

May 23, 1946

Report: Dyhernfurth Under Russian Management

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Summary:

The report notes Russian control of Dyhernfurth Laboratory, which is used to produce poison gas.

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From: Major E. TIDLEY,
To: Lt-Col. P.M. WILSON.

23 May 1946

Subject: DYHERNFURTH UNDER RUSSIAN MANAGEMENT

1. This morning you requested me to transmit to you any information I might receive directly or indirectly on the possible continuation of production of poison gas by the Russians at DYHERNFURTH. I have no direct information of recent origin but there are a few items which I wish to bring to your attention.
2. Previous Report on DYHERNFURTH.

In my SHAEF report on POISON GAS, of 18 May 1945, I stated the following, in paragraph 21:

DYHERNFURTH PLANT NOT DESTROYED BY GERMANS

"All witnesses agreed that the plant was not destroyed by the Germans. All finished CW products were removed when the Russians approached SILESIA, a week before DYHERNFURTH was captured. The WEHRMACHT sent sappers to destroy the plant. A few days before the Russians arrived this order was countermanded. All intermediates were destroyed, every building was thoroughly cleaned, all traces of CW products were removed under the supervision of various I.G. Chemists. All records, formulas and documents were burned in large ovens. A few may have gone to SEEWERK".

3. ALL APPARATUS AND ALL STOCKS OF POISON GAS AT DYHERNFURTH DESTROYED BY GERMANS.

Since May 1945 several C.W. experts have stated that, after the Russians had occupied DYHERNFURTH, a large German commando under a major-general went there with one or two I.G. chemists and destroyed some of the apparatus and possibly small quantities of the finished product which had been overlooked when the entire staff withdrew to the west and later to GENDORF. According to the latest information, even if the entire DYHERNFURTH plant was not destroyed by the Germans, all apparatus and

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all stocks were rendered unrecognisable or were completely demolished so that no Russian could trace or reconstruct the production of TABUN from the evidence left at the plant.

4. RUSSIANS SUSPECTED OF HAVING DEVELOPED A POISON GAS SIMILAR TO TABUN OR SARIN!

In the report mentioned in para 2 I also pointed out that, according to various sources, the Russians were believed to have developed a new poison gas similar to TABUN or one of its homologues. The DYHERNFURTH CW expert HARTMANN claimed that this was common knowledge or common talk in DYHERNFURTH.

5. AMBROS HAS PLANTED A SECRETARY IN DYHERNFURTH

AMBROS is reported to have sent a woman secretary to DYHERNFURTH to spy on the Russians and report on their activities in the production of poison gas. I reported this fact to you a few months ago. At the time AMBROS was said to have told someone about this attempt to spy on the Russians. I have received no news of the results of this activity of AMBROS. I have no doubt, however, that, after his transfer to DUSTBIN, AMBROS could be persuaded to impart to us any intelligence he has received from his agent in DYHERNFURTH. An attempt could also be made to obtain this information at KOHLHOF/HEIDELBERG, where AMBROS's chief secretary maintains or maintained for him a Verbindungs-und Nachrichtenstelle.

6. Dr. Herbert KRANZ MAY HAVE JOINED THE RUSSIAN STAFF AT DYHERNFURTH.

In para 55 of the report mentioned in para 2, above, I also described the activities and some of the movements of Dr. KRANZ in the following words:

"Dr. KRANZ. Chief of filling and shipping of Poison Gas Shells and Aerial bombs at DYHERNFURTH. The only man who knows for certain where most of the 10,000 tons of TABUN are. Left DYHERNFURTH for WITTENBERG on 20 (?) January 45 and reported to WEHRMACHT Ordnance Depot for Ammunition, without authority from

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had re-opened the DYHERNFURTH Plant. KRANZ, according to all witnesses in April 1945, was the only one who could indicate the storage places of all of the TABUN that had been produced at DYHERNFURTH. Although it is reasonable to assume that at DYHERNFURTH all stocks of TABUN and all data on the production had been destroyed, perhaps not all stocks of the finished product had been destroyed. Therefore KRANZ had a valuable secret to sell and it would be in keeping with his character as described by a number of witnesses if he sold this secret to the Russians.

9. SARIN PROBABLY UNKNOWN TO RUSSIANS

SARIN was not produced in its final form at DYHERNFURTH and it was never filled in shells or aerial bombs, therefore KRANZ could not have informed the Russians of the details of this much more potent gas.

10. As KRANZ has not been seen anywhere in the British, American or French zones, it may be assumed that he either returned to the Russian Zone or that he met with an accident or with foul play.

11. In von KLENCK's most recent report to me he speaks of his section chief at I.G. Farben, HÖCHST, a Dr. KRÄNZLEIN whom he describes as a rabid Nazi and OC SS-STURM in SINDLINGEN. KRÄNZLEIN insisted that KLENCK and other young chemists at HÖCHST join this SS-STURM. (KRANZ signifies 'wreath', KRÄNZLEIN means 'wreathlet' or 'little wreath') KRANZ was employed as a chemist at HÖCHST before he went to DYHERNFURTH. Von KLENCK may be able to tell us whether KRANZ and KRÄNZLEIN are two different Höchst chemists or whether they are one and the same person.

Edmund Tilley

Edmund TILLEY,
Major GS,
P.I.A.T. (Br)

25 May 1946

P.S. Since writing this note I have obtained the following information:

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