have been evident to the Germans that KNOPPERS (as a dupe) would give them the lie as soon as he was interrogated in this country - as in fact he did, he told us that Colonel KOPPERT had nothing to do with the O.D. and had not wished him to come to the United Kingdom. It is true however that it would have been from the German point of view an even worse mistake to make on the assumption that KNOPPERS was in fact an enemy agent. I

pa Knoppers
44A

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

9th December, 1943.

Dear Bingham,

I send you herewith the letter addressed to you by KNOPPERS which I mentioned to you on the telephone. I have told the D.R. to wait as you have a reply for me.

I am also returning to you the envelope and the documents which you sent me yesterday. From these I have only kept the two translations, which I gather were for my use. I am returning everything else and do not think I shall need the papers again.

Yours sincerely,

G.P. Wethered

Major G. Bingham.
S. O. S.

2 Enclosures.

AWB
12/10/43

Appendix C.

1. A.G. ter GALESTIN, Ir. chem. Leider v.d. afdeling "CHEMIE", Ryksbureau voor ehem. Grondshoffen. 437
Schuilnaam: "Jeremish 1"

2. Jhr. Reinier van der CASTEELE Amersfoort
Schuilnaam: "Marcus 10"

3. Dra. chem. Daniel WEYS, den Haag, afdelingsleider C/Bedryfsgroep v.d. chem. Industriein.
Schuilnaam: "Jeremiah 2"

B.I. Registry traces:

1. GALESTIN. N.T.
2. a van der CASTEELE (no christian name)
born circa 1902. Arrested Comité de Surveillance du Territoire in Marseilles (possibly about June 1941) Escaped August. Wellknown to police in many others are European countries. Member of TODT organisation. Central Reg. Believed to be important German agent. In January and not available 1943 thought to be in paris. L.397/France/1 able. PF.17987 vol 2 c.a. and PF.46332 cs.
- b. Louis Hendrik van der CASTEELE. Belgian born Ostend 17.5.1915. Second mate m.v. MARCEL. Possible B.I.L. contact.
3. WEYS N.T. but a woman called Alida Lamberta Cornelia WEYS nee DIKSTRA is sister of interned German agent. See P.F. 65277 if necessary.

8/12/43.

Alida is one of the individuals to be identified.

Hazel Thurston.

Consent from L.397/France/1 439

434

FIRST INTERROGATION OF KNOPPERS AT THE ORATORY SCHOOLS.

My first interrogation of KNOPPERS yesterday afternoon was no more significant than I expected, except that it revealed perhaps slightly more grounds for suspecting VAN TEEBOO ⁴⁷⁷ and did something to confirm my view that KNOPPERS himself is innocent of intent.

He began by recounting to me the episode referred to by Detective Sergeant Buswell mentioned in Minute 37, but this matter was so far removed from the enquiry and so irrelevant that it is really not worth noting, since it only concerned one of KNOPPERS' sergeants who, in May 1940, was questioned by the Germans in Rotterdam about the death of a German soldier.

I next took KNOPPERS through the contents of the envelope which contained his papers left behind in France, and which had been received by S.O.E. recently. Of these documents the only interesting ones are those filed at the end of this report. Both are translations. The document marked Appendix A was a microphotograph, and that marked Appendix B was a report on rice paper. These documents were brought to KNOPPERS at his safe house in France by the passur ARNAUD about a week after KNOPPERS arrived there. ARNAUD had been back to Holland to collect them. Report B originated from Dobby MOLZAK, and has been referred to almost in the same words by KNOPPERS in his report filed at 27a. He was able to memorise the contents of the rice paper report and to supplement his memory by notes which he made on some cigarette paper now to be found round a bogus cigarette in the pocket of a brown suit of his at the S.O.E. flat where he has been living. This report needs no comments. The report marked Appendix A was also brought from Holland by ARNAUD in the form of a microphotograph in Dutch. ARNAUD said that it had been handed to him by VAN VLIET for delivery to KNOPPERS. The document itself was written in the handwriting of JEREMIAH I. (See names filed at Appendix C.) KNOPPERS does not know JEREMIAH or either of the other two persons whose names are also given in Appendix C. He says however that ARNAUD told him that he, ARNAUD, knew all about them, and could be applied to by the English if necessary. KNOPPERS understood that the name of Captain SOMERS (who is head of the Dutch Intelligence Service in the United Kingdom) was wellknown to VAN VLIET and ARNAUD. He has no other comments to make about JEREMIAH I's report, as he was acting only in the capacity of a courier.

ARNAUD brought also to KNOPPERS a sheet of paper of which Appendix C. is a copy. The three names upon it are referred to in the paragraph above.

The fourth and last document which ARNAUD brought was a note in pencil on a small piece of paper from VAN VLIET to KNOPPERS reading in translation as follows:

"Hallo Henk. You see the connection is O.K. Wife and children prima. Herewith from Dobby the letter for Somers. They ask for a call on Radio Oranje for Dobby: 'The flowers for grandmother received with thanks.' If the report is in order then the reply is: 'Enci cement eight parts to one.' Many greetings etc. Good luck. George Cherry (CHERRY was the name by which VAN VLIET was sometimes known.)" ⁴⁷⁷

The other documents in the packet brought from France seem to be of no particular interest, and may be listed as follows:

- 43a
2
1. Four snapshots of tanks, apparently taken from some textbook, given to KNOPPERS by BART of the RINUS organisation to take with him to England. KNOPPERS did so, but did not think that they could be very useful.
 2. Various identity documents, season tickets, driving licenses, etc.
 3. A piece of paper bearing the address of Lieut. H. WEINBERG, P/W No. 7657 Stalag XXI Dz. Germany.

WEINBERG, in company with many other Dutch regular officers, particularly Jews, was taken to a Prisoner of War camp in Germany a few days before KNOPPERS left Holland. KNOPPERS took his address because he thought that perhaps he might be able to write to him, or even to send him cigarettes, from England when he arrived. He now realises that this is somewhat unlikely.

Having dealt with the above matters I had to respond to KNOPPERS' statement that he supposed we thought him to be a German agent. I told him that we had recently received a great deal of information, not available when he was first interrogated, which caused us to feel the greatest suspicion about his activities and those of his contacts before his departure for this country. He ~~accepted~~ accepted this and said that it was his desire to give me any information he possibly could. I indicated to him that one of the points on which we had certain information was that his journey to this country was ~~unknown~~ known to the Germans. His reaction to this was very favourable from the point of view of his innocence. I asked him whether he had entertained at any time any suspicions about any one of the persons responsible for his briefing or journey to the United Kingdom. We began by discussing VAN VLIET. KNOPPERS told the story about his first meeting with VAN VLIET much as before, but added that VAN VLIET first visited KNOPPERS at his cottage, when he gave two references:

1. Jacob VOSS, of Cafe Ruimsicht, Blericum, and his family, and
2. Sergeant BERGMAN, a sergeant in the Dutch Army living at Blericum, previously unknown to KNOPPERS, who cannot remember his address.

On the morning after VAN VLIET's visit KNOPPERS telephoned to Kees VOSS, son of Jacob VOSS, and asked him to come and see him urgently and bring Sergeant BERGMAN with him. Both came, ~~after~~ and stated that VAN VLIET was 100% all right. KNOPPERS there ~~also~~ accepted this estimate of VAN VLIET. Next day VAN VLIET returned and asked KNOPPERS if he was in any resistance organisation already. KNOPPERS said "No", and then agreed to work for VAN VLIET. I asked KNOPPERS what Colonel KOPPERT thought of VAN VLIET. KNOPPERS repeated the story he has already told of the ~~meeting~~ talk between these two men, and said that he understood from the Colonel that he regarded VAN VLIET as reliable.

It is perhaps significant to note that VAN VLIET told KNOPPERS distinctly that England had asked for a man to be sent to the United Kingdom from Holland. This is clearly not the case from the traffic and not inconsistent with VAN VLIET having forced a man on us. KNOPPERS remembers clearly that VAN VLIET made this statement on a Monday morning, either June 14th or June 21st. This date is well after the first message from the field tolling London that the organisation itself was anxious to send a man to England.

479 VAN OLA WERDE B
P. BOER 437 RIDDER HOF G. VAN VLIET

43a
3

When VAN VLIET made this suggestion KNOPPERS replied that he would like to ask his Commanding Officer, Captain KAMP if he or Lieut. WEINBERG would like to go to the United Kingdom, as KNOPPERS was only a sergeant-major and did not think himself suitable. To this suggestion VAN VLIET agreed. KNOPPERS then went to his C.O., but both he and WEINBERG declined to go. KNOPPERS therefore resolved to go himself, and told VAN VLIET that he would. VAN VLIET then asked for photographs of KNOPPERS, which were given to him and used by VAN VLIET for the purpose of a carte d'identite for Belgium. VAN VLIET stated that he did not quite know why KNOPPERS was to go to England, but thought that it was in order to coordinate various resistance organisations in Holland from the United Kingdom.

It seems to me that VAN VLIET's actions in recruiting KNOPPERS, particularly when his statement that England had asked for a man and that he did not know why is contrasted with the real wireless traffic, is entirely consistent with VAN VLIET being in enemy employment.

I asked KNOPPERS if he had given VAN VLIET from time to time information about resistance work in Holland. KNOPPERS told me that VAN VLIET had never asked for such information, and that he had only given it to him in the last week before he left Holland. Information about the HOOFD organisation and Duddy WOLZAK had only been given by KNOPPERS to VAN VLIET the very day he left Holland. KNOPPERS is certain that he offered VAN VLIET this information, and that VAN VLIET did not ask for it. He added to this however that VAN VLIET told him that he would be back in Holland in six weeks, and that KNOPPERS pointed out that it might take him longer. Whereupon VAN VLIET agreed that it might be better for KNOPPERS to give him his information.

KNOPPERS has always been certain that VAN VLIET is all right. I asked him however to reconsider the whole affair and tell me whether he had ever entertained any passing doubts about VAN VLIET's bona fides. KNOPPERS remembered the following episodes:

1. VAN VLIET once warned KNOPPERS' against a man living in Blaricum, on the grounds that this man was collaborating with the Germans. The man was a builder who was not known to KNOPPERS, and whose name he cannot remember. KNOPPERS discussed this allegation with Sergeant BERGMAN, but BERGMAN told KNOPPERS that he did not believe it, and said that the builder had shortly after the occupation of Holland done some building work for the Germans. For the purpose of this work he had been given a frontier pass to Belgium. He had used his travel facilities for smuggling jewels and gold across the Dutch frontier. According to BERGMAN the builder had fallen out with VAN VLIET about either gold or jewels.

2. When KNOPPERS reached VAN VLIET's flat in Brussels (Saint Cecilia Buildings) he happened to notice that VAN VLIET's wireless set was Italian. He commented on this, and VAN VLIET told him that he and his wife had just moved into the flat, which had belonged to an Italian. KNOPPERS does not know the Italian's name or where he had gone. KNOPPERS states however that he understands that VAN VLIET got this flat through a German friend connected with official circles in Belgium, who VAN VLIET said was anti-Nazi.

3. VAN VLIET was in possession of a pass which enabled him to cross the frontier. This pass has been described in other documents in this file. KNOPPERS says that these

Van der Wande
RIDERHOF @ VAN VLIET

43a

PP Ser. 477
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papers had also been obtained from VAN VLIET's German friend,
and that they were thought to be genuine.

I terminated the interrogation at this stage for the present. Up to date I must add that KNOPPERS has shown every sign of being an innocent man. His attitude is one of personal aggrievement moderated by the understanding that the position must be very serious. I should doubt if his studious efforts to remember any point which could be of interest are artificial. He has adopted the reasonable point of view that, since the authorities have obviously great cause to suspect him, he must stay where he is until that suspicion is cleared. It may of course be that he is employing this as a line, but one cannot make up one's mind on the question until the expected arrivals from Holland are in this country. The latter are VIC, who organized KNOPPERS' housing and escape journey in France, ARNAUD, the passeur responsible for KNOPPERS' journey through Holland and Belgium and numerous similar journeys, and the S.O.E. agent APOLLO, who has recently been in Holland. In addition to this the two S.O.E. agents who escaped to Switzerland are now on their way to the United Kingdom.

I have mentioned to Commander Senter that it is necessary for me to see the original message sent by these agents. Commander Senter quite agrees, and will let me have a copy of it when we discuss the whole matter this week.

G. P. Wethered.

Major G.P. Wethered.

B.1.B.
9.12.43.

translation of minor photo's

Captain HOMER.

Appendix A 43a

Paris, 18th July 1943.

To the Dutch or English authorities concerned.

5

May I now that I have been able to contact you by trustworthy route, ask your opinion on the following:-

1) You must know that among the important Dutch intellectuals, industrialists and specially officials there are still patriots who are doing a great service to HOLLAND, inasmuch as they are manoeuvring in such way that the carrying out of innumerable German wishes is sabotaged in many ways, without they themselves acting in a rash manner.

It is only right and fair towards such people that, should they through their attitude run the risk of losing their personal freedom, they should be in a position in some way or other to escape. The number of people involved is in fact very small and they need not actually go to ENGLAND but refuge should be found for them for a longer or shorter period in "a quiet surrounding" (possibly in another country).

In order to achieve this end the help of a few prominent industrialists has been sought without however each of them knowing about the others.

Apart from what has already been achieved in HOLLAND itself the position at the moment is such that ways have been found and checked via which these people, when necessary, can be "delivered" via BELGIUM and FRANCE. The finding of "adequate" foreign depots, where they can stay for a longer or shorter period, is only partly solved.

One thing and another has been systematically and smoothly handled from the outset. There is no question of an organisation with members, but only of certain contacts. A further extension of our "reconcoitring" (from FRANCE to SWITZERLAND and SPAIN) is going on. I am perfectly aware that you already have important contacts in HOLLAND but nevertheless think that I could be of service to you.

2) Apart from the question of these men, activity could be increased to the extent necessary for the provision of up to date information from HOLLAND about general economic ^{and military} (or military-economic), and possibly with a view to guiding people indicated by you, along our frontier channels. In addition attempts are being made to liquidate the activities of "harmful elements" (money-makers, swindlers and "agents provocateurs").

3) The question is therefore, now that on the basis of paragraphs 1 and 2 you are aware of the present set-up, in how far you are willing and able to facilitate the work, or if necessary to combine it with others. You can get information about the work from ARNAUD who you know as the chief passeur for BELGIUM, and I hope to hear more from you.

(P. 6067)

(Sgt.) JEREMIAH I

translation of typed document

APP-1-10 B/B

MEMO RE RESISTANCE IN HOLLAND

6

The individualistic, freedom-loving and critical nature of HOLLAND has been the reason why from the moment that our army in HOLLAND had to lay down its arms, resistance against the enemy by the civil population, started.

In view of the very law-abiding nature of the Netherlands and the lack of experience and organisation, there was a total absence of unity and co-operation. Resistance was carried out individually, circulars were distributed in a restricted fashion, as also were lampoons, etc. About August, 1940 there were some changes: first appeared the "Bulletin", the "Vrij Nederland", whilst at the same time foundations were laid for more militant organisations such as "De Geuzen", the L.G.F. (Legioen out F.s.) and the O.D.

There are however still small groups who concern themselves actively with resistance: the illegal press has still only a small circulation and the militant organisations embrace still only a small number of people. This is fortunate because at the present time the great danger of lack of experience is apparent. People are to inclined to treat the matter as a game, the set-up is too romantic and in a short time the first martyrs fell (amongst others the famous case with 72 death sentences).

Then the tough tenacity of the Netherlands came to the fore. Existing organisations were improved, groups whose leaders had been imprisoned (O.D.) reformed themselves but more cautiously. Still, however, the resistance movement embraces a comparatively small number of people: a large section of the population including the officials and the intellectuals is not yet ripe for action, and what is worse, holds itself aloof from anything unconstitutional.

Gradually, however, nuclei are appearing and forming into groups which intend to make resistance more general, viz. not only active resistance (sabotage) but also semi-military (O.D.) and general civil resistance (to be described as non-co-operation). After many attempts several of these nuclei have got into touch with each other, extended their sphere of action and organised themselves in breadth and depth.

Out of these the following position has now arisen:-

A. Active resistance:

Under the leadership of the "Resistance Council" systematic sabotage is being prepared, strikes organised and even people who are known to be traitors without doubt, liquidated.

B. Semi-military resistance:

After the leaders of the O.D. had been imprisoned twice, (without this however having led to any disorganisation of the substratum) they continued organising, concentrating on a more locally directed decentralisation.

C. General Civil resistance:

Under the direction of the "National Council of Resistance" an organisation has come into being which consists of the following:-

- (1) The officials in Government- Provincial- and Municipal Service,
- (2) The Netherlands trade activities,
- (3) The Food supply (namely the Government office Food Supply in Wartime, as well as the peasantry).

The National Committee (abbreviated N.C.) is also a central organisation for the co-ordination of medical and students resistance, etc. It is in close contact with the most important illegal newspapers (Vrij Nederland, Het Parool, De Geus, Ja Maintiendrai) - see the publications in the latest numbers of these papers re the N.C. - and it also has contact with the O.D.

The organisation of the N.C. is divided into 5 areas, North, East South, West and Central-Holland: each area includes 2 to 4 districts. The district-council consists of 4 persons: one official, one trade representative, one financial organiser and one representative of the Food Supply.

The organisation consists of all towns with more than 10,000 inhabitants.

Already passed on: "nacht uur heit de klok".
At present: Enci-cement 8 op 1

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM.

42a ³⁶⁸

From..... B. I. d/L.R.C. To.. B. I. B. Major Wethered.....

As requested, I am sending you herewith a translation of the letter from KNOPPERS to Major Bingham.

Date 8.12.43.....

Signature..... *H. J. Baxter* for Lt. Col. H. J. Baxter
10.12.43

8. Form 151 (B.P.) 10000/7.43

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM.

42a

From... Major Wethered (B. I. B.) ... To Lt. Col. Baxter, L.R.C.

Since there is no one in this office with a knowledge of Dutch, I should be very grateful if you could have the attached letter translated at the L.R.C. and returned to me as soon as possible. I am sorry to have to bother you with this.

Date 8.12.43.....

Signature *Hazel T. ...* for Major Wethered.

8. Form 151 (B.P.) 10000/4.43

42a

Translation of letter from Hendrikus KNOPFERS (Q.247. Y Box No.3993) to Major Bingham.

London. Monday 6th December 1943.

Dear Major Bingham,

Please excuse me for writing you a letter in this scrawl but I have something to write to you about and I am not allowed to use my own pen. As you know I am in prison. This is something I least expected could happen to me in your country and especially as everyone has taken so much trouble to make it possible for me to come here to England. The worst is, however, that it is impossible for me to think or understand why I have been shut up here. In the beginning, on Saturday, I thought it was a test of the service to see how I would behave under these conditions but gradually my hope in this has begun to diminish, in view of the various measures taken, such as description, medical examination, etc. Should it, indeed, be through serious advice to you from the other side, then I am certain that you have continued to believe in my good faith and truthworthiness and I also know for certain that you will spare no trouble to remove this awful misunderstanding, for me, out of my way. But for heaven's sake, be sure that they are careful on the other side, for if you have been warned against me, everything cannot be in order there. It is impossible that under the good Dutchmen there, there can be one who would not trust me, let alone issue a warning against me. Please warn them again, for already much to much costly blood has flowed there through carelessness. Anyone who could have said suchlike about me, must be definitely dangerous or be mistaken in the person and must have been thinking of some one else. I got the idea that the gentleman at the War Office thought that I had deliberately held back some information. You know that in any case this is not true.

I have now been here 2 X 24 hours. I have ransacked my brain but cannot find or think of anything. And he told me it was something important and big. On my word of honour, Major I do not understand anything of it. Should you

/EVER.....

- 2 -

so desire, I will give you a list of names and addresses of known and reliable persons in Holland who one by one will guarantee for me. I cannot, unfortunately, do more from here and hope that you will be willing to do the rest for me. In any case, for goodness sake help me out of this dreadful episode and then at least I can get to work. Sitting in a cell like this does not agree with me at all, when you can do nothing else but wait, wait, wait.

Would you be kind enough to pass on my respects to Colonel De Bruyne, Captain Diefink and Mr. Schlip and also all my other friends who are with you in your office. I have done everything to make contact with you but it appears to be impossible. Have you been telephoned for me? Have the boys gone? If not will you also please give them my best regards. Will you again tell Bob that he must be especially careful; he is still so young!

Will you, if possible, visit me as soon as possible or otherwise send me a note? I trust that I will surely be allowed to receive this. Major, I must close as the paper is full, but I should very much like to continue; this at least is something to do. However, the solution will, no doubt, come.

Again thanking you very much for everything you have done for me and still will be prepared to do, I take my leave of you.

Yours,

(Sgd) Harry.

Handwritten signature

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM.

From.....London Region.....

To..MAJOR Wethered - R.I.C.
G.P.S. 5/12 3/17
41

Hendrikus KNOPPERS.

With reference to the attached papers, please see
Special Branch report 405/43/1777 of 6th December, 1943.

Date...8.12.43.....

Signature.....
G.H. Langdon 9/12/43

S. Form 101 (R.P.) 100009.43

G.H. Langdon, Major.