

**HEADQUARTERS
SEVENTH UNITED STATES ARMY
INTELLIGENCE CENTER
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G2
APO 403**

PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION REPORT

Interrogation Section

August 17th, 1945

PRISONER: Schenk, Kurt

AIG 1924

CI

PERSONAL DATA:

Schenk, age 29, captured May 10th near German-Czech border. NOTED: High Value German officer, was removed from possible Soviet custody to local US units and transferred May 15th to G2 Prisoner Interrogation Section. Schenk volunteered 1938 for service in the Luftwaffe Fallschirmjaeger, 1st Division, 1st FJR/2. Saw first action 1940, in Holland in the assault on the Hague. Received the Iron Cross 1st Class for his actions. Suffered his first wound of the war, but was returned to service after a brief hospital stay. Participated in the 1941 assault on Crete. Schenk received the Knight's Cross for his actions at Crete, which resulted in the capture of a large formation of New Zealanders. Schenk would be severely wounded prior to the ending of the campaign in Crete. He would spend the remainder of 1941 and 1942 convalescing in military hospital near Stuttgart.

Upon recovering from his wounds suffered in Crete, Schenk was promoted to Oberleutnant and reassigned to the newly formed, 2nd FJR Division. Schenk was instrumental in securing high value Italian Targets in the Rome operations of 1943. Also in September, Schenk was hand-picked to lead a section of Paratroopers during the Gran Sasso Raid to rescue Mussolini. At the recommendation of Otto Skorzeny, Schenk received the Oakleaves to his Knight's Cross. Schenk spent the remainder of 1943 on the Island of Leros, where he again received notice for his outstanding combat leadership.

In January 1944, Schenk fought with the 2nd FJR around Kirovograd. By May 1944, Schenk was back in Germany as the 2nd FJR was refitted following heavy losses on the Eastern Front. Following D-Day, the 2nd FJR was assigned to the defense of Brest. Schenk was promoted to Hauptman at this time and his fanatic defensive efforts earned him the Swords to his Knight's Cross. Schenk would again be severely wounded and was successfully evacuated prior to the fall of Brest. Schenk would spend the remainder of 1944 in a military hospital outside of Munich. Otto Skorzeny requested Schenk for his special operations unit in the Ardennes, but Schenk was not yet fit for duty.

In February 1945, Schenk was released from the hospital and assigned to Special Operations Gruppe Schoerner. This Gruppe was made of roughly sixty veteran Fallschirmjaeger, who like Schenk had recently recovered from wounds. They were well equipped and given several flak-wagons as their primary transport and fire base. Their primary mission was escort and air defense for high level German officers in the city of Prague.

FOLLOWING: G2 Section Leader EYES ONLY: Code CASE: Special Observed Phenomenon Group A1EG.

Statements made regarding Schenk's operations during the "Czech Hell" from May 5th—May 10th, 1945. During Prague Uprising, Schenk's unit, located at the Hradcany Castle received orders to rescue high ranking SS Officers located at the HQ of Gruppenführer SS von Pückler. Von Pückler's HQ was situated in the building of Legal Faculty of Charles University in center of town. Beginning at 1:00 AM Czech resistance fighters successfully seized the Radio Station and began broadcasting for a general uprising against the Germans. Schenk noted that the Bells of the old city cathedral began tolling at midnight and continued until nearly dawn. At roughly 1:30 AM, Schenk and his combat group mounted their flak-wagons and crossed the Charles Bridge into the Old City with the mission to reach Von Pückler's HQ and effect a successful evacuation.

TOP SECRET FOLLOWS: G2 Section Leader EYES ONLY— Schenk's testimony from here forward: "At 1:45 AM, my battle group approached the old Jewish Cemetery, which was located between the Pikas and Klausen Synagogues. All the street lights in this section of the city were out and it was extremely dark. I observed Czech resistance men running along the rooftops. I instructed my men to hold their fire and conserve ammunition for the expected return. As we turned to the NE to move towards Von Pückler's HQ, all of our vehicles mysteriously stalled. Efforts to restart them were futile. I gave instructions for several of my men to remain with the flakwagons as their crews worked to restart them. I further instructed them to fire if fired upon, otherwise, they were to remain silent in the night." Oberleutnant Dieder Kurzman was in command of the Flakwagons. He is currently listed as MIA and G2 Section has not been able to locate him for possible interrogation. He is believed KIA'd by Czech resistance fighters with many other Wehrmacht and Estonian Waffen SS personnel executed out of hand on May 12th, 1945.

Schenk's account of May 5th continues: "As my remaining men passed by the old Jewish Cemetery, we became aware of many dead SS troops littering the road. Many appeared to have suffered serious blunt force injuries. No bullet holes were discovered on any of the corpses in this area. I ordered my command into the alley shadows several times as our former comrades of the German 600th Infantry Division (1st ROA Division) roamed this area. It was clear that they had joined forces with the Czech Resistance and

I witnessed the ROA soldiers kill several German Wehrmacht and SS personnel during the course of the night. It was around 3:00 AM that I first observed the monster (SECTION note Classified). This very large, man shaped creature moved with ferocious speed towards my men. It appeared to see us despite the darkness. Our rifle and SMG fire had no effect upon it...and as it came nearer, we were all gripped with a maddening fear. I struggled to keep my men together as they begged me to flee. Finally, Gefreiter Lunz fired a Panzerfaust at the monster...striking it in the chest. It was staggered and then simply vanished. Thinking it eliminated...I ordered my men to continue with our mission.

We encountered numerous Czech Resistance Fighters, but successfully eliminated them. We reached Von Pückler's HQ at roughly 4:30 AM. Von Pückler's was not there, as he had not waited for our arrival. His fate was not known to me then or now." (G2 note: Von Pückler confirmed KIA'd by "MONSTER". Information not shared with Schenk during interrogation.) "All was chaos at the HQ. The SS men were terrified and refused to leave the building. They claimed that up to seven white spirit figures had attacked other SS men as they left the building. Apparently none had survived. The HQ area was well lit by fires from burning vehicles. The Czech Resistance fighters had destroyed as much of Von Pückler's transport vehicles as possible. I spoke with SS-Untersturmführer Weissman regarding the situation. He informed me that he had been able to repel the Czech Resistance fighters, but had suffered heavy losses to these spirit figures. He was very shaken and I sensed him losing his grip on reality. He would not listen to my requests for he and his men to leave the building. My own men, were beginning to express great fear over the situation and demanded that they we return immediately to Hradcany Castle. I agreed, wished Weissman luck and ordered my battle group to return to our flakwagons.

It was at this time, that many small groups of Waffen SS men rushed from their hiding places and joined our movement out of the old City. As we fled into the darkness near the old Jewish Cemetery, I saw for the first time the white spirits that Weissman had told me about. They appeared to fly through the darkness and could be heard to shriek in a way that instilled fear in us all. With no warning, the spirits swarmed about us and I witnessed the terrifying and gruesome deaths of many of my men as well as the SS men. The spirits seemed particularly attracted to the SS men. This gave a few of my men and I a chance to flee. With the screams of the SS men still in our ears, we reached the location of our Flakwagons. Oberleutnant Dieder Kurzman and his men were missing, although the Flakwagons were intact. We tried starting one and were successful, we boarded it and drove rapidly towards the Charles Bridge. It was roughly 5:30 AM as we neared the bridge. It was then that we once again saw the giant Monster, which we thought had been killed by the Panzerfaust shot. The Monster was busy attacking Oberleutnant Dieder Kurzman and several of his men. Evidently, they had left their posts and tried to escape on their own. (G2 Section note: Oberleutnant Dieder Kurzman confirmed KIA the night of May 5th near the Charles Bridge.)

The cries of Kurzman and his men were horrifying as we sped past in our flakwagon. Once on the bridge, we continued to Hradcany Castle and never looked back. Upon arriving at the castle, the SS command berated us for failing in our mission. We were severely reprimanded and the SS men were convinced that only SS men had the nerve to get the job done. My men and I were ordered to the outskirts of Prague provide anti-aircraft protection for German civilians leaving the Sudetenland." Schenk's commentary on the night of May 5th ends here. Further commentary is CLASSIFIED and located in the G2 Section Leader File "DAS GOLEM AEJ-1101."

Hauptman Schenk currently located at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma. OSI Case# KSchenk—APO 45511.

CASE CLOSED—March 22nd, 1949 (NO FURTHER DISCUSSION OF DAS GOLEM per G2 Section Chief)

SEVENTH ARMY INTERROGATION CENTER

Paul Kubala
PAUL KUBALA, Maj, MI,
Commanding.

TOP SECRET
EYES ONLY

Authority *IND 760041*

~~SECRET/RELEASE~~
~~TO GERMANY ONLY~~