

APPENDIX A

FUNKSPIEL STALINGRAD

1. Florian SVOBODA and Franz GINSTL, Soviet radio agents, were captured by the Germans after having parachuted into Austria on 20 February 1945. SVOBODA, cover name KRON, was born 12 November 1916 in Vienna. He was a type-setter by profession, German citizen with the rank of Lieutenant in the German Army. His parents were Florian and Aurelia, last known to be living at Klopstockgasse 29, Vienna 17. Florian SVOBODA was captured by the Russians at Stalingrad on 31 January 1943. Following his capture he attended an ANTIFA School in Krasnogorsk until 6 December 1944. At the school he was approached by a Soviet Colonel and Lt. Colonel to undertake a mission in Austria with Franz GINSTL as his radio operator.

2. Franz GINSTL, cover name BERG, was born 6 October 1915 at Christkindl near Steyr. He was the illegitimate son of Friedrich WOLTER and Anna GINSTL. He was working as a private tutor when he was drafted into the Austrian Army, later the German Army. He was captured by the Russians at Stalingrad on 31 January 1943. Both GINSTL and SVOBODA were 1st Lts. at the time of their capture, GINSTL in the 243rd Assault Gun Unit and SVOBODA in the 767th Infantry Regiment.

3. GINSTL also attended the ANTIFA School in Krasnogorsk. The school was directed by a Red Army 1st Lt. PARFOMOV. The teachers for the Austrian prisoners attending the school were FISCHER, 1st Lt., from Graz, Peter WIEDEN from Vienna, and FINK, 1st Lt., from Vienna. GINSTL was also approached by a Red Army officer at Krasnogorsk regarding a mission to Austria. He was given no opportunity to refuse.

4. Although both GINSTL and SVOBODA were at the camp at Krasnogorsk, they did not meet until they were taken to Saltiskovkain, about 30 km. east of Moscow. GINSTL also received radio training at the latter location. SVOBODA was the captain of the team and GINSTL the radio operator. They were ordered to transmit by radio information on vehicle identification, troop movements by rail and vehicles through Vienna, all information on the preparations for the defense of Vienna, morale of the population. The team was to have been dropped at Woebling, northwest of St. Pölten but the jump actually occurred at St. Egyden instead of Woebling on 14 February 1945.

5. GINSTL and SVOBODA were separated at the jump since GINSTL's parachute caught in the top of a tree and he had difficulty extricating himself. They had previously agreed to meet in Vienna and did so on 17 February 1945. SVOBODA went to the address of his sister-in-law, Anna WITTEK, Nietzscheplatz No. 2, Vienna 16, where GINSTL met him. GINSTL returned to St. Egyden to retrieve his radio set and the Germans arrested him on the spot where he had buried the set. SVOBODA was picked up at his sister-in-law's residence.

6. SANITZER's group determined that GINSTL and SVOBODA had been dispatched to obtain military information and a play-back operation was instituted with the team.

7. Besides the teachers named above in the camp, GINSTL also identified a group which was concerned with the "Free Germany" movement. They were: 1st. Lt. REIBER; Dr. WOLFF, an emigrant from Stuttgart; Major BERG; Captain STOLZ; 1st Lt. HUBER; Lt. LOHMANN. (It is believed that the latter were all Reichsdeutsche).

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8. GINSTE and SVOBODA also had received instructions for a rendezvous in Vienna. GINSTE maintained that the instructions were for use only in event radio communication failed whereas SVOBODA claimed that the team was to identify itself to its assigning officer when the Red Army entered Vienna. The instructions were as follows:

An "unknown" person was to be met at the left corner of the Holy Sevlour Hospital, Dornbachstr. Vienna 17, on the 10th, 20th and 30th of each month at 1600 hours. The "unknown" would ask, "Where is Hotel Alseck?" and whichever member of the team was at the rendezvous would reply, "I believe on Alseckstr.; I am going there directly." The team member was to wear as identification a black band on his little and ring finger, carry a yellow book in his left hand and a newspaper in the left-hand pocket of his jacket or overcoat. For exchange of information the graveyards on grave No. 20 in the twenty-fourth row of group No. 117, near the third gate of the Central Cemetery was to be used.

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