

Betts File 53,107.

23 November 1945

Brigadier General E. C. Betts
Office of the Theater Judge Advocate
Headquarters, USFET


My dear General Betts:

I attach a memo sent to me by Mr. Gaevernitz of SSU regarding Mr. Guido Zimmer, who was useful to Mr. Allen Dulles, Chief of OSS, in negotiations leading up to the surrender of the German Armies in Northern Italy.

It seemed to me that this would be of great value in passing upon Zimmer's case in the event of convicting the SS as a criminal organization.

WILLIAM J. DONOVAN
Major General, U.S.A.

Attachment



53,107

30 November 1945

MEMORANDUM TO GENERAL DONOVAN:

From: Mr. Gaevernitz

GUIDO ZIMMER, Erlangen, Loewenigstrasse 5.

Guido Zimmer, a member of the SS, played an outstanding part in the secret operations, which resulted in the unconditional surrender of the German Armies in Northern Italy. It was he who, early in 1945, set the ball rolling by entering into secret discussions with the Italian Baron Parrilli, for the purpose of establishing the first contact with Allied representatives in Switzerland.

During the course of the negotiations, Zimmer proved to be of extreme usefulness. During several weeks he sheltered a clandestine Allied radio operator in his house in Milan. He undertook this operation at great risk to himself.

At the same time he frequently traveled between Milan and the Swiss border, and often crossed the border into Switzerland to maintain contact with Allied representatives.

There can be no doubt that Guido Zimmer was of outstanding help in bringing about his surrender of the German Armies in Northern Italy.

In so doing he contributed materially to hastening the end of the war and saving the lives of many Allied soldiers.

GG/jes