

Groehl previously told Otten that he has information of German aggressive, war plans and wants to publicize them to the English. Otten recommended Sykes as a translator.

April 29, 1938

Otten asks Sykes to invite Groehl to visit him in the UK.

M/S

re Charles GROEHL: 7 Rue Barrault, Paris 13.

On 29th April, M/S received a letter from ^{PF 45807} [Carl OTTEN] as follows:-

"I thought you were coming today, as I wanted to discuss with you a certain matter which is in the closest connection with our work. The fact is that I expect the visit of a friend who has made certain researches in this sphere. He has money and a visa, but is unwilling to come without an invitation. Will you be kind enough to send him such an invitation?

His address is: / Monsieur Charles Groehl. X
/ 7 rue Barrault,
/ Paris 13.

I should be especially grateful if you would send this invitation by air mail, so that our friend receives it on Saturday. He wants to come this weekend, and is only waiting for the invitation. Write it in English, something like this:

'Dear friend,

I should be very pleased if you could come for the weekend. I can put you up, and then we can discuss our literary plans in peace and quiet.

With greetings etc.'

I should be extremely grateful if you could attend to this at once. I will repay all expenses you may incur. The main thing is that it deals with the two days visit of an extremely important man. Burn this letter. See you tomorrow evening.

Karl Otten."

Since reporting this to us M/S has seen OTTEN and has learned a little more about GROEHL. He is a German refugee living in Paris and he is a specialist in electrical matters. He is very intimate with the Saar district and he appears to have obtained some information regarding Germany's electrical preparations on the Saar frontier. It seems that electricity is used very largely in the frontier defences. GROEHL is prepared to give his information to OTTEN for the book on Germany's war preparations. OTTEN's group is very anxious for GROEHL to meet M/S so we may be able to obtain further information. The group has recently received information that Germany intends to have 24,000 war aircraft by the autumn.

August 17, 1938

Groehl writes to Otten about, *inter alia*, Sykes.

Photostat filed in:- PF 45807 v.2. 80a. 24a

From K. Groehl

To K. Otten.

Date of letter 17.8.38.

Summary of Contents

Why has he not heard from Otten since he wrote of Erich's arrival?

The invitation is not enough and they will certainly enquire who Sykes is. He has stated that he is an editor and that Sykes is translator for novels etc.

He is expecting a heavy blow as he thinks that his enterprise on which account he is coming to England will go broke. Sykes is no good at all.

He can do the Berlin and the southern Germany affairs, as he touch with both places.

R. of S.
held by A4.



August 9, 1938

MI-5 memo about Groehl's impending arrival in the UK.

The visit of Carl GROEHL to OTTEN is likely to take place some time between the 9th and 14th August, and it is clear that Carl OTTEN attaches the greatest importance to this visit.

9.8.38.

B.5b.(M/S)

M/S

MI-5 file on Karl Groehl, TNA KV 2/2171

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August 17, 1938.

Visa application by Groehl for UK entry. Copy received by MI-5 and docketed on August 23, 1938

BRITISH PASSPORT CONTROL,
PARIS.

63523

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Family Name GRÖHL Maiden Name _____
Christian Names Karl Friedrich Patronymic _____
Address 7 rue Barrault, Paris (13e)

Place and Date of Birth Schneidenrühl, 10.2.96
Sex M Profession writer Nationality German
Arrived in France 1935 Coming from Germany
Destination U.K.

Reason for Journey Visit Reference No.1
Duration of Proposed Visit 4 days
Means at Applicant's Disposal see below
Date of Previous Visits to U.K. 30.4.38 - 4.5.38
7.7.38 - 9.7.38 (In what capacity visit
C/o Reference No.1 (transit Denmark-U.K.-
France))

REFERENCES IN UNITED KINGDOM.

(1) Mr. Claud W. SYKES (2) _____
32 Souberie Avenue
Letchworth

Passport No. 338 Issued at Trier On 14.3.34 Valid until 13.3.39
Return Visa(s) to France (S.J.) Valid until 17.9.38
Signature of Applicant _____

Sykes

MI-5 file on Karl Groehl, TNA KV 2/2171

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GROUPEMENT DES BONS HOTELS FRANÇAIS

BUREAU DU GROUPEMENT HOTEL DE BORDEAUX-LYON



Grand Hôtel
"Les Roches Blanches"
V. DRELLER
Téléphone 30

28/8/38

CASSIS-MER

My dear Otten,
I am glad to hear you have settled that contract with Fischer Verlag, but hope you found out the meaning of that point I raised, i.e. whether they meant the case of selling a German or an English edition to New York. I think it is so important to get that settled; I also do not see why you should not arrange with Fischer to let you approach the English publishers yourself; after all, he reaps the benefit if you can get a London firm to publish it. What have you done about John Lane?

It is also good to know you have finished the Hitler Boy and I shall look forward to reading it when I get back. I suppose by the terms of your contract, as far as I can remember it, Fischer Verlag will have an option on that.

I did not really expect to hear anything about "Mary Broad" or "No Hero", for you are right in your idea that these people will do

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absolutely nothing in August. Do the same if one of them is awake enough to accept one of the two, pass the news on to me as quick as you can. Meanwhile I shall hope that on my return you will have found time to put in a bit of work on that idea I gave to you.

Will you please keep the New Statesman review of E.W. My press agent ought to send it to me as my name is mentioned, but you know what the people are. Also any other reviews the book may get. Have you been able to do anything about the article?

This is quite a nice place and not expensive. There is nothing to do but bathe and go walks, which suits me very well, as I always want to have a lazy time at these places. We had the Mistral last week and it knocked the temperature of the water down considerably, but it has gone up again and is quite warm now, and as long as it keeps warm, I expect I shall be quite sorry when I have to turn homeward and leave it on the 7th. Back home on the 8th. Meanwhile greetings to your wife and Herr Selmann.

Yours ever
C.W.S.

AIX EN PROVENCE - Hôtel Sarrus
 ARGENTIÈRES V/CHAMONIE - Hôtel de la Colonne
 AUTUN - Hôtel Saint Louis & Poste
 AVERRE - Hôtel de la Fontaine
 AVALLON - Hôtel de la Poste
 AVIGNON - Grand Hôtel Terminus
 BESANCON - Grand Hôtel de l'Europe & Poste
 CANNES-MANDELIÈRE - Grand Hôtel
 CASSIS V/MER - Hôtel des Roches Blanches
 CHALONS-S/MARNE - Hôtel de la Haute-Mère Dieu
 CLERMONT-FERRAND - Grand Hôtel
 COLMAR - Grand Hôtel Royal
 DIGNE-LES-BAINS - Hôtel Minot
 DIJON - Hôtel Catholique
 EVIAN-LES-BAINS - Grand Hôtel des Ambassadeurs
 GRENOBLE - Le Grand Hôtel
 BESOUX-LES-BAINS - Grand Hôtel des Saints

LE-DUP - Hôtel de l'Europe Lyonnaise
 LONS-LE-SAUNIER - Grand Hôtel de Genève & Paris
 LYON - Hôtel de Bordeaux & de Paris
 MONTPELLIER - Grand Hôtel de Midi
 MULHOUSE - Hôtel de l'Europe & Terminus
 NICE - Bord de Mer - Hôtel Beau-Eclair
 NICE - Gare - Catholique Hôtel
 NIMES - Hôtel de Luxembourg
 ROANNE - Grand Hôtel
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 SARRAIS-LES-BAINS - Grand Hôtel Beau-Eclair
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 VALENCE - Hôtel de l'Europe
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CORRESPONDANTS ÉTRANGERS

GENÈVE - Grand Hôtel Bellevue
 LAUSANNE - Alcantara Grand Hôtel

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Noted by Brinson and Dove in *A Matter of Intelligence* (2014).

PF. 45807
82B

✓ B. 1b. ⁵⁰²²
9/9

re Carl OTTEN group:

I have just heard from M/S who is returning from France on Thursday of this week that he has had a communication from Carl OTTEN referring to the matter of ^{P.F. 46464} GROEHL's difficulties with the passport authorities in Paris. It seems quite clear that there is no kind of suspicion of M/S, and OTTEN has merely warned M/S that the Home Office may make enquiries into his bona fides.

8.9.38. B. 5b(M/S)