



From the start, the project was a mess. The leaders of the two divisions involved in the project, *SS RSHA* leader Reinhard Heydrich and *Abwehr* leader Admiral Canaris, were bitter enemies, each interested in eliminating the other. Since they had been previously acquainted, they hid such hatred under a mask of civility. Heydrich, an avid *SS* man and loyal toady of Himmler, saw Canaris as a “danger within the closest ranks of the party.” Internal politicking reached a head in July 1941 when Himmler, acting on orders from Hitler to “get things under way,” stepped in and divided the project down the middle. Some *Übermensch* would train at Waterfall to serve the *SS* and others for the *Abwehr*.

At least on the surface, this solution seemed to quiet the dispute, but infighting continued in secret. Canaris tracked Heydrich’s every move with agents spread all over Poland and Moravia, while *SS* men tapped Canaris’ phones, bugged his offices at *Abwehr* headquarters and followed him when he traveled. Divisions within the program itself were even more extreme—pro-*SS* *Übermensch* turned in non-*SS* *Übermensch* for “crimes against the Reich,” (often nothing more than bypassing curfew or other small infractions), while *SS* parahumans would turn up beaten or otherwise severely injured due to attacks by “unknown assailants.”

By the time agents were ready to take to the field in late 1941, both divisions had seeded parahuman agents in England, Russia and the Balkans (and later in the United States). Early results were poor, especially in the Western countries. The backstabbing and infighting among the Waterfall agents continued outside of Germany. *SS* agents were discovered dead

under bizarre circumstances in England and *Abwehr* *Übermensch* were anonymously turned into British authorities. The *Abwehr*’s advantage in foreign intelligence (they had extensive files on the Western Allies), gave them an upper hand that they finally managed to turn into a complete victory over *SD AMT VI*, which withdrew its agents from the Western powers in early 1942. From there on out, the *Abwehr* alone controlled the spy-rings in England and America.

It remains unclear whether the poor record of the *Abwehr* past this point was a conscious choice on the part of its architect,—Admiral Canaris, or just a series of blunders. Eventually, the *Abwehr* network in the Western Allied Nations (parahumans and all) was compromised to the point where it even affected the operations of the *OKW*.

○ Wasserfall Missions

Projekt Wasserfall mounted hundreds of missions during its operational life. Many went off without a hitch, but the most important missions seemed to go wrong with startling regularity. The two most serious failures—Operation: *Paukenschlag* and Operation: *Pastorius*—are covered in detail below.

○ Operation: Paukenschlag

This ambitious plan, developed by Admiral Canaris himself, called for the German *Übermensch Doppelgänger* (see *Doppelgänger* in Part Eight: *Targets of Opportunity (Dossiers)* on page 44 for more details) to gain access to the White House grounds and detonate a large bomb, hopefully killing the leadership of the Allied powers who were gathered there for a meeting on the world war. *Doppelgänger* possessed the ability to mimic the facial features and voice of anyone he touched and would use this ability to gain access to the White House.

German intelligence, thanks to a highly placed Polish agent, had a clear outline of the Atlantic Charter meeting set to occur in Washington D.C. on January 1, 1942. Initially, the plan called for the assassination of only Winston Churchill, but after Germany declared war on the United States, it was radically changed to become an attack on all the leaders of the Allied powers.

Doppelgänger was briefed on December 12, 1941 and shortly thereafter landed in Maryland by U-Boat. His briefing was extensive, but lacked several vital facts that were known to Canaris—including the fact that British Talents *would definitely* be present at the meeting, acting as security forces. Why Canaris did not include this fact in the briefing, no one knows.

In either case, *Doppelgänger* was discovered by British Talents while attempting to gain entrance to the West gate of the White House and died in the explosion of his briefcase bomb. Tackled by the Shade, a British parahuman, *Doppelgänger* and the bomb were dragged out of phase with the physical world, successfully saving the delegates from the huge explosion.

