### M1934

# OSS WASHINGTON SECRET INTELLIGENCE/SPECIAL FUNDS RECORDS, 1942–1946

Eric S. Van Slander prepared the introduction and arranged these records for microfilming.

United States. National Archives and Records Administration.
OSS Washington secret intelligence/special funds records,
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United States. Office of Strategic Services – Archives –
Microform catalogs.
 World War, 1939–1945 – Secret service –
United States – Archival resources – Microform catalogs.
 Intelligence service – United States – History – Archival resources – Microform catalogs.
 Van Slander, Eric S.
 Title.

#### Introduction

On the 24 rolls of this microfilm publication, M1934, are reproduced records that were originally in the custody of the Washington Office, Secret Intelligence Branch and the Washington Office, Special Funds Division of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), and their predecessor units, during the period 1942–1946. The records were created and collected by these units while they were engaged in Project Safehaven, the code name of a project of the Foreign Economic Administration, in cooperation with the State Department and the military services, to block the flow of German capital across neutral boundaries and to identify and observe all German overseas investments. The series, OSS Washington Secret Intelligence/Special Funds Records, 1942–1946 [A1, Entry 183], is contained within Records of the Office of Strategic Services, Record Group (RG) 226.

#### BACKGROUND

The role of the OSS in Project Safehaven was largely confined to the collection and evaluation of information from the clandestine sources under its control. Safehaven thus fell largely under the aegis of the Secret Intelligence (SI) Branch, responsible for the gathering of intelligence from clandestine sources inside neutral and German-occupied Europe. These efforts intensified as Germany's military fortunes waned, especially from September 1944 onwards, as the advance of Allied armies threatened to sever Germany's land communications with important sources of strategic materials in Southeastern Europe and the Iberian peninsula.

The SI Branch was established in the Office of the Coordinator of Information (OCOI), the principal predecessor of the OSS, in October 1941, with the aim of collecting intelligence by clandestine means outside the Western Hemisphere and disseminating such intelligence to appropriate government agencies. It was organized largely on a geographic basis, with divisions for Europe, the Near and Middle East, and the Far East. The SI Branch included the Reporting Board, which edited and disseminated reports after they were approved by the geographic divisions concerned. The SI Branch transferred to the Strategic Services Unit (SSU) upon dissolution of the OSS, effective October 1, 1945. The SI Branch was redesignated the SI Office on November 19, 1945. The SI Office consolidated with the X-2 (Counter-Intelligence) Office to form the Foreign Security Reports Office (FSRO) on June 17, 1946. The FSRO, after temporary transferral to the War Department, transferred to the Central Intelligence Group (CIG), and was assigned to the CIG Office of Special Operations on April 2, 1946.

The Special Funds (SF) Division was established in January 1942 with responsibility for financing operations of the Secret Intelligence and Special Operations Branches

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Textual record series designators usually consist of the series title with a date span, the finding aid notation, and the Holdings Management System (HMS) entry number, shown here in brackets.

through unvouchered funds made available by the President and the Congress. It was redesignated the SF Branch and made responsible to the newly established Office of the Deputy Director-Services (ODD-S), effective January 4. The SF Branch was removed from ODD-S and became a staff office in the Office of the Director of Strategic Services on May 26, 1944. The SF Branch was abolished, effective May 10, 1945, with functions transferred to the Finance Branch. It was reconstituted as the SF Division in Services Branch of SSU on June 17, 1946. The SF Division functions transferred to the CIG on April 2, 1946.

The records of the CIG were transferred to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) upon that agency's creation under provisions of the National Security Act of 1947. The OSS Washington Secret Intelligence/Special Funds Records, 1942–1946 were transferred from the CIA to the National Archives in April 1987.

#### **RECORDS DESCRIPTION**

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication include documentation on Italian and German personalities, copies of Safehaven reports, American Legation reports, SSU and CIG reports, correspondence, cables, inventories of gold, and signed certifications and regulations regarding the use of gold and gold transactions. The records in the series are divided into the following subseries: (1) Washington Office, Secret Intelligence Branch Personalities (WASH-SI-PTS); (2) Washington Office, Special Funds Division Finance, Intelligence (WASH-SPDF-INT); and (3) Washington Office, Special Funds, Intelligence (WASH-SPF-FIN). A detailed finding aid is available on www.archives.gov.

The first subseries is the smallest group of materials in this publication. It contains documentation on German and Italian nationals who possessed knowledge of the political and economic situations in Axis and Axis-occupied nations during World War II and the early postwar period. This subseries is arranged into numbered files, each of which contains documents relating to one individual.

The second subseries is the largest group of materials in this publication. The records in this subseries primarily center on economic activities, economic intelligence, and Safehaven program activities. The Safehaven materials focus on efforts to locate, recover, and return to owners or the Allies materials looted or converted during the war; and, efforts to prevent enemy organizations or individuals from hiding assets or holdings. There are a number of notable interests covered by documents in this subseries, such as (1) German industry and international cartels, particularly I.G. Farben; (2) gold and currency activities, banking, counterfeiting, and smuggling; (3) German activities in Spain and Portugal, including materials on Sociedad Financiera Industrial (SOFINDUS), the German organization for trade with Spain; (4) trademarks; (5) activities of Allies and neutrals with Italian and German industrialists, engineers, and scientists; (6) activities in the four occupation zones of Germany; (7) information on individuals and organizations, including political movements; and, (8) the agency for the confiscation of Dutch-Jewish property. This subseries is arranged numerically by document number (from 1 to 9431, with gaps).

The records in the last subseries pertain to gold held by the OSS. Included in the subseries are copies of regulations pertaining to the gold, inventories, and transactions for the period June 1942 through April 1945, as well as a June 25, 1945, U.S. Group Control Council, Finance Division preliminary report titled "Concealment of Some I.G. Farben Selling Companies." The subseries is arranged chronologically.

#### RELATED RECORDS

#### **Textual Records in the National Archives**

GENERAL RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Record Group (RG) 59 **Division of Economic Security Controls** 

Safehaven Country File, 1945–1947 [A1, Entry 369A] Safehaven Subject File, 1945–1947 [A1, Entry 369B]

RECORDS OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI), RG 65 FBI Headquarters Investigative Records: Classified Subject Files

Released Under the Nazi and Japanese War Crimes Disclosure Act, 1940–1946 [A1, Entry 136-AH]

Headquarters Files from Classification 112 (Foreign Funds)

RECORDS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, RG 84

U.S. Embassies, Legations, Consulates, and Political Advisors

Brazil: Rio de Janeiro Embassy

Safehaven Files, 1944–1948 [UD, Entry 2137]

Switzerland: American Legation, Bern; Economic Section Safehaven Subject File, 1942–1949 [UD, Entry 3221] Safehaven Name Files, 1942–1949 [UD, Entry 3223]

Turkey: Ankara Embassy

Safehaven Files, 1945–1948 [UD, Entry 3290]

RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF ALIEN PROPERTY, RG 131 Office of Foreign Funds Control

Foreign Funds Control, General Correspondence, 1942–1960 [A1, Entry 247]

RECORDS OF THE FOREIGN ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATION, RG 169
Office of Budget and Administrative Planning

Records Analysis Division

Historical File on Office of Economic Warfare (OEW) and Predecessor Agencies: Material on the "Safehaven Project," 1943–1945 [PI-29, Entry 170]

**Office of Economic Programs** 

Interdepartmental Committee on Post-Hostilities Controls over Foreign Property for Critical Consideration

Central Files, February 1942–October 1945 [PI-29, Entry 200]

#### RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES (OSS), RG 226

#### WASHINGTON OFFICE

#### Research and Analysis Branch

Office of the Chief

General Correspondence, 1942–1946 [NM-54, Entry 1]

Central Information Division

Intelligence Reports (Regular Series), 1941–1945 [NM-54, Entry 16]

Intelligence Reports (XL Series), 1941–1946 [NM-54, Entry 19]

#### **History Branch**

History Office Collection, 1941–1946 [A1, Entry 99]

#### X-2 Branch

Washington Registry Intelligence Files, 1941–1946 [UD, Entry 109]

#### **Washington Registry Office**

Records Related to Resistance History, 1941–1946 [UD, Entry 190A]

#### FIELD OFFICES

London Field Station Files, 1941–1946 [A1, Entry 115]

Field Station Files (Athens, Austria, Barcelona, Bern, Heidelberg, Lisbon, London, Caserta, and Washington X-2 Files), 1941–1946 [UD, Entry 124]

#### OTHER OSS RECORDS

OSS Classified Sources and Methods Files "Withdrawn Records" (Previously Withheld Documents Transferred By CIA Accession 79-00332A), 1941–2002 [A1, Entry 210]<sup>2</sup>

OSS Classified Sources and Methods Files "Withdrawn Records" (Previously Withheld Documents Transferred By CIA Accession 85-0215R), 1941–2002 [A1, Entry 211]

OSS Classified Sources and Methods Files "Withdrawn Records" (Previously Withheld Documents Transferred By CIA Accession 91-0020R), 1941–2002 [A1, Entry 212]

OSS Classified Sources and Methods Files "Withdrawn Records" (Previously Withheld Documents Transferred By CIA Accession 91-00976R), 1941–2002 [A1, Entry 213]

OSS Classified Sources and Methods Files "Withdrawn Records" (Previously Withheld Documents Transferred By CIA Accession 91-01046R), 1941–2002 [A1, Entry 214]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Entries 210–220 represent series artificially created by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of "withdrawn-withdrawn" materials that consist of records created or received by the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), primarily during the period 1942-45. These documents had been withdrawn from OSS records when major bodies of those records were transferred to NARA in the 1970s and 1980s. The security-classified withdrawn records were transferred by the CIA to NARA in 1997, and 400,000 pages of these withdrawn records were declassified and released in late June 2000. The over 6,000 pages of records contained in entries 210-220 are part of a collection of documents that had been previously withdrawn from the withdrawn OSS records; thus their title "withdrawn-withdrawn" materials. Although a high percentage of the records in these series are not Safehaven Program-related, included among the records are various Safehaven reports pertaining to looted art and other assets. Copies of most, if not all, of these Safehaven reports were declassified in 1975 and formed part of the Intelligence Reports (XL Series), 1941–1946 (RG 226, NM-54, Entry 19).

- OSS Classified Sources and Methods Files "Withdrawn Records" (Previously Withheld Documents Transferred By CIA Accession 91-01272R), 1941–2002 [A1, Entry 215]
- OSS Classified Sources and Methods Files "Withdrawn Records" (Previously Withheld Documents Transferred By CIA Accession 92-00373R), 1941–2002 [A1, Entry 216]
- OSS Classified Sources and Methods Files "Withdrawn Records" (Previously Withheld Documents Transferred By CIA Accession 92-00687R), 1941–2002 [A1, Entry 217]
- OSS Classified Sources and Methods Files "Withdrawn Records" (Previously Withheld Documents Transferred By CIA Accession 92-00905R), 1941–2002 [A1, Entry 218]
- OSS Classified Sources and Methods Files "Withdrawn Records" (Previously Withheld Documents Transferred By CIA Accession 92-1054R), 1941–2002 [A1, Entry 219]
- OSS Classified Sources and Methods Files "Withdrawn Records" (Previously Withheld Documents Transferred By CIA Accession 93-00301R), 1941–2002 [A1, Entry 220]

#### **National Archives Microfilm Publications**

M1642, Records of the Office of Strategic Services, Washington Director's Office Administrative Files, 1941–1945 (RG 226, 136 rolls)

M1933, Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General (Army), Safehaven Reports of the War Crimes Branch, 1944–1945 (RG 153, 9 rolls)

#### **National Archives Publications**

Researchers should also consult *Holocaust-Era Assets: A Finding Aid to Records at the National Archives at College Park, Maryland*, compiled by Greg Bradsher (Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 1999). This finding aid includes information on specific areas within military records, such as War Department and Occupation records, as well as civilian records, such as those of the State Department, that contain information on looted assets.

Additional information concerning the Holocaust may be located on our web site at www.archives.gov.

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