

**SECRET**

11 August

*1700. Tale*  
**FILE**

MEMORANDUM TO: Lt. Col. DEANE

Operation FIREWEED

Report of Wolfram HILGER (W.H.)

In the morning on 3 August 1947, W.H. arrived in BERLIN aboard the US train. Immediately he went to 10 Bozenerstrasse. After looking for this place for a while, he found the reporting station he had been informed about. It was occupied by two Germans who knew the password. He learned that this apartment had been especially prepared for Operation FIREWEED and that the arrival of the dependents of W.H. had been expected for some days.

The two Germans told W.H. that he should go to pick up his dependents immediately. W.H., however, wanted to deliver Col. DEANE's letter to Col. SKINNER in accordance with his order. This way, he wanted to obtain the right certificates enclosed in the letter. In order to have this arranged, several telephone calls had to be made. About 1500 hours, a man in civilian clothes appeared who gave the right certificates to W.H. From the proceedings and conferences happening between 1000 and 1500 hours, W.H. got the impression that the following misunderstanding had occurred when the operation was prepared:

The US office in BERLIN believed that W.H.'s dependents could come at any given moment. They did not know that the situation for Operation FIREWEED had to be investigated and the persons in question had to be contacted first. On 3 August 1947 after 1500 hours, W.H. started the first part of his mission as it had been scheduled. He tried to find a person willing to contact HILGER's daughter (who will be called Isika in the following).

At first, W.H. contacted the family LIMBERG living at 10 Franzstrasse in LANKWITZ. He learned that Mr. LIMBERG had left for the Western zones and that Mrs. LIMBERG had to stay with her old mother. In case W.H. would not find anybody else, however, Mrs. LIMBERG was willing to go to see Isika.

Thereafter, W.H. contacted the second person, the art painter HENZEN, as it had been scheduled. Mr. HENZEN was also not able to establish the connection because he had to go on a

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trip the next day. In case of emergency, however, Mrs. HENZEN was willing to do it.

For the night from 3 - 4 August 1947, W.H. returned to 10 Bozenerstrasse. During the late evening hours, the following incident happened: German policemen appeared and made inquiries about the occupants of the apartment recently rented. Probably, they had been informed by the landlady. Apparently, the closed shutters and the improvised telephone connection had caused suspicion. It was necessary to call a US lieutenant who arrived in uniform by jeep and intervened. Because of this incident, the apartment at 10 Bozenerstrasse was given up on 4 August 1947.

On 4 August 1947 in the morning, W.H. contacted the third person, Mrs. SCHOPPE. There, W.H. learned the address of a cousin of Isika's husband: Ernst THIERICHEMS, a former captain with an artificial leg, living at 47 Fusanenstrasse. At Mr. THIERICHEMS', W.H. was told that Isika had spent a night there on 25 July 1947. Furthermore, W.H. learned from THIERICHEMS the name of a student, BAECKER, who had been characterized by Isika as especially reliable.

Thereafter, on the same day, W.H. went to Wolzogenstrasse in ZEHLENDORF-West according to a directive issued to him at 10 Bozenerstrasse (at Wolzogenstrasse there was obviously a US compound with a road-block). There, W.H. had a conference with a man in civilian clothes called "Boss" by the persons who were present (this man was rather stout and used to lift up one corner of his mouth frequently. He had dark hair and spoke German fluently). He was brisk and obviously he was somewhat angry. He declared that he thought that the woman and the children concerned could come immediately without any previous investigations. Moreover, he declared that such an affair was not his business, after all.

After 4 August, W.H. stayed at 15 Wolzogenstrasse.

W.H. drafted a letter which was written by THIERICHEMS to Isika and had the following contents: Isika should come to BERLIN because of an heritage issue; the friend from Wannsee (referring to W.H.) would be there too. He asked if her mother could accompany her.

On 5 August in the evening, the student BAECKER left BERLIN and arrived at Isika's in WOLCHOV near NEURUPPIN in the morning on 6 August. BAECKER had been contacted by THIERICHEMS only, and not by W.H.

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During the night from 6 - 7 August 1947, BAEGKER escorted Isika to THIERICHEMS. There, W.H. met Isika on 7 August at 0900 hours.

Until 8 August in the afternoon, W.H. spoke to Isika several times. Thorough security measures were continuously observed in order to avoid a possible observation.

For Isika's report concerning her visit at Mrs. HILGER's in DRESDEN see Annex 1. For W.H.'s agreements with Isika concerning the continuation of Operation FIREWED see Annex 2.

On 8 August 1947, W.H. gave a summarizing report in ZHLEKN-DORF.

W.H. returned to FRANKFURT/Main aboard the US train on the night from 8 - 9 August 1947. As it was scheduled, he tried to contact Capt. FISS in FRANKFURT, but was informed that the latter was absent. Hereafter, he was taken to Col. FRITZSCHE.

*Capt. Emo Waldman*

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Annex I to W.H.'s Report

Isika's Report to W.H.

On 30 June 1947, Isika was working in her office, the fine art publishing house MOELLER, in ZERQUETTEL near ALTHUPPIN, when a passenger car stopped in front of the office. Beside other persons, this car was occupied by the woman teacher who lived at Isika's in MOLCHOW. This teacher asked Isika to come out for a moment. At the car, Isika learned that the other occupants were a Soviet officer in civilian clothes and a woman interpreter. They gave a letter to Isika in which Mrs. HILGER asked her daughter, Isika, to come and see her. Isika could come in this car without any danger.

Isika decided to do so. She asked for permission to give word of her departure and to pick up her jacket in MOLCHOW. The Soviet officer consented. Thereafter, they passed through BERLIN, even through part of the US sector. When crossing the US sector, the Soviet officer was quite nervous. On the whole, this officer and the woman interpreter were very polite and correct. In spite of his obviously high rank, the officer was shabbily dressed. For instance, he wore no socks and took off his shoes several times in the car. On the trip, the Russians drank lemonade repeatedly.

The woman interpreter had a tattoo on her lower arm. When talking about the tattoo, the interpreter called such a tattoo "painful, especially when it was made against one's own will" (perhaps a former inmate of a concentration camp).

At 1900 hours, the car stopped in front of a large house in the "Great Garden" in DRESDEN. After the officer had made several telephone calls from the guard house, the door of this house was opened. Isika was shown into a room. There, she was told that she had been expected at 1800 hours, and that the general was not there now.

At 2350 hours, a door was opened which Isika had regarded as a closet before. Isika was led to the adjacent room through this door. There, she met her mother (in the following called Mary) in the company of a general.

Mary's nerves seemed to be unstrung. But otherwise, she looked very well. She seemed to have been well-fed.

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Isika considered the general a sympathetic man. He behaved in a kind manner.

The general started a conversation with Mary and Isika. Isika spoke German although she understands Russian. By intercalating the interpreter, Isika wanted to gain time in order to consider her answers.

This conversation had approximately the following contents:

General to Isika: "We suppose that your father (Mr. HILGER) who is the best expert on Russia is working for the Western democracies."

Isika: "I do not believe that. If he really does, then it is only for the Germans."

General to Isika: "But we do not wish that your family lives separated any longer. Therefore, we also have been trying to find out the whereabouts of your husband for three days." (He was deported by the Soviets about two years ago).

Isika did not show any emotion.

General to Isika: "Aren't you glad about it?"

Isika: "I do not believe it."

General to Isika: "If your father will come to our zone, he will be provided with all certificates at once."

Mary: "Yes, even by STALIN himself."

General to Isika: "He can work for the Germans here, too. We will not disturb him at all. It is very important that the Western powers receive no information concerning our intention to take your father to our zone. Otherwise, we would have to give up the whole project. We have been thinking of how to contact your father."

Isika: "Why do you not send one of your men to meet him?"

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One of the present officers hastily interrupted: "We cannot do that. He would be arrested immediately."

General to Isika: "Did you already send word to anybody that your mother (meaning Mary) was arrested?"

Isika: "No."

(In the meantime in a suitable moment, Mary whispered to Isika: "Does anybody know it?" Isika: "Wolfram was here." - This refers to W.H.'s first visit in BERLIN when Isika met W.H. on Wannsee).

Isika: "Why do you not send my mother to see him?"

General: "We already thought of that."

Addressing Mary: "Did you already consider our proposals?"

At that, Mary gave the general a few sheets.

General to Isika: "We have uncovered an espionage center operating from FRANKFURT. What kind of mail did you receive?"

Isika: "Just ordinary mail."

General to Isika: "But it is suspicious that you received letters which were mailed from the area of FRANKFURT."

Isika: "We have acquaintances living there."

Later, Isika said to the general: "The fact that my father does not receive mail from my mother must call his attention."

Thereupon, the general suggested that Mary write a letter right away. In the adjacent room, Mary wrote the known letter (announcement that she wanted to visit her husband's brother in REMSCHEID).

This letter had been antedated from June 30th to June 25th and disclosed other noticeable corrections which hint at compulsory influence. Isika was given this letter in order to mail it. Finally, it bore the stamp of the CHARLOTTENBURG post office.

Continuation of the conversation.

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Isika to Mary: "I worried very much because I did not receive any word from you."

Mary to Isika: "Did you not get my letter?"

Isika: "No."

To the general: "How long are you going to keep my mother here?"

Mary: "I will be with you within 10 days, or perhaps within 3 weeks." (Apparently, she believed it herself).

Isika: "By the way, I was interrogated once before."

General to Isika: "When, by whom, what did they ask you?"  
(very much surprised)

Isika: "On the day after my mother had been arrested in NEURUPPIN. They questioned me about my father."

General to Isika: "How did they treat you?"

Isika: "I was treated well. But I had to walk back to MOLCHOW."

Thereupon, the general called up an office in NEURUPPIN and ordered not to disturb Isika any more.

General to Isika: "Did you receive any mail from your father?"

Isika: "Two letters."

General: "Where do you keep them?"

Isika: "In MOLCHOW."

General: "May we get them?"

Isika: "I have no objections."

Thereafter, Isika dined with her mother in a wintergarden. They were given a good meal. When dining, they only talked about ordinary subjects because they suspected that their conversation was intercepted. After the meal, another conversation followed.

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General to Mary: "Tomorrow, you can move into a small room next to my room. There, you may live and work without any interference."

General to Isika: "Your mother gave private lessons in NEURUPPIN. Certainly, you are now short of money because she could not continue her work. We will give you food and money."

Isika refused the money, but accepted the food which was given her packed in a parcel.

General to Isika: "Do you want to be accompanied again by the officer and the woman interpreter or only by one of them when you will be taken home? Or would it suffice if you will be accompanied by the driver only?"

Isika: "May I ask that the officer takes me back? Then I will feel safe regarding the frequent robberies."

The conversation ended about 0400 hours. Isika had to oblige herself by signature not to say anything about these conversations.

Isika was taken back to MOLCHOW by the officer. In MOLCHOW, Isika forwarded the two letters of her father to this officer. Furthermore, the officer asked Isika when passing through NEURUPPIN in which building she had been interrogated after her mother's arrest. Isika concluded that the officer intended to take the files about her interrogation in NEURUPPIN with him.

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Annex 2 to W.H.'s Report

Arrangements

Case No. 1

If Mary gets an interzonal pass for her trip to REMSCHEID.

- (a) Mary leaves DRESDEN directly to REMSCHEID and goes to Otto HILGER (Gustav HILGER's brother, her brother-in-law). Otto HILGER will inform W.H. Then W.H. will call THIERICHENS by phone and send a telegram to THIERICHENS saying: "Day of trial is the ..... (the day on which Isika must arrive in BERLIN - the 5th day before Mary is supposed to leave REMSCHEID), more documents are urgently needed."

Thereupon, THIERICHENS will send a telegram to Isika and call the burgomaster's office in MOLCHOW. He will ask to have the following message delivered to Isika: "My mother has fallen seriously ill. She wants to see you and the children." If it is necessary to accelerate the proceedings, the following will be added: "Physicians fear that she will die within .... days (-last day on which Isika must arrive in BERLIN)."

Actually, THIERICHENS mother is very sick. Besides, Isika already now tells officials occasionally at the burgomaster's office in MOLCHOW that she had been in BERLIN to see her sick aunt HILDE (mother THIERICHENS).

- (b) If Mary comes to MOLCHOW first and departs from there.

In this case, Isika will take no action at all until she receives the telegram as mentioned in case (a), so she will know for sure that her mother arrived at Otto HILGER's.

This is necessary because the Soviets might stop Mary after her departure from MOLCHOW in order to find out how Isika behaves after Mary's departure (trep!).

Moreover, Isika will go to BERLIN more frequently during the forthcoming period. She will take the children with her and will see a children's woman physician whom Isika already contacted during her last stay in BERLIN. This physician already

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issued her a medical certificate in order to obtain a travel permit. This way, Isika's acquaintances will get accustomed that Isika will often take the children to BERLIN. Thus, it will not call immediate attention when Isika finally stays away for good.

Case No. 2

Mary returns to MOLCHOW without intending to travel or being ordered to travel.

In this case, both women will try to go to BERLIN as soon as possible and take the children with them. If this would not be possible because of any reason, Mary shall feign sickness. Thereupon, Isika will try to have her transferred to a hospital in the US sector of BERLIN. To prepare this case, Mary will complain about an ailment right after her return to MOLCHOW. When Mary is in the hospital, Isika will see her mother in the hospital and take the children with her.

Case No. 3

If reliable word is received that Mary was deported to the East.

In this case, Isika and the children will come to BERLIN.

Concerning all three cases, the possibility is taken for granted that the persons arriving in the US sector of BERLIN will be shipped to FRANKFURT by plane.

The persons will come to Wolzogenstrasse in ZEHLENDORF-West in BERLIN. At the road block, they will ask to be taken to House No. 9. If any trouble should arise, they will ask for the duty officer. The password FIREWEED will be mentioned only if necessary.

The man whom W.H. met (description: rather stout, dark hair, frequently lifting up one corner of his mouth, speaking German fluently) has been informed. Moreover, a captain wearing glasses has also been informed. Isika does not know the name SKINNER. The Americans in Wolzogenstrasse were urgently requested

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by W.H. to inform FRANKFURT immediately after the arrival of the "FIREWEED People". This must be done lest Mary returns from REMSCHEID in case (a) or (b).

In case the FIREWEED people cannot contact the informed US personnel in Wolzogenstrasse, they will go to the LIMBERG family, living at 10 Frantzstrasse in LANKWITZ. They will not go to THIERICHEN's apartment. As the situation is now, it is unlikely that LIMBERGs are being observed by the Soviets already. Then, LIMBERG will send a telegram to W.H. which says: "Four (or three, referring to the number of persons) letters received. More documents are urgently needed." Thereupon, W.H. will notify this office. This office will make the necessary arrangements to have the FIREWEED people picked up at LIMBERG's.

The following was agreed on in order to maintain the connection between this office and W.H.:

W.H. will call Maj. ALLEN or Capt. FISS (Telephone FRANKFURT 7259 during the office hours or 56 705 at night).

The text of the message: "This is the German Executive Committee for Economy in MINDEN. Mr. HARDER wants to inform you that the AGFA paper has arrived at the firm GREEN on ...." - Mary arrived in REMSCHEID on .....

Or: "This is the German Executive Committee for Economy in MINDEN. Mr. HARLEK wants to inform you that the AGFA paper is still with the firm RED." - The FIREWEED people arrived in BERLIN but were not able to contact the informed US personnel in Wolzogenstrasse. They are still at LIMBERG's.

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