

Reference abstracts of

KV 2/393 + KV 2/394

This document contains materials derived from the latter file

Its purpose: to be used as a kind of reference document, containing my personal selection of report sections; considered being of relevance.

My input: I have in almost every case created transcripts of the just reproduced file content. However, sometimes adding my personal opinion; always accompanied by: AOB (with- or without brackets)

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KV-2-393-1 von Hentig

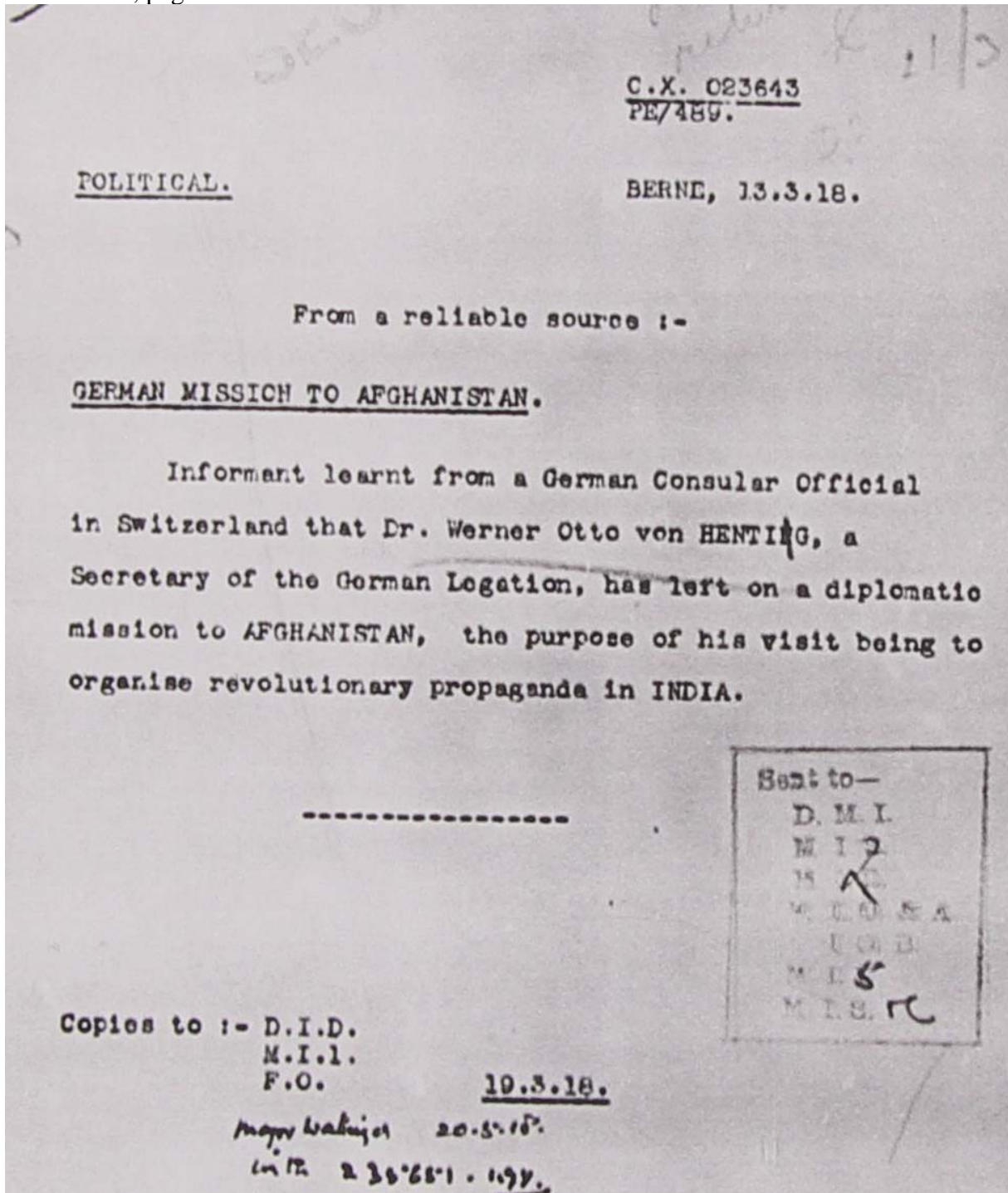
George Werner Otto von Hentig

M.I.1 page 3

M.I.5. Major J.A. Wallinger

P.F. I 43 d.d. 19.4.18

KV 2/393-1, page 7

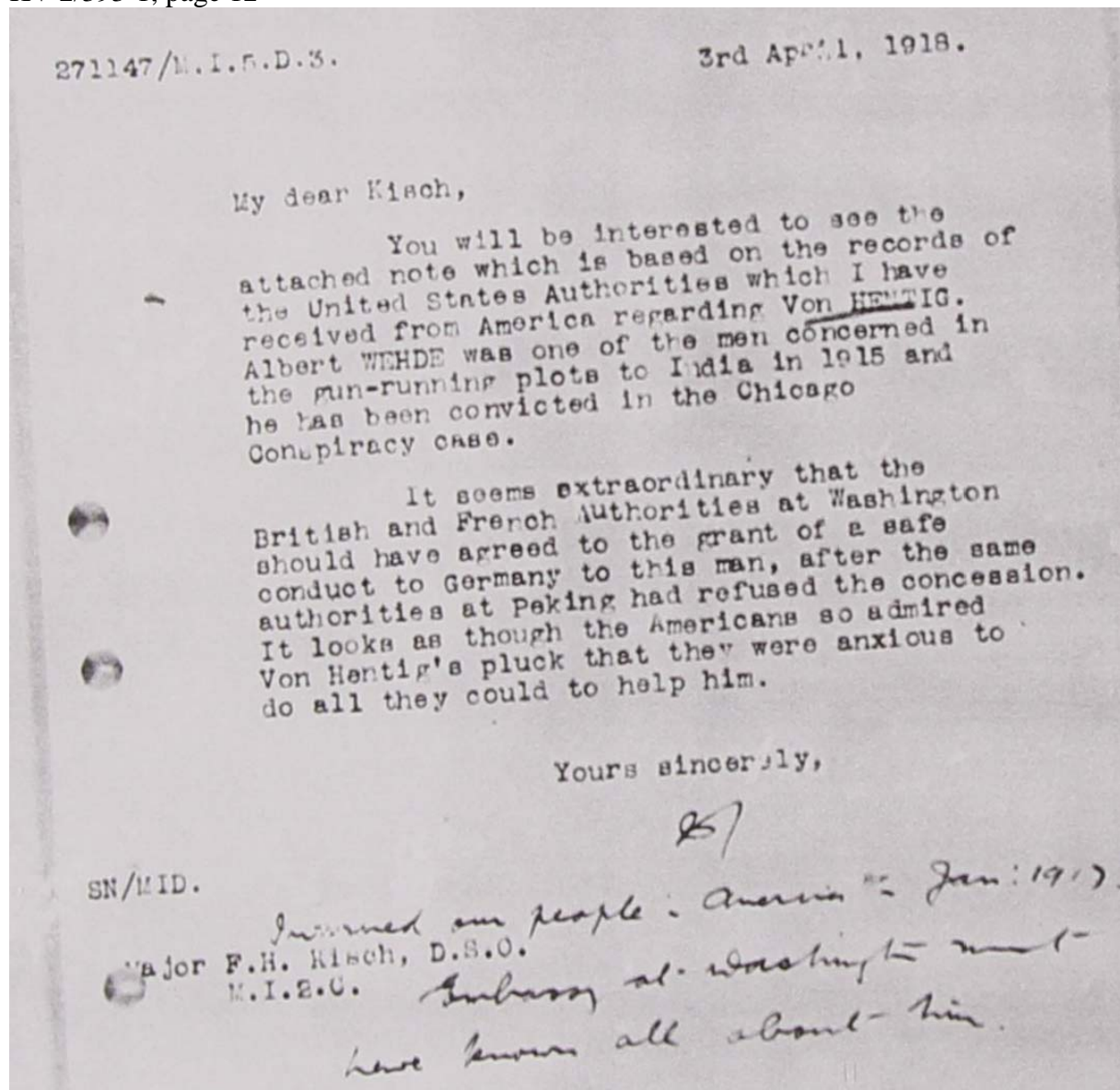


Political Berne 12.3.18 C.X. 023643

From reliable source

German Mission Afghanistan

Informant learnt from German Consular Official in Switzerland that Dr. Werner Otto von Hentig, a Secretary of the German Legation, has left on a diplomatic mission to Afghanistan, the purpose of the visit being to organise revolutionary propoganda in India.
KV 2/393-1, page 12



3rd April 1918

Dear Kisch,

You will be interested to see the attached note which is based on the records of the United States Authorities which I have received from America regarding von Hentig. Albert Wehde was one of the men concerned in the gun-running plots to India in 1915 and he has been convicted in Chicago Conspiracy case.

It seems extraordinary that the British and French Authorities at Washington should have agreed to the grant of a safe conduct to Germany to this man, after the same authorities at Peking had refused the concession. Von Hentig's pluck that they were anxious to do all they could to help him.

Major F.H. Kisch, D.S.O.
M.I.S.C.

VON HENTIG.

Von Hentig arrived in San Francisco at the beginning of May and was detained on Angel Island. He was subjected to a very rigorous cross examination particularly on two points.

(1) Whether he had been in regular diplomatic employ. (2) How he had managed to get away from Shanghai. After a good deal of lying he gave a fairly true account of his escape from Shanghai very probably being induced to make this statement under the belief that two of his compatriots had given him away.

Hentig, who is about 31 years of age, had been an attache at Peking in 1912. He was subsequently at Constantinople and after the outbreak of war said that he was sent to Persia. From there he went on to Afghanistan where he acted as what he calls Charge -d'affaires. He eventually got out of Afghanistan, and with a companion called Roher made his way through Eastern Turkistan across China to Hankow. From there he went on to Shanghai where he stopped with the German Consul-General Knipping. The Germans tried to get him away from China as a bona fide member of their diplomatic service, but the British and French authorities refused to guarantee him a safe passage and the U.S.A. Consul-General said it was impossible for him to do so as the British would take him off the ship immediately it started. At this period of the story von Hentig does his best to conceal what

steps he took to get away, but from the rather conflicting statements he made it appears that he was concealed in some house near the German Consular Office and looked after there by some subordinate in the German Consulate. At this house he was introduced to Albert Wehde who was leaving Shanghai by the s.s. "Ecuador". He was eventually smuggled on board ship and concealed in the wardrobe in a cabin occupied by two Austrian officers who had escaped from Siberia. On arriving at Honolulu he says he swam ashore, and while ashore got assistance from Wehde who also went ashore at Honolulu. The story here does not seem quite true and it is possible that Wehde took him off the ship secretly. Von Hentig stopped five or six days at Honolulu and came on by the next ship to San Francisco. He was eventually released by the U.S. authorities and sent to Germany under safe conduct after reference to the British and French authorities at Washington.

Von Hentig

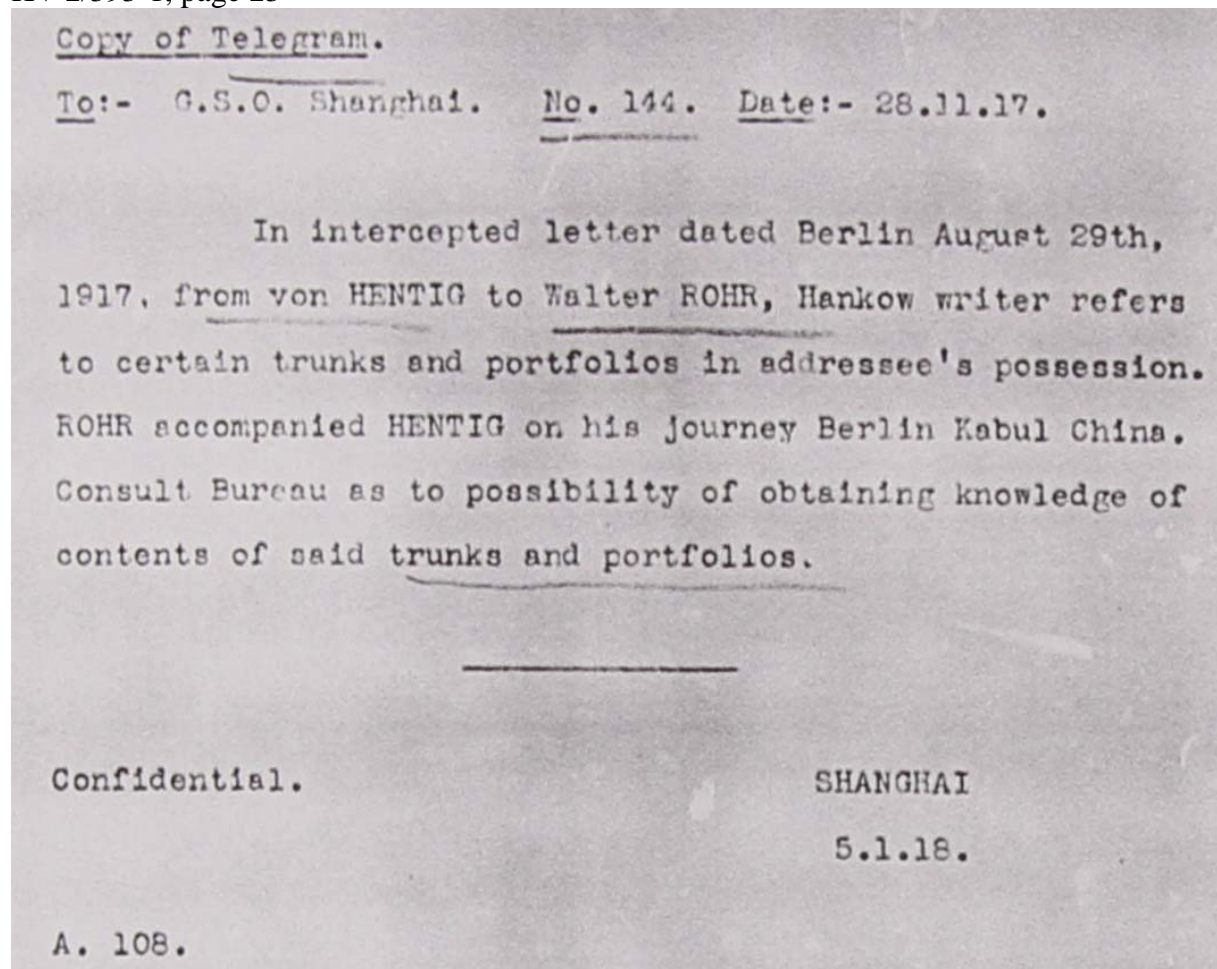
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KV 2/393-1, page 23



Copy telegram

To:- G.S.O. Shanghai

Dated 28.11.17

In intercepted letter dated Berlin August 29th, 1917, from von Hentig to Walter Rohr, Hankow writer refers to certain trunks and portfolios in addressee's possession. Rohr accompanied Hentig on his journey Berlin Kabul China. Consult of said trunks and portfolios

Confidential

Shanghai

5.1.18

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Sir,

With reference to your telegram No. 144 of 29.11.17, relative to Walter ROHR, I have the honour to report that a search was made by the Municipal Police at Shanghai and by the Chinese authorities at Hankow accompanied by a representative from H.B.M. Consulate. In both cases the searches were without result.

2. At Hankow the Chinese Authorities warned the German living at the premises formerly occupied by ROHR by telephone that a search was about to be made. This is typical of the attitude of the majority of Chinese Officials when asked to assist in any way. Many of them are still pro-German and probably in receipt of German pay.

(sd) J.W. SEIGNE.

Major R.M.L.I.

Sir,

With reference to you telegram No. 144 of 29.11.17, relative to Walter Rohr. I have to report that a search was made by the Municipal Police at Shanghai and by the Chinese authorities at Hankow accompanied by a representative from H.B.M. Consulate. In both cases the searches were without result.

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(sd) J.W. Seigne

Major R.M.L.I.

Notice: KV 2/914; KV 2/911; KV 2/913; KV 2/912; KV 2/910

Salzmann Eric von & Mueller Dr. Jur. Herbert PF 38812

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Part 1 of the Secret Abstracts from Straits Settlements Intelligence.

August 1917.

LIEUTENANT VON HENTIG.

A note on this person, who is not to be confused with Colonel von Hentig, Secretary to the German Legation at Peking, may be not without interest. This officer, who is a young man of about 27, came down to Shanghai from Hankow, which points to his having recently arrived from an overland trip through China and attempted to leave on the 27th. March with the German Minister in Peking (Admiral von Hintze). He was however, turned off by the Dutch authorities when it was discovered he had no safe conduct, and the Foreign Office were instructed to refuse him any such.

He was believed to be the head of the mission to Afghanistan, and as Reuter's telegrams now report him as having returned to Berlin via China and North America, it is practically certain that this officer is referred to.

It has been suggested that the reports of Hentig's return are merely bluff in order to distract attention from him during his enforced sojourn in China, and to enable him to elude observation. But this is not likely. Hentig wanted to leave China and to do so was not an insuperable difficulty. He probably slipped across from Peking to Japan and thence to America, on a Norwegian passport.

August 1917

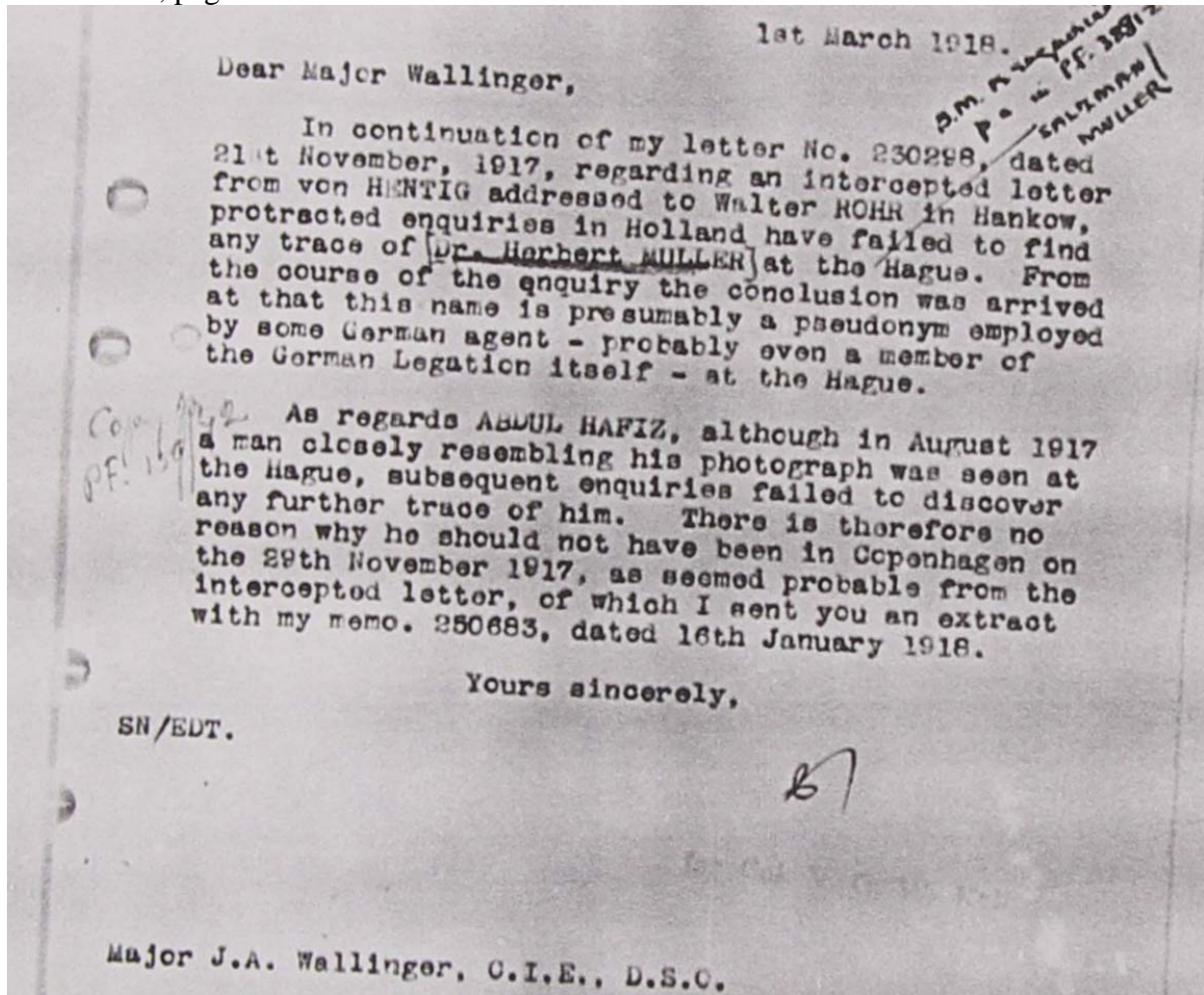
Lieutenant von Hentig.

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1st March 1918

Dear Major Wallinger,

In continuation of my letter No....., dated 21st November, 1917, regarding an intercepted letter from Hentig addressed to Walter Rohr in Hankow, protracted enquiries in Holland have failed to find any trace of Dr. Herbert Mueller at the Hague. From the course of the enquiry the conclusion was arrived at that this name is presumably a pseudonym employed by some German agent – probably even a member of the German Legation itself – at the Hague.

As regards Abdul Hafiz, although in August 1917 a man closely resembling his photographs was seen at the Hague, subsequent enquiries failed to discover any further trace of him. There is therefore no reason why he should not have been in Copenhagen on the 29th November 1917, as seemed probable from the intercept letter, of which I sent you an extract with my memo ... dated 16th January 1918.

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Otto v. Hentig,
Berlin.

Walter Röhr,
Hankou,
China.

[Via Herb. Müller,
The Hague.] PF 38812
SALZMAN / letters.
MULLER

Date of letter 29.8.17.

Comment.

Ord. Transit.

Tester's Comment.

Code. Unsatisfactory. It would appear that addressee is well known in Hankow in connection with trade. He may possibly be connected with the Roehr of Batavia, Java - in connection with the rubber trade, and has done valuable work for Germany. "Der grosse Chief" = Michaelis. Page 2 refers to internal political troubles.

Letter 2 says that Herr von Hentig is going to Constantinople.

This letter is considered suspicious, but has not yet been tested for secret writing.

Seen by Trade Branch.

Copies sent to M.I.I.c.

MS/6.11.17.

A.T.S. Ex.4794.
2.11.17.

Ord. Transit

Tester's Comment

Code. Unsatisfactory. It would appear address is well known in Hankow in connection with trade, He may possibly be connected with Roehr of Batavia, Java - in connection with the rubber trade, and has done valuable work for Germany. "Der grosse Chief" = Michaelis. Refers to internal troubles.

This letter is considered suspicious, but had not yet been tested for secret writing.

Seen by Trade branch

Copies sent to M.I.I.c.

MS/6.11.17

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194356.

7th July, 1917.

My dear N.,

You will remember that I informed you in January last that Von HENTIG, the leader of the Kabul Mission, had then reached China and might possibly try to cross over to America. When he reached China Proper he attached himself to the German Embassy at Hankow and, when China broke off diplomatic relations with Germany, application was made for a safe-conduct for him along with other members of the German diplomatic service in China. This was refused to him but he apparently got across somehow, as news has lately appeared in the German press that he has returned to Germany having crossed from China via America and Norway. The probability is I think that he is identical with ZACHO or BRUNNER who crossed in the S.S. "Equador" ^{left Shanghai 14.7} (the same ship that Albert WEHDE travelled in) with Swiss passports, or else that he went from Pukow to Japan in a Japanese boat with the passport of a Norwegian named KAJNEBERG and crossed from Japan to America in another Japanese steamer.

Yours sincerely,

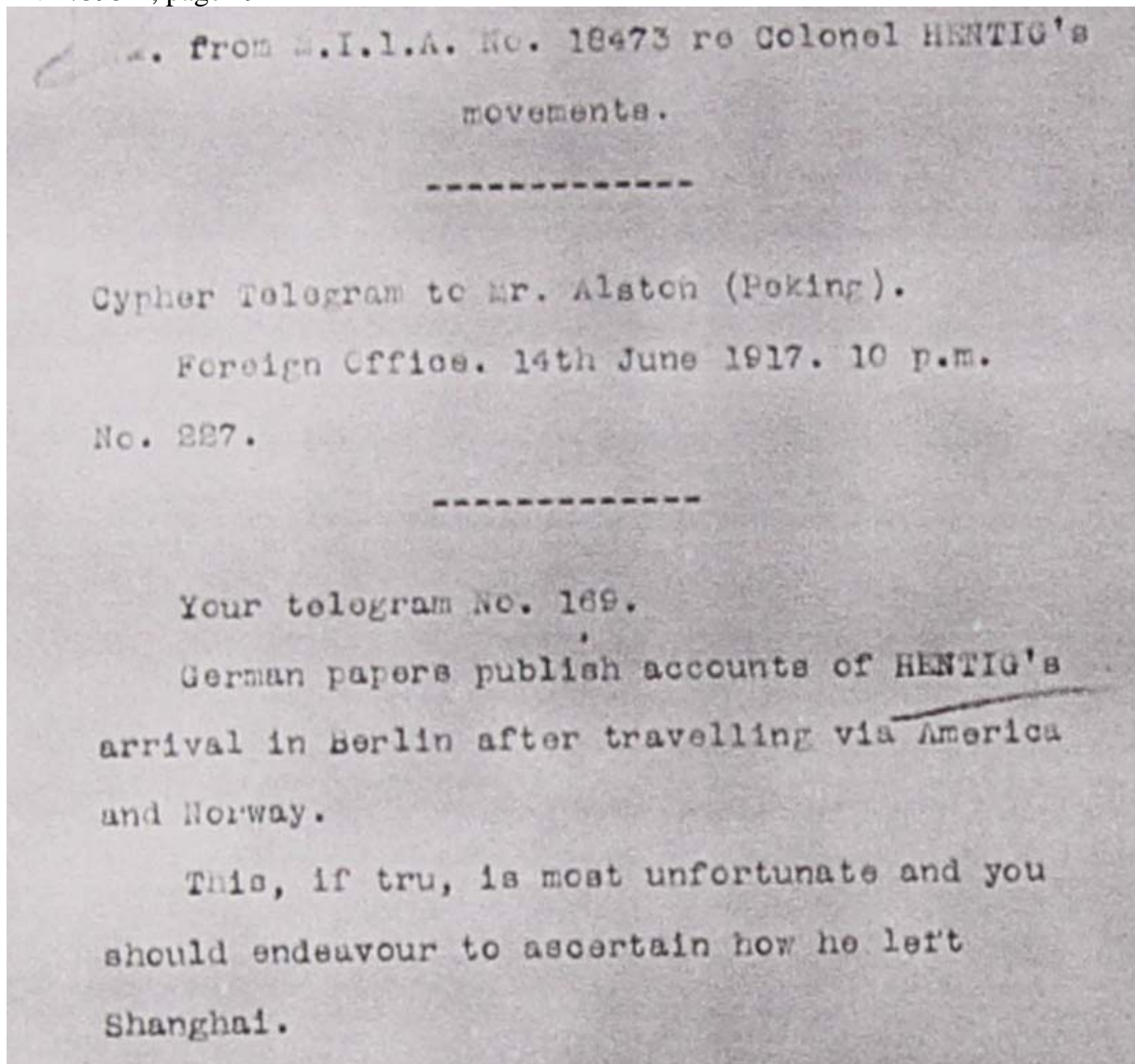
S.N.

7th July 1917

Dear N.,

You will remember that I informed you in January last that Von Hentig, the leader of the Kabul Mission, had then reached China and might possibly try to cross over to America. When he reached China Proper broke off diplomatic relations with Germany, application was made for a safe-conduct for him along other members of the German diplomatic service in China. This was refused to him but he apparently got across somehow, as news has lately appeared in the German press that he has returned to Germany having crossed from China via America and Norway. The probability is I think that he is identical with Zacho or Brunner who crossed in the "S.S. "Ecuador" (the same ship that Albert Wehde travelled in) with Swiss passports, or else that he went from Pukow (AOB, Hankow) to Japan in a Japanese boat with

the passport of a Norwegian named Kahleberg? And crossed from Japan to America in another Japanese steamer.
KV 2/393-2, page 29



Colonel Hentig's
Movements

Cypher Telegram to Mr. Alston (Peking)
Foreign Office. 14th June 1917 10 p.m.

Your telegram No. 169.

German papers publish accounts of Hentig's arrival in Berlin after travelling via
America and Norway.

This, if true, is most unfortunate and you should endeavour to ascertain how he left
Shanghai.



IN AFGHANISTAN.

Afghan Cavalry escorted the party to HERAT, the Turkish Officer and BAKRATULLAH going on ahead.

One German and two Austrians remained at HERAT, the rest of the party proceeded to KABUL under Afghan escort. The journey took one month, and they remained 6 months in KABUL. After they had been there about 3 months they were joined by one of the Sepoys who had been left behind with Dr. BECHER. This Sepoy stated that his party had been attacked by Russians, one of the sepoy's being killed, the Germans and Austrians escaping on horseback.

At KABUL, SAID AHMED looked after VON HENTIG'S luggage, of which there was a great deal, and which was always kept in locked boxes.

The AMIR'S brother ^{N. C.} ~~MAS~~ULLAH came to visit the Germans on several occasions. HENTIG and NIEDERMEYER went to see the AMIR once or twice shortly before leaving KABUL, and all the Germans called on him on arrival.

Five days after leaving KABUL, HENTIG and NIEDERMEYER said goodbye, and ^{SAID} AHMED learnt that the latter was going back to Germany via HERAT and PERSIA.

VON HENTIG LEAVES AFGHANISTAN.

HENTIG'S party was now reduced to HENTIG, ROHR, one Austrian, 2 Kabulis, one Persian and SAID AHMED. They proceeded to FAIZABAD, Hentig making reconnaissances en route, and thence to ISHKASHIM and KALA PANJA. At the latter place the Afghan Cavalry escort was replaced by an Infantry escort under the same Officer. This escort accompanied the party as far as PAMIR, ^{*} whence they proceeded unescorted to YARKAND.

(NOTE. - We know that von HENTIG reached Yarkand on 7.7.16.)
A lot of luggage ~~was sent back from PAMIR,~~ as no food could be got there for the transport animals.

In Afghanistan.

Afghan Cavalry escorted the party (AOB, Hptm. Niedermayer; Lt. von Hentig; Rohr ...) to Heart, the Turkish Officer and Bahkatullah going ahead.

One German and two Austrians remained in Heart, the rest of the party proceeded to Kabul under Afghan escort. The journey took one month, and they remained 6 months in Kabul. After they had been there about 3 months they were joined by one of the Sepoys who had been left behind with Dr. Becher. (AOB, Becker ? is a more common name) This Sepoy stated that his party had been attacked by Russians, one of the sepoy's being killed, the Germans and Austrians escaping on horseback.

At Kabul, Said Ahmed looked after Von Hentig's luggage, of which there was a great deal, and which was always kept locked in boxes.

The Anir's brother Narullah came to visit the Germans on several occasions. Hentig and Niedermayer went to see the Amir once or twice shortly before leaving Kabul, and all Germans called on him on arrival.

Five days after leaving Kabul, Hentig and Niedermayer said goodbye, and Said Ahmed learnt that the latter was going back to Germany via Heart and Persia.

Von Hentig leaves Afghanistan.

Hentig's party was now reduced to Hentig, Rohr, one Austrian, to Kabulis, one Persian and Said Ahmed. They proceeded to Faizabad and Kala Panja. At the latter place the Afghan Cavalry escort was replaced by an Infantry escort under some Officer. This escort accompanied the party as far as Pamir*, whence they proceeded unescorted to Yarkand.

(Note. – We know that von Hentig reached Yarkand on 7.7.16)

A lot of luggage, as no food could be got there for the transport animals.

JOURNEY FROM YARKAND TO CHINA PROPER.

We know from another source that VON HENTIG left YARKAND under a Chinese escort on 17.8.16. SAID AHMED gives the route taken as YARKAND - MARABASHI - KUCHAR - TURFAN - HAMI - SUCHAN - SIANFU. Here VON HENTIG left them, saying that he was going to Peking, perhaps via HANKOW, and that he would arrange for SAID AHMED'S release. This was subsequently effected as stated above, and ROHR gave SAID AHMED £12 as a reward from HENTIG and £10 Turkish as a reward from himself. SAID AHMED was taken to TIENTSIN, whence he has been sent to INDIA.

Journey from Yarkand to China Proper.

We know from another source that von Hentig left Yarkand under a Chinese escort on 17.8.16. Said Ahmed gives the route taken as – Marabashi – Kuchar – Turfan – Hami – Suchan – Sianfu. Here Von Hentig left them, saying that he was going to Peking, perhaps via Hankow (AOB, Hankau or Hakau?), and that he would arrange for Said Ahmed's release. This was subsequently effected as stated above, and Rohr gave Said Ahmed £12 as a reward from Hentig and £10 Turkish as a reward from themselves. Said Ahmed was taken to Tientsin, whence he has been sent to India.

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KV 2/393-2, page 44

F.O. Telegram, No. 120 (R) to Mr. Alston. (Peking)
Urgent.

Your telegram No. 153 (of March 24th. Departure of
German Consular Officials in China).

No safe-conduct ought to be given to HENTIG and
the other person referred to.

F.O (AOB, Foreign Office) Telegram No. 120 ® to Mr. Alston. (Peking)
Urgent

Your telegram No. 153 (of March 24th. Departure of German Consular Officials in
China).

No safe-conduct ought to be given to Hentig and the other person referred to.

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W17000-5859 25,000 2/14 H.V. (111) G16/200 0/8 G	
<h1 style="margin: 0;">M.I. 5 (G5) I.P. No. 149571</h1> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">THIS PAPER IS CONFIDENTIAL AND MUST NOT LEAVE THE SECTION, AND MUST BE PASSED OUT FOR INDEXING IMMEDIATELY AFTER ACTION.</p>	
1 Sender's Date 8. 1. 17.	2 From G. O.C. Staff, Saltome. l. thru M-2 1.
3 Date of Receipt 9. 1. 17.	4 Subjects Information re three Germans who are reported to have come to - from - they accompanied by - M. F. Khanid. Afghanistan
5 Reference No. LSE. 861.	6 Names + HENTIG, Colonel. + SAID (Sayed) AHMAD.
7 Enclosures	8 Special Instructions regarding Transit Please us. return, 600. 91.
9 Former Papers	10 Referred and Date P.M. 9.1.17
11 Papers already out	12 Minutes
13 Date of first Transit to 9 JAN 1917	14 Branch G.S.
15 Passed to Branch Officer	16 Date Initial 9/1 60.
17 Formal Acknowledgment, Letter, Minute, sent	18 Enclosures sent
19 P.A. 200. 10/1.	20 Instructions for circulation to be dated and in Nature of circular E. United Kingdom only E. U. K. and France E. General H.I. For B.C.I. not for Circulation H.I. For general B.C.I. Circulation H.I. B. L. H.I. Monthly Report
21 Filed in S.Y. 0/8 a	22 Extracts, Copies, filed in P.F. I 43. Hendig, ed J.B. 12/7.
23 Noted on Transit Card	24 Indexed: - Names Subjects Places
25 Special Instructions regarding Action and indexing	26

CLOSED

7 V.F.
 1 F 0/8.

J.H. 12/7
 record

0164/3606. **SECRET.** M.I.1/I.S./861.
C.R.S.S. No. 10210.(G).

From :- The General Officer Commanding the Troops,
 Straits Settlements.

To :- The Secretary,
 War Office, London, E.W.

MILITARY HEADQUARTERS, S.S.,
FORT CANNING, SINGAPORE.

23rd November, 1916.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward for your information copies of despatches from His Britannic Majesty's Minister at Peking addressed to His Majesty's Consule at Hankow and Tientsin, dated 16th October last, regarding a party of 3 Germans who are reported to have come to Yarkand in the New Dominion from Afghanistan.

They are accompanied by an Indian soldier named SAID (or SAYED) AHMED, formerly of the 129th Baluchis and made a prisoner of war by the Germans in France.

I have also attached copies of two letters from His Majesty's Minister, to the Chinese Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject, and asking for the arrest and handing over of this British Indian soldier.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd:) DUBLEY RIDOUT.

M.I.2.b.
M.I.1.c.
M.I.5.g.
Major J.A. Wallinger.

Major-General,
Commanding the Troops,
Straits Settlements.

H.M. Minister, Peking, to H.M. Consuls General at
Hankow and Tientsin.

Nos: 55 and 97.

BRITISH LEGATION, PEKING.

Confidential.

October 16th, 1916.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that a party of three Germans, under the leadership of a German Colonel named Hentig, recently made their appearance in the neighbourhood of Yarkand in the New Dominion from Afghanistan, whither they had penetrated through Persia from Constantinople. The presence of these Germans, who were intriguing with the native Mohamedan population, being highly inimical to British and Russian interests in the New Dominion, the Chinese Authorities were induced, after much pressure on the part of His Majesty's Consul-General at Kashgar and of this and of the Russian Legation, to compel the Germans to proceed to China. Proper under Chinese guard. The party eventually left Kashgar in the middle of August, and had reached Hami on the road to Kansu early in the present month.

Attached to Hentig's party is an Indian soldier named Said (or Sayed) Ahmad, about thirty years of age and formerly of the 12th Baluchi Infantry, who was made prisoner by the Germans in France. His Majesty's Government consider it of great importance that this man should be detached from the Germans, and I have made and am continuing to make representations to the wai Chiao Pu on the subject. The Minister of Foreign Affairs has repeatedly promised to telegraph instructions in the sense desired to the Governor of the New Dominion; but the Indian soldier in question is reported to appear to be thoroughly loyal to his German master, and the Chinese authorities have not yet seen their

way to arrest him and detach him by force, the Germans apparently putting forward the plea that the man is not an Indian.

You will readily understand the importance of preventing this Indian reaching the German Concession in your port in the company of his German Masters, when his recovery would become well-nigh impossible. While, therefore, I shall continue to press the Chinese Government to arrest him and detach him by force from the Germans, I have to instruct you, should you hear of the approach of the party to your Port, to take every possible step to secure his arrest and delivery into your charge.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has promised to ascertain and inform me of the exact whereabouts, description and route of the party, and I also expect to hear in due course from the British missionaries in Kansu on the subject. If they travel without interruption they should reach Lanshow in a couple of months time and the coast a month later. I will keep you informed of any further details which reach the Legation.

It is possible that there are also two Afghans attached to the party, who should likewise be claimed, in their case as British protected persons.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Sgd:) J.N. JORDAN.

H.M. Minister, Peking, to H.M. Consuls General at Hankow and Tientain.

No. 55 and 97

British Legation, Peking
October 16th, 1916

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I am

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,
(Sgd) J.N. Jordan.

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KV 2/394
Covering 1939 onwards

13.3.39.	Cross ref. to Int. letter from HENTIG to KNOTHE, Berlin.	25a.
	26.	
29.3.39.	Cross ref. to letter from D.S.O. Cairo re HENTIG.	26a.
31.3.39.	Cross ref. to CX/12817 re German Egyptian relations.	26x.
	27.	
28.4.39.	Cross ref. to int. letter from FINCK to HENTIG.	27k.
3.5.39.	Cross ref. to Letter from Jerusalem re German activities.	27a.
5.5.39.	Cross ref. to CX/12917 re Egypt.	27x.
	28.	
11.5.39.	Copy of letter to D.S.O. Egypt re HENTIG.	28k.
8.9.39.	Cross ref. to report mentioning HENTIG.	28a.
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12.4.41.	Cross reference to extract from G.S.I.(b), G.H.Q., M.E., re VON HENTIG.	32a
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Minute Sheet on Hentig related subjects.



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30.5.47	From A.L.S., enquiry re George Werner Otto von HENTIG	35a
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6.5.47	To I.P.I. requesting information for Americans	36a
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15.5.47	To A.L.S. giving information re von HENTIG	38a

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KV 2/394-1, page 5 + 6 divided over 3 parts

Lieut. Commander Winston Scott - American Liaison Section

When war broke out in 1914 Georg Werner Otto von HENTIG was on the staff of the German Legation at Teheran. He was sent to join his regiment and fought on the Russian front. In March 1915 he was recalled to Berlin from military service and instructed to take charge of a diplomatic mission which was to proceed to Kabul and bring about the conclusion of a German-Afghan alliance. This mission undertook the difficult journey from Baghdad to Kabul across the Iranian desert and formed part of the German effort to link Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan in a Germanophile Islamic Federation. It was accompanied by a military mission under the command of the celebrated Lt. Oskar von NIEDERMAYER, the German "Lawrence", and its story was told in von HENTIG's book "My Diplomatic Mission to an Inaccessible Land" published in Berlin in 1918. Von HENTIG returned to Europe via the Hindu Kush, the Pamirs, Turk-
ostan, Kashgar, China and the U.S.A.

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During the years following the publication of his book von HENTIG, in spite of his remarkable exploits in the Middle East, did not occupy a prominent position and it is possible that he was not greatly in sympathy with the prevailing Nazi trend of thought. The fact remains, however, that in 1937, when Germany was again becoming aggressive, his special qualifications were considered such as to justify his selection to take charge of that Department of the Foreign Office which dealt with the Middle East. In this capacity he made it his business to establish friendly contact with Indians and Arabs in Berlin and utilised some of them for pro-German propaganda purposes. His relations with the Afghan Legation and with Afghans generally were also very cordial. He was particularly friendly with Ghulam SIDDIQ KHAN, the former Minister of ex-King Amanullah, who was using Berlin as a base for intrigue both against the British in India and the ruling dynasty in Kabul.

In 1938 von HENTIG visited Egypt, Turkey and Iraq on propaganda work and was for a short time in charge of the German Legation at Baghdad. With the outbreak of war he was back again at the German Foreign Office, but when France collapsed he was sent to Ankara as

Handwritten: 20/5/47
Minister

Minister Plenipotentiary under von Papen. From Ankara he toured extensively in Syria, ostensibly to report on the work of the Italian Armistice Commission and negotiate a Franco-German agreement, but his time was fully occupied in contacting Arab Nationalists and recruiting agents for sabotage and propaganda.

At a critical period in the war, immediately after Germany's attack on Russia, an attempt was made to secure Afghan approval to von HENTIG's appointment as German Minister at Kabul. Strong Allied protests proved effective and the proposal was dropped, but the selection of von HENTIG for such an important post as Kabul is itself evidence of the high value which the Foreign Office placed on his diplomatic experience and on his expert knowledge of Afghanistan and Iran. Had he been a "bitter foe" of the Nazis he would not have been selected for important diplomatic appointments in the Middle East and common prudence demands that he should in future not be employed in any capacity where his special knowledge and experience could be misused.

J. Chenhalls

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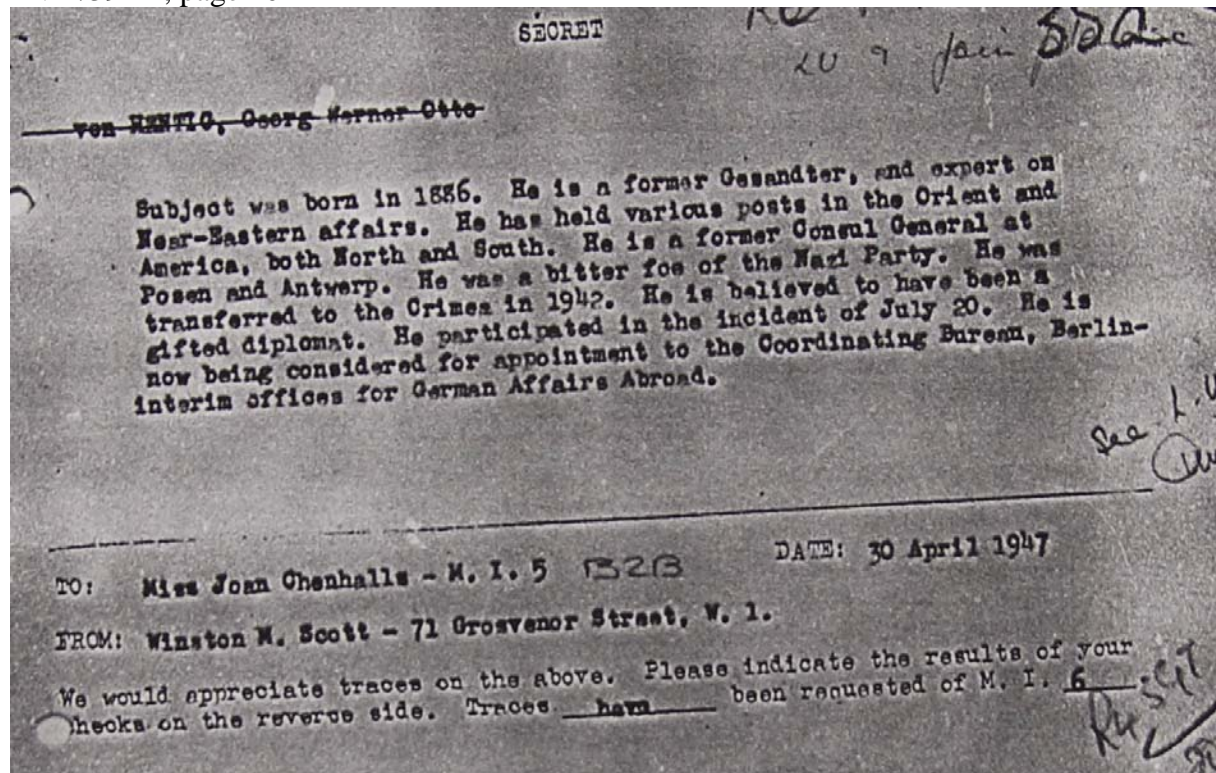
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J. Chenhalls

PF 65793/B.2.b/JC
15.5.47

(AOB, comments: I follow Mrs (Mss?) **Joan Chenhalls** for some years in the KV 2/ ... file series, here feelings are **generally rather vicious**, but the post war period of her bureau (MI5) wasn’t very glamorous since the end of the war in Europe, and their efforts were seldom effectuated! Also in this respect: Von Hentig became the first German Ambassador in Indonesia in 1952!)

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Von Hentig, Georg Werner Otto

Subject born 1886. He is a former Gesandter, and an expert on Near-Eastern affairs. He has held various posts in the Orient and America, both North and South. He is a former Consul General at Posen and Antwerp. He was a bitter foe of the Nazi Party. He was transferred to the Crimea in 1942. He is believed to have been a gifted diplomat. He participated in the incident of July 20. He is now being considered for appointment to the Coordinating Bureau, Berlin-interim offices for German affairs Abroad.

To: Miss Joan Chenhalls – M.I.5 B2B Date 30 April 1947

From: Winston M. Scott – 71 Grosvenor Street W.1.

(AOB: a typical B2b aberration! On 30.4.47 Joan Chenhalls was informed about the above information and produced a vicious letter on 15.5.47

Analysing here point: only because Von Hentig was sent on an important mission he must have been a pro Nazi personality! So simply is determining truth!)

(AOB, Please bear in mind, that British KV 2/... series do run backwards in time)

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Extract for File No.: FF 65793. Name: HENTIG.
Original in File No.: PF 66124 GASHGAI. Serial: 21a, p. 29 Dated: 20.4.44.
Original from: SIDE Under Ref.: SIDE/P/5919(1,2.)
Extracted on: 11.12.44. by: EHF Section: RB

• Information from the GASHGAI Brothers, suspect of having worked for the Germans in Berlin 1940-42.

VON HENTIG. HUSSAIN GASHGAI was introduced to Von HENTIG by HUSSAIN ALI QARAGOZLU in Berlin in 1940. He was then an official in the Oriental Branch of the German Foreign Office.

SHT/PB
12/1/44

PF 65793 (AOB Von Hentig files

PF 66124 Gashgai brothers (KV 2/1941)

Extracted 11.12.44

Information from the Gashgai brothers, suspect of having worked for the Germans in Berlin 1940-42).

Hussain Gashgai was introduced to Von Hentig by Hussain Ali Qaragozlu in Berlin 1940. He was then an official in the Oriental Branch of the German Foreign Office.

KV 2/393-1, page 16

Extract for File No.: PF: 65793 Name: Von HENTIG.
Original in File No.: SF: 75/Germany/10A vol. 1. Serial: 23x Dated: 18.11.41.
Original from: Interrogation of Adolf Risch, of the Brandenburg Regiment, a P.O.W. Under Ref.:
Extracted on: 5.7.44. by: GD Section: RB

The P.O.W. gave descriptions of the Abwehr II Personalities of the "O" "East" section... which department covers Eastern and South Eastern Europe, excluding Russia, and the Middle East as far as Afghanistan.

"Capt KOHLHAAS, i/c section for Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan. Probably in connection with this section P.O.W. has heard the names of Dr. GROBBA former German minister in Iraq, and of von HENTIG, of ministerial rank, member of the German armistice commission in Syria, both notorious German agents."

PF 65793

Von Hentig

...

Interrogation of Adolf Risch of the Brandenburg Regiment a P.O.W.

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↓

14th October, 1939.

300-

My dear V.,

Please refer to your CX, dated 10.10.39., forwarding a copy of a communication from the British Legation in Tehran to M.I.3, Army Headquarters in India dated 9.7.39., in the course of which there was a reference to the efforts made by NIEDERMAYER and Von HENTIG in 1914/16 to use Afghanistan as a base to make trouble for India by stirring up the Frontier Tribes, etc.

2. Captain Oskar NIEDERMAYER, who belonged to the Royal Bavarian 10th Field Artillery Regiment, was the organiser and leader of one of the German jihad missions to Persia and Afghanistan in 1914, 1915 and 1916. He himself proceeded first to Tehran and - having failed to induce the Persian Government to declare war on the allies - entered Afghanistan with Von HENTIG's party in order to examine the military possibilities of an understanding with Afghanistan. Von HENTIG left Afghanistan for China by crossing the Hindu Kush and the Pamirs, while NIEDERMAYER made his way back to Germany in the latter part of 1916. He was reported to be in Aleppo at Falkenhayn's Headquarters in 1918.

Yours sincerely,

✓

Copy to M.I.V.

✓

EP.

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P.F.I. 43

CROSS - REFERENCE.

SUBJECT:- HENTIG VON.

Source: Letter from Jerusalem: 3.5.39.
re German Nazi activities in Palestine
and Transjordan - April 1939.

.....
Visit of Herr von HENTIG.

Herr von HENTIG arrived in Jerusalem from Egypt, where he had represented Herr Hitler at the Egyptian Royal wedding, on 11th April 1939. He had originally a programme which included a visit to Transjordan but this was changed and after a brief stay in Jerusalem where receptions were held in his honour and he was introduced to the more important Germans, he left for Tabgha (Tiberias) accompanied by Herr. Dohle, the German Consul General. He reached Haifa on April 17th and was accommodated at the German Consulate. On the 19th April a party attended by 24 Germans was held at the Consulate in his honour and in the evening he accompanied Dr. W. Melchers, the vice-Consul at Haifa on board. He made a few other social visits and flew to Baghdad on 21st April by the "Ala Littoria" plane. He returned to Haifa on 23rd April and on the 25th April he left for Beirut, Lebanon accompanied by Dr. Melchers and Herr Hans von Zulo. During the visit to the Salesian School in Haifa he was met by members of the Italian Community wearing black shirts, and the Italian Consulate flew a German flag beside the Italian tricolour. It may be mentioned, inter alia, that Herr von HENTIG was not particularly popular among the Germans.

Original in..... S.F. 55/Gen/6 v.3. 136A. dated.. as above.....

H.D. 17.10.39.

Cross – Reference.

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Source: Letter from Jerusalem: 3.5.39
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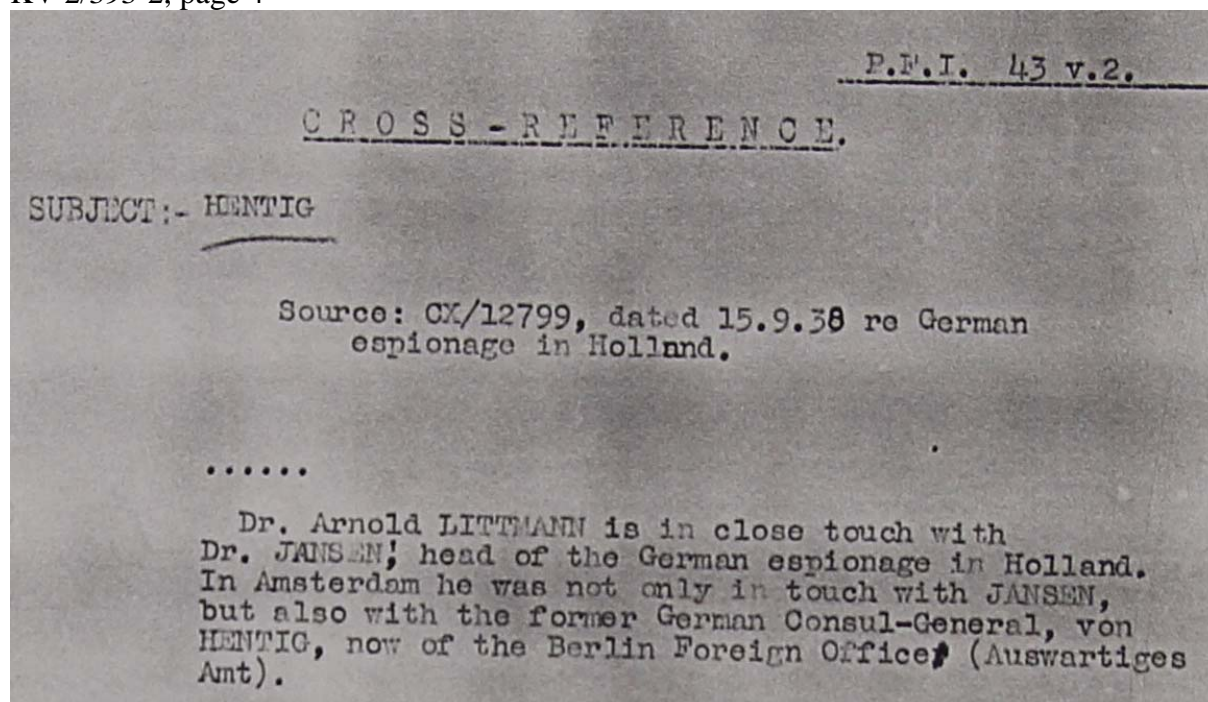
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H.D. 17.10.39

KV 2/393-2, page 4



Cross-Reference.

Subject:- Hentig

Source: CX/12799, dated 15.9.38 re German espionage in Holland

Dr. Arnold Littmann is in close touch with Dr. Jansen; head of the German espionage in Holland. In Amsterdam he was not only in touch with Jansen, but also with the former German Consul-General, von Hentig, now of the Berlin Foreign Office (Auswertiges Amt)

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Copy of Letter.

To- Mr. W. ROHR,
c/o Mr. De Reus,
Consul General for the Netherlands,
Shanghai.

Vlissingen, June 16, 1918.

My dear friend:-

It is so long since you heard from me last that you probably will think that I have forgotten all about you. But that is not so, be sure. I always remember with great pleasure the glorious summer when we were living together friendly and in harmony as only brothers can do. My regret is only that those days have passed, very likely never to return in similar way.

I trust you are in splendid health and enjoying the good season of Shanghai as before. I understand that business is somewhat low there, but what can you expect as long as this terrible war is raging. Let us hope for better days to come.

Your family is well and wants me to give you their love, a very superfluous thing as there can be no doubt that you have direct letters from them. It may interest you that I am in correspondence with the companion of your last journey. He has taken up his old business again and writes to me very cordially and enthusiastically about you. He desires me to remember him to you.

How are our friends with whom we were living? How are the Woosung people? Remember me to all of them, as you please, and have good care of doggy. Apropos, if nobody wants to keep doggy, ask our friend in the Great Western Road, who will do us the favour.

As regards me; I am well but not peculiarly happy in my present occupation. I liked my previous position much better. But God disposes.

Believe me, my dear chap,

Yours very affectionately,

(sd) JAN.

To- Mr. W. Rohr

L.B. from M.I.R.E. 236. 4.11.18.

S. 144.

Shanghai,
27th August, 1918.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 1st August, 1917, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith for the information of the Department concerned, photograph (*) of an intercepted letter, with its envelope, from Vlissingen, Holland, to W. Roer, c/o Mr De Reus, Consul General for the Netherlands, Shanghai.

It will be remembered that a German named ROHR, in company with another German named Von HENTIG, made a journey over land to Afghanistan and Turkestan in 1915, with the object of spreading anti-ally German propaganda.

These men eventually arrived in Shanghai in 1916, von HENTIG subsequently making his escape to Germany. ROHR however, was prevented from leaving Shanghai, and remained here until recently, when he was arrested in Harbin for attempting to reach Germany through Russia on a forged passport. He was brought before the Mixed Court and sentenced to one year's imprisonment in the British gaol here.

In view of the similarity between the name of the envelope and that of the prisoner, and in consequence of suspicions aroused by a perusal of the subject matter, the head gaoler was instructed to hand ROHR the letter and to report upon the manner in which it was received. These instructions were duly carried out, the prisoner accepting the letter without question, and remarking that he was very glad to have news of his friends.

The letter contains little of importance, but paragraph 111 may be of interest in view of the probable reference to von HENTIG.

In paragraph 114 the "Woosung people" no doubt refers to the staff of the German School of Medicine and Engineering at Woosung, which is still active. There are no other foreigners at Woosung.

It might be interesting to learn more as to the identity of the writer of the letter, who is apparently in correspondence with von HENTIG.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(sd) H.S.G. Buckmaster.
Major.

P.F.I.43/M.I.5.D.3.

(2)

18th September, 1918

Confidential.

Dear Mr. Sperling,

Will you very kindly refer to my letter No. 271147 dated 3rd April regarding Von HENTIG. Since his return to Germany this man has written a book recounting his adventures. At the end of this he says that on his arrival at San Francisco, where he was evidently suspected by the U.S. authorities, he was interned on Angel Island. After a few days the German Consul came to tell him that the American Government had decided to set him free, and he was allowed to travel to New York with other German officials who were to be deported. Detectives accompanied them all the way. He mentions that the Amir of Afghanistan had, a year previous to this, applied to the British Government for a "safe conduct" for him (this is of course untrue) but it was only due to America having become a belligerent that he was now allowed to proceed on his way. Their ship was overhauled at Halifax but they were shown every consideration and no further incident occurred until their arrival at Bergen.

I suppose it still remains unexplained how this man obtained a "safe conduct". In any case the matter is now ancient history and it hardly seems worth while pursuing it further.

Von HENTIG

R.A.C. Sperling, Esq.,
Foreign Office.

P.F.I.43/M.I.5.D.3

18th September 1918

Confidential.

Dear Mr. Sperling,

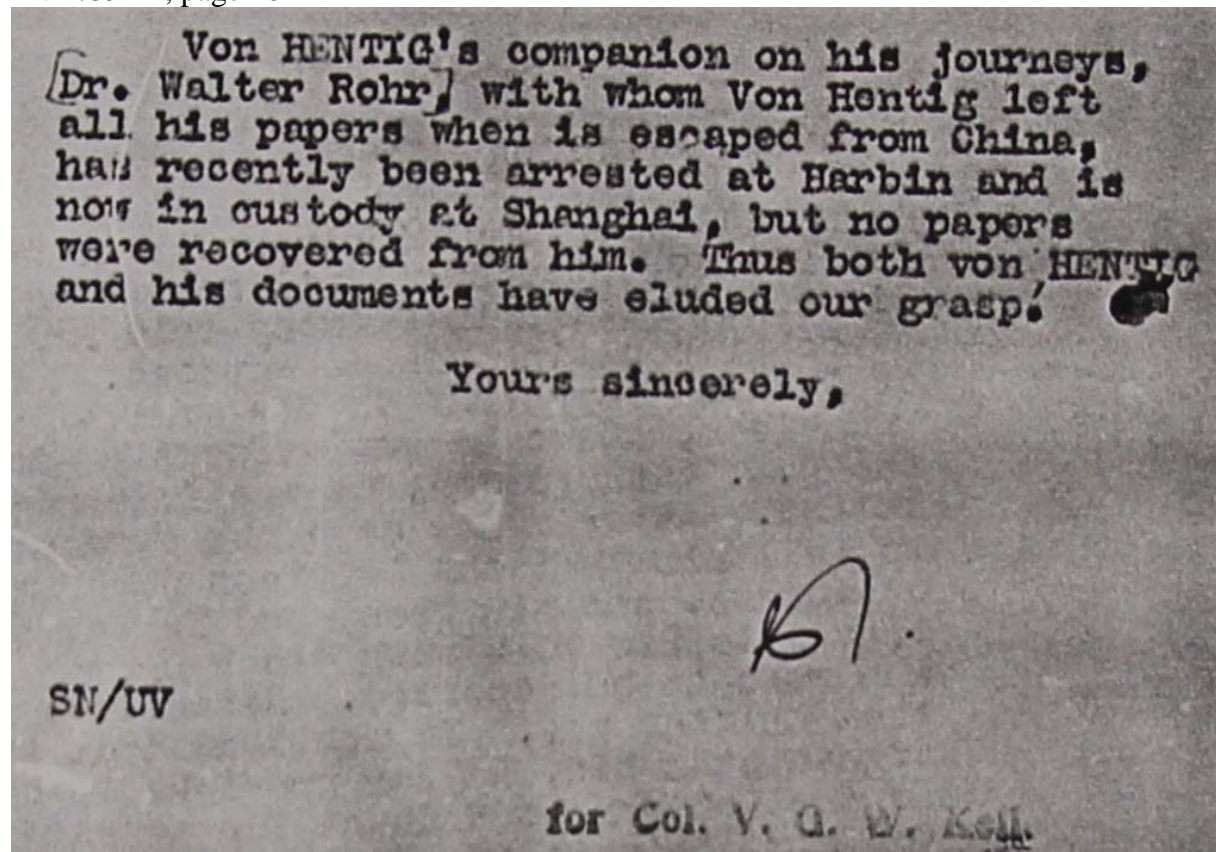
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I suppose it still remains unexplained how this man obtained a "safe conduct". In any case the matter is now ancient history and it hardly seems worthwhile pursuing it further.

Von Hentig

R.A.C. Sperling, Esq.,
Foreign Office
KV 2/394-2, page 26



Von Hentig's companion on his journeys, Dr. Walter Roehr, with whom Von Hentig left all his papers when is escaped from China, has recently been arrested at Harbin and is now in custody at Shanghai, but no papers were recovered from him. Thus both von Hentig and his documents have eluded our grasp.

Your sincerely

SN/UV

For Col. V.G.W. Kell

- SUMMARY OF BOOK -

"MY DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO AN UNGET-AT-ABLE COUNTRY."

by

Dr. Von Hentig - Secretary of Legation.

Published in Berlin - in 1918.

The writer's preface is dated 26th July, 1917- and he arrived back in Berlin on 9th June, 1917, having started from there on 14th April, 1915.

His full name is Dr. Werner Otto Von Hentig.

Dates and landmarks are given in the list on the map at the end, which show how he travelled from Berlin to Kabul, and from Kabul to Berlin; taking one and a half years to get there, and nearly thirteen months to return, and going round the world in doing this.

The headings of the ten chapters are:-

1. From the East front to Bagdad.
2. The Lion and the Sun during the War.
3. Forty days in the Salt Desert.
4. Breaking through the enemy lines.
5. Ten months in Afghanistan.
6. Over Hindukutch and the Pamirs.
7. Through the Chinese deserts.
8. Robinson Crusoe back again.
9. Travelling in a ward-robe.
10. The last lap.

An introductory chapter by the publishers, gives the author's career:-

Born - 22nd May, 1886 in Berlin he studied in Grenoble, Berlin, Paris, Bonn, and Königsberg Universities; served one year in 3rd East Prussian Cuirassiers, of which he became a Lieutenant in the

to M.I.R. G.
" J. A. W.

Reserve; entered the Diplomatic Service in 1911 - was Attaché at Pekin during the Revolution - transferred in 1913 to Constantinople, which gave him the opportunity of seeing Korea, Japan, Cochin China, Java, Sumatra, Ceylon, Upper and Lower Egypt. From Turkey he was sent to Teheran, and was settling disputes between pro-Germans and pro-Russian Persians at Ispahur when the war broke out. On 1st October, 1914, he was with his regiment, and went through all the fighting in the Masurian Lakes, receiving a 1st Class Iron Cross.

In March, 1915, he was called to Berlin - where he was entrusted with the Mission to Central Asia. Since his return he has resumed work for the Foreign Office, and is stated to be in one of the capitals of the Central Powers.

The publishers remark that von Hentig was not only a trained athlete, also a good rider and a long distance swimmer, but he was a non-smoker, almost a total abstainer, and preferred a milk and fruit diet.

The chapter closes with suggestions of far-reaching results obtained in Central Asia in true Pan-German style.

Dr. von Hentig was accompanied by Dr. Becker, a military surgeon who had been in charge of the German Government Hospital in Teheran from 1912 to 1914, and Walter Röhr, a young German merchant, who had worked in North Persia for 8 - 10 years, in Shiraz since 1913. He spoke Turkish and Persian dialects and understood the handling of caravan drivers etc., - six Afrides formed the escort. A separate mission was given to several Indian 'gentlemen', amongst them an Indian Prince, who was forced upon him. No names are mentioned.

For the railway journey to Constantinople the party was divided up into three groups to avoid suspicion in Rumania, which was not then at war. At the last moment an Indian, called Seyed Achmed, was taken on as personal servant, the other Indians having recommended him as a good cook.

At Constantinople Dr. Becker and the Afridis went on ahead to Anatolia, Dr. von Hentig having business to transact with Enver Pasha and the Deutsche Bank. From the latter he drew a very large sum in gold for travelling expenses and arranged credits wherever practicable. He had interviews there with the Sultan, the Sheik-ul-Islam, the Grand Vizier, Prince Said Halim etc., the Sultan saying to him at parting:- "Be on your guard with the English and don't let them catch you". Lieutenant Kasim Bey was ordered to accompany von Hentig as far as Persia.

The Anatolian railway ended at Bosanti at the foot of the Taurus Mountains, over which a road of some 90 kilometres went to Tarsus, the next station and then to Adana, Osmanich and Alexandrette. Part of the railway between these last two was not working, as it was under fire from the Allied fleet. Until the Mission reached the Euphrates their caravan numbered 250 pack-cattle - after that three boats were sufficient.

On the 31st May Bagdad was reached. One passage reads:- "To-day Bagdad is still the centre through which all land routes must pass to Central Asia. The possession of this town secures the possession of communication by land with Central Asia."

On 1st June 1915 the Mission left Bagdad and reached the Persian frontier eight days later.

"At this time we Germans were supreme in Central Persia"

the Russians in the North and the English in the South. On the way von Hentig noticed that he was shadowed by a man of fair complexion and remembered having seen him apparently counting their baggage at Bagdad. His companions were cautioned and one of the Afridi escort was given arms.

In Ispahan (Februaru 1915) was in those days the seat of German power in Persia. The Governor alone was unfriendly. The townspeople and the priesthood and many of the Bahhthiarses pro-German.

3. The expedition now had to strike through the Salt Desert of Kewir, as there was no chance of penetrating the Russian lines in North Persia, and this had to be done without arousing suspicion. For the food and water bags required during the crossing of the desert camels, mules and horses were purchased and Röhr with his caravan joined up at Nafin.
4. Arrival at Tebbes, the oasis town, on 23.7.1915 after terrible sufferings for three weeks in the desert. Here a mission led by Lieutenant Niedermayer joined up. Lieutenant Niedermayer had left Germany 6 months earlier to examine the military possibilities of an understanding with Afghanistan and von Hentig had left him making his preparations in Teheran. Niedermayer was accompanied by Wilhelm Paschen (from S.W. Africa) a number of Persians and six Austro-Hungarians.

von Hentig and Niedermayer decided to break through the enemy lines together and selected the Russian portion as more promising than that guarded by us in the South (Birjhand) the wells for a distance of three to four days journeying being all held by hostile spies and their arrival having probably been already reported from Ispahan. They therefore made for Bushruch, six days journey eastwards and sent the baggage back, under Dr. Becker, north-westward of Tebbes, their idea being to attract the Russians towards themselves and then

rejoin their baggage column by forced marches across the desert. The approach of the Russians (150 men with 2 guns and 2 machine guns) was reported on the 7th day. Three weeks later Dr. Becker was attacked by Russians and wounded, recovered under the care of the natives, fought for a year in Beloochistan, then in Persia and was eventually captured by the British and handed over to the Russians. von Hentig and his companions however reached the telegraph wires between Meshed and Birjand and Nasrabab and passed an unguarded spot in safety at night, arriving in sight of Dorosch at mid-day which they carefully avoided, as it was said to be held by Beloochistan camelry. Towards evening the 6,000 ft. mountains on the frontier of Afghanistan came in view. Tacht-I-Wun and then Yezdun were the next places. A small party was then sent forward to announce their arrival to the Governor General of Herat. This was on 22.7.15. Peroh was the first Afghan town reached and here some Afghan grandees sent by the Governor of Herat soon afterwards arrived to bid them welcome as guests of the Afghan Government. A large caravan with cooking utensils and servants followed. Von Hentig put on his uniform in honour of his hosts. In Herat the guard of honor wore red English infantry tunics and also Prussian Cavalry and Rifle uniforms. They remained in Herat until 7th September and reached Kabul on 1st October, the members of the Turkish colony coming out to meet them. To their surprise they found several Austrians, escaped prisoners of war from Turkestan, some of them craftsmen, who were already following their handicraft and making themselves useful and welcome.

From page 95 to page 100 is interesting reading about the Emir and the Mission. The second son, Ain-ed-Doulch is very pro-Turkish, speaks the language and has a Turkish

adjutant.

Chap. 6. Von Hentig declares his object to be obtained and decides to make for China by crossing Hindu Kusch and the Pamirs, whilst Niedermayer, who had another object in view, which he successfully accomplished, left in a different direction.

An escort to the Chinese frontier accompanied von Hentig, Röhr and one of Niedermayer's men, the Hungarian Honved Jossif (Joseph) on 21.5.1916. On the 5th June Faizabad in Turkestan was reached. Before reaching Yarkend he had some narrow escapes from the Russians who had news of his coming, but once over the Chinese frontier he was received with open arms. Yarkend, he says, has a population of 200,000 (?) but trade there is in a bad way since the revolution and the country people, who used to buy Chinese goods, can now only procure cheap Russian and English (i.e. Indian) cotton goods. (page 164 gives interesting information about the place) Von Hentig states that here, as in Faizabad and Kabul, he was shadowed and waited upon by Indians in the English and Russian service, amongst others by the Indian doctor of the British Consul General in Kaschgar, who arrived a few days after him and stayed in Yarkend all the time he did. Our attention to the Mission according to von Hentig, considerably enhanced his prestige and in this way secured for him advantages which he would otherwise not have obtained and for which he professes to be grateful to us.

page 170. He decides to go to Kaschgar, although warned by telegrams from his Ambassador at Peking to keep

away from it, Russian and British influence being too strong there. In view however of its importance as the chief stronghold of Turkish Mahomedanism, he went there. A Swedish missionary was of great use to him, name not given. The telegraph of Peking was freely used to extricate him from the toils spun by the British and Russian agents.

Chap 7;

After 130 days through the Chinese deserts he reaches the railway at Mientsche on 24.12.16 and stays with the Swedish missionary Ringbery and his wife - his first bed since he left Kabul in May.

p.199.

Arrives in Hankow, where the German Consul meets him - 27.12.16 till 27.3.17 when rumours that China had broken off diplomatic relations with Germany began to circulate and were confirmed. Von Hentig receives a telegram from Peking that his passage has been booked in the Dutch S.S. "Rembrandt", thereupon he goes on board the Chinese river steamer "China Merchant". He had taken the precaution to book his passage to Shanghai, then purposely cancelled it, but boarded her the same evening to travel only as far as Nanking where he took the train, thinking that as the railway was under English supervision, the supervision would not be so strict as on the steamers, where those wishing to escape the control of the Allies were more likely to be found. In Shanghai the English refused to visa his papers because he was an officer and upheld their refusal after the production of his credentials as diplomatic agent. The French declined to answer his application and the Japanese said they must first enquire at the Embassy in Peking. The American Consul General however had been instructed by the Ambassador at Peking to grant a permit. He decided thereupon to be satisfied for the present with a pass for the United States. At the last moment however, Mr. Cunningham, the United States Consul General, informed him he had just received instructions that he

was only to grant a permit, if the French and English authorities did the same, "I looked him up and down and told him politely but coldly that I was not hitherto aware that the American Government took its cue from the English and the French in the execution of its international duties", and left his office. The German Ambassador, who was sailing in the "Rembrandt" dissuaded him from travelling by her and he decided then to escape in the U.S. "S.S. Ecuador". Here again he was helped by a friendly Swede in disguising himself as Soundso. A Japanese took him off in his lighter and to avoid observation he shammed sleep. Two Englishmen in the Chinese Customs service came alongside, but he did not arouse their suspicion; They passed the German and Austrian steamers, which the Chinese Government had interned, and after some hours reached the open sea at Woosung, where he recognised one of the Canadian "Empress" liners and close to her was the "Ecuador" Concealing himself in the lighter whilst her cargo was being taken in over the ship's side, he was able to watch the crew and passengers and also to look out for the ship's barber, to whom he had obtained an introduction through one of the members of the Shanghai orchestra, a former steward on the same ship as the barber. The boatswain, an Irishman, would out of hatred to the English, have helped him to a job on board if he could, but said it was too risky. He then found the cabin of two Austrian officers who were also escaping with false papers and it was arranged with the Chinese boy for a promise of 100 Gold Yen that he should hide in their cabin and receive his food there. On arriving at Kobe the ship was disinfected owing to a case of small-pox and von Hentig concealed in a small wardrobe suffered Hades during the operation. Besides him there were six other Germans (or Austrians) on board. On arriving at Honolulu, they heard that war with America had broken out. Having no

papers, he swam out of the harbour, over the reef, along the sea front, back over the reef and then crawled ashore, bundle and all, weighing, as he says, nearly one hundredweight in its saturated condition. Being unable, for want of papers, to identify himself, his efforts to book a passage failed. He therefore made himself known to the Spanish Consul, who represented German interests, with what result he does not state, contenting himself with saying that it led to his becoming acquainted on the following morning with the Crown Consul, who after hearing his statement told him he did not believe half of it, but would wire to Washington (p.235). (It looks as if the book had been censored, the sentence is not finished).

The next and last chapter ~~but he~~ finds him on board ship at San Francisco, where he was evidently expected by the authorities, who interned him on Angel Island. After a few days a German Consul came to tell him that the American Government had decided to set him free and he was allowed to travel to New York with other German officials to be deported, detectives accompanying them all the way. Here he states that the Emir of Afghanistan had applied for his "safe conduct" pass to the British Government a year ago, but that it was only due to America having come into the war that he was now allowed to proceed. Their examination in Halifax was very considerately carried out and there was nothing to complain of except some uncalled-for observations made by "a ship's officer". His arrival at Bergen closes the book - which contains no information as to what his instructions were or what he achieved in Kabul or elsewhere.

War Office (M.I.5.)

September 1918.

Summary of Book –

“My Diplomatic Mission to an Unget-at-Able Contry”.
by

Dr. Von Hentig – Secretary of Legation.

Published in Berlin – in 1918.

The writer’s preface is dated 26th July 1917 – and he arrived back home on 9th June 1917, having started from there on 14th April, 1915.

His full name is Dr. **Georg** Werner Otto Von Hentig.

Dates and landmarks are given in the list on the map at the end, (AOB, not among the file papers) which show how he travelled from B and going round the world in doing this. Berlin to Kabul, and from Kabul to Berlin; taking one and a half years to get there, and nearly thirteen months to return, (AOB, NIX airlines!)

The headings of the ten chapters are:-

From the east front to Baghdad

The Lion and the Sun during the war

Forty days in the Salt Desert (AOB, Persia)

Braking through the enemy lines

Ten months in Afghanistan

Over Hindukush and the Pamirs

Through the Chinese deserts

Robinson Crusoe back again

Not available material

An introductory chapter by the publishers, gives the author’s career:-

Born – 22nd May, 1886 in Berlin he studied in Grenoble, Berlin, Paris, Bonn, and Königsberg

Universities; served one year in the 3rd East Prussian Cuirassiers, of which he became a Lieutenant in the Reserve; entered the Diplomatic Service in 1911 – was Attaché at Peking during the revolution – transferred in 1913 to Constantinople, which gave him the opportunity of seeing Korea, Japan Coochin China, Java, Sumatra, Ceylon, Upper and Lower Egypt. From Turkey he was sent to Teheran, and was settling disputed between pro-Germans and pro-Russian Persians at Isapur when the war broke out. On 1st October, 1914, he was with his regiment, and went through all the fighting in the Masurian-Lakes, receiving a 1st Class iron Cross.

In March, 1915, he was called to Berlin – where he was entrusted with the Mission to Central Asia. Since his return he was resumed work for the Foreign Office, and is stated to be in one of the capitals of the Central Powers.

The publishers remark that von Hentig was not only trained athlete, also a good rider and a long distance swimmer, but he was a non-smoker, almost a total abstainer, and preferred a milk and fruit diet.

The chapter closes with suggestions of far-reaching results obtained in Central Asia in true Pan-German style.

Dr. von Hentig was accompanied by Dr. Becker, a military surgeon who had been in charge of the German Government Hospital in Teheran from 1912 to 1914, and (AOB, Dr.) Walter Roehr, a young German merchant, who had worked in North Persia for 8 – 10 years, in Shiraz since 1913. He spoke Turkish and Persian dialects and understood the handling of caravan drivers etc., - six Afrides formed the escort. A separate mission was given to several Indian ‘gentlemen’, amongst them a Prince, who was forced upon him. No names are mentioned.

For the railway journey to Constantinople the party was divided up into three groups to avoid suspicion in Rumania, which was not then at war. At the last moment an Indian, called Seyed Achmed, was taken on as personal servant, the other Indians having recommended him as a good cook.

At Constantinople Dr. Becker and Afridis went on ahead Anatolia, Dr. von Hentig having business to transact with Enver Pasha and the Deutsche bank. From the latter he drew a very large sum in gold for travelling expenses and arranged credits wherever practicable. He had interviews there with the Sultan, Sheik-ul-Islam, the Grand Vizier, Prince Said Halim etc., the Sultan saying to him at parting:- “Be on you guard with the English and don’t let them catch you”. Lieutenant Kasim Bey was ordered to accompany von Hentig as far as Persia.

The Anatolian railway ended at Bosanti at the foot of the Taurus Mountains, over which a road of some 90 kilometres went to Taurus, the next station and then to Adana, Osmanich and Alexandrette. Part of the railway between these last two was not working, as it was under fire from the Allied fleet. Until the Mission reached the Euphrates their caravan numbered 250 pack-cattle – after that three boats were sufficient.

On the 31st May Baghdad was reached. One passage reads:- “To-day Baghdad is still the centre through which all land routes much pass to Central Asia. The possession of this town sources the possession of communication by land with Central Asia.”

On 1st June 1915 the Mission left Baghdad and reached the Persian frontier eight days later.

“At this time we Germans were supreme in Central Persia” the Russians in the North and the English in the South. On the way von Hentig noticed that he was shadowed by a man of fair complexion and remembered having seen him apparently counting their baggage at Baghdad. His companions were cautioned and one of the Afridi escort was given arms. In Isphahan (AOB, Isfahan) (Februaru? 1915) was in those days the seat of German power in Persia. The Governor alone was unfriendly. The town people and the priesthood and many of the Bakhthiaries pro-German.

The expedition now had to strike through the Salt Desert of Kewir, as there was no chance of penetrating the Russian lines in North Persia, and this had to be done without arousing suspicion. For the food and water bags required the crossing of the desert camels, mules and horses were purchased and Röhr with his caravan joined up to Nafin.

Arrival at Tebbes, the oasis town, on 23.7.1915, after terrible suffering for three weeks in the desert. Here a mission led by Lieutenant Niedermayer joined up. Lieutenant Niedermayer had left Germany 6 months earlier to examine the military possibilities of an understanding with Afghanistan and von Hentig had left him making preparations in Teheran. Niedermayer was accompanied by Wilhelm Paschen (from S.W. Africa (AOB, then still a German colony)) a number of Persians and six Austro-Hungarians.

Von Hentig and Niedermayer decided to break through the enemy lines together and selected the Russian portion as more promising than that guarded by us (AOB, British troops) in the South (Birjhand) the wells for a distance of three to four days journey being all held by hostile spies and their arrival having probably been already reported from Isphahan. They therefore made for Bushuych, six days journey eastwards and sent the baggage back, under Dr. Becker, north-westward of Tebbes, their idea being to attract the Russians towards themselves and then rejoin their baggage column by forced marches across the desert. The approach of the Russians (150 men with 2 guns and 2 machine guns) was reported on the 7th days. Three weeks later Dr. Becker was attacked by Russians and wounded, recovered under the care of natives, fought for a year in Beloochistan, then in Persia and was eventually captured by the British and handed to the Russians. Von Hentig and his companions however reached the telegraph wires between Meshed and Birjand and Nasrabab and passed an unguarded spot in safety at night, arriving in sight of Dorosch at mid-day which they carefully

avoided, as it was said to be held by Bellchistan camelry. Towards evening 6,000 ft. mountains on the frontier of Afghanistan came in view. Tacht-I-Wun and then Yezdun were the next places. A small party was then sent forward to announce their arrival to the Governor of Heart soon afterwards arrived to bid them welcome as guests of the Afghan Government. A large caravan with cooking utensils and servants followed. Von Hentig put on his uniform in honour of his hosts. In Heart the guard of honour wore red English infantry tunics and also Prussian Cavalry and Rifle Uniforms. They remained in Heart until 7 September and reached Kabul on 1st October, the members of the Turkish colony coming out to meet them. To their surprise they found several Austrians, escaped prisoners of war from Turkestan, some of them craftsmen, who were already following their handicraft and making themselves useful and welcome.

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Page 199 Arrives in Hankow, where the German meets him – 27.12.16 till 27.3.17 when rumours that China had broken off diplomatic relations with Germany began to circulate and were confirmed. (AOB, query: what have the British side promised the Chinese Government? Like had been done in almost every "Declaration of War against Germany". Maybe Churchill's Great War can lift the blanket.)

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War Office (M.I.5.)

September 1918

*From Secretary of State to Viceroy, Foreign Department,
12th August 1918.*

[P 3048] Foreign Secret. See correspondence with Consul-General, Meshed, enclosed in your Foreign Secretary's weekly letter No. 40, of 24th May, regarding Niedermeyer's papers. I presume Grey understands importance of preventing reports, &c., reaching Germany, and that destruction would suit our purpose almost as well as seizure.

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Termination of this brief collection was 11 June 2018

The English language version.

My next objective, is to add text sections of Von Hentig's post war autobiography (Mein Leben eine Dienstreise); but in the genuine German fashion.

Therefore, Deo volente, a second version has to be prepared, in due course.

Arthur O. Bauer