

11. Headquarters, Third US Army Intelligence Center, Preliminary
Interrogation Report, Baun, Hermann, 16 August 1945

HEADQUARTERS
THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY
INTELLIGENCE CENTER
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
APO 403

PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION REPORT

Interrogation Section 16 August 1945
PRISONER: BAUN, Hermann AIC 1775 CI

PERSONAL DATA:

BAUN, 48, worked as an employee at the German Consulate at ODessa in 1921 and in 1929 he was transferred to the Consulate at Kiev in the same capacity. By 1937 BAUN had advanced in the German Civil Service to the rank of Verwaltungs-assistent when he was drafted into the Wehrmacht and given the rank of Hauptmann. He was assigned to the Abteilung Zeitschriften, OKH, and in 1938 to the Abteilung Militaergraphik. Here BAUN was a translator since he was proficient in the Russian language. In 1938 he was assigned to Abwehr Abteilung I, OKH, where he continued to work as a translator of military publications. BAUN was put in charge in 1940, when the Frontaufklarungsabteilung, Leitstelle I, Ost was activated. This unit was administratively controlled by Frundsberg Ost, OKH, BERLIN. In May 1941 Leitstelle I became operational, its headquarters being at SULZFUER near WARSAN. It consisted of headquarters and four Kolonnen, each Kolonne to be attached to one of the four existing Army Groups in the East. Each Kolonne consisted of approximately 12 Lieut.-crossers, and BAUN's main occupation was the training and replacement of agents. The agents consisted mostly of Russian prisoners who could be persuaded to do this type of work. The false identification papers were supplied by G-Officers who were attached to the Army Group. The necessary radio equipment was supplied by Nachrichten Regiment 506. Leitstelle I Ost was operated under the codename of WILDI and in September 1942, when Oberst SCHMALSCHLAGEI of Wehrwesen Abteilung OKH assumed command of WILDI, this command included only Leitstellen II and III. Leitstelle I continued to function separately under Frundsberg Ost, OKH. During 1942 the Kolonnen were renamed Frontaufklarungs Kommandos and BAUN controlled Kommandos 101 to 105. His superior in the OKH was General GELER. BAUN remained active until November 1944 and then retired via BERLIN, BAE ELSTER, ZELTINGEN to the ALGER. BAUN held the final rank of Oberstlt.

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA:

BAUN was arrested on 29 July 1945 by the 80th HIS Detachment at HINTERBERG, Sonthofen as a former member of the Abwehr and arrived at the Third US Army Intelligence Center on 14 August 1945. Card Index: 1 SHAEF card.

KNOWLEDGE GAINED:

Organization and personnel of Leitstelle I Ost. Organization of Frontaufklarungs Kommandos 101 to 105. Training of Russian-speaking agents. Names of G-Officers in the East.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

BAUN gained prominence in the Abwehr on the Eastern Front as he was one of the few Russian-speaking officers. He claims not to have been a member of the Party. He is cooperative.

KD For the AC of S, G-2:

John King 2/4
JOHN L. KING
Major, Infantry
Chief of Section

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