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*All Haps & mentioned in L'ORCHESTRE ROUGE by Gilles Ferrault &*

DATE : 18 July 1968  
TO : Chief, CI/R&A  
SUBJECT : Leopold Trepper & Luba Domb

*6P*

*XAE-659*

L'ORCHESTRE ROUGE, by Gilles Ferrault, FAYARD, Paris, 576 pages, a book published in French, features Leopold Trepper and his moll Georgie making monkeys of the Germans thereby saving humanity from Hitlerism. The ROSE KAPELLE agents who survived are trying to change the nose of history and this book is an ambitious attempt on the part of Ferrault to upgrade and glorify the "Grand Chef" and his Communist comrades.

There follows a summary of the highlights of the most significant information in L'ORCHESTRE ROUGE concerning captioned subject:

A Polish Jew, one of 10 children, Leopold Trepper was born in Neumark near Zakopane on 23 February 1904. Still in his teens, he was obliged to leave school and work in the mines of Katowice. By the time he was 22, he had already been jailed for heading a revolt at Dombrova. After spending 8 months in prison, he could find no work in Poland, so he went to Palestine, thanks to HECHALUTZ, a Zionist organization financed by rich American Jews. In Palestine Trepper found his true vocation and began his apprenticeship as a spy. There he met his wife Luba and his faithful "Old Guard" who later worked with him in Europe.

*Wydawnictwo - Warszawa*

In 1928, he went to France and joined the RABCOR, (1) a Communist dominated group providing men and information to Moscow. In February 1932, the famous French commissaire with the onomatopoeic name of (Charles) Faux-Fas-Bidet dismantled the ROBCORS when he arrested the "Phantomas", Isala Bir and his assistant, Alter Strom, both Polish Jews and important Soviet agents. Trepper escaped and proceeded to Moscow where he was taught that only by supporting Stalin and the Communist cause could the Jewish demands be realized. He learned at the Red Army Academy where (Alexander) Orlov taught, that war against Fascism and Nazism could be successfully waged only under the guidance of Communism, and

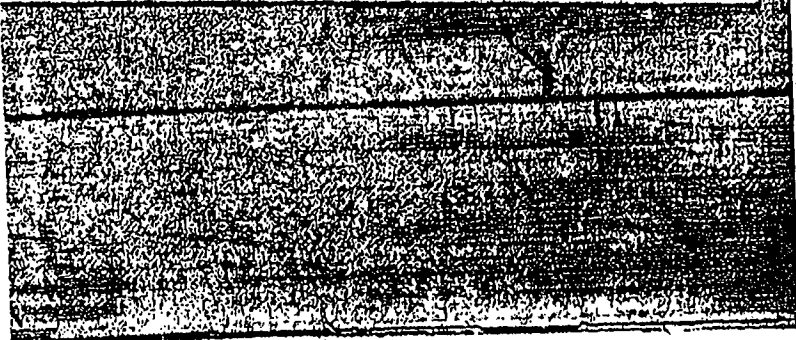
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that support of the Soviet anti-Fascist movement was obligatory for the Jewish masses. Trepper has stated that it was during this period of his studies that his plans for the future crystallised.

New possibilities for the RIS to renew its work in France presented themselves following political developments in that country during the 1930's. These factors were the victory of the Popular Front led by Leon Blum, the setting-up of a Left-wing government, and the deterioration of French relations with Hitlerite Germany. Thirty to forty thousand men were purged during the 1936-37 period; the GRU suffered the most, but Trepper remained loyal to Stalin throughout the difficult purge years and this made him the logical successor of those unfortunate agents who were liquidated during that era.

Five years after the arrest of his RABCORs friends in France, Trepper was back in Paris with a false passport in the name of Sommer. His first successful mission after his arrival in France was his discovery of the traitor responsible for the arrest of the "Phantomas". (2) This traitor, a Dutch Jew had been chief of a Soviet espionage network in the United States and had been reportedly double-crossed by the FBI who tipped off the French police. (pp. 11-22)

France's rôle in the framework of Soviet intelligence grew considerably during the years of the Soviet-German friendship (1939-41). In June 1940, German armies moved into Paris, but half the country remained under French rule. The Soviets moved to Vichy and the chaos of the Vichy regime proved advantageous for a team of experienced underground agents. With the help of the veteran Comintern agent Henri Robinsop, Leon Trepper, who was a refugee, had known in Palestine, his secretary Hillel Katz, the "Grand Chef" organised his first headquarters in France. From 1940 to 1942, Trepper commanded 7 networks of Soviet intelligence, each active in its own field and subordinated to its own chief.

According to the author, all the specialists agree that Trepper was the equal of (Richard) Sorge insofar as the quality of his production, but far superior in the field of technical organisation. Their destiny was completely different: Sorge's case was classical; he spied, got caught, was hanged". (p. 21) With the "Grand Chef", it's another story ... According to Perrau it, if Sorge saved Moscow, Trepper saved Stalingrad. (p. 18)

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Certainly, the "Grand Chef" succeeded in penetrating the enemy at the highest echelons. A decoding by the Germans of the Soviet W/T at Brussels showed that the Soviets had penetrated the OKW. (p. 143) As a result of the information he obtained from JEIP Tours(3), Trepper was able to figure out the German order of battle. (p. 292) When on 22 June 1941, Hitler attacked Russia, the ROTE KAPELLE had done its work well. Trepper had notified Moscow through General Susloperof in Vichy about the invasion, but Stalin did not believe "Otto". On 10 October 1941, a radio message from the CENTER to "Kent" (Sukolov) exposed the ROTE KAPELLE and this permitted the Germans to identify, arrest, and partially control the RIS operations.

On 24 November 1942, Trepper was arrested by Fortner of the ABWEHR and Giering of the GESTAPO. (4) According to GESTAPO reports, Trepper betrayed his collaborators, but "Don't believe the GESTAPO reports if you want to get down to the facts in the ROTE KAPELLE case", Heinrich Reiser advised. What Reiser says sounds plausible, the author observes, "but upon further reflection, it doesn't add up in the light of the 'funkspiel', or radio playback operations".

According to Fortner, if the "Grand Chef" talked it was not because of fear or torture or to save his life. He was not like Johann Wenzel and Abraham Raichmann. (//p. 321) Trepper talked but he did so upon orders. It was his duty; "he gave us a few morsels and while we were picking them up, he salvaged the rest. He made monkeys of the Germans". The author thinks that Fortner might be wrong. The French specialists think that Trepper sacrificed his associates to save the CPF underground. (p. 329) But Perrault is convinced that Trepper was capable of duping "all the Gorbins of the world", (5) and leading them to the execution post, rather than compromise his network. (p. 184)

Trepper was glad to see Giering transferred from Paris during the summer of 1943. The "Grand Chef" knew that he could never lower his guard with Giering so he welcomed his departure and the arrival of Pannwitz, convinced he was the winner in the exchange. Trepper escaped from Willy Berg on 13 September 1943 (391). According to Trepper, Giering had asked him to cooperate in order to bring about peace between Russia and Germany (p. 396). Berg used to say: "I was a cop under the Kaiser, a cop under the Weimar, I'm a cop under

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Hitler, I'll be a cop if Thaelmann takes over!" (p. 408)

~~Pannwitz~~ <sup>\* Müller</sup> and Heinrich Müller decided not to tell Himmler of Trepper's escape. Trepper after his escape wrote to Pannwitz telling him that CI agents accosted him in a drug store and he had to follow them; he requested that Pannwitz not punish Berg. Trepper advised that he wanted to save the "Grand Jeu" and continue the "Ankspiel" but for a different reason than Pannwitz. (p. 447)

After his escape, Trepper was hidden by Mrs. Queyria at Surasnes and Moscow instructed Trepper to hide (p. 424). Trepper doubted that Moscow believed him and he wrote to Pannwitz a second time expressing displeasure to Pannwitz for the arrest of so many innocent people. (p. 421) Trepper was the subject of an "identification order" in France, Germany, Belgium as a "wanted dangerous spy". In November 1943, Pannwitz sent a message to the CENTER via "Kent" who was under control. In answer, the CENTER advised Pannwitz through "Kent" to stay away from Trepper. "He's a traitor!" (p. 450)

In another letter to Pannwitz, Trepper threatened to break off the "Grand Jeu" if arrested persons were not released. (p. 447) Pannwitz was uncertain if Trepper had betrayed the Germans or Moscow, so he was forced to go along with Trepper in order to keep out of trouble himself.

Trepper said he managed to continue "his resistance work" in France all during the war and to implicate numerous members of the Pfeffer Group who wanted to negotiate with the West, with or without the Führer. (p. 399) The Nazis thought the ROTE KAPELLE had penetrated the OKW and many of the Schulze-Boysen Group were executed. (p. 399) Trepper made a report to Moscow in Hebrew, Yiddish, and Polish. He sent this message via (Jacques) Ducloux right under the nose of Willy Berg. Trepper claims he also fooled "Kent" in case he was under control. "Kent" was and coded the messages to Moscow unsuspecting that Trepper was playing a triple game. (p. 407)

After the war, Novikov arrived in Paris to head the Soviet military mission. The plane that brought Thores back from Moscow took Trepper to the Soviet Union on 6 January 1945. (p. 481) "The Director must have been delighted to see Trepper arrive in

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Moscow with Foote and Rado'. Then, Kent and Fannwitz arrived; then, Osofs and Wensel. "He had all his people under one roof". "It took 10 years (and Willy Berg in Pankow?) to understand that Trepper had been lucid while the CENTER had been confused" (p. 557) The Director could not afford to have Trepper loose in Moscow telling everyone he had on 3 occasions vainly warned Stalin of the imminent German attack. Sorge would have suffered the same fate as Trepper if the Japanese had not executed him. The CENTER could not be persuaded that the Germans had located the ROTE KAPELLE W/T sets so rapidly, so the CENTER thought there was a German spy in the Kremlin.

According to the CENTER, the old timers like Trepper were romantics and cosmopolitians "who were not salvageable". "We had lived 5 years hand in hand with those who were going to our enemies", Trepper commented. (p. 560) Trepper knew too much and that is why they kept him in jail, the author states.

~~Corby~~  
After the CORBY Case in Canada, the Director of the GRU was fired and the KGB seized this opportunity to settle accounts with the GRU. Three years later, there was an anti-semitic wave in the USSR, and Trepper was queried as to why he had surrounded himself with traitors: Hillel Katz, Grossevogel, Springer, Rajchmann, et al.

Trepper was kept in jail incommunicado (no news from his wife) until March 1953 when Stalin died and Beria was liquidated. Then, he was finally exonerated and rehabilitated. He left for Poland. The author interviewed him in 1966 and learned that in April 1965, Trepper was at Auschwitz commemorating the liberation of the camp. As Leiba DOMB, President of the Jewish community of Poland, he addressed the camp.

The New York Times, 28 March 1968, reported that "Leopold DOMB, President of the Jewish Cultural Society, "who during World War II ran a Soviet espionage ring in France and Belgium", was among the Poles attacked by the "anti-Polish campaign staged by Zionist centers in the West".

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FOOTNOTES

- 1) See SOVIET ESPIONAGE, by David J. Dallin, Yale University Press, 1955, pp. 53-57, for further information concerning the RABCOBS and the "Phantomas".
- 2) The identity of the traitor is not indicated. It is possible, however, that he was John KIRCHENSTEIN @ Frank KLEGES who was probably a Latvian and not a Dutchman, according to Nicolas Dozenberg. Kirchenstein first entered the U. S. in 1922. An investigation disclosed that Kirchenstein was operating a military espionage organization, using ARCOS, the Soviet Trading Company as a cover. He was charged with secret propaganda activities, industrial sabotage and espionage from the Baltic and other North European ports which he carried on through seamen's groups on board ARCOS ships and through the seamen of the Red International of labor unions in the U. S. Subsequent to the ARCOS raid in London, on 12 May 1927, Kirchenstein continued to engage in espionage activity in the U. S. and in Europe. In 1930, Kirchenstein was given the naturalization papers of a dead American soldier named Frank Kleges and using the name and citizenship of KLEGES, he proceeded to Paris, where he associated himself with a business known as SOCIETE ANONYME FRANCAISE POUR L'IMPORTATION DE LEGUME SEC which had been established as a cover for Soviet military intelligence activities. [ ] Paul Wohl, writer on international affairs and now a staff writer for the Christian Science Monitor, who collaborated in some of the writings of Walter Krivitsky, identified on 10 May 1945, a photograph of Kirchenstein as Kleges whom he contacted in Paris in 1937 at the request of Krivitsky. Kleges disappeared in 1938.
- 3) JEIP was a word formed from "Jeder animal in Paris" (Everyone once in Paris). The JEIP Tours were designed for soldiers.
- 4) The Corbins referred to were 2 brothers. Alfred CORBIN operated SIMEX in Paris.
- 5) Fortner is obviously identical with Henry FriedrichPIEPE, a former ABWEHR officer. [ ]

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