

There was a real Captain Souetre, but Michel Victor Mertz had a habit of using the names of men he had known. Mertz was and is one of the most dangerous professional killers alive, and he is all but untouchable in France because he was the crack killer in the service of Alexander Sanguinetti, de Gaulle's friend, and Jacques Foccart, head of de Gaulle's secret police which hired gangsters to fight the army rebels in the OAS (Organization Armée Secrète).

Mertz' code name in the resistance was Commandant Baptiste and under that name became a legendary figure - a pure desperado right out of the old west. He cost 400 Germans, killed 20 Gestapo agents and escaped from the Germans four times, testifies to his daring.

Sanguinetti used him as the agent provocateur to set up the attempt on de Gaulle's life at Pont-sur-Seine - a fake attempt designed to trap the men Mertz drew in it and also to create popularity and sympathy for de Gaulle, which would make the public accept a wide-scale arrest of patriots. Before the trial took place, Sanguinetti gave Mertz a ticket to Canada, where his father-in-law had been the king of his day.

It is estimated that Mertz and Cecchini smuggled over 2 tons of heroine into the country between 1960 and '68.

If Mertz was in Dallas the day Kennedy was killed, it was for a reason and de Gaulle could not have been ignorant of Mertz' role when he walked in that funeral procession as Foccart kept him informed on all such matters. (Many Frenchmen still believe Foccart was the Soviet spy close to de Gaulle in Topaz)

Enough for now. I'm in a rat-race but will give you a fuller report as soon as I get my head above the muddy waters of Afghanistan, Qaddafi's raid on Gafsa, and the veritable army of Iranian hit-men now in business in France and setting up the old anti-war-in-Vietnam networks in the U.S.

Mertz, known as Captain Baptiste in the Resistance, is protected by the toughest Corsican of de Gaulle's secret police: Alexandre Sanguinetti (Born in Cairo, March 17, 1913)

Mertz served as Sanguinetti's agent provocateur in setting up the attempt on de Gaulle's life at the "Pont-sur-Seine". Both LE MONDE, of September 7, 1962, and CARREFOUR, of September 12, 1962, carry Sanguinetti's replies at the trial when he was asked why Mertz was not on the stand.

Sanguinetti replied that he wanted "to clear the boards", so he gave Mertz a ticket to Canada. Then he added that Mertz was working in Canada for the John Birch Society. (The JBS had never heard of him.)

In October 1975 a Canadian doctor wrote me requesting a detailed report on the Mertz dossier. I would be willing to give THE CONTINUING INQUIRY a follow up story on Mertz and his record here but only under another name, and then if their rates are high enough to warrant the risk.