

1 March 1954

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SOURCE CARD

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5B of a&g Wilhelmatr.124
b.Rogan

Date of interview: March 1, 1954

Source was born in Valka, Latvia and was educated in a German school since his father had been from German ethnic origin. Source studied in Moscow before the World War I, and was drafted into the Russian Tsarist army during that war. He was in the rank of a captain when the revolution broke out (in the Latvian Rifles battalion, a part of the regular Russian army). In 1920 he repatriated from Soviet Union to Latvia, was offered a job in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Riga since in command of several languages (Latvian, German, Russian and French), but eventually was taken over by the Latvian army in the rank of a captain, was chief of a company in the 6th Regiment of Infantry, then commander of a detachment in the Officers' Training School in Riga, then again commander of a company in the 5th Infantry Regiment, and last commander of Signals in the Hqs of the Division of Vidzeme (Vidzemes divizijas sakaru priekšnieks) in Riga. He was married to a German wife, also from Riga, and they had a daughter. For the sake of the child the

family applied for repatriation to Germany in 1939, though source feels himself a Latvian. In Germany source lived in Posen (Poznan), Warthegau, and earned his living as a salesman for pencils (Faber company representative). He was drafted into the German army in 1941 and served in the rank of a captain as leader of an Army School for interpreters in Posen. Here he was captured by the Soviets on February 23, 1945, whereas his family fled to Leipzig (and after the war fled again to the Western Germany). Source was for half a year in a prisoners' camp in Posen (where there were besides German POWs also civilian internees and Russians for repatriation to Soviet Union). The commander of the camp was a Russian colonel Irmu ORLOV who happened to have been in the Tzar army too and besides fought during the World War I at the same section of the front as source did, so this colonel saved source during the first hard time in Russian POW camps. Source was moved along with others to POW camp Breslau in fall 1945, and from there to Stalingrad. There source was seriously ill several times and was not able to work. He was often on a nominal roll of POWs to be released, but always taken off transport. In February 1948 he was again told to get prepared for release and sent single-transported and accompanied by a Soviet first lieutenant to Moscow, and from there to Leningrad, to a camp near the Finland Railroad Station. There he was interrogated from February 1948 to December 1948 by an Soviet army interrogator captain ROGA, presumably a Latvian (though denied it, spoke perfectly Russian and German). Since source never had been in

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Soviet Union during the war, and his statements appeared true (after thoroughly checked), the charges were dropped and source again was told to be prepared for release. In June 1949 he was transferred in a railroad wagon for prisoners (called "Stolipin's car") to Riga and delivered into the POW camp Nr. 9 near the export harbor ("Eksportosta"). While source had the opportunity to walk around and see something in Moscow and Leningrad, he had no opportunity to see anything from Riga since he did not work outside the camp and when transported, always in a covered wagon. In December 1949 he was again told to get ready for release, but on December 4, 1949 he was delivered into the special prison of MVD on Raipa bulvaris. Here he was presented with charges for participation in espionage since he taught German army members who later were used in Russia (due to knowledge of languages) for reconnaissance and espionage. After a couple of days source was court-martialled in same building and in a 10 minutes trial sentenced to death, this replaced by 25 years imprisonment under Sect. 17 and 58,6 of the Soviet penal code. He was transferred then to the Central Prison in Riga and was there in several cells together with other convicts (Latvians, Germans and Russians). In May 1950 source was transferred to Borovitchi (between Moscow and Leningrad) into a camp where besides the ex-POWs there were also German civilians and even women. In July 1951 source was transferred to the area of Sverdlovsk (Verchneural'sk), to a camp "Majka" near the railroad station Kromik. In general the prisoners there

were employed in construction work (factories and apartment houses), but source did not work outside the camp due to his poor health. He was kind of an aid to a Russian (Ukrainian) sergeant who was in charge of the tins storage (canned food was taken out of the parcels received by POWs or rather convicts and stored in a special room where the convicts received them upon request under supervision). Source was on good terms with the Russian personnel of the POW camp due to his knowledge of Russian language, and does not complain about the last period of his prisonership.

He was released along with others in September 1953 and arrived in Western Germany on December 30, 1953. Now he is living with his wife and daughter in Weiklingenberg a. Main, a little town, and having a rest. He intends to resume his activities as representative of the pencils' factory "Faber" in Nürnberg.

Source was visited together with a former Latvian major Vilis HAZNERS from Augustdorf. This maj. Hazners happens to have been in the Officers' Training School in Riga while source was an officer and member of the staff of this school, so source regarded Hazners as his pupil and was willing to talk, though asked not to publish his name anywhere. Though telling very much and thoroughly, source does not seem to be a valuable one since seldom was out of POW camps or prisons. Otherwise he is very observant and has a sound judgement about the Russian life. Since the interviewer has been a Latvian officer too, source was as friendly to him as to the a/m pupil of source Hazners (both were even invited to attend together with source and his family a masquerade party in one of the town's inns).

Two packages of Russian cigarettes were obtained from source ("Parachutist", produced in Leningrad, purchased in the camp canteen in Ural). Source is not in possession of any documents or letters.

(Cigs. sent to SA/6)

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control. It is difficult to express the amount of work on Fluse which was done in Berlin in terms of percentage. However, the design work was carried out in detail for every phase of the missile. This design work was performed only on the basis of theoretical calculations and assumptions. For example, one of the assumptions was that it would be possible to control the combustion along a length of 1.5 to 2 meters, or that it would be possible to achieve given lift coefficients with the provisionally assigned dimensions. Should laboratory tests later have shown that the conditions were more favorable or less favorable, we would then have had to make the necessary changes in the design. This phase of an assignment would have been classified as "Vorprojekt" in Germany, and I think that the Soviets termed this phase of a project "eskizniy projekt" (phonetic spelling). This phase is distinguished from the more advanced phase in which experimental data are applied to the design.

Actually, however, the Fluse work in Gema had progressed beyond what is normally "eskizniy projekt", for we actually prepared some detailed drawings which permitted the workshop construction of these parts. These drawings were made even though the concrete experimental measurements for these parts had not been obtained. In summary, the work on Fluse (at Gema) had progressed to a stage half-way between "sketching project" and "technical project".

76. Q. Why was the Project Fluse "concluded" in the winter of 1945-1946? Have you any knowledge of what happened to the project after this date? Give disposition of paperwork and hardware if any and if known. Were any experiments ever made to support the solution of the capsule sea launching of the Fluse missile? Give all known details.
- A. I have no further information on this other than what has already been given as background in answer to earlier questions. No experiments were ever made to support the solution of the capsule sea launching of the Fluse missile. No other details are known other than that already given.
77. Q. Did you or any of the other German engineers ever receive bonuses for your work at KB-3? How much? For what projects? At what stages of development of the projects?
- A. The Ministry, M.S.Kh.M., never issued any bonuses. I base this on the fact that the German specialists in Obranovka (fuse plant) who also were assigned to the Ministry, M.S.Kh.M., did not receive bonuses either. This does not mean that the Ministry issued no bonuses at all but only that German specialists received none. The Soviet engineers at Design Bureau No. 3

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did on occasions receive such subsidies. Details as to whom and for what, I cannot remember. The sums involved were not very large; I think it amounted to a fraction of the monthly salary of the particular engineer.

78. Q. Clarify the development activity at Krasnoarmeyskiy on unguided airborne rocket projects using the same general approach as outlined in previous questions regarding German history, German activity at Krasnoarmeyskiy, German collaboration with Soviets in USSR and activity conducted independently by the Soviets.

A. [See Report No. EG-794.]

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