

VIA: AIR

(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

SECRET

DISPATCH NO. ~~SCAA-7125~~ <sup>KAPOK-2150</sup>

SECURITY INFORMATION

CLASSIFICATION

NOV 21 1953

TO : Chief, SE

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM : [ ] ATTN: [ ]

SUBJECT: GENERAL— OBOPUS/PARAM

SPECIFIC— Fig Debriefing

Ref: [ ] 5232, 24 October 1953  
[ ] 264, 29 October 1953  
SGAA-6848 (KAPOK-2015), 30 November 1953

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHODSEXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

1. The five man Fig team arrived in Athens on 23 October after having been forced to exfiltrate from Albania on 19 and 21 October. Fig team arrived in very high spirits, but poor physical condition. At the present time Fig is going sustained ✓ on the local economy pending the review of their operation.
2. Physical condition of the team:
  - a. AIRBORNE suffered a bullet wound in his right forearm just below the elbow. There were no bones shattered. [ ] acting in [ ] absence, reports that the wound is healing quickly.
  - b. AIRWISE suffered a minor cut on his right palm when he was forced to dive for cover during the ambush. AIRWISE further had a great deal of trouble with his right foot, which had been blistered and became infected during the exfiltration. AIRWISE has received excellent medical treatment and is well on the way to recovery.
  - c. Two other members of the group, RNDOLLAR and AIRBRAKE, suffered from minor stomach disorders as a result of improper food [ ] ordered them to keep on a strict diet and prescribed medicine for both.
  - d. The fifth member of the team, AIRBRED, showed no ill effects as a result of the mission. He returned to Athens as healthy as ever. It might be worth mentioning that AIRBRED is a physical giant who is capable of enduring a great deal of hard living.
3. Infiltration:
  - a. Fig team crossed the Albanian border at N 2513 during the hours of darkness on 7-8 September. The team penetrated to point M 2453 where they remained during the daylight hours. Fig observed para la of 3rd ref.
  - b. On September 9th the team moved to L 2499. While hiding in a corn field

SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

CLASSIFICATION *ESP*

~~SECRET~~  
SECURITY INFORMATION

GAA 7125  
KAPOK 2150

NOV 21 1953

- 2 -

- Fig team was seen by two men who Fig forced to surrender without firing. The two persons were: (1) Nise Koco POLENA, owner of the field, and (2) Vasil Koco POLENA, the village guard. Fig team forced Nise to disrobe. AIRWISE, dressed in Nise's clothes, accompanied Vasil on his normal duty around the field while the remainder of the Fig team rested. As it turned out, both POLENAs were very cooperative. They informed the group that during the first week of August a gun-battle took place at L 2492 between government forces and "reactionaries". (Source did not know the outcome of the battle or anything of the participants).
- c. On 10 September Fig moved to L 2393 where they observed para 1b of 3rd ref.
  - d. On 11 September Fig team moved to Mali-e-Gorres where they spent the day but were not able to observe anything.
  - e. Fig remained at L 2223 on 12 and 13 September where they rested and made plans for contacting their friends.
  - f. On 14 September AIRWISE and AIRBRED separated from the group and headed for K 2295, where they met with Rapush AGOLLI. AGOLLI gave the team food and the information reported in W/T message No. 3.
  - g. On 15 September AIRWISE and AIRBRED returned to L 2223 where the remainder of the team awaited them.
  - h. On 16 September Fig contacted Elmas Ramani SOKALLARI and established a new base at L 2213. Elmas supplied the team with food and the information reported in the paragraph on "Prisons" in third ref.
  - i. On 17 September Fig team crossed back into K 2295.
  - j. On 18 September the group left AIRBRAKE at the home of Bektash Demir ZBOGI, as reported in W/T contact No. 4, message No. 5. As Fig had reported in their previous message, AIRBRAKE had become very sick and it was impossible to keep him with the team.
  - k. On 19 September Fig moved back to L 2213 where they remained through 20 September but did not observe anything.
  - l. On 21 September Fig contacted Elmas SOKALLARI again and requested that he go to Korca to gather information and attempt to get permission to go to Tirana. Elmas reported that he was told by the Sigurimi that it was not necessary to get any special permission for travel or to remain in Tirana if the stay were for a short period. Elmas was informed that if he intended to work in Tirana then it would be necessary to receive written permission from the city council. According to source the only waiting necessary was caused by the lack of available transportation.
  - m. On 22 September Fig contacted Dilaver Ali Zvarishti, who supplied the team

~~SECRET~~  
SECURITY INFORMATION

~~KAPOK~~

~~SECRET~~  
SECURITY INFORMATION

A 7125  
KAPOK 2150

NOV 21 1953

~~SECRET~~  
\* 3 \*

with food and some information. ZVARISHTI informed the group that the population was greatly demoralized. Source stated that from May to August of this year everyone was ready for some action, but because nothing had happened the people became despondent.

- n. The period from 22 September to 11 October will not be covered on a daily basis because Fig had destroyed its notes. Try as they did the team members could not definitely agree on the exact places and dates during that period. The team could only state that they operated in the general area of Tresova where they renewed many of their contacts from the 1952 operation. What information Fig was able to gain during this period will be covered in the paragraph on contacts.

#### 4. The Ambush:

- a. The story of the ambush and the teams betrayal by Adem ZENELI begins on 28 September; on that day the team was told by AIRBORNE's wife that ZENELI desired to meet with the team leader. AIRWISE agreed to meet ZENELI later that day. ZENELI arrived at the predesignated spot and after passing the customary greetings, inquired if he and AIRSLACK's wife could accompany the team to Greece when they decided to exfiltrate. AIRWISE replied that he could not take it upon himself to bring AIRSLACK's wife with him because if any trouble befell her on the journey, he would be held accountable by AIRSLACK for the trouble. AIRWISE stated that he would, however, be willing to take ZENELI with him, if AIRWISE could get permission to do so from his base. (Fig had been told to clear all names with base before making any commitments to bring persons out with them). ZENELI then inquired if AIRSLACK was expected to return again this season, to which AIRWISE replied that such matters were decided by the command at the base and therefore he could not answer the question. ZENELI then informed Fig team that he would be willing to gather any information they desired or to undertake any other work they so directed. Prior to leaving, ZENELI stated that he was in contact with one Mihal FURGEU of KORCA, a former public prosecutor during the Zog government and the Italian occupation. ZENELI asked if Fig team would be willing to assist FURGEU in an attempt to escape from Albania. AIRWISE replied that he would have to check with his base and would give an answer at a later date. ZENELI was then told to return with food to a prearranged spot Mocan (Gore) on 11 October.
- b. As previously mentioned Fig made numerous contacts in the Tresova area during the period of 28 September - 11 October. It was during this period that Fig was warned by Rapush AGOLLI to avoid contact with ZENELI because he was believed to have communist ties. (Reported in Para 2c 1st ref.)
- c. AIRWISE changed his plan for the 11 October meeting and arranged to have only AIRBRED present at the prearranged spot. ZENELI failed to show-up for the meeting on 11 October.
- d. On 13 October Fig was informed by AIRBORNE's wife that ZENELI had contacted

~~SECRET~~  
SECURITY INFORMATION

~~KAPOK~~

SECRET  
SECURITY INFORMATION

SGAA 7125  
KAPOK 2150

NOV 21 1953

Page 4

AIRSLACK's wife and desired to see the team on that day. AIRWISE sent word back to ZENELI to appear alone after dark at a particular spot on Mali Tresova's. During the waiting period Fig took all security precautions necessary to insure that they were not being trapped.

- e. ZENELI arrived as per his instructions and was led by AIRBRED to the spot where Fig team remained in hiding. ZENELI explained that he was unable to keep the meeting on 11 October because he had had unexpected visitors. He passed some information to Fig and stated that he would return again on 15 October. He informed the group that he had spotted about 15 soldiers moving around the general area but that there was no need for worry because he could see that the team held a strong position. Fig team gave ZENELI 4 gold pounds and asked him to bring back some food and "lek". ZENELI asked for more gold stating that he would be able to buy everything they desired as he intended to go to Korca. ZENELI was told to return again on 15 October.
- f. At 1100 hours on 14 October ZENELI returned to the position and met with AIRBRAKE. He told AIRBRAKE that he would leave for Korca by car on that day and therefore came by to explain why he had not brought food to them as they requested. ZENELI reassured AIRBRAKE that the team was safe in its present position. He also asked where the group could be contacted in the event they ran into trouble. Zeneli was told that the team would send him word as to where they could be contacted. After planning to return in 3 or 4 days, ZENELI departed.
- g. Between 1200 and 1400 hours Fig team observed 3 open trucks carrying soldiers, civilians and police. The trucks were coming from the direction of Korca and were headed toward Zvarisht. Fig team estimated that there were about 100 men in all in the 3 trucks. (The 100 figure is most likely exaggerated). Between 1400 and 1600 hours Fig team spotted two other trucks and a jeep moving along the same road. At 1630 hours two armed soldiers were spotted walking along the road. At 1700 hours Fig spotted about 90 men coming from the direction of Tresova, the men were dressed in dark uniforms similar to the ones worn by the police. The force was deployed on both sides of the small stream, and was broken up into groups of two and three men who stretched out over an area of 1 kilometer in length. AIRWISE being most familiar with the area decided to move Fig team higher into the mountains to a point he believed would not be guarded. At approximately 1930 hours firing broke out from the position Fig had intended to occupy. The firing came from two sides and thus it became evident to the team that they were boxed in on 3 sides (the third side being held by the 90 man force mentioned above). AIRBRAKE and AIRBORNE were instructed to move toward the rifle fire on the right and then cut back over the center in an effort to determine if the path ahead was also covered by the enemy forces. AIRWISE decided on this move because (1) he could then bring fire to bear on the enemy from two positions and (2) the terrain afforded good cover for the two men. AIRBORNE was immediately hit by machine gun fire while attempting to secure the new position. The three members of the team giving covering fire silenced the machine gun in a matter of seconds. Realizing that AIRBORNE had been hit, the team put all its fire power into play. AIRBRAKE, according to the other team members jumped up from his position, threw a hand grenade at the enemy force on his right and knocked out that position. AIRWISE states that at

that moment the whole team jumped up and began firing and moving toward the position knocked out by Airbrake. AIRBRED, the first one to move out of the position became separated from the group and did not see the team again until they all met in Greece on 21 October.

5. AIRBRED's journey out:

After being separated from the group AIRBRED wandered around the mountains searching for the team. Having no success he took the general direction of the Greek border believing that the team would be along the same exfiltration route. AIRBRED observed nothing during his journey from the ambush area until the time he crossed the Greek border in the morning of 19 October.

6. Exfiltration:

The four remaining team members continued to move out of the encircled area without being pursued. Fig team moved all that night and came out at point K 2399 where they contacted friends on 16 October. They inquired if any information had been received regarding their battle and if any of the "reactionaries" had been killed or captured. Fig was told that everyone had escaped the ambush, whereupon AIRWISE decided to continue his search for AIRBRED. (AIRBRED is the least familiar with the operation involved). After 2 days of searching among friends for AIRBRED, Fig team headed for the Greek border on 18 October. Fig reached point L 2387 on 19 October, where they remained during the daylight hours and on the evening of the same day (19 October) Fig moved out in the direction of M 2434, arriving there in the early hours of 20 October. Around 0930 hours on the morning of 20 October, Fig team spotted a young shepherd who passed close to their position but did not notice the team. Fig team then decided to move out during the daylight hours and headed in the general direction of point N 2537. A short time after moving out of their area, Fig team spotted a squad of 12 men covering the main road. Fig spotted 4 more soldiers to their right, but decided to continue to move ahead in the hope of reaching the high ground. In order to reach a position offering good cover, and having a command of the surrounding area, it was necessary for the team to pass across one open stretch of land. The Fig team members moved out in single file. The first two men reached cover but firing broke out as the third man raced across the open stretch. Fig team again became split up with AIRWISE on one side of the open stretch and AIRBORNE, AIRBRAKE and RNDOLLAR on the other. The three men attempted to give AIRWISE covering fire but were unsuccessful in getting him across the stretch to their side. AIRWISE signaled to the three men to move toward the border while he headed deeper into the ambushed area.

7. Exfiltration of AIRWISE.

AIRWISE moved back into the ambushed area in the hope that he could gain the top of the ridge undetected and in that way skirt around the ambush by way of Mali Kamenice. AIRWISE reported that the firing continued in the direction of the other three men so he believed that the patrol was not even aware of his presence in the area. AIRWISE moved out successfully and at point M 2578 he met a shepherd. AIRWISE, posing as an Albanian soldier, approached the shepherd and inquired why his dogs were not tied up as the CO had directed. AIRWISE then went on to explain to the shepherd that

he (AIRWISE) was a member of the unit that had some "reactionaries" surrounded in the hills above. The shepherd tied up his dogs and explained to AIRWISE that he had heard some firing but that no one had passed the word to him about keeping his dogs tied up. AIRWISE then asked the shepherd for some bread stating that the units reinforcements carrying food had not yet arrived. The shepherd obliged, however, he stated that he had seen several trucks pull up on the road below earlier in the day. AIRWISE took the bread and after asking the shepherd not to report him to the C.O. for having taken the bread, parted as if to continue his search. AIRWISE headed for point M 2554 where he would then change his direction and head for Port Osman on the Greek border. AIRWISE continued his journey and was unable to observe anything along the way until he reached a point approximately 4 kilometers from the Greek border. Here AIRWISE encountered a barbed wire barrier of 1 1/2 meters height and of approximately 1 kilometer in length. After observing for some time, AIRWISE decided to climb over the barrier and continue the journey. A short time later the Greek border was reached and AIRWISE fired two shots to alert the Greek outpost. He was met by the Greek unit at 0700 hours on 21 October. (AIRWISE was not able to pinpoint the above mentioned barrier but we are in hopes of getting the exact location from the Greek border unit).

8. Exfiltration of the three remaining members.

When AIRWISE motioned the group to head for the border they immediately moved out of the area and to the best of their knowledge were not followed. At 1600 hours the three men saw a shepherd moving along the road but were not seen by him. (The terrain in which the group was moving is mainly covered with a thick bush which is common to the barren areas of both Greece and Albania). While taking cover in these bushes Fig team counted a group of 13 soldiers who were moving to the area they had left. Fig team is certain that one of the soldiers passed close enough to their hiding place to have seen the team, but he gave no sign of revealing the team's position. The three men moved out shortly thereafter and headed directly for the border, crossing at point O 2515 at approximately 2400 hours on 20 October. The group was picked up by the Greek unit during the entry in the morning hours and were united with the remaining team members later that day.

9. Contacts.

During this mission Fig was able to contact many of the persons listed in Para 3 of SATHE 2145. The force is still intact and can be called upon on 24 hour notice. Fig was further able to add that Rapush AGOLLI has about 10 rifles for his 60 man force.

- ✓ b. Dilaver Ali ZVARISHT has 15 Italian rifles and 1 machine gun for his group (Para 3f of SATHE-2145)
- ✓ c. Elmas Ramani SOKALLARI not contacted last year, (subject was recently released from prison) reported that he has linked up with Taip Tafil ZBOGI of Zbog. The two men can raise a 60 man force. They have 20 rifles and 1 light Italian mortar.

SECRET  
SECURITY INFORMATION

SGAA 7125  
KAPOK 2150

Page 7

- d. Bajram BEKTASHI of Tresova is a new contact. Last year BEKTASHI was a member of Tosuni MANCHES group. BEKTASHI states that he is able to raise 30 men himself. This group has 3 - 4 arms.

10. Expenses:

During this operation Fig team expended the amounts of gold listed below for services rendered by the individuals listed.

- a. Nisi POLENA of Polena was given 2 gold pieces for information he supplied to the team and for cooperating with them.
- b. Elmas Ramani SOKALLARI of Tresova was given 9 gold pieces for supplying the team with food and giving information.
- c. AIRBORNE's wife was given 5 gold pieces for supplying the team with food and acting as a contact for them.
- d. Tosum HOXHA's wife from Tresova was given 2 gold pieces for acting as a contact for the group.
- e. Rapush AGOLLI was given 4 gold pieces to buy lek with. AGOLLI was also given 5 gold pounds for services to the team and information on travel.
- f. Ribyan CHESMA was given 4 gold pieces as a present. CHESMA is one of the leaders of the 200 man force.
- g. Hysen Oerim SPAHUA was given 3 gold pieces for supplying the team with tobacco and bread.
- h. Dilaver Ali ZYARISHTI was given 8 gold pieces for assisting the team and supplying information.
- i. Adem ZENELI was given 4 gold pieces to supply the team with food and "lek".
- j. Caush OSMANI was given 3 gold pieces as a present - OSMANI has supplied the team with food in the past.
- k. BAJRAM BEKTASHI was given 4 gold pieces as a present - BEKTASHI is the leader of a new force mentioned in para 9 above.
- l. Safer BEKTASHI was given 2 gold pieces to procure "lek". BEKTASHI was not again contacted after the ambush.
- m. Adem ZENELI (mentioned sub-para i.) was also given 6 gold pieces as a present for past services. Fig had failed to mention this until the accounting part of the mission was undertaken.
- n. Shef SHAHINIT - 4 gold pieces for past services to the team.

SECRET  
SECURITY INFORMATION  
KAPOK

- o. Xhefer KODHELIT 4 gold pieces for past services to the team.
  - p. Bektash Demir ZBOGI was given 10 gold pieces for having provided food and care for AIRBRAKE during his illness.
  - q. In addition to the above mentioned amounts, the team members gave 6 gold pieces to each of their families.
11. All things taken into consideration we feel that Fig did provide some information of value but of even greater importance is the fact that their contacts are still available and ready to go into action on 24 hours notice. We sincerely hope that Fig team mounted in 1954 will produce better information and be in a position to carry out more extensive activities if headquarters so desires. The fact that Fig was forced to exfiltrate and that during their exfiltration they destroyed their notes should be taken into consideration when weighing their value against time, money and effort expended on mounting the team.
12. Field hopes that we have been able to cover every detail to headquarters' satisfaction but if this is not the case, we shall be more than willing to fill in any gaps that may still be present. We should further like to add that from time to time Fig team will remember more details concerning some item of information or data, which information will be forwarded when received.



16 November 1953

*RTM*  
RTM/WFH/has

Distribution:

- 3-Wash
- 1-Vit. Doc. (Wash)
- 1-Chrono
- 1-Subject
- 1-XO
- 2-OBOPUS