

S.B. No. 5. (Flimsy)

7 DEC 1943

COPY

METROPOLITAN POLICE (Special Branch)

SPECIAL REPORT.

6th day of December, 1943

SUBJECT

Hendrikus
KNOOPPERS.

REFERENCE TO
PAPERS.

405/43/1777.

M.15

With reference to M.I.5 letter Region 5/X. dated 1st December, 1943, regarding the detention of Hendrikus KNOOPPERS under Article 12(5A) of the Aliens Order, 1920, as amended:

At 10 a.m. on 4th December, 1943, accompanied by P.C. Hamlet, I saw Major Wethered at Room 055, War Office, and was handed a Detention Order under Article 12(5A) of the Aliens Order in respect of the above-named alien.

Subsequently at 10.40 a.m. I saw Hendrikus KNOOPPERS at the entrance of the War Office, told him I was a Police Officer, and asked him to accompany me to New Scotland Yard. There I read the Order to him, served him with a copy, and explained the significance of it to him. He said that he understood the meaning of the Order.

He was not in possession of any luggage, and a list of the property on his person was made; all his belongings were retained by him. He was taken to the Oratory Schools, Stewart's Grove, S.W.3, and handed over to the Military Authorities against receipt; a copy of the list of his property was also handed in at the Oratory Schools.

41

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METROPOLITAN POLICE (Special Branch)

KNOPPERS arrived in this country from Gibraltar on 9th September, 1943. He was not in possession of any passport or other document of identity, and had been issued with a landing slip by London Immigration Officer on 19th October, 1943.

The remainder of the luggage he brought with him to this country is under the control of M.I.5, who are making arrangements for him to receive it, as required. KNOPPERS states that he has never been issued with a National Registration Identity Card or Ration Book.

Original Detention Order, duly endorsed is attached, together with body receipt for KNOPPERS and list of property (copies left at Oratory Schools).

S. Buswell
Sergeant.

Submitted.

E. Linsley
Inspector.

[Signature]
SUPERINTENDENT.

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED
OCT 10 1943
METROPOLITAN POLICE

LONDON, ⁴⁰³

7th December 1943

Dear Wethered.

I enclose the documents which KNOPPERS left behind in FRANCE and which were forwarded to us by special courier. I have included translations of the photograph and of the typewritten document.

Yours

W.C.
Wingham

Major Wethered,
St. James.

ditto and handle for

Prof. G. ...

Other

... ..

... ..

... ..

W.C.
10.12.43

Secret.

In reply, state NUMBER and DATE.
dated 7.12.43.

Ref. in P.F. 600.439.
RIDDERHOF.
8 DEC 1943

716
40

Dear Wathered,

29a

Please refer to your L. 397/HOLLAND/
3/B. I. B.

I regret to say that the only
information I have been able to lay my hands
on regarding the characters you mention is
already in the possession of I. S. R. B.

Yours sincerely,

Prinston. Williams

for F. C. D.

Major G. I. Wathered.
K. I. S.

7725
9.12.43

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7/Dec/43.

40X 311

Mjor G.P. Wethered,
Box 500,
Parliament Street B.O.,
LONDON. S.W.1.

Henrikus KNOPPERS

Herewith for your information and
disposal a letter from the above-named
to Major Bingham.

V.A. Pevini 1 Sgt

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

Oratory Central School
Stewarts ~~ENCL. 2 copies~~
CHELSEA. S.W.3. 7-DEC 1943

TO H.H.B.
EF.....

10.12.43

38a

L.597/Holland/3(B.I.B./GPW

6th. December, 1943.

Dear Cyril,

In looking through one of our Dutch files I find that the name of Herman VAN VLIET was included in a list of names handed to me by Cyril Harvey at the beginning of July 1943 for Look-up purposes, before the present system was in force. I was not quite aware at the time of the exact purpose of this look-up, but I remember that Cyril Harvey told me that the names included in each case the real name and the training name in England as well as the field name of each agent. From my list it seems possible that Herman VAN VLIET is one of the aliases of Ivo VAN UYTVANCK. I think Cyril Harvey was engaged at the time in a review of the whole Dutch set-up in Holland.

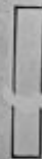
I draw this to your attention in case by any chance there is a connection between Herman VAN VLIET and the character in the KNOPPERS enquiry. Would you very kindly bear this in mind so that you may tell me of any possible connection when we next discuss the whole affair?

Yours sincerely,

Major G.P. Wethered.

Flight Lieutenant C.T. Miller,
S.O.B.

Wethered
9.12.43



458
PLEASE LUCON

XXXXXXXXXXXXX

See 60 See 2/2
JAN DE HAAN, DUTCHMAN, MEMBER OF RINUS RESISTANCE ORGANISATION IN HOLLAND. HAS CONTACT WITH A CHARACTER WHO IS SUSPECTED OF BEING AN AGENT PROVOCATEUR.

B.1.B/ WETHERED

2.12.43

1632

Secret.

361A 338
In reply, state NUMBER and DATE.

2.12.1943
dated 4.12.43.

M.I.5 (Major Wethered).

Reference your teletype IN 5448 dated 2.12.43 reference Jan DE HAAN, we have traces of :

- 1) de HAAN, Dutch; Ged Singel, Assen, Drente; wireless dealer; member N.S.B.
- 2) de HAAN, Willem Age 24; Herschelstraat, The Hague; probably a Gestapo agent.
- 3) de HAAN, Dutch; Inspector Police, The Hague; member N.S.B.
- 4) de HAAN, Detective, police station, Marnixstraat, Amsterdam; works for the Sicherheitspolizei.
- 5) de HAAN, Amsterdam? Contact of Miss van Oyen, teacher German language Amsterdam. de HAAN reported as Gestapo agent. May be identical with de HAAN 4) above.

W. W. Pascoe

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L. 897/HOLLAND/S/D.1.B

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

Major Wethered has asked
me to send you back the two files
you lent him -- with many thanks
for letting us see them. These
are: SERGEANT and the BROADBEAN
telegrams.

HL

4.12.1943

2 Files Enclosed.

May 1943



30A
I. 397/Holland/3(B.I.B./3PW

3rd. December, 1943.

To: Sergeant Peccorini,
Intelligence Corps,
Oratory Schools.

From: Major G.P. Wethered.

In confirmation of our conversation this afternoon, the Dutchman, Hendrikus KNOPPERS, whom I mentioned to you verbally recently, is to be arrested tomorrow morning, Saturday December 4th. He will be brought to the Oratory Schools with the escort of two Special Branch officers at some time near mid-day. I will arrange for the senior of the two officers to hand him over to the escort which you will provide for him.

I have also arranged that his kit shall be sent to the Oratory Schools later in the day by S.O.E.

Would you very kindly arrange for KNOPPERS to be detained in one of the segregation cells? No special conditions need be applied to him. I will let you know on what day someone from this office will come to interrogate him. This will probably not be before Tuesday, December 7th.

Major G.P. Wethered.

Wethered

Copy in P.F. 600, ¹⁴¹⁹ ~~1417~~ ^{van der Woude a} RIDDERHOF.

MOST SECRET

29a

L. 397/HOLLAND/5/B.1.B

3rd December, 1943.

Dear Firmston Williams,

We spoke on the telephone yesterday about a certain Dutch set up of which I gave you the names - Hendrikus KNOPPERS, Lieut. Col. A.M. KOPPERT and George Van VLIET @ RIDDERHOF - and asked if you would be good enough to let me know whether you had any traces of them. You will find, I think, that the matter has already been referred to you, both by teleprinter lookup from ourselves and verbally by Major Warden of S.O.E. sometime in September. I rather anticipate that you will not be able to help but as the matter is rather important I should I think set out the brief facts as follows:-

During the summer of this year an organisation in Holland which was in touch with S.O.E. suggested by wireless that they should send to the U.K. an individual who turned out to be Hendrikus KNOPPERS. After some consideration S.O.E. replied that they were willing to receive the agent and arrangements were made in Holland for his journey to this country, partly, apparently, by the S.O.E. organisation and partly by George Van VLIET @ RIDDERHOF, who with another agent named ARNOLD ^{real name}, apparently Anton PIERREFFEL, accompanied KNOPPERS through Belgium and France to Paris. He arrived in the U.K. in September and created a fairly good impression during interrogation. His background, however, in Holland seemed to be a strange and suspicious one, chiefly because of his close personal connection with a Dutch officer called Lieut. Col. A.M. KOPPERT, of whose bona fides we felt considerable doubts. I do not think I need here set out the rather complicated reasons for regarding KOPPERT with

Captain J.D. Firmston Williams,
S. I. S.

1/10
MOST SECRET

suspicion, but I should mention that he has a private address - Obrachtlaan 5, Bilthoven - and as a business address - C/o N.V. KIRKOR, 37/43 St. Nicolaasstraat, Amsterdam. It appears that Van VLIET was in touch with the Colonel about KNOPPERS' journey. Van VLIET's address is given as: Holenweg, Alaricum, and "Ste. Cicillio" (block of flats) Laeken, Brussels.

Recently S.O.F. have had a message from Switzerland to the effect that the organisation in Holland which was responsible for the traffic about KNOPPERS' journey to this country as well as partly responsible for his journey, was under German control at the relevant time. From this it appears that KNOPPERS may well be a German agent and that Van VLIET almost certainly is. We are arranging for the detention of KNOPPERS and I hope to interrogate him early next week. It would be very helpful if you could let me know whether any of the matters or names referred to above have traces in your records. I have not set out all the minor names since we have already had look ups by teleprinter which revealed no traces.

Yours sincerely,

G.P. Wethered
Major

MOST SECRET

28a

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

37A
2nd December, 1943.

Dear [redacted],

During your researches into the background of the KNOPPERS affair, I expect you will come across the names, both field and real, of the agents who formed part of the GOLF-BROADBEAN organisation, and possibly of those who are now said to have been arrested. It will obviously be helpful to me to know these before I interrogate KNOPPERS, as it seems possible that the L.R.O. or even Section V may have traces of the people concerned which would be relevant to my enquiry. Would it be possible for you therefore to have these names available for me when we discuss the case next Monday.

I should also be very grateful if I might see a copy of the message which your two agents in Switzerland sent you recently, or, alternatively, an extract of the matters relevant to my enquiry. I believe that this message mentioned the names of some eight agents who Source believed to have been arrested by the Germans. I should be very glad to know these names and the manner in which they were referred to.

Yours sincerely,

G. P. Wethered

Flt/Lt. O.T. Miller,
S. O. E.

✓

[]

Secret & Personal.

JS/17/1a/578 *Casey* *Dec 5/43* 2nd December, 1943. *564* *ZSR*

~~Dear Dick,~~

KNOPPERS. *22A*

I refer to JS/24/O/632 of the 27th November, about KNOPPERS.

As agreed, you have put Geoffrey Wethered in the picture and he will contact Bingham as to picking up KNOPPERS.

As I mentioned to you when we first discussed this and also when we saw De Bruyne, what seems to be the major reason for shutting him up is that some suspicion must rest upon him at least until the general investigation of the Dutch position has taken place. Col. De Bruyne agreed that this view would justify his detention even after he had been the subject of a further interrogation. I mention this because Miller has received instructions to press ahead with the general investigation to the exclusion of everything else and I do not think it will be possible for him in these circumstances to leave the general investigation at the moment in order to help on the limited KNOPPERS' aspect.

Yours sincerely,

John Miller

D.G. White, Esq., O.B.E.,
M.I.5,
London.

AMG
9/12/43

S.I.S. TELEPRINTER FORM.

27B

Note.

Serial No. L. 5448

(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. DE HAAN..... 2. Jan.....
 3..... 4. Dutch.....
 5.....

6. Member of R.M.S. resistance organisation in Holland who is believed to have come in contact with another Dutchman suspected of being an agent provocateur.

Our Reference... L. 397/Holland/3.

From... Major Wethered..... Section... B.I.B...... Date... 2.12.43.....

For use of Teleprinter Section. Sent: Date... 2.12.43 Time... 1640 L

ATTACH REPLY HERE.

SUBSIDED
 NR. 5222
 TO M.1.5.
 FROM
 DATE 3.12.43.
 SECTION B.I.B.
 YOUR LN. 000X 5448
 YOUR REF. L. 397/HOLLAND /3
 SENT AT 1514
 JMA

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L.F.

Code:

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

27a

Reference to the S.O.E. file for Hendrikus KNOPPERS reveals certain reports made to S.O.E. by ~~this Dutchman~~ which contain one or two points not yet known to us. In his own written "travelling" report compiled on September 14th, 1943, KNOPPERS gives a more detailed account ^{of his} ~~of his~~ journey which took place after they had crossed the Belgian frontier at Jeumont. In the train, which they took at the nearest station to the frontier, a German officer appeared to control their luggage and papers. The German was not satisfied with KNOPPERS' papers, and wanted to know why he lived in Paris and what he had done in Jeumont. KNOPPERS told the officer in German that he worked for the Organisation TODT, and that he had a girl friend in Jeumont whom he had visited that day. This seemed to satisfy the German officer. (ARNAUD) who was travelling with KNOPPERS, told the latter that this was the last time that he was going to put someone on the train in Jeumont but on future occasions he would choose a station further on in France.

(f600,417)

The only additional fact about KNOPPERS' stay in Paris is that two days after his arrival on Sunday, July 18th, he was taken by ARNAUD to Rue de Sevres 16, Ville d'Avrey, the house of a Mr. J.M. HALLOT. He waited here with Mr. and Mrs. HALLOT for about a month. He was then introduced to a Mrs. Louise LEFORT and an agent named GEORGE. It is interesting to note that from this point the route KNOPPERS followed is the same as that taken by William Barry KNIGHT and Georges DEMAND, from Paris to Lyons and thence to the Spanish frontier (See L.397/France/7). This escape route was arranged by the S.O.E. agent VIC. They travelled by train to Lyons and were put up at Mrs. LEFORT's safe house. Thence they travelled by train to Perpignan, visited the garage there, and were driven towards the Spanish frontier, eventually leaving Madrid for Gibraltar and flying direct to the United Kingdom.

KNOPPERS also wrote out for S.O.E. a report dated September 16th, 1943, in which he gave full particulars as regards his own past, his activities in Holland before and during his journey to this country, and particulars as to the resistance organisation in Holland with which he came into contact. I gather that the latter heading includes the particulars obtained from the written reports which KNOPPERS brought with him from Paris to this country. As regards his earlier activities nothing emerges which is not already contained in the report already filed at 12a. After his dismissal from the OPBOUWDIENST, however, occurs the following extract:

"Finally he began to carry out repairs for a friendly radio dealer. He was offered a job as assistant with the Centrale Crisis Controle Dienst but did not take it. When Jews were forbidden to travel he took on travelling for a Jewish firm which brought him into contact with the Fabrick van Chemische Producten at Vondelingenplatt, and heard there that one of the two principals, P. WIELAARD, from Vlaardingen had been sent to Dachau because he was in touch with "De Geuzen".

"For this reason KNOPPERS was very careful about contacting organisations.

"KNOPPERS was then visited by a former student of the radio school, one Buitenhof-Ten CATE from BUSSUM, who told him that he was co-operating with a former student, H. STAM, and a person called HENK, who was concerned with the

KNOPPERS with one. Apparently too they had a wireless set which could contact England.

"KNOPPERS, being a bit doubtful, asked for a pistol with ammunition to be brought to him. After a fortnight TEN CATE again contacted him and, on being asked where the pistol was, said that KNOPPERS could obtain it in Deventer from the bridge-keeper of the Schipbrug. KNOPPERS did not follow this up.

"Shortly afterwards TEN CATE told him that there were difficulties with the publication of "Vrij Nederland" and that they were going to give it up. This seemed peculiar to KNOPPERS as he knew the printer of "Vrij Nederland" and was aware of the fact that the paper was still appearing.

"The printer of "Vrij Nederland" was a person who had already done some printing for KNOPPERS, and on one occasion when he visited him he saw that "Vrij Nederland" was being produced there. This printer was called K. VISSER, nicknamed Kees PRIUM, living at Huizen. From time to time the printer was changed but VISSER always made the electro.

"TEN CATE came again to KNOPPERS later on with a quantity of letters and photos from STAM from Switzerland, where apparently STAM was residing and had become a Dutch liaison officer. STAM was a Sergeant-Telegraphist. TEN CATE offered, if necessary, to get messages to Switzerland and to make contact by radio via STAM. When KNOPPERS on one occasion wished to take advantage of this he was told that STAM was back from Switzerland and contact was broken."

It will also perhaps be relevant to note KNOPPERS' account in this report of his meeting with George van VLIET. This is as follows:-

PR609477 VAN DER WOLDE.

"At the end of 1942 he was visited by George van VLIET (alias, as his real name is RIDDERHOF), living at Blaricum, who asked him whether he would like to work with his organisation. After some hesitation KNOPPERS agreed. He was asked whether his address might be used as a contact address and told that R. was working for a Belgian organisation under General MAHIEU and for the organisation of Jan BOTTEMA, of Zoutkamp (Major Hood). BOTTEMA's alias was BRANDY. BOTTEMA worked with George and Major HOOD since 1938. Apparently BOTTEMA took Major HOOD in the "Helena" (a boat whose captain was called JAN) to an English ship when the Germans were in Holland. Van VLIET asked KNOPPERS to seek contact with as many organisations as possible with a view to introducing more unity and getting guidance from England. Furthermore, he asked him for military or other information which might be of use. In case of necessity KNOPPERS could apply to BOTTEMA, who knew all about what was going on."

The following are his comments on the organisation known to him as the HOOFD organisation:-

"Hoofd organisatie (Admiral QUAND ?)

Immediately after May 1940 some Dutchmen started to organise resistance to the Germans. Sarcastic papers and some underground papers appeared. ("Het Bulletin" and "Vrij Nederland") The organisations were called "DE GEUZEN", "Legioen Oud Frontstrijders", O.D., etc. It was all regarded as a sort of adventure, and naturally through

were arrested and condemned. (inter alia the 72).

"It was at this point that the toughness and tenacity of the Dutchmen were revealed. They regrouped themselves and tried to get into contact with each other again. Above all the O.D. flourished. The greater part of the intellectuals of Dutch business life and civil servants is not yet ripe for direct resistance.

"Several people were arrested now and then, including some of the O.D. leaders. This did not affect the lower layers of the organisation which continued to function.

"By continuing to seek contacts we finally got to the following position:

The general leadership reposed in the Nederlandsche Raad van Verzet and comprised

- a) militant resistance
- b) semi-militant resistance (O.D.)
- c) general civilian resistance (non co-operation).

a) Militant resistance -

dealing with the preparation and organisation of strikes and sabotage and the tracing and elimination of traitors.

b) Semi-militant resistance O.D. -

these are local organisations who themselves decide what can best be done and how.

c) General civilian resistance (non co-operation)

this was led by the Nederlandsche Commite van Verzet and comprised

1. Officials in the State, Provincial and Communal Service.
2. The business community.
3. The Rijksbureau voor Voedsel Voorzienig in Oorlogstijd and the Organisatie van den Boerenstand.

The N.C. van Verzet is the chief organisation for collating the resistance of doctors, students, etc. and is in close contact with the underground press ("Vrij Nederland", "Parool", "De Geuzen", "O.D." (sic.) and "Je Maintiendrai." It has five inspectorates distributed over Holland as follows:

North, East, South, West and Central Holland. Each inspectorate is divided into two to four districts. At the head of each district is a district council, consisting of four persons, viz.

- One official
- One representative of the business life.
- One financial organiser
- One official of the food control."

It is also to be noted that KNOPPERS states that

76600.479
27

shortly before his departure for England he put Van VLIET in touch with DODDY WOLZAK and the HOOPD organisation. Van VLIET appears to have been given the fullest information by KNOPPERS of all that he had been able to find out in Holland.

The following are KNOPPERS' comments on the other resistance organisations in Holland:

"Chemische Industrie" - 76600.47

Through ARNAUD KNOPPERS was told about this group. A microphoto of a letter from them was handed to him in Paris by ARNAUD and sent by courier. The following particulars were supplied by ARNAUD:

Organisation for Sabotage of the Chemical Industry:

Leaders: Jhr Reinier van den CASTEELE, of Amersfoort, alias JEREMIAH I. and Ir. A.G. ter CALESTEIN, Chef Afd. Bedrijfsgroep Chem. Industrie at The Hague, alias JEREMIAH II. Dr. Daniel WEYS, Voorz. Afd. Chemie van het Rijks Bureau voor Chem. Producten at the Hague, alias MARCUS 10.

These three gentlemen could, through their organisation, make it impossible at any given moment for the Dutch chemical industry to function. They are awaiting instructions from England. The idea would be that all materials and supplies would be sent to the wrong factories, the wrong materials would be supplied, enquiries would be held up and not dealt with etc.

JEREMIAH I has written a letter of which a photocopy is coming by courier. As a reference ARNAUD, chief passeur of Belgium, is given who personally knows these men.

KNOPPERS knew the mesdames PONT, of Heuvellaan 16, BUSSUM, in connection with help to Jews. Here he met Jan de HAAN, a student who was working for the RINUS organisation under the name of Jan GRIFFIOEN. This man was asked to put KNOPPERS in contact with a certain BART, who had a leading position in the RINUS organisation. KNOPPERS was visited by BART, who told him the following about the RINUS organisation:

The leadership is now in the hands of BART as RINUS left for England some months ago. This organisation is looking exclusively for military information and has divided Holland into Sections, and installed agents in each section. These agents get all the information they can about German troops, coastal defence, troop movements, etc. These reports go to BERGEN-OP-ZOOM, whence they are taken to Antwerp through WILLY and given to a butcher. WILLY was caught in Antwerp in May 1943, so that the organisation lost contact with Belgium and England. It suffered from lack of money and tried to get more without success. For this reason I asked Van VLIET to tell England that the organisation was short of money and that there was a banker prepared to put this up when "Radio Oranje" should send out a message that the chickens needed food. "Radio Oranje" did not do so. RINUS was asked to come back. England replied that RINUS was unknown.

Later BART received a message that RINUS was caught in Spain. The day before I left Holland I saw BART and he knew nothing further about RINUS. I had put Van VLIET and RINUS BART in touch with one another and, on the day of my departure, Van VLIET had 3,000 for BART which BART was to get in Breda. BART did not come to Breda that day. A contact address for BART is my address in Holland.

BART now has contact with a wireless set in Holland for England. He asked me to enquire whether he might use this set and if so whether "Radio Oranje" would broadcast: 'Hier volgt een boodschap voor Piet. De appels zijn rijp.' If not, the message would be: 'De schapen loopen in de wei.' He would then make no attempt to use this set.

Furthermore BART will be able to use a Dutch set which can work with England when my code book comes from Barcelona, and the other one has been given to [Van VLIET] by [ARNAUD].

This set works on 31.1 metres and is served by LETTINGA from Hilversum, and will begin on any desired day through 'Radio Oranje' as follows: "... avond om negen uur pianovor- dracht door Letty."

This code and these reports are en clair as I made them on my last day of my stay in Ville d'Avray, after I had been told that I would travel via Gibraltar. It is worked out as a proposal and naturally subject to considerable improvements by an expert.

BART also had contact with the Witte Brigade in Belgium.

Organisatie X.

In order to get to know more about this contact should be made with DOMINEE (?) at Bussum. This can be done via KNOPPERS' address in Holland as follows:

Let [Van VLIET] ask CORRY (KNOPEERS' wife) to ask LENNY from Bussum when the Ds. can receive a friend of K's. LENNY's husband, Lieut. WEINBERG, before he went away as a prisoner-of-war in June 1943 spoke to the Ds. about K. and agreed that K. should visit them. K. went there but the Ds. were not at home and, due to his departure for England, had no time to repeat the visit.

Let Van VLIET make this visit accompanied by LENNY. CORRY can put Van VLIET into touch with LENNY as they do not know each other.

The object of this organisation is not known to K.

Organisatie van Jan BOTTEMA, to ZOUTKAMP.

This organisation, KNOPPERS thinks, is wellknown here. What KNOPPERS knows is as follows:

The alias of Jan BOTTEMA, who works with his brother and [VAN VLIET] is BRANDY. Van VLIET told KNOPPERS that on the Drentsche Hei and in the neighbourhood of Steenwijk weapons had been received from English planes in large cylinders dropped by parachute.

Van VLIET asked KNOPPERS when he left to greet Major HOOD from BRANDY and to say that the Engelschmanplaat is still waiting and that everything is in order there.

Organisatie WIM en/of Albert.

KNOPPERS has heard only the name and knows nothing further. Possibly BART or [van VLIET] can get to know something, and perhaps DODDY.

Rode WILLY.

This is a Communist, who had gone underground from

DOMINEE (Tolken-
or Vliet)
to also 12-1-1944
(KOP)

6 JAN 1952 477

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General "MATHIEU" is referred to in the report at 12a. The S.O.E. file contains further information about this man, which is as follows: His name is really Maurice HOUBEN, and he was handed over by the Surete to the Deuxieme Section in 1942 and left for S.O.E./2e Section to go to France.

It appears that this man has been working in close touch with Van VLIET and as the latter is ^{28 Dec 43} almost certainly a German agent it is apparent that MATHIEU @ HOUBEN must also be given careful consideration.

A further interrogation report of KNOPPERS contains the following extract concerning Van VLIET's organisation in Holland:

^{pp 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100}
VAN VLIET @ RIDDERHOF who lived at Blaricum, got into touch with source at the end of 1942 or the beginning of 1943, to ask if he could use source's address as a contact address, to which source agreed. Van VLIET himself had an official address in Blaricum, but hardly ever went there, except to see his father-in-law whose name source cannot remember. The approach was made by Van VLIET, who called at source's house and not finding him at home told his wife that he was living under the name of Van VLIET, but that his real name was RIDDERHOF. This source was able to check up before pursuing the contact.

"VAN VLIET was connected with General MAHIEU's (? spelling) organisation in Belgium; the General wished him to have no direct contact with Dutch organisations, but to find information about them. For this purpose he asked source's help, but source is unable to say why Van VLIET selected him. He did not carry messages for Van VLIET, nor work for him directly, though Van Vliet had asked him to.

"Every Wednesday or Thursday Van VLIET went to Belgium, returning on the Sunday, when he rang source up to make an appointment for them to meet. He travelled to and fro by train, with a false letter purporting to come from one of the chiefs of the Gestapo, on production of which he was issued with an orange coloured paper allowing him to cross the frontier fourteen times. Source had seen these papers.

"Besides the information about various Dutch organisations, source gave Van VLIET details about various factories (e.g. Pokker factories, the PANDER factory at the Hague, which makes glider wings.) This information source obtained from a friend called DE JONG who lived at Blaricum and worked at Amsterdam in a group of insurance companies responsible for war insurance in factories.

"Source states that he has entire confidence in Van VLIET. It was Van VLIET who asked him to go to England, saying that England had asked for someone to be sent over for instructions and then return to Holland. Van VLIET said he was in touch with the U.K. by transmitter. Source's own idea was that an officer with more authority than himself should be sent over, and he went as far as to approach two officers of his acquaintance. Neither, however, was willing to go, probably because it was dangerous, as they said that if he did the journey successfully, they would be willing to go later. He was not willing to give the names of these two officers, because it might look as if they had failed in their duty but their names have been given to Major Bingham among the safe addresses in Holland. Neither is a member of Dodgson ^{6 JAN 1943} WOLZAK's organisation.

"During source's absence in this country, VAN VLIET is taking over his contacts, to which the General has agreed. VAN VLIET knew source as HEINIK.

479 VAN DER WOUDE
22600 RIDDERHOF

479
77/10/44
RIBBENHOR

"He is described by source as very like Albert de BOOY, the Dutch singer, who broadcast on the Dutch radio before the war. He is about 50 to 52, 1m 70 in height, a heavily built man with grey eyes, clean shaven, hook nose, plenty of hair which is going grey, no spectacles. Before the war he had a small factory in Amsterdam, making art metal goods and also apparatus for making ozone. This business ceased after the war owing to the lack of raw materials."

As regards the RINUS organisation, KNOPPERS added that his first contact with it had been when he met a member of the organisation named Jan de HAAN, who introduced him to BART, already referred to.

KNOPPERS gave a full description of Colonel KOPPAERTS: 1 m. 60 in height. Small build, but looks thickset. ~~What~~ hair dark as left is grey. Small grey Hitler moustache. Will be 62 on 31.1.44. He is a military type, with fierce blue eyes, using spectacles only for reading. One or two teeth are missing, and his teeth are generally discoloured. On the lapel of his coat he wears an outsize Willemsorder Cross.

2.12.43



NOTE.

26B

Major Wethered telephoned that KNOFFERS is ill, and the arrangements made for to-day will have to be postponed until Saturday, or probably Monday. Major Langdon informed Chief Inspector Thompson, Special Branch, accordingly.

2.12.43

[Handwritten initials]

Telegrams: Aldmer, London.
Telephone: CENTRAL 627A.

Home Office,
(Aliens Department)
10, Old Bailey,
London, E.C.4.

26C

Please quote the reference —
K. 27929/2

Your reference —
L. 397/Holland/3/S.L.A. 2nd December, 1943.

Dear Mr. Hale,

J. I. S. K.

24

With reference to your letter of the 5th November, I am sending you herewith a Detention Order with two copies thereof which the Secretary of State has signed against Hendrickus KNOFFERS.

I should be glad if you would return the original Order to me in due course, endorsed as to the fact and date of service.

Yours sincerely,

K. G. Lee

J. I. S. Hale, Esq.,
M.I.5.

[Handwritten initials]



NOTE ON S.O.E. TRAFFIC IN THE CASE OF HENDRIKUS KNOPPERS 26a

The traffic between S.O.E. in London and their GOLF organisation in Holland, of which BROADBEAN was a member, contains the following signals which are relevant to KNOPPERS himself:

1. FROM GOLF. 3.6.43.
GOT IN TOUCH VERY IMPORTANT CIRCLE AND PROBABLY NECESSARY SEND OVER REPRESENTATIVE THAT ORGANISATION FOR REPORT.
2. FROM BROADBEAN, VIA GOLF. 5.6.43.
HAVE COME INTO CONTACT WITH COLONEL KOPPERT LEADING MAY ~~OD HE~~ WISHES URGENTLY TO SEND OVER HIS BEST MAN FOR FEW WEEKS STOP MAY WE SEND HIM TOGETHER WITH ADRIEN.
3. FROM S.O.E. TO BROADBEAN VIA GOLF. 5.6.43.
VERY INTERESTED TO SEE NEW FRIEND OVER HERE AND APPROVE YOU ARRANGE JOURNEY STOP HE MUST NOT REPEAT NOT COME WITH ADRIEN BUT SHOULD BE READY TO LEAVE ALONE IN ABOUT FOUR WEEKS TIME STOP WE WILL LET YOU KNOW WHEN HE CAN START JOURNEY.
4. FROM GOLF 6.7.43.
MY NEW FRIEND AS PER OUR NO. 6 WHOM PLEASE CALL. SERGEANT URGES FOR INFORMATION ABOUT HIS START STOP PREPARED TRANSPORT TO SOUTHERN TOWN INDEPENDENT FROM VALKS PASSAGE UTOP ABOUT HONDJES SOONEST CHEER.
5. FROM S.O.E. TO BROADBEAN VIA GOLF NO.14. 7.7.43.
IF SERGEANT GOES TO FOLLOWING ADDRESS AND GIVES PASSWORD QUOTE JE VIENS DE LA PART D'ALEXANDRE UNQUOTE CONCIERGE WILL ANSWER ALEXANDRE LE GRAND STOP THEN HE MUST ASK FOR LUCIEN REPEAT LUCIEN WHO WILL MAKE ALL FURTHER ARRANGEMENTS STOP CONCIERGE-KNOWS NOTHING STOP ARRIVE ANY DAY BEFORE LUNCH FROM ELEVENTH ONWARDS ONE NINE NOUGHT FIVE TWO CIYAE JAVLL RRPEF NEHLY THOOK RALOP DWPAL VXTZQ ONE NINE NOUGHT FIVE TWO.
6. FROM GOLF. 12.7.43.
No. 10.
PLEASE ARRANGE AGAIN SPECIAL DAILY SERVICE FOR SOME DAYS AT ELEVEN THIRTY OUR LOCAL TIME STOP SERGEANT WILL PROBABLY BE AT DESTINATION FIFTEENTH MORNING TIME GOODBYE.
7. FROM BROADBEAN VIA GOLF 23.7.43.
ARNAUD TELLS ME THAT THE ADDRESS MEANT FOR SERGEANT WAS NOT PREPARED STOP SERGEANT THEREFORE WAS BROUGHT BY ARNAUD TO THE ADDRESS MEANT FOR VALK STOP TEN OF TWENTY THIRD STOP JEAN MARIE INFORMS ME THAT HIS CHIEF HAS DISAPP. ED AND HAS NO MORE CONTACT STOP TO BE CONTINUED.
8. FROM BROADBEAN VIA GOLF No. 11. 23.7.43.
SERGEANT SAFELY HOUSED WITH JEAN MARIE FOR TIME BEING AND CAN STAY THERE FOR FOURTEEN DAYS STOP ELEVEN OF THIRTY THIRD STOP WOULD LIKE ADVICE IMMEDIATELY AS TO WHAT IS TO BE DONE ABOUT ARNAUD AND JEAN MARIE.
9. FROM S.O.E. TO BROADBEAN VIA GOLF. NO. 15. 24.7.43.
SERGEANT WILL BE COLLECTED AND YOUR WORK ON THIS JOB IS FINISHED STOP DO NOT USE WAGRAM ADDRESS MEANT FOR SERGEANT AGAIN STOP MANY THANKS FOR GOOD WORK STOP CHEERIC BEST WISHES.

26a

10. FROM BROADBEAN VIA GOLF No. 15. 16.8.43.

THIS IS FROM ARNAUD STOP JANINE RECEIVED LETTERS OF AMEDEIFAONECY STOP SHE HAS NO USEFUL CONTACT STOP AT JANINE NO CONTACT UP TO NOW REGARDING SERGEANT THEREFORE BOTH OF THEM DISQUIETED AND ASKING FOR INSTRUCTIONS RE ARRANGEMENT STOP FURTHER VISITORS AT JANINE IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL SITUATION CLEAR AND SERGEANT COLLECTED.

11. FROM S.O.E. TO BROADBEAN VIA GOLF NO. 20. 16.8.43.

HAVE HAD CONTACT WITH SOUTH SINCE ARNAUD LEFT THERE STOP EXPECTING HEAR SHORTLY SERGEANT CLEARED STOP WILL TELL YOU IN FEW DAYS IF FIRST FRIEND CAN START FOR SAME ADDRESS STOP WILL ADVISE YOU LATER ABOUT HONDJES.

12. FROM BROADBEAN VIA GOLF NO. 15. 23.8.43.

INVESTIGATION OF ADDRESS PROVED THAT IT IS SERGEANT'S WIFE STOP A TRUSTED FRIEND ONLY TOLD HER TO EXPECT A VISITOR WHO WOULD KNOW THE WELIKNOWN PASSWORD STOP VIA A SAFE INTERMEDIARY WE HAVE CONTACTED OUR FRIEND IN ORDER TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH HIS COUSIN.

London informed GOLF by wireless as soon as SERGEANT had arrived in this country.

On 6th. October 1943, at a time when SERGEANT'S background had begun to cause suspicion in London, S.O.E. sent a message to GOLF stating that they were puzzled by SERGEANT'S mission, and asking who was behind him and whether GOLF knew VAN VLIET or COLONEL KOPPERT, also what was the connection between these two, and how GOLF was connected with SERGEANT'S wife. The reply, on October 13th. was "CANNOT TELL YOU ANYTHING ABOUT SERGEANT AS ALL ARRANGED BY FRANS (BROADBEAN) KOPPERT UNKNOWN TO ME. VAN VLIET COLLABORATOR OF ARNAUD IN BELGIUM NOT ATTACHED ANY ORGANISATION BUT FAR REACHING RELATIONS. VAN VLIET KNOWS KOPPERT ONLY FROM CONVERSATION CONCERNING SERGEANT'S JOURNEY STOP COUSIN CAME TO SERGEANT'S WIFE VIA FRIEND AT BERGEN OF ZOOM STOP HAS FRANS NOT YET ARRIVED.

WFI
PF 1000.134

On October 21st. London informed GOLF that they had heard that FRANS (BROADBEAN) had been arrested in the Pyrenees. On November 7th. London informed GOLF that they had had a warning that VAN VLIET was undoubtedly an agent provocateur. To this GOLF replied that his opinion of VAN VLIET was favourable and that London's suspicions were absolutely unintelligible as he was a great patriot etc. etc. It was at this stage that S.O.E. decided to close down. Before doing so, however, they had sent a message instructing ARNAUD to come to this country, to which GOLF replied that he could not be spared as the whole transport business depended upon him, and that ARNAUD did not see the necessity for coming.

The following are wireless messages between S.O.E. and the GOLF/BROADBEAN organisation in the field which, though not relevant to SERGEANT'S journey, may have bearing on the present investigation.

26a

Various messages were exchanged in April and May 1943 about arrangements for bringing the Dutch agent ADRIEN to Paris en route for the United Kingdom. It should be noted that ADRIEN was arrested outside a cafe in Paris when he was in the charge of ARNAUD, in circumstances which at the time suggested that this must have been a piece of ill fortune caused by a chance snap control. (See De WILDE file).
The GOLF organisation was informed in June that ADRIEN had been arrested in Paris, and expressed regret.

On July 5th. 1943 GOLF reported that the agent VALK was ready to start and asked for a new address in view of ADRIEN's arrest. It appears that VALK eventually used the same address as those used by SERGEANT. This is not quite clear from the traffic. ARNAUD seems to have been the usual escort for agents leaving Holland.

A message dated 10th. September from GOLF states that another agent named STAKE had started southwards with ARNAUD's friends.

A further agent, HOECK, appears to have left with ARNAUD's assistant on September 22nd.

G.P.S.

2.12.43

N.B. It is an extraordinary fact that with the exception of a very few messages containing both true and bluff checks, almost all the traffic ^{from the field} set out on pages 1, 2 and 3 above is conspicuous for containing only the bluff check. This fact would indicate to anyone that an SOE Officer (with the agent concerned) might be (or was) under control. SOE disregard it, however, and have always stated that the system of checks cannot be regarded as sound evidence. Though we have pressed them for many months to do so. Since a system which can be so regarded may have still neglected to do so.

G.P.S. to meet.

Register No.

Minute Sheet No.

London Region (Major Langdon.)

253

We have been investigating the case of a Dutchman named Hendrikus KNOPPERS, who was brought by S.O.E. to this country from Holland recently. His case was not entirely satisfactory, and he is at present at an S.O.E. address in London. Recently information has been received from the field which indicates very strongly that KNOPPERS is a German agent. We have accordingly taken the matter up urgently with the Home Office asking them for a Detention Order under Article 12(5A) against KNOPPERS. It is proposed to arrest him and send him to the Oratory Schools for segregation and interrogation.

It is hoped that the Home Office may make this Order and let us have it by tomorrow, Thursday December 2nd. If so, I propose to have KNOPPERS brought by an S.O.E. officer to Room 055 during the afternoon. I should then give him a preliminary interrogation, asking him if he had anything to volunteer. If he has not, I am anxious to arrange for his arrest and removal to the Oratory Schools. I should be very grateful if you could lay this on with Special Branch, so that a couple of officers may be available at Room 055 at about 4 p.m. I would then hand them the Order and ask them to serve it on him, arrest and search him, and escort him to the gate of the Oratory Schools, where arrangements have been made for an N.C.O. to take the body over from the Police Officers.

The only difficulty about this is that we shall not know until tomorrow morning whether we may expect to receive the Order in time. If we do not receive it during the course of the morning we would have to postpone the above procedure until a similar time on Friday. It looks therefore as though any arrangements laid on with Special Branch may have to be done

253
12/23

at the last minute. It can at any rate be said that we should be glad of the assistance of two Special Branch Officers at 4 p.m., either tomorrow or on Friday.

Would you very kindly arrange this for me? May I leave it to you as to whether Special Branch are approached tomorrow if necessary, or else to speak to them to-day and explain the position? I think we can take it that in any event the Order will be available by Friday morning, and Hale and I will do all we can to get it by lunch time tomorrow.

The Dutchman will be in civilian clothes, and he can speak English.

Pluchard.

B.I.B.
1.12.43.

Major G.P. Wethered.

Major Lenzler.

25^B

I have spoken to
Welchard. The
amendment is
altered to:-

- 1) W. to inform in
OSS.
- 2) SB Officer to be
there - outside.
- 3) 16 W ards - SB
will remove bodies
to NSY & send
order; send to NSY;
to Ontario

$\frac{1}{12}$.

EB

Copy for Major Wethered for information.

25a

Region 5/X.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner,
Special Branch.

Hendrikus KNOPPERS.

I confirm my conversation with Superintendent Foster, and should be grateful if you will arrange for two officers to be outside Room 055, War Office, at 4 p.m. on Thursday, December 2nd, for the purpose of detaining the above mentioned man.

Major Wethered, who will be at Room 055, will hand to your officers a Detention Order under Article 12(5A), but we do not wish the said Order to be served on KNOPPERS at the War Office itself. He should be taken over to Scotland Yard, be served with the Order, be searched, and then conveyed to the Oratory Schools, where arrangements have been made for him to be taken over from your officers.

There is a vague possibility that this procedure may have to be deferred until the same time on Friday, December 3rd, but should this be the case I will let you have due notice.

London Region,
1.12.43

ml.
G.H. Langdon, Major,
for Colonel Hinchley Cooke,
Regional Security Liaison Officer. ✓

NOT SECRET

24a

L. 397/Holland/V/S.L.A

30th November, 1943.

PERSONAL.

Dear Mrs. Lee,

Hendrikus KNOPPERS, a Dutchman born at Woensel in Holland on the 18th May 1908 and a radio engineer by trade, arrived in the United Kingdom under the auspices of a British secret department on the 9th September 1943. After being refused leave to land, he was subjected to the examination usual in such cases and was permitted to land at the London Reception Centre on the 19th October 1943. His journey to this country had been arranged by wireless communications passing between this secret department in London and the wireless operator of a resistance organisation working in Holland, and it was intended that, after receiving a course of training, he should be returned clandestinely to Holland during the month of October.

The account which KNOPPERS gave of himself on his arrival was thought at the time to be more or less satisfactory. There were on the other hand disquieting features in the story which he told about the organisation in Holland which had sent him to this country, and most fortunately it was decided that it would be unsafe for him to return.

The secret department concerned have now received a message from two of their agents who have recently escaped from Holland into Switzerland, and whom they regard as very reliable, to the effect that the organisation in Holland which was responsible for the wireless messages which led to KNOPPERS' journey to this country, and indeed for his escape from Holland, has been for some time working under the control of the Germans.

There is of course a possibility that KNOPPERS is the dupe and not the accomplice of the German Intelligence Service, but it is not easy to see how this hypothesis can

Mrs. Lee,
Home Office (Aliens Department),
10, Old Bailey,
E.C.4.

be reconciled with the facts as we have them. It seems more probable that he has come here as a German agent, and we accordingly recommend that an order should be made for his detention under Article 12 (5A) of the Aliens Order.

This recommendation is made with the concurrence of the secret department on whose behalf KNOPPERS ostensibly came here, and of the Dutch Military authorities. KNOPPERS at present holds a commission in the Dutch Army, and we should be grateful if a special direction might be made under Article 22 of the Order, removing the exception which that Article would otherwise confer upon him.

If the order is made we should like KNOPPERS to be detained in the segregation cells at the Oratory Schools. It would be most convenient if you would have the Order and other documents sent to me, in order that we may arrange for its service at the appropriate time.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) J. L. S. Hale.

S.L.A. (Mr. Hale.) *W.S.H.*

Herewith the KNOPPERS file, which I mentioned to you verbally to-day. D.D.B. has spoken to me and has also told S.O.E. (Senter) that we shall put the case up urgently for an Order under Article 12 (5A).

I do not think that I need set out all the facts in this particular case, in view of the real reason for our application. Briefly, however, the position is this:

Hendrikus KNOPPERS, a Dutchman born 18.5.1908, a technical radio engineer, arrived in the United Kingdom under S.O.E. auspices on or about September 9th., 1943. His journey to this country was undertaken as a result of wireless messages between S.O.E. in London and the W/T operator of an organisation operating in Holland. The purpose was to send him back into the field in order for him to establish a satisfactory channel between London and Holland.

During interrogation upon his arrival KNOPPERS gave an account of himself which was thought at the time more or less satisfactory, but various aspects of his account of the organisation in Holland which had been responsible for his journey to this country caused some suspicion, and it was regarded as risky to return him to the field. Fortunately he was not so returned, and is still in the United Kingdom.

S.O.E. have very recently received a message from Switzerland, originating from two agents formerly in Holland, who have now escaped over the Swiss frontier. This message states that the organisation responsible for the wireless traffic between London and Holland before KNOPPERS' journey and also before his escape itself has been under German control for some time. S.O.E. regard the source of this information as very reliable, and it therefore appears beyond a doubt that the German Intelligence Service intended to use KNOPPERS as an agent, and to run him after his return to Holland.

Friday D.D.B. is very anxious that we should take charge of the body from the Dutch as soon as possible, and has asked me if I thought that we could serve an Order upon him next ~~Thursday~~, December 3rd. It is not proposed that KNOPPERS should be sent to Camp C20, but that he should be interrogated and housed at the Oratory Schools for say a month, at the end of which time we may be in a better position to decide on his future. It seems very possible that KNOPPERS, who made a favourable impression at the L.R.C. and at Bayswater, may be innocent of the real intent of those who sent him to the United Kingdom. The alternatives appear to be either that he is, and knows that he is, a German agent, or that he was intended to be used as such on his return to the field.

G.F. Wethered.

Major G.F. Wethered.

B. I. B.
29.11.43.

Secret & Personal.

22a

JS/24/0/632

28th November, 1943.

Dear Dick,

I confirm what Bingham and I told you when we met this afternoon about 2/Lt. Henk KNOPPERS. You already know of the case but we mentioned to you the new factor which has emerged, which is as follows:-

We have received a circumstantial report from abroad from which it appears that the W/T channel which heralded KNOPPERS departure from Holland was, at the time, under German control, in that our report includes the operator in charge of that channel among others whom an escaped Dutch agent identified as having been in prison.

On these facts you indicated that you would feel able to ask for a detention order. We agreed that it would be wise for you and Bingham and me to meet Col. De Bruyne, especially as the above disturbing information goes much further than the KNOPPERS case, suggests long-term penetration which will be the subject of investigation along the lines which I have discussed with you.

Yours ever,

John Lister

D.G.White, Esq., O.B.E.,
M.I.5,
London.

P.S. Bingham has provisionally fixed the meeting

2/ ✓

with De Bruyne to take place at De Bruyne's office, Hereford House, corner of Park Street and North Row at 2.30 on Monday next, the 29th November. Perhaps your secretary would confirm with me that that would be convenient. Bingham will be outside the entrance to Hereford House a few minutes before 2.30.

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM.

21a

From...P.L.B....(Major Wethered)

To...P.L.B....(Major Baxter..)

I do not think that any further action by us in the case of Hendrikus KNOPPERS is possible. You would probably like to see the attached papers, and no doubt certain information in them will be of interest to the Information Index.

Date...21.10.43.....

Signature.....

P. Wethered

pa BIR 20a

COOT/KOPPERT

Although S.O.E. have not officially told us anything further about this case since my last letter from Commander Senter, Mr. Harvey told me yesterday that S.O.E. had now heard that their agent BROADBEAN is missing. They had sent through a series of questions to BROADBEAN about ²⁷⁹ Colonel KOPPERT ~~X~~ Van VLIET etc., as already noted in these papers. The result was that BROADBEAN's W/T operator replied explaining that he had been in charge for some time as BROADBEAN himself had left ~~at~~ some ~~time~~ before on an escape route. S.O.E. have now heard that BROADBEAN was arrested in the Pyrenees. This means that we shall not have any further information about Colonel KOPPERT from this source. It is also rather sinister that in the last three months no less than five S.O.E. agents attempting to reach the U.K. from Holland have been arrested, while the only man to get through was KOOT.

time

GPW

B.I.B
20.10.43

Griet Harvey tells me today that the Dutch have put their foot down about Koot's return. That took her at present been reached. It is satisfactory that someone sees the obvious danger of his return.

GPW

NOTE FOR FILE.

Name.....KNOFFERS, Hendricus.....

R.P.S. No.....

19A

This man's I.B. 23 and Landing Cards were
forwarded to Captain Mott on 19.10.43.

Date.....19.10.43......

L.R.C. 28

Signature.....*H. Mott*.....

192

I spoke to Major Melland, M.I. 14, on the telephone this morning about General CHRISTIANSEN. This man is well-known to M.I. 14 as Wehrmacht Kommandant in Holland. There has never been any information to suggest that he is anti-Nazi at heart. He is a Party member so far as is known and is believed to be a thoroughly patriotic German.

X MELLAND seemed to have heard of the name of Colonel KOPPERT, but found he had no traces. X

B. I. B.
18.10.43.

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

✓

NGM/IV/1158

16th October, 1943. 18A

Dear Major Baxter,

G. L. Smith
KNOPPERS & KULDIN

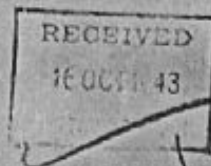
When I was at the L.R.C. on the 13th October, Captain Sands asked me if we could give him the answers to the questions in the 2nd M.I.5 report on the above man. I have been in contact with our Dutch Section and have obtained the following information:-

"We have been unable to get any definite trace of ~~MAHIEU~~ in BRUSSELS. ~~RIDDERHOF~~ whose alias is VAN VLIET, is known to our escape organiser in HOLLAND, is claimed to have no contact with any organisation but has a wide circle of useful acquaintances. There is no doubt that through the escape organiser mentioned he can be considered to be in contact with us. Apparently he also has contact with BOTTEMA, who at one time was used by our organiser CATARRH; this organiser indeed received stores in DRENTHE. Major HOOD is the alias of Major HUMPHRIES, who in 1938 instructed BOTTEMA in the use of explosives. The Captain SOMERS mentioned is Major SOMER, head of the Dutch S.T.S., and his name is probably known to RIDDERHOF on account of documents addressed to him and originating from an intelligence gathering organisation in HOLLAND with whom it is quite clear that RIDDERHOF was also in touch. ~~HOLLEVOET~~ we are unable to place, but he seems to be a young Air Force officer: further information might be had from a Belgian Air Force officer, GUILLAUME, who passed through the R.P.S. several years ago where, from personal memory, I would say that he made an excellent impression."

Yours sincerely,

G. L. Smith
G.L. Smith,
Lieutenant.

Major H.J. Baxter,
M.I.5.,
LONDON.



INTERNAL MEMORANDUM.

From... E.A.B. (Major Wethered).....

To... D.D.B.

Good
5/27/43
100

Following our discussion yesterday, you might like to see the note I made and the letter I have written to Senter.

I do not know if you feel that we should write on this matter to Section V., who seem surprisingly calm about the obvious dangers in Holland. It seems to me that they are probably in the best position to obtain further information about Colonel KOPPERT, and any such information would be of great value to the L.R.C., as of course also to S.O.E. In view of the ticklish triangular relationship I have not yet written to S.I.S.

15.10.43.

Date.....

Signature.....

G. Wethered

Secret & Personal.

JS/36/407

Knappe
(397) (Liddell 13)
15th October, 1943. **16B**

As:
Dear Geoffrey,

We have discussed your internal note of the 13th October and I have, as you assume, had Dick White's letter and have replied.

I merely confirm about KOOT that we were only too pleased to accede to your suggestion that Guy Liddell or Dick White might like to see the summary of the case and to consider whether your department had any security consideration against his return to the field.

I understand from you that Dick White's view is that there are not sufficient grounds for raising any objection.

Yours sincerely,

John Liddell

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

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16a

I discussed the case dealt with in the attached reports with D.D.B. on the evening of October 14th. D.D.B. was of the opinion, after considering all facts, that Colonel KOPPERT was an extremely suspicious character. Nuremberg is a German P/W camp which has earned a bad reputation in this respect, and the circumstances of the Colonel's repatriation to Belgium are so unconvincing as to be almost incredible in the way that they are related by KNOPPERS. D.D.B. agreed that the circumstances of the Colonel's close liaison with General CHRISTIANSEN, together with his peculiar activities on behalf of Jews, who he is said to dislike, painted a very suspicious picture, while the latter activity was a very peculiar cover for a man obviously connected, directly or indirectly, with resistance organisations, but an understandable cover for someone who was collaborating with the Germans. In view of the Colonel's contact with the WOLSAK family, it was beyond doubt that he was in touch with the HOOF organisation. It was of course possible that he preserved a mysterious attitude to cover up any interest that he might have in this or any other organisation, but in D.D.B.'s view KOPPERT, if he should have given at the L.R.C. the facts about himself which KNOPPERS relates, would certainly not have been released, and would have been treated as a very suspect case. D.D.B. advised me to speak to Major MELLAND about the suggestion that General CHRISTIANSEN is of an anti-Nazi frame of mind, as this would help the assessment of Colonel KOPPERT.

The dangers to security in Holland and subsequent possibilities of double-crossing are obvious should KNOPPERS be sent back, and should our suspicions about the Colonel be justified. This however is not entirely a matter for M.I.5. M.I.5 interest is of course limited to the amount of information about this country which KNOPPERS could voluntarily or involuntarily reveal to the Germans or German agents in Holland. He has only been twice to the side-door of the L.R.C., and although he has apparently been at liberty in London for some weeks and must have obtained a good deal of information about the workings of S.O.E. and perhaps of their knowledge of resistance organisations in Holland, this does not, in D.D.B.'s view, constitute sufficient reason for M.I.5 to take the case up as one in which the agent should not be sent back into the field for security reasons. He does however, regard the matter with grave misgiving, and thinks that our only course is to represent strongly to S.O.E. that this is our view, and that every possible check should be applied to KNOPPERS when he returns to Holland. It might be possible to arrange with him some signal which he could give if he knew or suspected that he was directly or indirectly under German control. It might even be possible to arrange for some other S.O.E. agent in the field to keep an eye on developments. In any event we should ask S.O.E. to take the greatest pains to find out more about Colonel KOPPERT. I told D.D.B. that there was wireless traffic at the moment asking BROADBEN for further information about his original message in June, which at the moment seems to be entirely mistaken.

On the general question of the attitude of S.O.E. to the L.R.C. examination of KNOPPERS, D.D.B. agreed that the case was a bad one, and I told him that I had sent the full facts to Major Baxter.

Wethered

Major G.F. Wethered.

15.10.43.
B.I.B.