

4. Statement of Heinz Danko Herre, 8 April 1953

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Colonel HERRE was informed of GHELEN's decision to salvage German records and personnel for transfer to the Americans in February 1945 while at Nuensing in charge of building up VLASSOV divisions. He later went to Czechoslovakia, where he remained until the end of the war. At the end of the war, he returned to Germany on foot and proceeded to Unteroessen for the purpose of contacting General KUSTRIN, to see what could be done by the latter to prevent the extradition of VLASSOV volunteers to the USSR. Having arrived in Unteroessen on 20 May 1945, he and the General discussed the situation at length and were taken into custody together the same night. Thereafter, HERRE and KUSTRIN were taken to Marquardtstein and from there were both to have been taken to Augsburg for internment. They set off in separate jeeps, however, and by a quirk of fate HERRE's jeep had a flat tire and was left behind. The American sergeant with HERRE was in doubt as to whether HERRE was to be sent to Augsburg and so drove him back to the Marquardtstein PW camp, where the Duty Officer had been changed in the meantime and the new one seized upon HERRE as a likely high ranking German officer who could be put in charge of the camp. Thereafter, HERRE was made camp commander and put in charge of dissolving one division.

At the end of June 1945, HERRE was sent to Mosberg with other General Staff officers of the rank of Colonel and above, and remained there until 19 November 1945 as a political internee. Accordingly, GHELEN was unable to locate HERRE between June and November since HERRE's name did not appear on lists of interned German officers which were being combed.

On 19 November 1945 HERRE was released from Mosberg and was taken as a PW to Neu Ulm. On 5 December he was released in turn from Neu Ulm and per-

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mitted to return to his home in Krusen. While at Neu Ulm, HERRE met the father-in-law of Gerhard WESSEL and was informed that (unspecified) developments were taking place with regard to WESSEL and former associates and that WESSEL might be going to the United States. HERRE asked him to write to WESSEL and tell him where HERRE was. On 10 January 1946 an American officer suddenly appeared in Krusen, said only the word "GHELEN" and asked if HERRE would be ready to work. HERRE knew immediately that contact had been established and sent word that he was ready. He then received a protective letter and an assignment to remain in Krusen and to start preparing a study concerning his experiences with the VLASSOV army.

In the beginning of February 1946, HERRE went to Oberursel where he found WESSEL, Hermann BAUM, Frau BAUM, Rolf BAUM, Vladimir KUDASHEV and Gustav Adolf TIETZE. From this time until 9 March 1946 he was occupied with reestablishing connections with former VLASSOV associates (among whom notably was HENGL, his former G-2). He then received a letter from GHELEN (end of February or early March) asking him to come to the US to join the group at Fort Hunt. This was arranged, with Captain Paul COMSTOCK as escort. HERRE and COMSTOCK left Frankfurt on 9 March, went through Paris to Le Havre, arrived in New York, processed through Fort Hamilton and arrived in Alexandria (Fort Hunt) on 26 March 1946.

At this time HERRE joined the GHELEN group in working on old files, which were organized and brought up to date, doing press evaluation work on a small scale and preparing studies bearing on the Soviet military potential, German experiences in the East, etc. As time went on, more time was devoted to evaluation work, Allied reports were made available to the group and toward the end of the Stateside period the group was preparing evaluations for the Pentagon of non-German reports, and was visited by many high ranking American officers, including Colonel LOVELL, Colonel SHIMKIN, etc. Captain Erich WALDMAN was the group's contact with the Pentagon, visiting

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on an average of two or three times a week for two or three hours of discussion. Captain WALDMAN and Major WOLF made the physical comfort of the group their personal concern, were instrumental in obtaining favors (visits to Alexandria and Washington for shopping, picnics along the Potomac, pouching of packages of food and clothing to families in Germany via "Top Secret" BOLERO pouch, etc.) and were highly esteemed by all members of the group.

GEHLEN's request for HERRER's transfer to the United States was caused by certain differences of opinion or inclination within the group itself. On the one hand, there existed a "younger group," consisting of Hans HIRRICHS, Albert SCHOFFLER and Horst HIEMENZ, who wanted to stay in the US as long as possible; their concern was with the question of "survival" and their idea was to become US citizens and Pentagon researchers; their frequent contact with officers doing just that made the idea appear distinctly possible and plausible to them. On the other hand, there was an "indifferent" group, consisting of Herbert FUENAR, Konrad STEPHANUS and von LUETGENDORF, who were concerned with the cause and not so much with the sponsorship. Accordingly, GEHLEN had called HERRER over to help indoctrinate the two groups and bring them around to thinking in terms of returning to Germany to advance the work as he conceived of it. HERRER states that this work actually was easy, since he had just come from Germany, had been present there when the work got under way of assembling personnel for the collection work, etc. When Secretary of State BRYAN made the decision that all Germans in the United States were to be returned to Germany prior to the end of June 1946, GEHLEN seized upon this as an excuse to return all of his group to Germany, although HERRER believes that it would have been possible to obtain an exception for them to remain.

At the time the group was returned to Germany, there was considerable discussion as to whether the Germans should go as PWs or as scientists. All

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were equipped with both PW outfits and civilian clothing and appear to have changed from one to the other numerous times while processing for return. They finally left the United States on 12 June 1946 as German scientists, travelling on a ship otherwise loaded with German PWs. They were met at Le Havre by Captain WALDMAN, who had preceded them, and returned to Frankfurt via Paris.

On arrival at Frankfurt, the group was divided. GEHLEN, HINRICH, NIEMENZ and SCHOELLER went to the Blue House, while STEPHANUS, von LUTGENDORF and FUENAR and HERRER were sent to the Swiss House, WISC, Oberursel. HERRER states that it is still not quite clear to him why he was separated from the GEHLEN contingent but that he was told that he was to take over the Northern part of the collection work. At this time the fate of STEPHANUS and FUENAR was still undecided; von LUTGENDORF was to be released.

In August 1946 HERRER left Oberursel and took quarters in Koernigstein, using the name FRICKER and with the idea of preparing to set up the Northern base of operations (NEZ). In this connection, he next went to Stadt Oldendorf and worked in a gypsum factory for purposes of building cover. From there, according to his orders, he actually did little work, except to take cautious steps toward establishing nets in Northern Germany. He was forbidden at this time to undertake any work against the [ ] While HERRER was so occupied, GEHLEN learned that BAUN was not "handling" HERRER as GEHLEN had understood or intended (was handing over only part of the cigarettes, money, etc., made available to BAUN for the Northern work, etc.) and so decided to have HERRER return to Oberursel. The latter did so in February 1947. At this time the plan to build the NEZ was abandoned and the decision made to conduct all work in the [ ] zone of Germany from bases in Southern Germany.

At the Blue House, HERRER found on the American staff Colonel DEANE, Captain WALDMAN and three or four sergeants. On the German staff there was GEHLEN,

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WESSEL (as chief of the evaluation work), BAWN (as chief of the collection work and located with his staff at Schmitten) and a small administrative staff. HERRE first did press evaluation work with SEIDL and on 1 April 1947 was informed by Colonel DRANE that he was to take over Castle Kransberg (DUSTBIN). After a twenty minute inspection tour, HERRE signed for the entire castle and its furnishings and was left there as caretaker and occupant of its hundred or so rooms. He immediately telephoned to the Blue House for reinforcements and five men <sup>sent</sup> to were to assist. Within the next two or three weeks HERRE was in charge and the monetary, economic, press evaluation, administrative and 236 units were set up there. At the end of six months, all space was occupied, with families in residence and a school for children living in the Castle and at the Blue House established.

In June or July 1947 HERRE was removed from his position at DUSTBIN and made Chief of Staff to GENLEN at the Blue House. At this time he worked at the Blue House and lived at the Castle, driving back and forth daily with rations for the Castle and continuing as a sort of executive officer for it.

A written statement will be prepared by Heinz HERRE to cover his activities and experiences from this time (July 1947) until the time of Mr. [ ] arrival in Pullach in the fall of 1948.

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