

APPENDIX C

HILDEGARD RIESS
FUNKSPIEL TIGER

1. Hildegard RIESS was born 19 January 1921 in Vienna, daughter of Adolf RIESS, a laborer, and Julianna. Adolf RIESS was arrested during the uprising in Austria (date not mentioned, presumably 1934) as a Social Democrat. Hildegard was taken to Prague and her brother to Brno by the "Rote Hilfe". From Prague Hildegard was taken to the USSR under the auspices of the directress of the "Rote Hilfe" where she was placed in a home for Austrian children. Upon completion of her schooling she worked in a factory where she met and married Bogdan TSUNEVA, a Bulgarian, in 1940. A daughter was born in December 1940.

2. Hildegard claimed that although her husband was a Soviet national she herself did not have Soviet nationality. Consequently when an order was issued for all foreigners to leave Moscow, she and her child moved to the vicinity of Astrakhan and from there to Aktyubinsk in Kazakhstan. During the journey her child contracted typhus and died. Her husband was killed in the war during February 1942.

3. Hildegard had a step-brother and a brother of her step-mother also in the USSR. Both were accused of Trotskyism and arrested by the NKVD in 1937. In 1944 she was summoned by the NKVD. She was reminded of the "kindness" shown her in the children's home, of the shadow hanging over her from her stepbrother's arrest, etc., and then it was suggested that she could take care of the whole situation by undertaking a job for the NKVD. The only alternative left her was to be sent to Siberia. She accepted and reported to a doctor, representative of the NKVD, in Moscow at the beginning of July 1944. For five months she received radio training in a private house in Moscow. During this period she was allowed no contacts except with the doctor, her radio instructor and the woman who brought her food. Upon the completion of that training she was taken to an air force base for theoretical instruction in parachute jumps. She made one trial jump from a balloon at an altitude of 300 meters with fifty other students. Following that she received a three day course in enciphering, instructions in security regulations concerning her radio and training.

4. Hildegard then took the necessary oath and was given the following identity documents:

- a. Identity card for a "Reichsdeutsch" made out to Hildegard HARTMANN, nee SEIFERT, born 19 Jan. 1921, Vienna; bank employee, card number M 024639; issued by the president of the Vienna police, Schmels Police Station.
- b. Record of having reported to the police.
- c. Birth certificate.
- d. Baptismal certificate, issued by St. Martin's Church.
- e. Marriage certificate for Lt. Rudolf HARTMANN and Hildegard SEIFERT issued by the registrar's office in Vienna.

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f. Death notice for Captain Rudolf HARTMANN, on the staff of the 14th Infantry Division.

5. In addition to the above documents, Hildegard was shown a directory of the city of Vienna in which a Rudolf HARTMANN was listed. His address, she recalled, was Mannhartgasse 4. She was also instructed to write down the addresses and names of other people living in the same building so that in case of arrest by the German police she could use this information as corroborative testimony. She recalled the following names: NEMEZKY, FRUEHWIRT, FRISCHKO, HACKENBERG, BECK, HOSOFF.

6. Two days before Hildegard left Moscow her radio teacher and two other NKVD officials arranged a so-called farewell party at which she was introduced to the other two members of her team, Eduard KUMMER, captain of the team, and one FERDINAND. Both of the latter were Austrians, had fought in Spain with the Communist forces, were prisoners in France and later sent to the USSR as exchange P/Ws. During the course of the evening, the targets for the team were stated as follows:

- a. To collect information about the so-called "Sixth Column".
- b. To confirm or assure industrial sabotage within Austria.
- c. To repeal new laws and regulations.

The "Sixth Column" was said to be a newly organized and illegal group within the Nazi Party including the really loyal adherents of the Party and HITLER, which, in case of occupation by the Soviets or Western Powers, would work clandestinely to affect a coup-d'etat for the National Socialists. Hildegard's team was to identify the leaders of the group in order that they could be executed when the Soviets occupied Austria. Hildegard was also ordered to transmit information on the above targets to Moscow at her prescribed sending hours.

7. Hildegard's team was not to be parachuted into Austria but to cross the border illegally. Consequently they were taken by plane to a partisan airfield at Zvolan (Altschl, Slovakia) and by car to a near-by village where they joined a partisan group. The staff of the group consisted of the following:

- a. Colonel Victor ALEXANDROVICH, an alias, real name unknown: Ukrainian, colonel in the NKVD, about 170-172 cm. tall, thick-set, ca. 32-35 yrs. of age, straight blond hair, combed back, light eyes, wore dark blue winter uniform of the NKVD. No identifying marks. His mistress, IAlA, was also with the group.
- b. Major Jefim ALEXANDROVICH: Jewish, Major in the NKVD, ca. 30 yrs. old, approximately 1.68 cm tall, very fat, black curly hair, small mustache, wore dark blue uniform and light yellow boots. On his upper lip below the nose was an open wound which apparently was not healing.

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- c. Major, NU: Ukrainian extraction, ca. 27-30 yrs. of age, 169 cm. tall, well built, dark blond hair, wore civilian clothes consisting of dark blue suit and black boots.
- d. Slovak, NU: Ca. 180 cm. tall, very heavy-set, dark blond, slightly wavy hair, grey eyes, small mustache, limped favoring right leg, wore Soviet military, dark blue blouse, knee-length stockings of dark blue and black boots. Apparently occupied a high position.

In addition to the above there were about eight other officers, five radio operators in the group. The radio operators were four men and one woman, all Russians. The medical staff was composed of one doctor and four nurses. They were well armed and had several airplanes at their disposal.

8. Hildegard's team moved from group to group of the partisans working their way toward the Waag river. A leader of another group was the Jewish captain Vladimir IVANOVICH. During this period Hildegard communicated with Moscow announcing her team's arrival at various partisan camps and receiving instructions. Moscow forbade the partisan groups to communicate with each other, all communication had to be through Moscow. At the crossing of the Waag river the team encountered fighting and Hildegard's two Austrian companions ran away. She could not follow them and after wandering around for several days was picked up by a German scouting unit.

9. Hildegard stated that during the crossing of the Waag the batteries for her radio set were lost and that she had not been in communication with Moscow since then. She also claimed that she was not given any names or addresses in Vienna but the team had been instructed to develop their own contacts among the population by using former friends and relatives.

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