

Bilbao, 23 May 1946

Q-3038

REPORTS ON GERMANSKIDNAPING OF A GERMAN BY THE GERMAN GESTAPO

Last Saturday, at half-past six in the evening LOESCH was kidnaped by order of the Gestapo. They tricked him into an automobile by telling him they had received documents and letters from DOBIASON, from Austria, where he is at the head of an agricultural firm, and that because of his knowledge of this firm, his presence was needed to vouch for their authenticity.

In the car they threatened him with death if he attempted to escape or to call for help. They ate and slept at Castro Urdiales, and the following day they permitted him to telephone to his home, but since his telephone was out of order, he called the home of SALONA, telling him merely that he was obliged to be absent and not to be alarmed, that he would be back the next day. The message was taken by Felisa who sent a woman (to his home) to give the information.

He was then taken to Santander, to the residence of Cesáreo PEÑA, where they forced a declaration from him by violent methods. Later they took him to the house of Mercedes HAYA, where in the presence of the private secretary of the Governor, of Mercedes HAYA, RINCON, Guillermo BERENTZ, DILLY and the three aviators they planned to apply electric current to him, but this was opposed by Mercedes HAYA. A special apparatus had been brought there for this purpose.

The Gestapo believed that LOESCH had stolen 240,000 pesetas on two separate occasions, 120,000 each time, a sum, according to them, sent to the camp every month by the authorities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores) for the expenses of the camp. This sum corresponded to the amount required for the upkeep of the Germans for the past two months. The facts are uncertain. The collections were always made by Sr. DOBIASCH, but he did not receive them for the past two months; instead, during this time, the Governor was giving money to LOESCH with which to pay the dealers in goods -- non-rationed -- or outside regular channels. So now, that which LOESCH stole and to which they made him confess, according to RINCON, was that some of these articles

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had been sold by him on the Black Market without letting the camp know anything about it and the money retained by him. These diversions netted LOESCH 8,000 pesetas, and after much discussion, they agreed to set him free if some one would deposit the 8,000 pesetas in the hands of the Gestapo. For this purpose LOESCH called Sr. SALONA on the telephone, and SALONA informed me that he was going to Santander to help him.

The kidnapers were: Padre LANGE, BERENTZ and RINCON, the latter dressed in a uniform of the "Guardia de Franco," and all three armed with pistols. The money was paid in the Hogar del Camarada, Alcazar de Toledo 14, Santander. LOESCH was given a receipt in which the sum appeared as being payable to BERENTZ, to which the latter refused to agree, whereupon another was made at the establishment of PEÑA, in his name.

To continue with a few reports concerning some of the persons involved in these transactions.

Mercedes HAYA.--Living in Perines, Santander. Typist for the Civil Government. DILLY and the three aviators are living at her house at the present time. Their mail is received at the "Gobierno Civil" in her name. Mercedes HAYA is paid 100 pesetas daily for lodging and feeding the four. It is probable that now they will be moved since they have been much noticed in this domicile.

Ma. Milagros DIAZ.-- Villa "Tortosa" (Barrio de Gros), San Sebastian. The aviators were formerly hidden in this house.

Padre LANGE.--According to his own statements to LOESCH, he belongs to the Gestapo in Spain, this was confirmed by RINCON in a conversation (which I overheard) with the pilot. At present he is one of the 185 Germans hidden and controlled by the Falange of Santander, to prevent them from embarking the 6th of next month on the American ship that is being awaited. His obligatory domicile, as a religious, is Valmaseda.

Padre LANGE wrote a letter to his father in which he spoke ill of the aviators, and the father wrote to them condemning his conduct to them. The latter deny doing the things Padre LANGE attributes to them, and because of this there is considerable tension amongst them. It might be a trick to keep them from leaving Santander where the Gestapo is able to keep track of them better. The pilot believes this might be so.

Cesáreo PEÑA.-Proprietor of an establishment dealing in "artículos de luxe" in the Segunda Alameda, Santander, known as Viuda de C. PEÑA. Adjutant of the Gestapo in Spain; head of the group of "Guardia de Franco" of Santander, with RINCON he is in charge of 240 Germans escaped from concentration camps or introduced clandestinely into Spain, and of 185 evading repatriation. He is the organizer of the A.C.A.N.S. (Ayudas Camaradas Alemanes Nacional Socialistas).

RINCON.- 23 years of age, powerful, weighing 102 kilos, belonging to the "Guardia de Franco." Served two years in the Blue Division. He is impulsive, easily drawn out. He is crippled by the loss of his left arm from a wound received while in Russia. With PEÑA he is in charge of the Germans. He told me they had received 100,000 pesetas from Madrid and 35,000 from San Sebastian, German money, for the evaders and those in hiding; that three W/T sets had been given to the Germans returning to their country; that they would have killed LOESCH had he been a Spaniard; that they were giving economic protection to thirteen Germans in Santander, although they were in charge of all Spain; that the rest received their money by various means, and that they were afraid LOESCH would tell this to some Consulate, in which case they would kill him.

BERENTZ.-In charge of the camp of CARRANZA, lieutenant in the tank corps. Escaped from the camp with the aid of Padre LANGE. Now belongs to the German Gestapo in Spain. Lives at Santander. Has documentation as a Spanish Falangist under the name of Guillermo PEREZ TORRES.

DILLY.- Escaped from the CARRANZA camp. Spanish police would give no information concerning his flight.

✓Alberto DURINGEN.-Pilot, aviator who carried DEGRELLE, grade of regular officer. Does not belong to the National Socialist Party, nor do his two companions.

A.C.A.N.S. - AYUDA CAMARADAS ALEMANES NACIONALE SOCIALISTAS.- This association organized

by PEÑA, has published some little books which carry only the symbol and number of the member on the cover and inside twelve price stamps which are filled in by the collectors and accounted for to PEÑA who keeps track of all that comes in. The object being to collect funds to help all Germans in Spain who are in need.

I received this information from a person who is in contact with us.