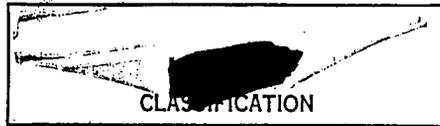


VIA: Air Pouch
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DISPATCH NO. SGAA- 11239
2775



AUG 16 1954

TO : Chief, SE

DATE: ~~DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY~~
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

FROM : C

gls

SUBJECT: GENERAL— OBHUNT/Friday

SPECIFIC— Friday Mission Debriefing for Trip 23 - 26 July 1954

REF.: SATHE- 787X-9 AUG 54

Headquarters Action Required: Comment on development of Friday Mission

SYNOPSIS

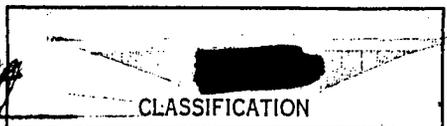
- RNDOLLAR and AIRBRED infiltrated Albania on the evening of 23 July.
 - RNDOLLAR contacted, recruited and briefed AIPIGEON on the evening of 24 July.
 - A dead drop was established by RNDOLLAR, AIRBRED and AIPIGEON on 25 July.
 - Friday team exfiltrated in the early morning hours of 26 July.
 - AIPIGEON has agreed to recruit one or more of his brothers in Tirana and/or Durrës in the late fall of this year.
1. We are enclosing herewith the debriefing of Friday Team written by Linaugh under the supervision of Mersereau. Incidental information collected by the team will be forwarded under separate dispatch.
 2. A review of this paper will reveal that the team departed from their briefing in several instances, notably:
 - a. AIRBRED accompanied RNDOLLAR to AIPIGEON's house.
 - b. AIPIGEON's wife was cut in on the recruiting and briefing.
 - c. The dead drop safety signal is within sight and hearing of the dead drop itself.
 - d. No signal independent of the dead drop was established for use in arranging a rendezvous between RNDOLLAR and AIPIGEON.
 - e. Two additional persons, AIPIGEON's wife and, to a degree, AIRBRED are familiar with the details of the mission.
 3. In addition to the above, a realistic appraisal must assume that:
 - a. AIPIGEON's four children were aware of the team's presence in the area.

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CS Classification: none
JOB # 63-697/18
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per ESM



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- b. AIRIGEON will probably not prove to be an aggressive principal agent. It seems he plans to relegate at least the recruiting and sub-agent briefing functions to his wife.
 - c. The dead drop may be denied us throughout the winter months.
4. On the positive side of the ledger:
- a. We have succeeded in recruiting a legal resident in an accessible location with contacts in Tirana and Durres.
 - b. AIRIGEON's wife is reported to be a more able and more willing recruit than her husband.
 - c. Communications with the principal agent(s) has been established in a location that can be serviced in a six-hour round trip.
5. Given the tolerance for the so-called Albanian mentality that must be granted even the most able agents, we feel that the team departed itself well. It did what it was charged with doing without alerting host forces. Enough of the instructions were executed to permit us the hope that communications with our principal agent can be developed smoothly.
6. We feel that a decision on the pursuit of this operation should include the following considerations:
- a. The inability of our agents to follow the letter of our briefing, even in instances when departures from it could not be justified by operational considerations, must be accepted as fact. On this basis we should assume that our Intelligence requirements will reach ultimate sources in a somewhat emasculated form. Should Friday develop to its "productive" phase then, the "production" will undoubtedly be of limited value at first. Whether or not subsequent instructions will improve such production sufficiently to warrant our effort remains to be seen. We have no past experience in Albania from which we can estimate quality of production.
 - b. As the principal agent has rejected all means of communication save personal contact and family courier, we cannot expect a great volume of material to result from our Friday effort at first.
 - c. Because intimate family relationships are a national characteristic, it would be unrealistic to assume that all four of AIRIGEON's brothers in the Tirana area will not be aware of his activities. Nothing we will say or do is likely to curb this knowledge. The resultant vulnerability of our Friday net is obvious.
7. We do not believe that these considerations are prohibitive to the pursuit of Friday Mission. On the contrary, we urge that the further development of this

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operation be approved. There is every reason to believe that with good fortune and the continued services of RNDOLLAR we can eventually show some useful results for our efforts.

8. In conclusion, a word for RNDOLLAR is indicated. He has proven himself to be a dedicated and intelligent agent of a maturity beyond his years. He has an unusually retentive mind and a great deal of endurance. Furthermore, he has recently managed to curb his exploits while at large in Greece to a point where they have not created any sort of crisis. We admit to some uneasiness on this score but abide in the conviction that an able agent is not necessarily a paragon of social graces.

Enclosure:

1. Memo from []

RSO/RMW/brr

12 August 1954

Distribution:

- 3 - Wash (w/encl.)
- 1 - Vital Docs. (w/encl.)
- 1 - Chrono (w/encl.)
- 1 - Subject (w/encl.)
- 1 - XO (w/encl.)
- 2 - OBHUNT (w/encl.)

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Enclosure No. 1 to SGAA- 11239
- 2775

AUG 14 1954

11 August 1954

MEMORANDUM

TO: []

FROM: []

SUBJECT: Debriefing of Friday Mission of July 23 - July 26, 1954

Account of Developments

1. 23 July 1954

- 2055. Team left conducting detail at point (R 406543) and headed for the border.
- 2125. Team climbed over thorn fence 1 meter high and 1½ meters thick, running parallel to the border.
- 2330. Team crossed highway of town at a point 300 - 500 meters East of spring which was purposely avoided this time (R 410575).
- 2345. Team halted on slopes of mountain and at a distance of approximately 500 meters from road and rested for thirty minutes.

2. 24 July 1954

- 0230. Team arrived at hideout No. I (R 436566) at a point with a local name to remain throughout the day.
- 2030. Team left hideout No. I for contact in town.
- 2115. At a point outside town known as (Fiku Shurit) team hid equipment with the exception of writing material, water containers and weapons.

- 3. - 2230. The team followed a path roughly parallel to the main road on its approach to ALPIGEON's house. The purpose of this was to avoid the location where the team was challenged in its previous attempt and also because some of the houses in the neighborhood had lights on, which rendered a direct approach to the house dangerous.

This time the approach was quicker and with the experience of the first abortive attempt all suspicious buildings and positions of ambush were avoided. The team passed 60 meters below the Tylbe (old Mosque).

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CS Classification: *none*

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4. On entering AIPIGEON's yard, AIRBRED was posted at the gate while RNDOLLAR proceeded to the house and knocked on the door. AIPIGEON's wife opened a window and asked who it was, whereupon RNDOLLAR revealed his identity to her and after considerable effort in convincing her, gained admittance.
5. AIPIGEON, who was apparently sleeping under an olive tree nearby, was immediately alerted by his wife and joined RNDOLLAR. AIPIGEON's wife took hold of the situation from the start, was present during the meeting of the two brothers and took an active part in the discussion and AIPIGEON's briefing.
6. In the beginning RNDOLLAR explained to AIPIGEON the reasons for the mission and described targets and asked him if he would be willing to participate in the effort. AIPIGEON, after making sure that his brother was representing HTNEIGH and ODYOKE, replied that he would undertake to assist in RNDOLLAR's plans but immediately pointed out that he could produce but the minimum because of his status vis a vis the Sigurimi. He noted that although no special informers are on his tracks, he and his wife had recently been made to report to the Sigurimi four times during which they were advised to occupy themselves solely with their work, that they should not correspond with the rest of AIPIGEON's family and that they should stop sending food to their brother in a Burrel prison.
7. AIPIGEON was asked by RNDOLLAR if he would undertake to recruit agents, establish an intelligence net and collect information. AIPIGEON accepted but stated that he would only recruit members of the family, namely, his four brothers. On no account would he undertake to recruit others than those mentioned above. AIPIGEON further added that he could not do the recruiting in person but he would send his wife to Tirana sometime in November in order to convey his messages. Upon her return in December 1954, AIPIGEON will service the dead drop. W
8. RNDOLLAR pressed his brother to send the wife earlier but AIPIGEON advised extreme caution and further declared that the wife is much needed during the harvesting season. AIPIGEON did not hide his fears of the Sigurimi, and although favorably disposed toward the mission he was intent on proceeding with extreme caution.
9. He felt that once the crops are collected the wife will have every legitimate reason to travel and once she communicates with AIPIGEON's brothers they might pay him a visit in Konispol. AIPIGEON also declared that he will be willing to service a dead drop but he would not undertake to establish other dead drops with his sub-agents. He only agreed to send or receive messages by courier. He suggested his younger sister might be used and be an unwitting courier in the future.
10. RNDOLLAR further proceeded with his briefing and on AIPIGEON's request he put it down in writing so that his brother could assimilate it and properly memorize it. At the end of the notes RNDOLLAR wrote that they should be destroyed once the contents were fully memorized.

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11. The written briefing comprised a very detailed outline of the mission's intelligence requirements and a form for message writing and agent reporting. AIPIGEON was further instructed in case of trouble he should send courier with the password "Good Friday 1950." During the debriefing we were pleased to confirm that RNDOLLAR had a comprehensive grasp of the briefing.
 - a. AIPIGEON's wife broached the subject of flight to Greece and was immediately discouraged by RNDOLLAR.
 - b. The AIPIGEON family seemed to have an ample supply of food.
 - c. AIPIGEON did not show any awareness of Friday's visit to Konispol in May although hints were provided him by RNDOLLAR.
12. Lastly, AIPIGEON was given 25 Gold Pounds, 5,000 Lek, a 7.65 Mauzer pistol and two Mills hand grenades which he promised to hide in his courtyard and use only in extreme emergency, an L capsule, a watch and the dead drop mail can with a safety string. A rendezvous was also set between AIPIGEON and RNDOLLAR for 2000 hours of the next evening on the Konispol-Deivine somewhere in the vicinity of Cafe Hanit. AIPIGEON on his approach was to sing the O Saba Saba song as a safety signal.
13. During this first meeting AIPIGEON, his wife, RNDOLLAR, and AIPIGEON's 3-year old son were in the house. AIRBRED abandoned his post toward the end of the meeting and joined the group over a friendly rolling of local tobacco. The three other children of AIPIGEON's family had, as is customary, remained in the fields tending to the gardens and the sheep.
14. July 25
 - 0130. Team left house and proceeded, via the same path, to point (Fifu Shurit) to pick up hidden equipment. The team then proceeded to Hideout No. II, situated 200 - 300 meter N.E. of Hideout No. I at a point called Seshi Pelave.
 - 0300. Team arrived at hideout No. II where it remained throughout the day, in complete concealment.
 - 2045. Team left Hideout No. II and proceeded along the S.E. slopes of Saraqin to the rendezvous point decided upon the previous night.
 - 2130. Team reached a secure point commanding the road and hid in the brush.
15. - 2210. The voices of children were heard and shortly afterwards the shadows of three children chasing some sheep on the road were clearly discerned. The team remained silent. A few seconds later, AIPIGEON's wife on horseback and with her son in her lap followed. She was distinctly heard by the team calling the name of her older son.

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16. This was considered by the team as a recognition signal and, as it was later revealed, AIPIGEON had instructed his wife to use the children's names as recognition signals because he did not have the "heart" to sing. AIPIGEON's wife was stopped by RNDOLLAR who inquired about AIPIGEON. It developed that AIPIGEON was following his wife and that, in the meanwhile, was recognized and intercepted by AIRBRED.
17. Once the contact was established AIPIGEON's wife continued on her way. RNDOLLAR claims that the older children had not stopped at all.
18. AIPIGEON informed the team that he had run through the briefing and had understood everything. He was subsequently initiated in the dead drop mechanics. The dead drop was selected by him in the presence of both RNDOLLAR and AIRBRED at a point 35 - 30 meters S.W. of the highway and at the distance of 3 - 4 meters from a mule track running parallel to the road.
19. Two good size stones on the side of a telephone pole, standing 35 meters from the dead drop will consist of the safety signal.
20. AIPIGEON was instructed to place the containers as soon as possible and further to check the dead drop signal as often as possible for incoming messages. (He passes by practically every day during the summer season.)
21. - 2300. The briefing was terminated, AIPIGEON departed and the team headed toward the Greek border.
22. 26 July
 - 2330. Due to fatigue the team lost its proper orientation and spent considerable time near the frontier zone seeking a way out.
 - 0330. Team safely arrived in unknown but Greek territory on the coast (R 394546)
 - 0530. Team reported to Greek post of Skala.

Comments

23. RNDOLLAR and AIRBRED were debriefed separately upon their return to Athens. Their stories coincide in all details.
24. Both the team members seem to have observed the water discipline they were taught prior to their trip and therefore they did not suffer from acute thirst. In addition to a larger supply of water carried this time, [] prepared some anti-thirst pills for the team. They consisted of a harmless powder in an impressive capsule. RNDOLLAR and AIRBRED were instructed to take one before infiltrating and one a day subsequently to ward off thirst. We believed that as their overwhelming desire for water on the first attempt was largely psychological, a psychological remedy was appropriate. We have little indication of its effectiveness as conditions on

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this trip were not comparable but the boys reported taking their pills per instructions and that they were helpful.

25. The team did not move at all while at its daytime hideouts and left no food remnants. (No canned food was carried this time.) No cigarettes were smoked except at AIPIGEON's house per our instructions.
26. Both the team members believe that they were not seen or heard by anybody.
27. In arranging the rendezvous the corridor method was successfully applied and a good audible signal arranged. RNDOLLAR had explained the importance of this safety signal to AIPIGEON on the night of their first meeting. We must assume AIPIGEON understood the reasons behind it. That the man devised his own signal without RNDOLLAR's knowledge because "he did not have the heart to sing" and that this signal was acceptable to both members of the team are phenomena beyond the capabilities of this section to logically explain.
28. The rendezvous selected by the team in the corridor had cover, good observation, accessibility to the border and also provided a legitimate reason for the presence of AIPIGEON.
29. The above also applies to the location of the dead drop. Agents will be able to service the drop and exfiltrate in one night.
30. AIRBRED was used as a lookout during contacts and heard only small parts of the briefing.
31. No lights were used during the second contact.
32. As was stated above, we may assume that AIPIGEON's briefing with RNDOLLAR was complete.
33. RNDOLLAR was instructed to give AIPIGEON an "L" capsule, a wrist watch from which the strap had been removed so it could not be worn, some pencils, paper and a ball-point pen. We did not anticipate that he would throw in a pistol and two grenades but not much can be done about that at this point. We can only rely on the Albanians' long experience at concealing possessions from authorities. Although AIPIGEON was pleased to receive the weapons, he paradoxically refused the ball-point pen on the ground that it would be incriminating if found in his possession.
34. Following are the main explanations given by the team members for certain deviations from the original briefing and plans.
 - a. AIRBRED's presence at AIPIGEON's house:
 - (1) RNDOLLAR felt that he needed AIRBRED for protection when contacting AIPIGEON with whom he had had no contact for five years.
 - (2) AIRBRED performed good services as a lookout.

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(3) There was a possibility of RNDOLLAR remaining at AIPIGEON's house for twenty-four hours during which time AIRBRED might have thought that something had gone wrong.

b. Use of AIPIGEON's wife:

(1) Regarding the use of AIPIGEON's wife, both the team members agree that this woman is of outstanding capabilities and probably superior to her husband.

(2) Her accessibility to Tirana or Durres and her greater freedom from suspicion resulting from her sex are important factors, and should not be overlooked.

c. We feel that the exposure of the three-year old child to the team was unavoidable. It is impossible to assess the significance of this. RNDOLLAR is sure that during the second contact the children did not see the team.

d. Deferment of P/A's recruiting:

(1) The team members were not quite sure as to the time AIPIGEON's wife will go to AIPIGEON's brothers.

(2) When they were first met by Linaugh near the border upon their ex-filtration they were of the opinion that she would travel in September. Gradually, the date was deferred to November or perhaps December. We attribute this mostly to AIPIGEON's unwillingness to take great risks. It is probable that he was evasive in fixing dates with the team.

e. Dead drop

The position of the dead drop was fairly well selected. Nevertheless, the following handicap has to be seriously taken into consideration. When the sheep return to the town pastures for the winter season (20 Sep - 20 May), the area of the dead drop will be inhabited by sheep, vlachs, shepherds and obnoxious dogs, rendering an approach to the dead drop more hazardous. RNDOLLAR does not feel that this will be a prohibitive problem.

f. The team did not set up a recognition signal to serve as a notice of the presence of agents in the country, because AIPIGEON is averse to the idea of making personal contacts. In lieu of this it was agreed that if the team returns for contact a brief coded message will be placed in the dead drop. Subsequently the team will establish itself in a hideout on Saraqin. For the following two nights the team will expect to make contact on the Konispol-Delvine road and in case of a failure the third night AIPIGEON will be contacted at his house.