

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR BAVARIA
INFORMATION CONTROL DIVISION
APO 403 U S ARMY

11 February 1946

Dear Dr. Levy,

I have been wanting to write to you for several weeks now to express to you my thanks and appreciation for the magnificent work of your screening center.

The difficult and responsible task of deciding on the political reliability and suitable character of Germans who want to be active in information services has been greatly facilitated by the probed investigation and evaluation methods of you and your staff. There is no doubt in my mind that your procedure at the screening center is the most thorough and reliable, and absolutely essential to mirror a true picture of the mentality and character of our licensees. Only through your methods, which I consider absolutely essential, can a hundred per cent accurate decision be made.

I sincerely believe that if this system of screening were applied on a much wider scale to include the key officials of the zonal and local governments as well as to the leaders of German economic life, our mission of eradicating Nazism and Militarism and reeducating the German people would come much closer to successful completion than it unfortunately is at this date.

I want to wish your continued success in this most important work and hope that we will have the benefit of your valued advice for as long a period as you are able to stay in Germany.

H. Peter Hart
H. PETER HART
Captain, Inf
Chief of Intelligence

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR BAVARIA
INFORMATION CONTROL DIVISION
Munich Detachment
APO 403 U S ARMY

Mr. Levy

12 February 1946

SUBJECT: Reaction of Bad Orb Candidates.

TO : Capt H. Peter Hart, Chief of Intelligence,
Office of MG for Bavaria, ICD.

1. Informal talks were held with several prominent persons in the entertainment field who had been at the ICD Screening Center in Bad Orb. They were asked to give their impressions of the trip and their experiences at Bad Orb and also criticize freely anything that might have disturbed them there or they might have disliked. ~~with~~. The undersigned knew the persons well already before they went to Bad Orb and they felt perfectly free to speak to him.

2. It might be best to give below some of the highlights of the talks with the screenees:

a) ADOLF GRONDRELL, Munich, Pienzenauerstr.4.
Mr. GONDRELL was rejected as licensee in the final report of Bad Orb, but permitted to continue as conferencier and actor.
As all the other persons screened at Bad Orb, Mr. GONDRELL emphasized the good food and quarters furnished him, which of course are of quite some importance to any Germans these days. He mentioned the complete ease which he felt while being questioned by Dr. Levy and Mr. Bernard and that he never once considered himself to be before a "Prüfungsausschuss", but rather felt like he was merely having a chat with some good friends. The method of interrogation was completely new to him, since it was handled from a scientific angle. GONDRELL felt however, that some of the IQ tests in their composition necessitated certain special knowledge which only a person trained in those fields could answer, but which he thought would not really have any bearing on a persons general education. He was much more impressed with the psychological tests. The political screening was especially impressive according to GONDRELL, because he feels that only by speaking freely can a persons real political orientation be ascertained. GONDRELL was somewhat surprised that his theatrical abilities were not looked into. He seems to feel that, should his worth as

an artist be taken into consideration, his characterizing would automatically rise.

b) PAUL VERHOEVEN, Intendant of the Staats-schauspiel Munich.

Mr. VERHOEVEN was classified "C" but acceptable as licensee.

Mr. VERHOEVEN went to Bad Orb completely unprepared for what was expected of him there or why he was sent there at all. He got there in the early days of the Interrogation Center and at that time the applicants were not told the reasons for being sent there, they were merely asked to take a trip of three days duration. VERHOEVEN was therefore

a little nervous during the whole trip, but the friendly reception and the good quarters and food soon dispelled his anxiety. He was very much impressed about the wide range of knowledge of the persons interrogating him and the clever method by which, during a talk about philosophy, they began to feel him out on his attitudes about society and human relations, which naturally played a big part in his later character classification. He was surprised when he was found out that one of the investigators was a doctor and a specialist in the field of psycho-analysis. VERHOEVEN himself is interested in this field and since during the past 12 years all studies in this subject were suspended in Germany, he was pleasantly surprised to meet a man who was so well acquainted with it. VERHOEVEN was attracted by the idea of the tests and did not dislike the school-like-atmosphere in which they were presented. Before he left however, when he was already dressed and waiting for the automobile, he was called in once more and interrogated in the old police manner. The setting was that of a criminal police bureau and the questions were put at him hard and fast. This ending left a somewhat bitter taste in his mouth, but as a whole he calls the method of interrogation used at Bad Orb very effective and impressive.

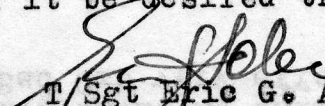
c) Mr. BENSCHER, Radio Munich.
Mr. BENSCHER is Spielleiter at Radio Munich, was classified "A" in the Bad Orb report. He had been a KZ inmate for several years.
The main thing impressing BENSCHER about Bad Orb was the thorough political knowledge of the interrogators.

d) HANS W. KUBASZEWSKI.
KUBASZEWSKI works for the Filmverleih in Geiselsberg and was classified "C" in the Intelligence Report ~~of~~ Bad Orb.
The method of interrogation used in Bad Orb was a completely new one to KUBASZEWSKI, who found it to be so free of prejudice and full of objectivity that any German, according to KUBASZEWSKI, who was not used to this fairness under the Hitler regime, would be doubly surprised that such a thing was possible. He feels that because of these factors a person felt much more at ease during the interrogations and was able to answer questions freely. Most of the time he had the impression of moving about amongst friends and being treated by doctors rather than interrogated by Americans.

e) Dr. SCHATTENHOFER, former Kulturreferent of the city of Munich, now working at the Stadtarchiv. SCHATTENHOFER was considered acceptable in the Bad Orb Intelligence Report.

SCHATTENHOFER was very surprised by the unusual and to him completely new method of interrogation. He expected to get some sort of instructions in democracy and instead found himself being screened again, but this time with, as he calls it, "medical methods". He mentioned the gentlemanlike reception accorded him upon arrival, but also that despite the correctness and objectivness of the interrogators, he could not quite loose the feeling of being in an X-ray department. He feels that the psychological method of interrogation would show a fairly accurate picture of a persons character. SCHATTENHOFER had the possibility to speak freely and he emphasized the thorough knowledge of German political conditions, which the interrogators seem to possess.

3. Some of the Bad Orb impressions of the applicants were given in writing and should it be desired they can be forwarded.


T/Sgt Eric G. ADLER
Investigator

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