

Unrest (Polschwing) files

Our documentation of Polschwing's early history rests almost entirely upon his own unsupported statements. In approximately 1940 he began to pick up corroborative statements covering his IS activity and support of the Iron Guard in Rumania. Briefly his pre-1940 history is as follows:

1909-1926 born and raised in Shhoenbruck, Poland

1926-1932 studied law at London University, returned to Hamburg in 1928 with East India Trading Company. 1930 "manager" (at the age of 20) of Oberon Investment and Development Company, Berlin and Vienna, and he also "acquired" the Upper Silesian Lime and Cement Works.

1932 went to Bulgaria on telephone deal (possibly sales and promotion) for Bank fuer Industrieobligationen. Had close contact with Foreign Office and did economic and political intelligence work.

1933-35 went to Palestine to search for treasure supposedly buried by retreating German army in first world war. Says this was at behest of Foreign Office, but another report indicated he had private support and may have absconded with the funds entrusted to him. Stayed until afraid to return to Germany, for reasons not clear, and formed Amaneh, a trade company.

1935 returned to Germany where found NSDAP opposed to him (possibly because of the treasure hunt funds?). He says NSDAP knew of anti-nazi contacts he had formed in Near East. Bought a back-dated (1932) NSDAP card, but this did not get him out of whatever trouble he was in and he fled to parts unknown at the end of 1935.

1935-37 not covered at all in his chronological account. Important years too.....

1937-39 returned to Germany to try to get out property and assets. In spite of continuing NSDAP opposition, took and passed state exams for foreign exchange councilor. Says he bribed two high ranking SS officers to protect him, but arrested anyway by Gestapo in winter 37-38. First marriage 1938, divorced after one child in 1942. Got a passport in 1938 and went to U.S., supposedly to arrange ground for emigration. Returned to Germany in 1938, tried to arrange for property transfer (to U.S.?) but caught by outbreak of war.

1939-41 through influence in Foreign Office, assigned as chief of political intelligence at German Legation in Bucharest. Also was made vice-president of German Rumanian Chamber of Commerce. During this period he says he was under fire from the NSDAP but was able to block German infiltration into Rumanian industry and political circles. Keeps referring to anti-nazi connections during this period, but nothing definite specified. Also wore uniform of SS captain on occasion, but claims was not real SS member.

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

Declassified and Approved for Release  
by the Central Intelligence Agency  
Date: 2001, 2005

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

1941

a. After Antonescu revolt in January 1941, alone and single handed supported Iron Guardists and evacuated them through Bulgaria to Germany, where they were interned. This supposedly done by bribing channels to Goering and Himmler and caused breach between political intelligence and Ribbentrop, who supported Antonescu's government. The text of this is confirmed by reports from other sources.

b. While in Bulgaria evacuating Iron Guardists, B notified that he had been assigned as chief of IS in Northern Greece and entered with his first German troops. Released from this duty by Himmler after protesting that not qualified for such police-military duties.

c. returned to Berlin and with influence of General Jost, assigned to IS work in Holland. Tried to build line to Portugal "to contact Western intelligence directly," and when Jost fell into disgrace, tried to persuade him to go west and surrender to allies. Recalled to Berlin at end of 1941.

1942-43 had operations and other medical treatment in Vienna where arrested by Gestapo in September 42. Reason not clearly stated. Released April 1943.

1943-45 returned to Vienna where became manager of Austrian branch of German pharmaceutical firm--name unspecified. In this position was able to cover and save "several members of our (resistance?) group" Married again in 43, possibly to a Jewess. Arrested by Gestapo in Feb 45, but released after bribe of 10,000 marks. Led with his wife and joined resistance circle ("05") with which he had been in contact for some time.

1946 apparently worked with OSS, CIC etc picking up persons on wanted lists. Has several testimonials of gratitude from US Army and Austrian groups to this effect. Early contacts with Cdeum not covered in files.

2. Most evaluations of B (based almost without exception on study of biography rather than personal association) run as follows: self seeking, egotistical, and a man of shifting loyalties. His protests of democracy and, more particularly, feelings of Austrian nationalism seem to contradict his history. However, he definitely did stick out his neck for the Iron Guardists, a risky and unprofitable thing to have done at the time, and can see no explanation but loyalty either to his contacts or to their ideals (such as they were). The Cdeum chief Utility considers B to be highly intelligent with most of the assets of a real high level IS man, but is egocentric, intensely ambitious to such an extent that interests of the organization for which he works will always be subordinated to personal ambitions. This may be biased because of B's split with Cdeum, but jives to a large extent with his history.

The only possible conclusion seems to be that, while not really known as yet whether he can be controlled by a US agency, but certainly that someone of high caliber should be assigned as his case officer (whether army or ourselves) to prevent hold him with a tight rein until the situation clarifies

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Unrest's break with Odeum

3. The initiative for the break seems to have come from Unrest himself.

Utility's opinion on the reasons why we wish this a bit and are as follows:

a. The reorganization of Mallner's group (due to reallocation and cutback of funds) took Unrest out of a leading position in this setup. Utility believes Unrest has been planning a break with Odeum since that time.

b. Utility says Unrest has or had connections with the FIS through FOUSSANT @ Mueller in Innsbruck.

c. Unrest consistently refused to give Odeum details as to sources, organization etc. [ ] comments that Odeum has never made a point of this with other agents of theirs, however.

d. Utility hinted that Odeum well enough set in Austria now so that high paid source like Unrest no longer necessary---this is probably so much wind.

e. Unrest's uncertain loyalties made him less desirable-- (Incidentally, Odeum's first and main reason for dropping Unrest was the failure to divulge operational info---a,b,d, and e above were reasons tacked on later.)

Unrest's statement on his position, leading to the break was:

a. He could not agree to divulge operational info, thus breaking his promises to his contacts to keep them covered---this with an aside to us that the same situation would not prevail with direct American contact and the info would be given willingly...overtones of reluctance to permit German penetration into Austrian political military etc circles.

b. The reduction of his budget meant that he could no longer hold his political sources in Austria which would be vitally necessary after a State Treaty.

c. He could not afford to lose face with his collaborators and accept a reduction in status.

Although it appears nowhere in the memos, it seems probable to me that Unrest got wind of the fact that the U.S. could not continue to tolerate direct and unsupervised Odeum operations in Austria and would take steps to get in more direct contact with Austro-Odeum sources (viz the new direct Mallner-Waters contact). Unrest, knowing this, probably decided to make the separation on his own and get in on the ground floor, using American backing to build up his own reputation in Austrian circles and ride in to a good spot in the Austrian IS.

[ ] mentions another factor, that Unrest has a burning desire to become an American citizen and to parley himself into a position of influence in American-Central European affairs.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY