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THE RED BAND

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THE RED BAND

Die Rote Kapelle [The Red Band],
Hamburg, 1952, Pages 7-36

Judge Advocate Gen.
Dr. M. Roeder

Civilization and technology have created new possibilities and forms of development in all fields of human endeavor. Behind us lies a war whose final decision is indisputable. How true are Clausewitz' theories on war even today. Clausewitz never considered war and its outcome as something absolute, i.e., as an independent phenomenon; in his eyes the realities of life always displaced the most superficial and absolute concepts.

In the present postwar phase the political purpose of war again stands out; we in the former German Reich are in a position to make our own observations on this purpose of war because we can behold a wide variety of political spheres of influence, sharply delineated by boundaries and lines of demarcation.

Military operations in the various theaters of war were conducted along national lines; the Russians fought only on the Eastern Front; the French and Belgians fought on the Western Front; and Britain and the United States fought on the Southern and Western fronts. Likewise, there was no close military cooperation between the Allies in strategic aerial warfare. It was politics which threaded the war of 1941-1945 together and exerted a constant influence on it.

The doughtfoot knew against whom he was fighting; women and children, huddled in the cellars of the cities and in the air raid shelters of the factories in a quietly heroic fashion, knew that although this was a two-front war, the bombers always returned the same way they came.

More than a century ago Clausewitz realized that war is an act of force, designed to impose one's will on the enemy, and that this force equips itself with the inventions of the arts and sciences.

Nuernberg, 18 July 1947

What does the term "Rote Kapelle" [Red Band] mean? There are two answers to this question. One answer appeared recently in the press, for instance in the Neue Zeitung [New Journal] of 9 December 1946.

Under the heading "We Had a German Resistance Movement, After All," the article says the following. "Finally, there was the Schulze-Boysen --

Harnack Group which operated between Brussels and Berlin. Its approximately 600 members included officers, artists, workers, and doctors; two-thirds of them ended up on the gallows."

Mr. Guenther Weisenborn, author of the article, who is today employed by NWDR [Nordwestdeutscher Rundfunk -- Northwest German Radio], writes the following with the approval of the representatives of former resistance organizations. "I therefore feel that it is about time that justice be done to the German resistance movement. I am rather reluctant to speak up, but no one else seems to want to do so. I assume that the survivors are too busy. As for me, I do not think I shall go down in German history as a hero of the resistance; I was merely a cog, but I am certainly a witness. I am speaking in the name of countless companions who are dead and whose deeds must not be forgotten. They were the secret, the better Germany.

"They fought unto death against the high treason and mankind betrayal of the Nazis."

Elsewhere the above author writes the following. "We may soon expect the first authentic statements on the German resistance movement. These disclosures will be a surprise to the world."

One year later Welt [World Press] wrote as follows. "Author Guenther Weisenborn and authoress Anna Seghers were received at Moscow airport as honored guests of the government." American newspapers even printed photos.

Nuernberg, 31 July 1947

"It is very interesting to note that in the interrogations on the 'Red Band' the subject was changed immediately every time the problem of military espionage came up. Apparently public opinion does not countenance the glorification of espionage during war. Genuine resistance fighters will by no means be elated to discover that their honest political opinion is exploited as a cover and that at the proper time the mask will be dropped and power will be seized by others. Many members of the 'Red Band' are already in key positions or are holding influential posts."

With the start of the Russo-German War in the second half of June 1941, German signal intelligence detected lively traffic in coded messages broadcast from unknown shortwave sets at certain times of the night and on varying wave bands. As early as during the summer of 1941 radio intelligence was able to establish the following.

1. All new shortwave traffic was going to Moscow.
2. Broadcasts came from agents concentrated in and around Berlin, and in the Paris, Brussels, and Amsterdam areas; additional communications were being sent from Switzerland and southern France to Moscow.

Similarities in the five-digit codes made it almost certain that the agents were centrally directed by Moscow.

The slowly increasing number of individual transmitters, whose radio operators were dubbed "musicians" by signal personnel, caused counterintelligence to coin the term "Red Band" for this group of transmitters which were obviously being directed by one source. The "musicians" were so numerous that they could only have been part of an entire band.

In order to distinguish it from other transmitter groups, e.g., those of the Polish intelligence service, German counterintelligence in its official usage devised the term "Red Band" to denote this particular group of transmitters, taking its cue from the peculiar characteristics of the group's radio messages to Moscow.

"THE RED BAND"

The appropriateness of this uniform designation, chosen for technical reasons, was brought out later when the various groups of culprits were apprehended. The assertion that this expression had been coined by the Gestapo in an effort to slander the political resistance fighters is false.

Even before the Gestapo, in its capacity as law enforcement agency, was called in by the Foreign Counterintelligence Bureau, there was available a complete picture of the agent radio network, including a series of clues as to the place, time, and probable culprits involved in certain offenses.

During the war the Foreign Counterintelligence Bureau and its chief, Admiral Canaris, as well as the technical counterintelligence officers took credit for the paralyzation of this enemy information service. The Foreign Counterintelligence Bureau was charged with fighting military espionage; to deny the success of the Bureau would be an injustice to its demonstrated efficiency.

The outbreak of the Russo-German War created a new front whose action took place in the ether where it was inaudible to the general public; this new front brought with it a new type of fighting, featuring as weapon a small radio transmitter which could be moved and operated anywhere and at any time. In the beginning the only tool to counteract this weapon was represented by signal intelligence which was a military organization and whose radio locating equipment in 1941 and 1942 constituted a by no means technically reliable or fully developed defensive weapon.

In the early years of the war, between 1939 and 1941, there was no significant agent radio activity even in occupied France, Norway, Belgium, and Holland. Consequently, the spreading of military operations in the field was not paralleled by a corresponding growth of the signal intelligence organization. The sudden increase in agent radio activity in the summer of 1941 confronted signal intelligence with a difficult, well-nigh impossible task which in the spring of 1942 required the constant monitoring of almost 100 agent transmitters. The latter were in communication with Moscow and operated in Germany, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland, Belgium, France, Holland, and unoccupied France.

Starting in the summer of 1942 the task of combating this agent activity was divided among the law enforcement agencies. When it came to the arresting of agents, counterintelligence called in the Gestapo or the criminal investigation branch of the armed forces.

This arrangement was in no way different from that used by other countries in their counterespionage activities. The United States had its CIC and used its military police or the FBI to make arrests; France's Second Bureau cooperates in a similar manner with the Surete [Security] and the military police.

Before I come to the membership of the "Red Band" I should like to establish a clear distinction between resistance fighter and spy.

The resistance fighter concept was laid down during the great French Revolution in its Declaration of the Rights of Man in 1793.

"La resistance a l'oppression est la consequence des autres droits de l'homme." (Resistance against oppression is the consequence of other human rights.) "When the social group as a whole is oppressed, each of its members is oppressed. When the government violates popular rights, insurrection becomes the most sacred of all rights and the most inescapable of all duties of all elements of the population."

The human and civil rights statements of the United Nations are silent on the subject of the right of resistance. This is as it should be, for the application of this right of resistance of the French Revolution would entitle to insurrection even the smallest minority of a country, yes, even the anarchists; as a result, the government, which is merely trying to maintain peace and quiet with the help of the majority of its citizens, could be branded a perpetuator of injustice and force.

Jus Rebellionis, the right of rebellion, in order to be a real right and in order to be considered as such, presupposes something in addition. The concept of resistance consists of the idea that its objectives must not violate the natural rights of the nation, and that its efforts must not be aimed at the establishment of another government of injustice.

Let the "resistance fighters" of the "Red Band" themselves speak for their objectives. The results of their efforts can be seen in the political development of the German Democratic Republic, of Hungary and Czechoslovakia, and of the other satellites.

In France we can observe the two-faced character of communist ideals.

After the Munich Agreement of 1938, Daladier found that the communists were the worst enemies of his policy of rapprochement with national socialist Germany. The communists then recklessly pushed for a war against Germany. Their policy changed suddenly when the Soviet-German Agreement was announced on 23 August 1939.

Now their propaganda was directed against capitalist Britain and against France's military preparedness; acts of sabotage against ammunition plants and aircraft factories increased. Maurice Thorez, the leader of the French communists, drafted into the French Army as an ordinary poilu, deserted and went to Moscow. On the day the Franco-German armistice was signed, the Communist Party of France turned against General de Gaulle who from Britain was exhorting French patriots to nation-wide resistance.

With the start of the war against Soviet Russia, communist policies experienced another rapid change. Civil war units, organized long in advance, joined the French national resistance effort. The FTP Franc-tireurs et Partisans swung into action. It was no mere coincidence that attacks on German occupation personnel began at that very time; the number of German soldiers murdered increased monthly. In this manner the communists played themselves up as French super-patriots. Under the pretext of being "for France" they played their own game.

In 1942 the French government in Algiers may well have believed in the sincerity of this patriotism when it admitted the Communist Party of France into its ranks.

All the more dearly did the French people, after the occupation of

Paris by the Americans, the British, and the French Resistance in August 1944, have to pay for the halo the armed units of the FTP, Franc-tireurs et Partisans, had earned for themselves as "patriots."

The fall guys now were not only the so-called collaborators, i.e., Frenchmen who had worked with the German occupation authorities, but also those men whose activities had in any way been directed against Moscow. Maurice Bardeche, Guillaume Dauture, Abetz, the former German ambassador in Paris, and many others generally agree that between 80,000 and 100,000 men, women, and children were butchered without trial by the "resistance movement," while many times more that number disappeared in prisons and concentration camps.

*French
Resistance*

Internationally known French scientists died in prison or were sentenced to life-long hard labor.

Maurice Thorez, the leader of the French Communist Party, returned in triumph from Moscow.

These events in France must be noted and discussed, first, because certain historical parallels can be drawn between the France of the summer of 1944 and the Germany of May 1945, and second, in order to reply to the assertion that the resistance fighters of the "Red Band" had been in close contact with the French, Belgian, and Dutch resistance movements in their common fight against "Hitler Germany."

In its all-out fight for power, communism lost the 1944-1945 round; similarly, it failed to prevail in the German Federal Republic in 1948; on the other hand, communism found it easy to sweep aside with a flick of the wrist the democratic institutions in areas under Russian dominance.

THE PREDECESSORS OF THE "RED BAND"

As soon as the Russian world revolution had been stabilized in 1918, the Russian government under Lenin revealed certain efforts designed to change the political systems of other countries along the Russian pattern and to achieve in this manner the final objective of the Russian Revolution.

Proletarians of the world unite. The world revolution was now to be pushed by the communist parties set up in the various countries.

Parallel to these outwardly legal parties, an illegal organization was being established with even greater intensity. This foreign information organization was charged with plant espionage, sabotage, propaganda, document forging, and the general advancement of the goals of the Revolution; the organization was directly controlled by Moscow, by the Communist International, and by the Cominform.

Even as far back as during the Weimar Republic, the Ia Division of the political police -- then under the direction of Mr. Weiss who could certainly not be called a fascist -- found it difficult to counteract this organization. A few isolated victories failed to conceal the fact that government counterintelligence was unable to prevail against an institution that knew no scruples.

The German section of the "Red Band," called the "Schulze-Boysen -- Harnack" resistance group in some circles, was founded on this foreign information service which even prior to 1933 was maintaining radio and courier communications with Moscow and which at that time was working toward the

overthrow of the Weimar government. In transmitting the results of its military espionage, the German resistance group used not only the transmitters put into operation in 1928 but also the Russian-paid agents of the foreign information service.

The brochure Widerstand im Dritten Reich [Resistance in the Third Reich], published by VVN [Verband der Verfolgten des Naziregimes -- Association of Persecutees of the Nazi Regime] makes the following euphonious remarks on this work.

"The group increasingly adopted the practice of assigning special tasks to certain members. Dr. John Rittmeister was to listen to foreign broadcasts. Information gleaned by him was used in indoctrination courses, leaflets, and in the journal Die innere Front [The Internal Front]. Warfare in the ether played a significant role during the last conflict. The Schulze-Boysen -- Harnack resistance group also broadcast to the German people in an effort to convince the latter of the hopelessness and criminal nature of this war. It wanted to prove to the democratically-minded people of other nations that the voice of freedom of human dignity, had not been silenced among the Germans despite Hitlerian terror and persecution.

"In this manner they fought heroically in the interest of Germany."

There could be no worse distortion of facts than this. Should one suppose that radio messages were coded probably in an effort to gain the ear of the German people?

Could the relaying of data on armaments and troop movements in any way have influenced the political outlook of the German people?

Was it so heroic and was it so very much in the interest of Germany to relay coded information on tactical and strategic measures to Moscow?

THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE "RED BAND"

During the 'twenties a Soviet trade delegation was stationed in Berlin. Its presence in Berlin was explained by Russo-German trade relations. The trade delegation was to insure closer economic contact. On Berlin's Unter den Linden one could find Intourist, the official travel bureau, which arranged for group travel to Russia. And he who would scrutinize the window displays of this travel bureau would thrill to the scenic beauty of the Russian landscape and the Crimea. German industry was doing lively barter business with Russia; the hustle and bustle at the Soviet Russian trade delegation was something quite natural to anyone who had business with Russia.

Under these circumstances, who would ever take note of individuals dropping in on the trade delegation in search of a job? After all, there were millions of unemployed at the time.

One fine day the former German navy radio operator Kurt Schulze knocked on the door. Was he offering his services or had he been ordered to report? Schulze owned a small garden plot in a suburb of Berlin. His job with the Reich Post Office Department netted him an adequate salary. He had quit the Communist Party a few years back after having taken a few trips to Russia through the courtesy of Intourist.

On his way home he was carrying the latest model Russian shortwave transmitter, complete with a guarantee of a monthly 200 Reichsmark fee. All he was to do was to check in regularly on his shortwave transmitter on a certain

wave length. Year after year he followed instructions, collected his pay, and occasionally had a short chat on payday. Outwardly everything was in order. Mr. Schulze then became a member of the Shortwave Amateur Club. No one thought it strange that he, the ex-navy radio operator, should occasionally be giving radio lessons to young people.

One of his pupils, a certain Hans Coppi, dropped in on him at the start of the war. A 16-year old, Coppi had been sentenced in 1932 for communist activities and for disturbing the peace; after his discharge from prison, he studied electrical engineering, got a job, and was considered a conscientious worker by his fellow-employees. He too found his way to the Soviet Russian trade mission prior to the Russo-German War; he too received money and a shortwave transmitter. Likewise, the laborer Karl Behrens, who often spent his pay on books, suddenly turned up with a shortwave transmitter.

When tension between Germany and Russia increased in May 1941, two gentlemen of the Soviet Russian trade delegation, a Mr. B. and a Mr. A. E., entered into the picture.

How did they know of the individuals they met in those days?

Mrs. Greta Kuckhoff, today Chairman of the Democratic Women's Federation and President of the East Zone Bank, had a rendezvous at a Berlin subway station. A gentleman pressed a wrapped package into her hand; she dropped it out of excitement, picked it up, and took it to her husband, the author Adam Kuckhoff who had reached the climax of his artistic career as dramatist at Berlin's Schiller Theater and then lost his job when the theater world was hit by the depression. He was working on a film entitled "Posen, City Under Reconstruction." He knew what the package contained; the same gentleman had given him several thousand Marks a few days earlier. The gentleman and he had also agreed among themselves that the author was to pass on his information in code on the basis of a book key. One of his works entitled Eulenspiegel was to serve as key.

The money travelled on to the home of Adolf Grimme, the former Prussian Minister of Culture, who was then Minister of Culture for Lower Saxony. (He has in the meantime become general manager of the Northwest German Radio.) To him Adam Kuckhoff poured out his soul, talked of his political ambitions, and spouted his clear, Moscow-oriented communist line; later, after his arrest, Kuckhoff claimed that he had made a 90-percent communist out of Mr. Grimme.

In 1932 Grimme belonged to Prussia's Braun -- Severing cabinet as Minister of Culture and advocated the Christian Social Democratic line. There Harnack's writings on monocapitalism, the journal of the internal front, and communist propaganda literature were read and discussed.

In October 1942, in connection with the arrests, the Gestapo confiscated the money -- not much of it at that, compared to the hundreds of thousands in gold dollars, Swiss francs, British pounds, and Swedish kronor seized during the entire investigation.

Nuernberg, July 1947

Mrs. Greta Kuckhoff publicly writes in the newspapers that she had asked Mr. Grimme to cause the Americans to take steps against my release from Nuernberg. Now I can understand Mr. Grimme's visit and his statement to the Nuernberg Chief Prosecutor. According to Mr. Grimme, it had been a crime to hold the "Red Band" trial in secret.

But there has been a German penal code provision since 1877 which makes it legal to exclude the public from presence during a trial if this might endanger national security. And to think that this argument is being brought up at this very time, when atom espionage trials are not accessible to the public.

When the thunder of war commenced on the Eastern Front on 21 June 1941, these five transmitters were harmlessly resting in custody of the individuals named here.

As far as the neighbors knew, the Kuckhoff couple was living in a quiet bourgeois milieu. Mr. Kuckhoff enjoyed a certain reputation in literary circles; his name was not entirely unknown to the public. However, somehow he could not make the grade as author. And he was only a second-rate dramatist. Greta, his wife, had spent some time as exchange student at the University of Wisconsin where she met exchange student Arwid Harnack toward the end of the 'twenties. Both were studying economics. Harnack became interested in Mildred Fish, a young American docent at the University of Wisconsin, whom he married and took to Germany where she continued her studies.

Greta used her English knowledge, perfected in the United States, in translating Hitler's Mein Kampf into English for the Nazi Party.

Arwid Harnack found employment in the Reich Ministry of Economy as government counsellor. In connection with his work on Eastern European problems he came into contact with the Soviet Russian trade delegation. This official contact blossomed into a personal relationship. In 1939 he was transferred to the Division of German Business Assets in the US and was promoted to senior government counsellor.

At that time his wife Mildred was a lecturer at the Institute of Politics of Berlin University.

Outwardly the days passed quietly.

In an obituary by Professor Lenz published in 1948, the latter called Harnack a revolutionary who among his friends kept referring to Lenin and his 1917 work The State and the Revolution.

He introduced the Harnack couple to the Schulze-Boysen couple. Harro Schulze-Boysen prior to 1933 founded a leftist radical student movement at Berlin University, just as did the young student Klaus Fuchs at Kiel University -- the same Klaus Fuchs who was to make a name for himself later in atomic research and who gained even greater notoriety when he betrayed the atomic secrets of Britain, his adopted country, to Russia.

Schulze-Boysen's travels led him to the German Aeronautical Federation after 1933 and thence to a regular commission in the German Air Force. His career seemed blocked at that point when it turned out that he was not pilot material. He then transferred to the Reich Air Ministry in a civilian capacity. Goering himself paved the way for this transfer, having met Libertas Haas-Heye, Schulze-Boysen's bride, at the Liebenberg estate of her grandfather, Prince Philipp Eulenburg.

Being a reserve officer, Schulze-Boysen served in the Attache Branch during the war. His linguistic talents helped him in this connection.

His wife was a cultural film analyst in the Reich Propaganda Ministry

and shortly before her marriage served for a time as unit leader in the Reich Labor Service.

As early as 1938 Schulze-Boysen used Gisela von P., a young woman, to deliver to the Soviet Russian trade delegation on Berlin's Lietzenburger Strasse certain information on German units in Spain which he obtained in connection with his job.

By May 1941 there was intimate contact between him, Harnack, and the Soviet intelligence service; the two men received money and another Russian shortwave transmitter found its way into Schulze-Boysen's hands. Transmitting frequencies, cipher keys, and all other technical details were decided on.

Soviet Russian espionage had thus found access to certain central agencies which were in a position to obtain insight into strategic, economic, and political events without arousing suspicion.

One may debate whether this double game was motivated by material or ideological considerations; there was certainly an element of personal ambition in all this; Schulze-Boysen wanted to be Minister of War and Harnack wanted to be Minister of Economy in a sovietized Germany.

Strictly adhering to Lenin's principles of revolutionary warfare, he organized his three-man and five-man groups during the early months of the war in order to use them in his game later as he saw fit. Schulze-Boysen was an impulsive personality; Harnack was the more contemplative character who carefully adhered to the conspiratorial rules. He avoided the telephone and meetings with unknown persons on whose reliability he had not checked personally. Schulze-Boysen however approached a wide variety of individuals and sought contacts everywhere. Always on the go in a merry-go-round job, espionage, and the pursuit of pleasure, he nervously made contacts all over the place.

He persuaded the dancer Odda Schottmueller to let him set up a shortwave transmitter in her apartment. In her presence he contacted Moscow via radio. A few days before, Odda Schottmueller had been touring the front with a German USO troupe to give the soldiers a welcome change in their hard days through her artistic offerings. Schulze-Boysen told her that he could transmit only during the hours following midnight in view of the inadequate range of his instrument. Did she not know that she was playing with a dangerous weapon and that the soldiers, whom she had wanted to make happy a few days before, would suffer more as a result of it than due to enemy action?

Dit -- dit -- dah. Call signs followed cipher groups in the early morning hours, giving data on a rifle grenade.

At dawn Schulze-Boysen would walk home to his Westend apartment from the top-floor studio apartment on Reichskanzlerplatz. On his person he would carry the key to the dancer's apartment; she gladly let him use her place for his transmissions, even when she was not home.

Was she doing all this out of innocence? No; almost two decades had passed since her graduation from high school. She was doing all this as a result of the influence of her boy friend Kurt Schumacher, a sculptor, about whose role in the "Red Band" we shall hear more later.

All that remains, then, is the deed itself -- and it can speak for itself. The secret radio operator next shifted his transmitter to another apartment in the southwestern section of Berlin. It was the apartment of Countess Erika Brockdorf who did office work for the Reich Labor Ministry and whose husband was a sergeant in the army. During her 33 years, the daughter of the Kolberg letter carrier Sch. held many jobs before she finally moved from Magdeburg to Berlin. By that time she was a seasoned communist. For a short time the transmitter operated out of her apartment and then was moved elsewhere again. Rose Schloessinger was then instructed to pick it up and take it somewhere else.

A whole chorus line of visitors passed through the apartment. Sometimes someone else arrived in place of the air force lieutenant; the newcomer would identify himself as a German communist, only a few days out of Moscow; he had parachuted at night into eastern Germany and now wanted to signal Moscow upon his safe arrival, as per instructions. A second and third agent would follow; calmly they would install two radio transmitters, hang the antenna out of the top-floor window, and transmit their call signs. In the meantime Countess Brockdorf would be brewing some coffee and the two would recount the hazards of their trip to Berlin and tell about the moment they hit the silk. One of the agents was dismayed to discover that a highly sensitive tube had been damaged. The replacement problem seemed to bother him. Erika Brockdorf knew what to do; after all, she knew a young worker in the Askania Plant. She was aware of his political outlook and knew that she could tell him the truth. Any expert was bound to realize that the tube to be replaced was not of German origin and questions would then have to be answered.

The food problem likewise became critical. Food was rationed and ration cards were not easy to get. The Countess knew that Hans Coppi was the man to see on this subject. On Lake Wanlitz, near Oranienburg, a meeting took place during which the final steps for the integration of the newcomers from Moscow were planned. During this meeting on the lake shore there was no need to explain to Hans Coppi and his wife what the situation was; they had been informed of the arrival of the agents and were prepared to do their part. There is no need to go into the biographical details of this woman's life; suffice it to say that an ignorant and partly falsifying press pictured her as the ideal German woman -- which she certainly was not.

Her husband, Count Kay Brockdorf, who knew about the kind of friends she had, remarried a few weeks after the execution of the sentence. The VVN placed a halo around her head and built a legend around her person. But all this stands clearly revealed as an attempt to make her activities look like part of a national opposition movement.

One more fact might be added on the subject of the verdict. During the first trial the sentence was hard labor. This sentence was not arbitrarily changed by the court, nor was the court instructed to pronounce the death sentence. This would have been unthinkable in a military court.

Hitler declined to confirm the verdict because the initial decision of the court was not approved by the legal advisers of the Reich Military Court and the Legal Division; hence the case had to be passed on to another chamber of the Reich Military Court for reprocessing. Between the first and second trials a transmitter and its operator were seized. The question as to whether Erika von Brockdorf had merely aided enemy espionage efforts or whether she was an accomplice was decided in the latter sense. The process of confirming the verdicts of military courts is somewhat similar

to the review of criminal proceedings.

On the radio, Moscow pushed for stepped-up activities. Moscow was not interested in political problems; all it wanted was military information -- corps and division sectors, troop movements, production figures, types of weapons, and casualty figures. During the early months of the Russo-German War the front rapidly rolled eastward. First Lieutenant Schulze-Boysen did his best to satisfy his bosses. He found two new helpers in Kurt Schumacher and his wife Elisabeth, nee Hohenemser. This free-lance sculptor had been drafted into a militia unit. His wife and Countess Erika Brockdorf worked together at the Reich Work Safety Bureau in Berlin. Before the start of the Russo-German War Schumacher approached a member of the Soviet trade mission and offered to procure information; the two men agreed on the cover names "Bek" and "Eliswetha" for Schumacher and his wife. First Lieutenant Schulze-Boysen visited Militiaman Schumacher in his barracks compound and discussed with him the problem of sheltering a Russian agent who was due to arrive; the latter was to operate in the Hamburg area after an initial stay in Berlin as per Moscow's orders. The Schumacher couple knew what to do in this case. They had a hiding place for the agent on their small plot of land in the suburbs. A pistol was procured so that the newcomer could defend himself. He was sheltered there for many weeks while he calmly set about his task of transmitting information to Moscow. The Russian officer Kent arrived in Berlin and dropped in on Schumacher. New communications channels were established to assure the forwarding of data on war production and troop units via the shortwave transmitters. The Schumacher couple and the communist official Albert Hoessler, who had emigrated to Russia in 1933, were arrested together and arraigned before a military court.

Schulze-Boysen had known Erwin Gehrts, a journalist in Oberhausen, since 1930. A lieutenant in the Flying Corps in World War I, Gehrts entered the German Air Force in 1935 as replacement officer. In 1942 he became group chief in the Air Force Regulations Division of the Reich Air Ministry; there he handled "secret" and "top secret" material.

During the winter of 1941-1942, Gehrts, now a colonel, realized that the leaflets given him by Schulze-Boysen glorified communism. As one-time editor of the defunct conservative Berlin paper Taegliche Rundschau [Daily Survey], it did not take him long to guess who the author of these leaflets was; he recognized certain arguments used by Schulze-Boysen in their talks.

The two men had a frank discussion and Schulze-Boysen explained that he was still maintaining contact with Moscow and that he was interested in everything that went on in that theater of operations.

One of the intercepted radio messages gave a detailed account of a conference held by Air Force Lieutenant General K. on the supply problems encountered by air force and antiaircraft artillery units on the Eastern Front. Before the conference broke up, General K. asked the Air Ministry participants to work Sundays until this critical situation had been alleviated because, after all, the men at the front were also working day and night. The radio message also reported this part of the conference. One of the participants was Colonel Gehrts.

The Colonel had a weakness for occultism and frequently visited a palmist, a certain Anna Krause, who -- you guessed it -- was working for Russian intelligence and for the journalist John Graudenz.

She was clever at milking her customers -- war production industrialists, high officers, and businessmen -- of the kind of information that was of interest to her bosses. The old game -- first ask them questions, then read their palms -- proved to be very lucrative as far as

the intelligence service was concerned.

She was ably aided and abetted by John Graudenz, a wily and seasoned newshound, who masterminded the questioning of her clients. And who was this John Graudenz? At the end of World War I, at the age of 30, he belonged to the Spartakusbund. Soon thereafter he turned up in Moscow. There he became a reporter for the American newspaper [sic] United Press. He founded a news photo service in Berlin, became a reporter for the New York Times, lost his job in Berlin, and wound up as a waiter. He then left Berlin and went to Ireland. After a short stay in that country he was deported on account of his communist activities. He then became representative for a firm working on armaments contracts.

He maintained liaison between the firm and the planning division of the Reich Air Ministry, primarily to expedite the timely allotment of critical metals.

An engineer somehow became involved in a discussion with Graudenz on the subject of armaments, particularly on the number of aircraft. Gently, John Graudenz, the seasoned interviewer, began to probe the engineer. He named aircraft production figures which he knew could not possibly be correct. He knew that this would elicit a reaction and he finally succeeded in coaxing the engineer into an argument. The latter confronted know-it-all John Graudenz with his superior knowledge of accurate figures; Graudenz then politely excused himself with the remark that he would of course have to take the word of an expert in the field.

The very thing Schulze-Boysen had been unable to achieve from his position in the Attache Branch had thus been gained in a most elementary fashion which however required experience and firm judgement on the part of the questioner.

A few days later the production figures on German bombers, fighters, dive bombers, cargo planes, and trainers were being relayed to Moscow in code. Schulze-Boysen was busy as a beaver. The figures were wisely relayed via two different channels, for the spies knew how important these data were to their bosses.

Adam Kuckhoff, aided by his spouse, dusted off his Till Eulenspiegel book cipher key.

Down with the Nazi dictatorship; peace and socialism were the alleged goals of this resistance group among whose members were supposed to have been Guenther Weisenborn, Helmuth Rohloff, Schulze-Boysen, and Harnack -- at least according to VVN.

And what about John Graudenz? Was he by any chance trying to fight the Hitler regime in Ireland when he was kicked out there on account of his communist activities?

At this point one might argue that John Graudenz' deportation from Ireland was an isolated case. But Switzerland, a politically tolerant country, deported Dr. med. John Rittmeister prior to the war for the same reason. The fight thus was not against the Hitler system but against any political system that was not built on communist principles.

Nuernberg, December 1947

It still remains to be seen who are the real socialists. The Christian

Socialists, the Social Democrats, the "Red Band" people -- all of them claimed to be true socialists. I should think that the founding of the SED [Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands -- German Socialist Unity Party] gave pause for thought and that the complete allegiance to Moscow on the part of certain circles will always outweigh the efforts of the other parties. I found it interesting to read in an American protestant church newspaper recently that 4,000 "bona fide conscientious objectors," who had refused to serve in the armed forces out of religious conviction or fanaticism, were held in internment camps in the United States during the war. This shows the severity of ideological warfare; there was no such thing in Germany, so long as Moscow adhered to our friendship pact. This may sound paradoxical, but if America's feelings for Russia should cool off, things are going to get considerably hotter. There will be a sad morning-after when they finally discover that not every antifascist is a supporter of democracy. This the country will find out only after it has become stronger, for so long as it leads a shadow existence, it will be sufficient to secure key positions from which to continue the ideological conflict. [sic]

The PEN Club and the varying intellectual currents it reveals constitute an interesting mirror.

The winter of 1941-1942 was drawing to a close. The war on the Eastern Front had splashed to a halt in the mud. Both sides knew that the spring of 1942 was going to be decisive. And Moscow was pondering the question: will the attack come in the center or on the wings? The military information relayed by the shortwave transmitters in Berlin had been somewhat meager.

However, two reports of Senior Government Counsellor Dr. Arwid Harnack were rather interesting.

1. German subs were being used against American convoys in the northern part of the Arctic Ocean. German radio intelligence was able to find out the composition of the convoys because the ships would radio their positions while the convoy was forming.
2. A German heavy cruiser was to be committed in the Gulf of Bothnia.

The source of both items was named as "the Italian" -- a cover name which was uncovered later. One of Senior Government Counsellor Harnack's nephews had for many years been spending his Sundays in the home of his uncle, the Counsellor, who was ten years older. Both were lawyers and often discussed legal problems. They became more or less buddies -- a relationship which continued after young Harnack married.

At the start of the war Harnack, a naval reserve officer, was called back to active duty and assigned to Naval Operations in Berlin. During his tour there he spent much of his free time in the home of his uncle. The two, being government officials, often discussed rather sensitive subjects with which they had become familiar in the course of their duty assignments. The young officer was quite shaken up when he found out later what had happened to some of the confidential and secret matters he had discussed with his uncle.

A similar thing happened to a young reserve officer of the Foreign Counterintelligence Bureau. In his spare time he attended lectures at the Institute of Politics and one day he was invited to tea at the home of lecturer Dr. Mildred Harnack. He had no idea that this tea invitation was the result of a conference between First Lieutenant Schulze-Boysen, Senior Government Counsellor Harnack, and the latter's wife; the three had been trying

to find a way to obtain better and more specific information which Moscow kept asking for. It was decided that the young officer might be useful, especially since he worked in the Foreign Activities Branch of the Foreign Counterintelligence Bureau.

After a few visits to the Harnack home, the young officer and Mrs. Harnack were on such good terms that he would readily reveal to her information of the most secret nature. He certainly also disclosed action plans of the Foreign Counterintelligence Bureau.

And often that agency never again heard from agents and units it sent into the field. Mr. Kurt Schulze in the meantime was dutifully sending his radio messages.

The thing that makes a psychological puzzle out of this is the contrast between Mrs. Harnack's talents and taste for German literature and poets, on the one hand, and her deeds, on the other hand.

The Bonn Basic Law abolished the death penalty. Such grave problems as the pro's and con's in the imposing of the death penalty in my opinion should, before they are discussed in public, be weighed by a seminar of serious experts, such as doctors, lawyers, philosophers, and criminologists.

The death penalty was never discarded by the Catholic Church or in modern Anglican Law.

The pro's and con's are resolved neither through the deterrence theory nor through the revenge theory; they find their solution in the consideration as to whether the deed lies outside the scope of humanly comprehensible motives.

I should like to address the following press quotation from New York to those who argue against the death penalty in espionage trials and seek to influence an uninformed public through their catchwords.

"Great Britain's Royal Commission on the Study of the Death Penalty is at this time touring the United States in an effort to gather information on American methods of death sentence execution, such as the electric chair, the firing squad, and gas. The commission's six male members and one female member are also to determine whether one of these methods might be recommended for adoption in Great Britain where capital crimes are still being punished by 'hanging until the death.'

"The activities of the commission are not confined to determining through personal observation the efficacy of the various methods of execution; the problem of the death penalty and its execution are also to be discussed with high American jurists.

"Judge Charles Breitel, legal adviser to the Governor of New York, spoke on the gas chamber as is used in the State of Nevada. He argued against this method.

"The commission was briefed on the British execution method by the famous British Chief Executioner Pierrepoint shortly before its departure for the United States.

"Death by the firing squad likewise did not impress the Britishers in the United States as a proper method, although the layman may consider this to be a quick and merciful process.

"In addition to the execution types, the British Commission will also study other typically American forms of jurisprudence. Among these is the system of the gradation of murder by degrees and the right of the jurors to decide whether a defendant is to be sentenced to death or to life-long imprisonment."

COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS TO MOSCOW VIA FRANCE, BELGIUM, AND HOLLAND

The war on the Eastern Front continued. The German troops emerged from their drafty winter quarters and girded themselves for battle. The mud was still making any and all movements impossible.

One fine day an inconspicuous man sauntered from Schlesischer Bahnhof down the street, headed for Schulze-Boysen's apartment.

From a nearby phone booth he announced his arrival. He had been expected for a long time, for he was Kent, alias Vincente Sierra -- at least that is what it said on his Uruguayan passport. His home was in Russia and before he was assigned to the chief of Soviet espionage in Paris, he had been a captain in the Red Army. In Brussels he joined the stream of foreign laborers travelling through Germany; he was to coordinate radio codes and transmission hours with groups in Czechoslovakia and pick up information for the Western European headquarters. He kept his eyes open during his journey and did not fail to note the new aircraft production centers along the railroad line to Dresden. On Reichskanzlerplatz he met Mrs. Schulze-Boysen who had been expecting him. The password served to identify him. He immediately wanted to talk to Harnack and Schulze-Boysen without arousing suspicion. Mrs. Schulze-Boysen phoned her husband who was on duty in Potsdam-Eiche and arranged for a meeting in Berlin's Tiergarten. Then she went to the Harnack apartment. Mrs. Harnack picked up her husband at the Reich Ministry of Economy, and a few hours later the three men were walking together in the Tiergarten -- followed at a discreet distance by their wives who were guarding their husbands' rear against unpleasant surprises. The men exchanged information and Vincent Sierra took with him a choice morsel: German main offensive aimed at Caucasus, accompanied by flank attack aimed at Volga and Stalingrad. Kent knew what this meant. Hastily the three agreed on courier liaison between Brussels and Berlin. Aachen was selected as information exchange point. Adam Kuckhoff would carry information to Aachen on his periodic visits to his home town.

For the first time there was an expert with whom the danger of the radio location of the secret transmitter could be discussed; a suggestion was made to the effect that an attempt be made to switch to the wave length of the Deutschlandsender [Deutschland Radio Station] in case of need. Schulze-Boysen admitted that the name Guenther Weisenborn, who was then working for the Deutschlandsender, was mentioned. However, he later categorically denied having discussed this suggestion with Weisenborn.

A radio play on the breaking of a British code by German intelligence, broadcast during one of the Deutschlandsender's programs, actually caused the code of the British forces in Egypt, which was known to the Germans, to be changed soon thereafter. The actual reason for this was never discovered.

Kent's departure established the connection with the Western European network of Soviet espionage which had been started in 1930. The deciphering of the Western European messages revealed that Kent had immediately radioed the results of his Berlin trip to Moscow and that he had suggested the sending of agents from Moscow to Choro (Schulze-Boysen), Arwid (Harnack) and

Eulenspiegel (Kuckhoff).

Let us leave Brussels for the moment. Things became lively after this visit of Kent's. Agents parachuted near Hohenstein, Frankfurt on the Oder, and Kuestrin. Other agents, wearing the uniforms and identity papers of German prisoners of war, infiltrated into Germany via the Kovel partisan operations area. Each one of them had a special mission and knew where he could hide.

Nuernberg, 25 November 1948

On 15 November 1948 Mr. H. G. von Studnitz wrote the following for the editors of Christ und Welt [Christ and the World], published by Evangelisches Verlagswerk at Stuttgart.

"Mr. von Scheliha was guilty of an offense which at worst can be interpreted as a misconception of his official duty. Because of this offense he might have been subjected to disciplinary action and dismissed from his job, at the most."

Mr. von Studnitz cites Ambassador Dr. Albrecht as star witness for this finding.

Dr. Albrecht, who was being held in connection with the Nuernberg case against the Foreign Office, had been released suddenly and was working in the office of Professor Kempner, the Chief Prosecutor.

In Christ und Welt Mr. von Studnitz very kindly called me an "unparalleled example of cynicism and mendaciousness" on the basis of a hypocritical letter I sent to Scheliha's widow from Nuernberg Prison and which he managed to get hold of.

I am reproducing this letter below so that all can see who really distorted the truth.

Nuernberg, 18 June 1948

"To Mrs. von Scheliha through Interrogator Fred Rodell

"My dear Madam:

"You probably received a brief notification from the Nuernberg Court as to the death of your husband. This note is correct in its factual content but unfortunately does not do justice to the human tragedy involved in the case. I was the prosecutor during your husband's trial after the Gestapo investigation of the case had been completed early in December of 1942. When the Judge Advocate General took over the case, I was ordered to determine whether your husband wanted his own defense counsel. His wish in this respect was granted and the man he asked for was assigned to defend him. At that point we came to talk about the human interest side of the story. Your husband told me of his childhood on the estate in Silesia, of his two children and the happy years which, as I remember, he spent in Kattowitz, of his happy marriage, and his meeting with Herrstadt (today editor-in-chief of the East Zone paper Taegliche Rundschau, during the war in Moscow where he directed and trained parachute agents) who placed your husband in contact with a foreign intelligence service when he was in trouble on account of gambling debts. Your husband bore this burden until 1939, unfortunately all the while furnishing Herrstadt with important information. The Polish Campaign severed this connection; in 1942 it was restored through a parachute agent.

Again your husband revealed much information he obtained in connection with his job. He had no political motives; it was merely a combination of human weakness and threats from the other side. The radio messages transmitted abroad were signed and deciphered by German signal intelligence. The woman agent was also identified through radio location. On the occasion of one of their meetings, your husband and the woman agent were arrested. That, I believe, occurred early in October 1942.

"Your husband was aware of the consequences of his actions. In our talks he contrasted his service as lieutenant in a Breslau cuirassier regiment during World War I with the melancholy atmosphere of his last assignment and the expensive and superficial life in Warsaw. I also talked to your husband's former superior, Ambassador von Moltke, who offered to appear as character witness for your husband.

"Your husband did not want his children ever to hear of this tragedy in his life; I am sure he was very devoted to them. I did not consider it proper for him to present all this during a sober interrogation to a complete stranger and at a time at which many things were not presented in their fine light. Your husband's attorney relayed to me the wish that the family be spared all sad news. This was your husband's only request of me. We complied with his wishes. You were informed on this by your husband's attorney.

"After the verdict had been pronounced, your husband had a chance to speak to benevolent old Judge N. about the sentence whose necessity he understood as former officer. His last words were exchanged with the judge. Let your husband live in your memory as loving father of his children; to enter his name in the verses of the political epic of this present day and age would be to disturb the final slumber of the deceased who paid the penalty for the tragic guilt of his moments of weakness.

"And thus you may perhaps understand this letter of mine in the light of the situation in which I found myself when this matter came to my attention.

"Would that you, my dear Madam, could forget the sad part of these lines quickly and retain the picture of a man who loved his family.

"Most devotedly yours

Dr. Roeder."

I am quoting this letter in order to illustrate how fair certain German journalists are -- writing in a Christian periodical, of all things.

What had actually happened?

On 28 August 1941 the Prague shortwave monitoring station intercepted a radio message which was deciphered in August 1942. The radio message directed Kent to establish contact with an important woman agent in Berlin who was finally identified as Ilse Stoebe, a long-time girl friend of Herrnstadt. On orders of the Soviet embassy in Berlin, she had been demanding and receiving information from Scheliha; she paid him 30,000 Reichsmark in February 1941 which her Soviet employers had given her for this purpose.

Von Scheliha admitted that he had been recruited for the Soviet intelligence service in 1937; he had received 6,500 Dollars in February 1938 via Credit Lyonnais for deposit to his account with the Julius Baer and Co. Bank

in Zuerich on a check of the Chase National Bank of New York.

In return for this information, he revealed the results of the talks between the Polish foreign minister and the German ambassador, of negotiations on the entry of certain European countries into the Tripartite Treaty, and the attitude of the Foreign Office on the question of a British invasion of Western Europe.

On 23 October 1942 the Soviet Russian agent Heinz Koenen parachuted from a Russian long-range aircraft near Osterode. Herrstadt had equipped him with a shortwave transmitter and ordered him to establish contact with Ilse Stoebe and Scheliha immediately and to relay all further reports to Moscow.

Heinz Koenen, son of the former communist deputy in the Prussian diet, carried on his person a second installment of 8,000 Reichsmark and, for better identification, photostat of the receipt von Scheliha had signed for the 6,500 Dollars. We shall meet up with Koenen's father later.

The final 8,000 Reichsmark sum never reached its intended party, since Ilse Stoebe, von Scheliha, and Koenen were arrested.

Nuernberg, July 1948

Maybe Mr. von Studnitz of Christ und Welt will one day have the decency to blush with shame. At any rate, I know what to think of his report. It is good to know, however, that there were two clergymen -- Pastor Schmid and Pastor Jentsch -- who raised their voices against this defamation.

If I were to draw up a list of all the men who are still imprisoned here today, I would find many who during the old Empire, the Republic, and the last 12 years faithfully served the government and the German people and at all times steered clear of politics. We shall have a country of our own again when the government will again be bound by its own laws.

In 1917 Britain executed a certain Sir Roger Casement, an Irishman who during the war established contact with Germany.

Many of the events of the last 20 years have been forgotten; among them were quite a few which caused the Prussian government as much of a headache as they did the German Reich government. One of the phenomena of that time was Rote Fahne [Red Flag], a communist daily, which was published in Berlin and which was often suspended prior to 1933 for its treasonable articles. At that time it was fighting against the democratic system created in Weimar in 1919.

And now we are once again encountering its staff.

John Sieg, who used to write under the name Nobel in Rote Fahne, did not confine himself to writing leaflets only; he also established contact with the intelligence groups in Czechoslovakia and assisted and guided parachute agents into and within Germany. He was born in the United States and did not come to Germany until the late 'twenties.

Wilhelm Guddorf, better known as "Braun," a native Belgian, after a long stay in Russia became a member of the editorial staff of Rote Fahne. He too managed a parachute agent, collected information, and used the same not only for illegal leaflets but passed on information about armament plants, which he obtained from foreign laborers, to the Behrens group.

The editor of the communist paper Ruhrecho [Ruhr Echo], we encounter again in the person of Walter Kuechenmeister, an old party fighter who participated in the 1918 Wilhelmshaven sailor mutiny. He successfully established a communications channel to Switzerland. In 1943 his revolutionary existence came to an end. His girl friend, who participated in the final phase of the "Red Band," met a better fate. In the first cabinet of lower Saxony, Mrs. Elfriede Paul, M.D., took over the post of Minister of Health. The arrival of the Russian troops opened for her the doors of the prison she had been held in and paved the way to a political career for her.

Much has been written to date about ideological resistance, about the preparation and distribution of leaflets and other propaganda material whose titles are even being enumerated. This fight was supposed to have been directed toward the realization of true socialism and against the Hitler government. This assertion is contradicted first of all by the fact that many of the protagonists in this fight had been working against the government and its institutions already during the days of the Weimar Republic. One can hardly assume therefore that they will today lend their support to the Federal government, since the latter does not have the same political objectives as they.

The members of the "Red Band" -- regardless of whether they operated in Germany, Belgium, France, or Czechoslovakia -- almost exclusively held the following political views.

1. Rejection of national socialism because it represented the continuation of capitalism and did not bring about true socialism. This was the general content of a leaflet by Harnack entitled Monokapitalismus [Monocapitalism].

2. Only the closest cooperation with the Soviet Union can in the future protect Germany against the attacks from the West.

3. For this reason the political system of Germany must, similar to that of the Soviet Union, be a soviet republic, the ultimate goal being a bolshevist Europe.

Years have passed since the time these political goals were brought out in the interrogations of the "Red Band" members. The British, Americans, French, and Italians must have found out by now that the counterattack against this ideology is not a specifically national socialist battle but a fight which every government which is not dependent on the Russian Cominform must conduct in the same manner, whether it likes it or not, if it does not want to admit defeat from the very outset. (In the meantime the Bonn Federal Government has listed the VVN as a subversive organization; in December 1951 the Federal Constitutional Court began to examine the unconstitutional actions of the Communist Party.)

The investigations, which starting in August 1942 were conducted jointly by the Foreign Counterintelligence Bureau and the Gestapo, revealed further details on the helpers and accomplices in this espionage game. No sooner had a radio message to Moscow from the Soviet Russian intelligence officer Kent in Brussels been deciphered in the Code Section of the Foreign Counterintelligence Bureau, when a young Signal Corps radio operator from a signal replacement battalion arrived at the apartment of the Schulze-Boysen couple shortly after the couple's arrest.

He was Horst Heilmann, attached to the Bureau as cipher clerk for French, English, and Russian radio messages. He was studying at Berlin University

where he met First Lieutenant Schulze-Boysen in 1941; the latter invited him to his home and made a willing tool out of him. For almost one year he participated in the openly communist evening discussions. Then, one fine day while on duty, he received a radio message which indicated to him that the jig was up. He wanted to warn the group but came a few hours too late.

The Reich Military Court sentenced him to death.

Nuernberg, June 1948

The Telegraf printed the following item. "In the persecution of the members of the Schulze-Boysen -- Harnack resistance group the then Judge Advocate Colonel Manfred Roeder, presently in the Neustadt internment camp, played a particularly evil role. Roeder is to be charged with crimes against humanity. All members of the resistance movement are hereby urged to submit reports on Roeder's actions. Photostats of documents which may support the case against Roeder are also solicited. All material is to be addressed to Attorney Dr. Heinke, Nuernberg, Palace of Justice, Room 355."

I informed Attorney Heinke that I considered this appeal of his as something irregular; he disclaimed any connection with it and explained to me that this appeal had been made by the parents of Horst Heilmann who were now living in the East Zone.

This shows that there are still others, besides Grimme and Mrs. Kuckhoff, who are today working hard to make themselves appear as martyrs.

I should hate to say at this point what a combat soldier might be thinking if he knew about this game.

Let us look back to the years 1928 and 1929.

At that time the Communist Party machinery concentrated on the factories and enterprises; out of the organization charged with reporting on factory and enterprise events to the Party for its daily internal political fight, the Party made an enterprise reporting organization called a BB [Betriebsberichterstattungsapparat] organization.

The members of this BB organization had to resign from the KPD [Kommunistische Partei Deutschlands -- German Communist Party] or they would simply sever their connections, loudly proclaiming their disillusionment with communism in order to be able to work all the more securely and effectively in this illegal organization.

Even his best friends never suspected that Dr. Eng. Hans Heinrich Kummerow, unemployed in 1928, was a member of a communist cover organization. No one would have thought that this talented engineer could be anything but a fanatical scientist. His many patents, which he developed during his employment with a Luebeck firm and which gained for him world renown, was the cause of his being put in charge of the development division of a firm working on radar. As early as 1928 he furnished information to a Western power on the results of experiments with chemical warfare substances; soon thereafter he delivered further information to another power. He worked for Russian intelligence even before the war; when his Russian contact agents, who were highly satisfied with his work, had to leave Berlin in 1941 on account of the Russo-German War, they told him that they would contact him again later under a certain code word. In 1942 Moscow sent an agent via Sweden. The latter was able to contact the cautious Kummerow on his third try. A day later the drawings for a new iconoscopic bomb and a navigation

instrument for German night fighters were in the hands of the agent. Kummerow also involved his wife in these activities; he had her write up reports and maintain contact with the agents. She had long known about her husband's double life and became a reliable helper.

The battle in the ether finally ended this 13-year espionage game.

VVN tersely reported the following on this subject. "Ingeborg Kummerow, born 1915, executed 5 August 1943. Dr. Hans Kummerow, engineer, and his wife Ingeborg worked for a resistance group. Ingeborg was executed on 5 August 1943 at the age of 28. Hans, who was used in scientific work for a while, followed her soon thereafter."

These resistance fighters did not fall victim to a cruel system but to an internationally recognized and undisputed law.

"This was the first and only time a court verdict decreed the execution of so many men and women." Thus wrote VVN.

And how many war widows and orphans are still wondering whether their loved ones were victims of this war in the ether?

The Foreign Counterintelligence Bureau estimated the number of resultant additional losses at 200,000 men. Admiral Canaris, its chief, thought likewise. In his customary cautious manner he added that the number might be slightly higher or lower, but that it represented a reasonable estimate.

A few words on a small unit of the Harnack -- Schulze-Boysen resistance group will illustrate the group's connections with the illegal organization of the KPD.

The Huebner family lived in the northeastern section of Berlin. The head of the family, 80-year old Emil Huebner, after long membership in the SPD [Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands -- German Social Democratic Party], entered the KPD in 1919. In the neighborhood the old pensioner was known as a comfortably well off, somewhat selfish man who ruled the family consisting of his daughter Frida and her husband Stanislaus Wesoleck. His son-in-law and the latter's grown sons had been members of the KPD since its founding. The family was arrested in October 1942 on the basis of proof to the effect that it had frequently sheltered Russian parachute agents and maintained contact with them. The search of the house revealed a fortune in gold currency hidden in coal piles, tables, clothes brushes, etc -- in short every piece of furniture concealed valuables. There was also a complete set of passport forging tools. It seems that old Huebner's son and grandson were forging passports until about the start of the war. Then old Huebner himself and his daughter and son-in-law took over the business. For many years he equipped illegal KPD couriers with forged papers. When visitors from Moscow dropped in after the outbreak of the Russo-German War, the family put them up. The agents deposited large sums in foreign currency whose possession might endanger them in the course of their illegal activities; they knew that if necessary they could draw money from Papa Huebner as if he were bank. The old man however knew how to make a small pile for himself out of all this. Whenever it looked as though the deposited amounts were being drawn out too rapidly, daughter Frida and her husband appeared on the scene to tell the agents that they had better stay away from the Huebner home, since the police was sniffing around the area. All the agents could do was to disappear again into a status of illegality -- which in turn left the remaining amounts they had brought from Moscow in old Huebner's hands to

have and to hold.

The son and grandson had many differences of opinion. They had remained true to the line, but this sort of activity somehow went against their grain.

In a small house of a Berlin suburb lived a certain Klara Schabbel, in the daytime department head in a large department store on Leipziger Platz. Who would ever suspect that this woman, with her friendly disposition toward customer and store personnel alike, was leading a double life? Only her 80-year old mother, who kept house for her, knew what went on during those summer nights in 1942. She let it pass in silence. Klara Schabbel became a member of the Spartakusbund in 1919. During the fighting for the Berlin Marsfall and until the Ruhr rebellion she fought shoulder to shoulder with a man, a certain Harry Robinson, who was well-known in Moscow and among the French syndicalists. He would bob up now France and now in Switzerland -- and then again he would be gone from sight for years at a time. Still, he was bound to be living somewhere, for sums of money would regularly arrive for his son, the love child issued from a marriage entered into as a matter of conscience.

Even Klara never knew whether Robinson was his real name. Father and son met in Paris before the war. The young man found out neither the residence nor the occupation of the man who had invited him for a drink and who had been supporting him for many years. Klara Schabbel knew that there was no room for questions in clandestine work and contented herself with doing what was asked of her. She constituted a link in a chain which she knew had its origin in Moscow and whose end is the bolshevist world revolution.

In the middle of a summer night in 1942, an agent arrived from Moscow. He asked for advice and brought greetings from Harry in Moscow. He gave her money -- more than the usual amount. She gave him ration cards and passed him on to friends so that he might "submerge" in the big city. They did not exchange much military information, except for the combat sector of a division on the Eastern Front.

Why not make it easy for enemy activities, Professor Dr. Krauss asked himself. He is the same man who after 1945 became rector of Marburg University and who is today a professor at Leipzig University. Assigned to an interpreter company of the Foreign Counterintelligence Bureau, he participated in 1942 in a leaflet-pasting raid staged by Schulze-Boysen on a few Berlin streets in protests against an exhibition about Russia in Berlin's Lustgarten. After 1945 he confessed to having helped Russian agents slip into Germany from the partisan operations areas.

The Reich Military Court freed him on the basis of a medical certificate according to the provisions of Article 51, RStGB [Reichsstrafgesetzbuch -- Reich Penal Code].

EUROPE'S WEST IN THE WEB OF THE "RED BAND"

Parallel to the internal consolidation of Russia occurred the establishment of an organization charged with the conquest of Europe through revolution. When the legal party machine was smashed in Germany and after the illegal BB organization had been identified and neutralized, the clandestine organizations in Belgium, Holland, France, and Switzerland were reinforced. Starting in 1938 an increasing number of Red Army officers were assigned to the intelligence organizations and large sums of money were spent. Groups of

five and three were set up strictly according to the rules of conspiracy, new codes and shortwave transmitters were issued, and instructions were given to employ newly recruited agents only after clearance had been given by Moscow.

Moscow in this manner placed its military intelligence service parallel to the political intelligence service of the Comintern.

Belgium

Early in 1940 a number of intelligence agents gathered in Ostende around a Russian officer equipped with a Uruguayan passport bearing the name Vincente Sierra; the latter was known in the organization by the cover names Kent and Petit Chef [Little Chief].

Among this group of agents were Soviet officers Makarov and Danilov.

Makarov had arrived in Paris in 1939, travelling from Moscow via Stockholm and Kopenhagen. In Paris he was given a Uruguayan passport bearing the name Carlos Alamo and the sum of 10,000 Dollars. After staying in Ostende and Antwerp for a few months, he established contact in Brussels with a certain "Fritz" and "Pierre," both members of the Soviet Russian trade mission in Brussels.

Danilov, a sublieutenant, early in 1939 was assigned to the diplomatic service and ordered to report to the Soviet Russian consulate in Paris. When the German forces rolled into France, Makarov and Danilov were ordered to stay at their posts and resume contact with Moscow after the front lines had passed beyond them. Both were successful. In 1941, Danilov, who in the meantime had taken the French name "Desmets," was directed by a Russian Captain Karpov, who was stationed in unoccupied France, to establish contact with Makarov in Brussels.

Both were assigned agents and recruited others themselves and both were given their own radio facilities. Their helpers, among them Hermann Isbutzky, Sofie Poznanska, and Springer, were not native Belgians; the group also contained a number of native Belgians, in addition to Belgian Communist Party members.

Danilov and Makarov were subordinate to Kent. A professional passport and document forger named Rajchmann and a radio operator of the Belgian merchant navy by the name of Augustin Sese were added to the technical staff.

A former official and the German Communist Party worked parallel and together with these people. He had left the illegal organization of the German Communist Party in 1935, was assigned to the Red Army General Staff, and, after additional training in Moscow, was sent to Belgium where he established a Soviet intelligence net in 1937.

In addition to these two radio groups which broadcast to Moscow under the cover names "Kent" and "Hermann," there was a third such group headed by Konstantin Yefremov, a Red Army Military Engineer, Third Class, who held the assimilated rank of captain. He lived in Belgium disguised as the Finnish student Jernstrom, having taken up residence there as early as 1939 for the purpose of conducting espionage in the field of chemistry, particularly chemical warfare gases.

When the war broke out in 1939 he was ordered to pick up any information

of a military or political nature he could obtain.

He maintained radio contact with Switzerland and Moscow and his information feeder tentacles extended as far as Kassel. Efforts to set up a fourth transmitter group failed when the Soviet agent who parachuted for this purpose from a Britain-based plane was arrested early in July 1942. He was the 63-year old former Dutch Pastor Kruyt who one fine day left his parish on the Dutch border to become a communist functionary for a while in Holland, and who subsequently worked for the Soviet trade mission in Berlin in 1935 and 1936. From 1937 until the time he parachuted he lived in Soviet Russia.

Why is it necessary to study the life history of many of these people? It is necessary because this is the only way to gain insight into the situation and to understand that no double role is impossible in this ideological battle. How many will assure us today that they offered resistance. This may be the case up to a point. We must ask: what was your objective and on whose side did you fight?

Holland

This country had its own transmitter group which went by the cover name "Hilda." Its chief was a former functionary of the "Red Aid" in Amsterdam who resigned from this position when he took over command of the intelligence service there. The group was organized early in 1939, prior to the outbreak of the war, by a Dutch citizen named Winterink. After the start of the war it was subordinated to the Soviet officer Yefremov; its radio equipment was operated and serviced by Johann Wenzel, a former functionary of the KPD.

The group maintained transmitters in Amsterdam and Rotterdam. Its information tentacles extended deep into Germany.

It furnished Moscow choice information on German troop movements in Holland, on Dutch industry, on business and trade, and on all other military and economic events.

German counterintelligence, in cooperation with the criminal investigation branch of the armed forces, periodically succeeded in smashing the group; but the latter again and again was revived through the help of the Dutch Communist Party.

France

The intelligence and espionage service is a versatile and maneuverable animal. In view of France's political and military importance the chief of the Soviet Russian espionage service for Western Europe in Paris was a senior Russian general staff officer who led an outwardly virtuous life under the name Monsieur Gilbert, Director of Societe Importation-Exportation [Import-Export Corporation], called "Simex" for short. After all, who would think it anything but normal that there should be a steady stream of customers entering and leaving the offices of this firm on busy Boulevard Hausmann? The firm was moreover registered with the French Chamber of Commerce. Its business manager was Leo Grossvogel who prior to his employment with the "firm" had sold a textile business to the Russian officer Makarov in 1939 for 200,000 Belgian Francs. A successful export business was bound to have branches in Rome, Prague, Oslo, and Stockholm and sister firms at Rudnitz on the Elbe in the Bohemian-Moravian Protectorate and in Bucharest.

The firm was also registered in Brussels and on its board of directors there we again encounter Kent under his assumed name Senor Vincente Sierra;

their board also featured a number of Belgians, some of whom were really businessmen.

Soon thereafter Simex and Simexco in Brussels entered into business connections with the German military government and with the Todt Organization. The two firms delivered army supplies and pulled a master stroke when, in addition to passing on good information to Moscow, they also made a huge profit doing business with the German authorities.

In his espionage capacity, Gilbert was called Grand Chef [Big Chief] or Otto. He had under his command a number of transmitter groups operated by reliable former members of the French Communist Party and by Russian emigres who outwardly represented the interests of White Russian emigree groups, but who in reality were working for the Soviet Union and who, as they say in the intelligence service, played a double game.

The following list represents a sample of their radio activities over a short period of time.

Messages from agent Kent to Moscow.

Report on delivery problems of several Belgian firms due to coal shortage.

Report on the difficulties of supplying Belgian factories with special German valves for use in the production of tank cars.

Report on the production of high-tension poles for Germany in Holland.

Report on the distribution of sheet iron for use in ship-building from the Belgian steel syndicate to French firms.

Report on difficulties in locomotive construction in France.

Report on monthly aircraft production in Charleroi.

Report on ship repair facilities in Amsterdam.

Report on armament factories in Amsterdam and Rotterdam and their production.

Report on troop movements along the Belgian and French coasts.

Report on iron and steel production in Belgium.

Report on activities of Gestapo agents in Belgium.

Report on the coal shortage in the industries of the Protectorate.

Report on the position of an aircraft factory on the Berlin-Dresden railroad line.

The following is a list of reports sent to Moscow by the Harnack -- Schulze-Boysen group via Kent during the same short period of time.

Report on the strength of the German Air Force at the start of the Russo-German War.

Report on the monthly production of the German aircraft industry for

June and July 1941.

Report on the fuel situation in Germany.

Report on the planned offensive against Maikop.

Report on the location of the German headquarters.

Report on the volume of aircraft mass production.

Report on the stockpiling of gases in Germany.

Report on the deciphering of a Russian code in Petsamo.

Report on German paratroop losses on Crete.

Report on the transfer of German flying formations from Crete to the Eastern Front.

Particularly interesting are Moscow's information requests to the various groups of agents.

In July 1942 Moscow ordered all available radio facilities concentrated for the purpose of placing transmitters in the most important locations in case of an Anglo-American landing in France. Moscow wanted these transmitters to make precise reports every other day.

Soon thereafter Moscow ordered one man to be detached to the Soviet consulate in Stockholm and another to the consulate in Istanbul. International politics, that.

On 18 October 1941 Moscow instructed Kent to contact Schulze-Boysen through Adam Kuckhoff or Mrs. Kuckhoff, both last known to reside at Berlin-Friedenau, Wilhelmshoer Strasse 18. Kent was to mention the name of a member of the Soviet trade mission in Berlin in introducing himself. The execution of this mission has been described previously.

Final proof that the "Red Band" was not a German resistance group is the fact that Moscow issued strict orders to its agents not to establish any new contacts conclusively unless the individuals to be recruited had first been cleared by Moscow.

Nuernberg, September 1948

The charge that, by being the prosecutor in the Schulze-Boysen -- Harnack espionage trial, I was responsible for the destruction of this espionage group can only be based on ignorance of the historical facts or on maliciousness -- unless the rest of the world has suddenly reversed the meaning of all existing concepts and terms. But this does not seem to be the case, for there were also prosecutors at the atom espionage trials; there will continue to be such prosecutors as long as there is a punitive justice in this world. When I read that the defense counsel chosen by Harnack was likewise a member of the group of responsible criminals, it became necessary to explain the facts piece by piece. The war in the ether also leaves evidence behind.

The Reich Military Court pronounced 44 death sentences for treason and aiding the enemy. It was never established how many German soldiers had to give their lives as a result of this espionage activity.

If Germans should ever be soldiers again, they will have to realize that in the wars of the twentieth century their fate will not be decided on the battlefield alone. A new technological discovery, the shortwave, created new weapons which kill thousands upon thousands on the battlefield from their clandestine positions in the ambush of basements and attics.

And today, let us listen to the independent weekly Der Fortschritt [Progress].

15 June 1951

THE "RED BAND" IS TRANSMITTING AGAIN

The best British counterintelligence man, Brigadier Dick White, arrived in West Germany to pick up the trail of the two British diplomats D. MacLean and G. F. Burgess and their accomplices. The two Britishers had undoubtedly fled on account of their communist activities. Brigadier Dick White was put in charge of the effort which has been planned to uncover the espionage ring in which the two diplomats were involved. This ring seems to be operating chiefly in West Germany. Its work is being linked to the activities of the "Red Band" and its successor organizations.

There are certain indications that D. D. MacLean, who had been in charge of the America Desk of the British Foreign Office in London, took with him all material on the secret talks and agreements between the Atlantic Pact countries. In connection with his job, D. D. MacLean was constantly in contact with Counsellor G. F. Burgess of the British Embassy in Washington. The two finally fled together.

The Walls Have Ears

The United States State Department had for some time been aware of leaks in the British Foreign Office. It therefore secretly instructed all United States mission chiefs and the heads of key agencies to be extremely careful in their briefing of British agencies. Suspicion centered on Burgess of His Majesty's Embassy in Washington. Burgess was thereupon recalled to London to answer questions. That was when he disappeared suddenly.

The Radio Station of the Informants

An investigation of Burgess' past revealed that he had been maintaining contact with communists, chiefly Germans, during the war. At that time he was employed in the Press and Propaganda Division of the British Foreign Office. He was then connected with two secret British radio stations which belonged to Soldatensender [Soldiers' Radio Station] Calais and whose task it was to demoralize the German armed forces. Some of the personnel of these radio stations, employed by the British, were German communists who were living in Britain. Among them was the present President of the Soviet Zone People's Chamber Koenen.

The Secret Courier of the Kremlin

At the same time Koenen's son was sent to Germany as secret courier. He parachuted from a Russian plane behind the German lines and reported to the headquarters of the "Red Band" in Berlin in order to coordinate the activities of this espionage group with Soviet efforts. He was captured on that mission. This in turn caused the discovery of the entire "Red Band" espionage ring.

Along with Koenen's father, a certain Alexander Maass, presently employed by Radio Hamburg in an executive position with NWDR, was at that time working against Germany. Maass had been fighting as a captain in Red Spain's 16th International Brigade. General Manager Grimme of NWDR feels that one ought to let sleeping dogs lie at long last. In the interest of Germany however one must insist on asking whether Mr. Maass really belongs in the German radio.

Even during the war, the British, who were then fighting side by side with the bolshevists, had to learn that the communist provocateurs they were using were primarily following Moscow's orders. Arrests became necessary when the British intelligence service discovered that the British-paid communists were maintaining contact with the Soviet Embassy. These secret radio stations, on which the escaped British diplomat Burgess worked during the war, were known as G 9 and G 10. There are certain connecting links between the successor organizations of the "Red Band" which received their information primarily from high officials of the German Foreign Office, the Reich Air Ministry, and the Reich Ministry of Economy, on one hand, and the espionage ring to which MacLean and Burgess delivered important information, on the other hand. The efforts of the intelligence services of the Western Allies are at present centered on these outfits.

Many men and women, who today hold key positions thanks to the political sweepstakes tickets they drew in 1945, maintain that during all their work with the "Red Band" they never knew about the group's connections with the Soviet Union. (They were informed of this during the 1942-1943 trials but insist on calling the spies heroes, good Germans, and idealists.)

This may be the case in a few isolated instances. There were a few people who were operating on the fringes of these espionage groups of whose fateful, treacherous activities they could not form a complete picture.

In the Web of Espionage

Apart from these latest exciting events which connect London and West Germany, we have good reason to assume that the web of the "Red Band" is being spun anew at this very moment. The threads converge on Greta Kuckhoff, the old veteran of the "Red Band." Today some of these people may still be "fellow-travellers" of communism. But tomorrow they may be full-fledged spies. Today just a finger -- tomorrow the whole hand, and the head, too. That is the customary practice of the many internationally financed espionage organizations which weave their invisible nets through our entire national and private life. Ten Germans = three spies -- that is what they will say if this game with a defenseless people continues.

The Headquarters of the Conspiracy

Today Greta Kuckhoff is the Note Bank President of "Pieckistan." Or is that merely a cover? There is a publishing house called "Volk und Wissen" [Nation and Knowledge] in East Berlin. Its chief editor is a communist by the name of Tschesner. His permanent deputy is a Miss Damerow, Ph. D. They call her Rosa. (It would be interesting to establish her family connections with the Koenen family.) The Berlin Organization of the ODF [Opfer des Faschismus -- Victims of Fascism] is closely linked with the above publishing house. From there the threads run to West Germany, to the branch offices in Munich and Frankfurt on the Main, and from there to Baden-Baden, Muelheim on the Ruhr, Hamburg, and Konstanz. The Hamburg office is particularly busy.

The Sabotage Cadre

The system used by the "Red Band" during the Hitler regime is again clearly recognizable. The intelligentsia of western and southern Germany is to be aroused to "national" resistance. The fishing grounds are the cultural clubs and the related societies, such as the Free German Youth, FDJ [Freie Deutsche Jugend]. Leipzig is the seat of the sabotage cadre training effort (location and destruction of military targets). The over-all objective is the recruiting of reliable and well-camouflaged communists for subversive tasks especially in high government and administrative posts and in leading positions in the economy. This is a prerequisite for the great X-effort.

Infiltration of Radio

In this connection one must note Mrs. Gertrud Hoehler from Frankfurt on the Main, speaker of the Democratic Women's League. She has a staff of talented women assistants and is quite active in promoting German-Soviet friendship through various organizations and clubs. People from the left wing of the SPD and other opposition groups are especially noticeable. Great emphasis is being placed on the West German radio, in addition to Radio Hamburg, where these people have a firm hold.

Camouflaged Bases

Other threads run via Swiss radical socialists to groups in northern Italy. Several members of the Soviet Zone ADN [Allgemeines Deutsches Nachrichtenbuero -- General German News Agency] stationed in West Germany are more than just spiritual supporters of this effort. Some of them are already proving very valuable. Tax and legal counselling bureaus are considered good covers for bases. The name of the courier bearing action plans and instructions to southern Germany on orders from the Berlin main office is readily available.

Allied radio monitoring reveals the activities of new secret transmitters which use puzzling codes.

Altogether, the "Red Band" topic must not be allowed to slip into oblivion because that group still exists and because it is about to go into action again.

Conclusion

The Bonn Parliament is facing a difficult decision which will influence Western culture as much as the individual German.

The German soldier can still make up his mind. He kept faith with his homeland and his people at all times.

For 5 years he suffered the holocaust of war in silence. In silence, but not without doing his own thinking, he bore his fate in the postwar period.

He will have to face today's problems himself; but he will insist that the concepts of comradeship and truth cannot be stretched.

Nuernberg, 17 December 1948

I can already hear the cry "stab-in-the-back theory" when these notes are finally published despite the bias of a certain segment of the press.

Unfortunately there is no such legend. The German soldier was fighting against a camouflaged enemy who attacked from ambush with novel, insidious methods, who only mouthed the words freedom, brotherly love, and patriotism. His true words were spoken in the ether -- and that was treason. In silence the German soldier realizes that there are persons in public life today who still glorify the deed and the culprit.

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