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DIE ROTE KAPELLE (Europaeische Spionage)

1952
14 OCT 1970

(The Red Orchestra - European Espionage)

by General Judge Dr. Manfred ROEDER

Published by Verlag Hans Siep, Hamburg, 1952

36 Pages

No Index

The author of this book was the German Chief Justice and General Prosecutor at the "Rote Kapelle" trial. After World War II, he was imprisoned in Nuernberg by the Americans from the autumn of 1946 until his release at the beginning of 1949.

His opinions and comments about this espionage case are based on his study of the documentary material presented to the court.

Was the SCHULTZE-BOYSEN/HARNACK group simply a German resistance movement fighting against the Nazi regime? Or was it an espionage network organized by the Soviets and the German Communists; did the group exploit the credulity of the German anti-Nazis while from the start following instructions from Soviet Military Intelligence and the Comintern, with the intention of ultimately taking over the reins of power in Germany?

The author upholds the latter hypothesis and gives his reasons for this conviction: Already in June 1941, when the German-Soviet war started, there were lively, coded, short-wave communications aimed at Moscow originating from Berlin, Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam. Further transmissions were recorded from Switzerland and the south of France. It was obvious from the similarity of the codes used that the traffic was originating from a centrally directed network in the service of the USSR.

The author rejects the allegation that the name Rote Kapelle (Red Orchestra) was created by the Gestapo to deride a supposed German resistance group. On the contrary, the term was invented by the Abwehr. The Abwehr directed the search-and-discovery operation against this espionage organization and kept the Gestapo informed of its findings. At that time only the Abwehr had the technical capability of locating hostile radio stations.

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According to the author, the true predecessor of the Rote Kapelle was the well-known, illegal AM-Apparat organization, directed by the Comintern. From 1933, that illegal apparatus had been in permanent radio and courier contact with Moscow. Some Soviet W/T stations had existed in Germany as early as 1928. This organization and its illegal collaborators were the real base of the Rote Kapelle, which was, from the start, in the service of the Soviets.

The organizers of the Red Orchestra network knew that if their plans for Germany's future were to materialize, such a network was a necessity. It was designed not only to oppose National-Socialism but also to maintain close collaboration with the USSR in order to prevent a possible attack on Germany from the West. It was also designed to help form in Germany a political structure similar to that in the USSR. The ultimate goal was a Communist Europe. According to the author, this raison d'être of the Rote Kapelle was proved during the interrogation of its members at the trial.

The author states that in 1951 when British Intelligence was investigating contacts made by the two British defector-diplomats, BURGESS and McLEAN, they discovered connections between them and the Rote Kapelle organization and some of its surviving members.

The author further endeavors to prove his hypothesis that Rote Kapelle was from the beginning a Soviet network, with SCHULZE-BOYSEN and HARNACK as principal agents, by listing the German members of the ring and describing their background, and also by reporting the public activity of the network's survivors. Prior to 1933, Harro SCHULZE-BOYSEN organized a left-radical movement among Berlin University students. He became a member of the German Air Force and later an official in the Air Ministry. During the war, he worked in the Attaché Section of the Luftwaffe. In 1938, he passed information about German troops in Spain to the Soviet Trade delegation in Berlin. His wife, Libertas (née HAAS-HEYE), was his collaborator. In 1941, he received money, codes and a new transmitter from the Soviets. His friend, Arvid HARNACK, was a relatively high official in the Ministry of National Economy in Berlin. His wife, Mildred, taught in the Political Section of Berlin University. Another German member of Rote Kapelle, Kurt SCHULZE, was a former Marine radio operator who since 1929 had been a regularly paid Soviet agent. He received a short-wave transmitter during a visit to Moscow. He instructed radio operators Karl BEHRENS and Hans COPPI. (In 1941, when the Soviet-German war started, five Soviet W/T stations were already in service.)

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The following individuals were also identified as Soviet agents: Greta KUCKHOFF, now (1952) a chairman of the Democratic Women's Union and President of the East-Zone Bank of Berlin, was the network's main liaison contact with the agents of the Soviet Trade Representation. She also translated Hitler's book Mein Kampf into English which she had learned during a stay in the United States. Her husband, Adam KUCKHOFF, later executed, was also a Soviet agent. He used as a key code his own book EULENSPIEGEL and also used "EULENSPIEGEL" as his alias. Adolf GRIMME, former Minister of Culture in Prussia, was Minister of Culture in Bay-Saxonia and later (1952) Minister General of the Northwest German Radio.

The author also names the following individuals as direct collaborators in the Soviet ring: Erika BROCKDORF, Kurt SCHUMACHER, Odda SCHOTTMUELLER, A. KRAUSE, Rose SCHLOESINGER, John GRAUDENZ, Dr. J. RITTMEISTER, I. STOEBE, von SHELIHA, Heinz KOENEN, Horst HEILMANN, J. SIEG aka NEBEL, Dr. H. H. KUMMEROV, V. GUDDORF, and others.

In Belgium, the main organizers were: Vincente SIERRA (alias KENT or "PETIT CHEF"), MAKAROV (alias Carlos ALAMO), DANILOV (alias DESMETS), Herman ISBUTSKI, Sofie POZNANSKA, SPRINGER, Konstantin YEFREMOV, and KRUYT.

In the Holland ring were WINTERINK and Johann WENZEL; and in the French ring, "GILBERT" (alias OTTO or "GRAND CHEF")*, Leo GROSSVOGEL and KARPOV.

The author is convinced that the Soviet espionage network Rote Kapelle was not completely destroyed and that a base for it is still maintained. He refers to Greta KUCKHOFF /see Pages 13-14, 35, for a description of her activities/, as the organizer of new, recent Soviet espionage activity. A publishing house in East Berlin called VOLK and WISSEN is, according to the author, probably the organizational center. The chief editor is the Communist CHESNER /TSCHESNER/ and his deputy, Dr. DAMEROV (alias ROSA). Closely associated with

* Other sources have identified this individual as /true name/ DOMB, with the alias TREPPER.

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them is the ODF organization (Victims of Fascism) in East Berlin. From there, connections have been established to West Germany, to branches in Munich and Frankfurt/M and thence to Baden-Baden, Muehlheim/Ruhr, Konstanz, and especially [sic] to Hamburg. Certain [unnamed] cultural organizations as well as the Free Democratic Youth (FDJ) union are front organizations for this network. According to the author, Leipzig was the training headquarters for Communist sabotage cadres.

The book has no index and therefore names of persons of counterintelligence interest are arranged in alphabetical order and appended to this review.

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