

*Bismillah, Tamara - x 1/2*  
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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
 SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 382B  
 NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
 DATE 2008

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# OFFICIAL DISPATCH

67

DISPATCH NO. ZIYA - 5613

**SECRET**  
**SECURITY INFORMATION**  
CLASSIFICATION

DATE: 3 September 1961

CLASS: FE

CHAR: Chief of Mission,

SUBJECT: GENERAL - Intelligence

SPECIFIC - Results of FRU File Check on Dr. Percy H. LISSNER  
and wife, Tamara

**MICROFILMED**

**FEB 1 1961**

**DOCUMENT MICROFILM SERVICE**

REFERENCE: (a) DIR - 16466  
(b) SYOKO - 0803

ATTACHMENTS: (1) DI on Dr. Percy H. LISSNER; and wife, Tamara (2 copies)  
(2) DI on Dr. Ivar LISSNER (2 copies)  
(3) Photographs of Dr. and Mrs. LISSNER (one each)

The subject attachments are transmitted for your information and retention.

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Attachment (1)  
to ZJYA-5613

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3 September 1952

Dr. Percy H.

Report of 17 November 1945, subject: Soviet Personalities  
China, Evaluation C-3, states "P. H. LISSNER, former Assistant  
Treasurer of Special Tax Section of the former Shanghai Municipal  
Council, born in Russia, pro-Russian, prefers to speak Russian.  
In extraction, born anti-German."

Report of 18 October 1945, subject: Germans in Shanghai.  
LISSNER was taken from the German Consulate. The following are  
addresses: LISSNER, aged 35, 103 Cathay Mansions; Percy LISSNER,  
aged 36, 103 West Western Road; Robert and Charlotte, nee GALT,  
aged 35, 103 West Western Road.

ALISSNER

Report of 2 October 1945, evaluation A-1, mentioned in  
1946, as a list of names appearing in a card index obtained from  
office of Franz WILHELM, head of the Gestapo, China. The list con-  
tains the name of Percy LISSNER, Asst. Treasurer; address; Finance  
Department, Shanghai Municipal Council.

Report of 6 September 1945, subject: Agents and Collaborators  
in Shanghai and Peking, evaluation C-3, says of Dr. Percy LISSNER,  
born Gesta (claimed Polish Nationality), speaks French, English,  
German. His wife, ELIZABETH (British woman married to a Philippine-  
born man) lived at the Bridge House for the winter of 1941-42. Has some  
connections with the Japanese took it over. He frequented the  
Gestapo office since in 1938. In travelling in Europe he was  
usually staying in the new city to go at once to a dancing academy,  
at the end of Galleys, and either rent a room there or in a hotel  
in the new city.

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6. Memo to files by 25/263 of 8 September 1946, no source given, contains information regarding Dr. [REDACTED] states that Dr. [REDACTED] was a close friend of German Nazi political agent and propagandist, [REDACTED]. It also mentions [REDACTED] as the wife of [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] as [REDACTED]'s mistress. The report further states that [REDACTED] had a number of Soviet contacts, including [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], who was with [REDACTED] intelligence, to the [REDACTED] as a Soviet agent.

7. 249 of 25/263 of 1946 is a statement made by [REDACTED] the German Nazi. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] was a German propagandist and pro-Soviet, [REDACTED] in connection with his brother [REDACTED].

8. Document dated 21 October 1942, no evaluation, subject [REDACTED] the German Nazi list - [REDACTED]. One of the [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] stating that [REDACTED] was not a Nazi. The document lists [REDACTED] as an [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED]. Remarks on this document indicate that [REDACTED] had been [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]-central agents.

9. [REDACTED] of the German Residents [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 1945 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED].



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MEMORANDUM

3 September 1952

SUBJECT: LISSNER, Ivar

1. The following information was forwarded to US POLAD, Tokyo in reference to a visa application made by subject. Subject gives as his current address: Hamburg 13, Hochhausring 10.

2. Information dated 26 September 1946, which was obtained from an extremely reliable source and which was verified by additional sources, states that Dr. Ivar LISSNER is a German Jew who for some time was successful in concealing his non-Aryan background. He worked for the Nazis in Germany, and even after it was discovered that he was a Jew, he was allowed to move to China with all his family and some property because of his past good services and future potentialities for service to Germany. He established his family in Shanghai and he, himself, went to Harbin as a news correspondent where he put himself in contact with a SPONSOR, the German Consul there. LISSNER was then working for the EMBASSY Bureau and the KRIEGSORGANISATION. He refused to make himself known to the Japanese as a German intelligence agent and wrote a number of reports dealing with Japanese political matters which could be considered as inimical to the Japanese. He was finally detected by the Japanese in the summer of 1943 and was promptly disavowed by the Germans. After his arrest by the Japanese, LISSNER disappeared and it was believed that he was executed by the Japanese since they accused him of engaging in espionage for Soviet Russia.

3. Information dated 3 November 1947 states that subject's father, Robert Nikolai LISSNER, and his brother Dr. Percy H. LISSNER, lived in Shanghai where Robert LISSNER had elected himself as the representative of the Latvian Government-in-Exile. As such he declared himself stateless and issued a Latvian passport to subject. The passport was an obvious forgery, the official seal being crudely made.

4. Information dated 25 September 1945, obtained in an interview of Franz HUBER, German Police Attache in Shanghai, states that LISSNER worked for German Intelligence for many years. It was determined, according to the report, that LISSNER was working for the Russians and he was subsequently sent to Tokyo for imprisonment.

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5. Documentary information dated 21 October 1946, which is a list of former German agents to whom payments were made during the war, includes the name of Dr. Ivar LISSNER.

6. Information dated 4 November 1947 indicates that subject was with the ABWEHR (German Intelligence Service) in the Far East from 1935 until his arrest by the Kempel Tai in 1943 as a Soviet agent. He apparently had penetrated the German service for the Soviets. He operated mostly in Manchuria and his channel of communications was the German Legation at Changchun. LISSNER knows Manchuria well and has written two books on the country. From 1943 until the surrender of Japan he was in jail in Yokohama where he confessed to giving information to the Russians at Harbin. The report adds that subject was used in a minor way by the United States Army Intelligence in 1946 and was found to be thoroughly unreliable. It is likely that he is still a Soviet agent.

7. Information dated 16 September 1946, from a controlled source, states that Ivar LISSNER was a correspondent for German and Swedish newspapers in Hsingking, China. He was believed to be in the Soviet service and to have been connected with the SORGE network. The report further states that subject worked for a German intelligence service which had its headquarters in Shanghai.

8. Information dated 24 October 1945, which was obtained in an interview with Frederick WEIDEMANN, former German Consul General at Tientsin, indicates that LISSNER was employed as an agent for the ABWEHR to obtain intelligence relative to the Russians. The Japanese were reported to have discovered the code used by LISSNER and incriminating information which indicates that he was furnishing information to the Soviets.

9. Reports received from several sources indicate that LISSNER might possibly have been acting as a double agent in Manchuria, i.e., working for both the Russians and the Germans. Apparently the Japanese learned that LISSNER was furnishing information to the Soviets or else concocted the story that he was doing so in order to have an excuse to remove him from Manchuria. It has also been stated that Colonel MEISINGER, head of the Gestapo in the Far East, did not like LISSNER, and did not approve of his presence in Manchuria.

10. In view of the many reports from various sources concerning LISSNER, it is believed that he was connected with German Intelligence and possibly with Soviet Intelligence. The only conflict seems to be the actual status, i.e., with which section of German Intelligence was he connected? It is noted that subject makes no reference to any of the above mentioned activities, nor does he state on what charges Colonel MEISINGER instigated his arrest by the Japanese.

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Meisinger  
Joseph Albert

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