

KV 2/15-3

KV 2/16

Part VIIIa

Modified!

This chapter is quite different, in regard to the foregoing subjects dealt with. We are towards the end - entering the episode in which it became foreseeable that the war was approaching its conclusion; or even had recently ended.

Vera had had the opportunity of a kind of Holiday (February '42), which was spent in the house of the family Ustinov (U.35), in Gloucestershire. British Intelligence, of course, does not provide prisoners Holidays, but for this occasion it was exploited as an experiment, in a friendly, quasi neutral, environment; and meant for un-stressed interrogations/interviews. It was managed in a way, that it all looked coincidental, which it wasn't really. Amusing, in my perception, were the practical considerations taken, and actions planned, for the case of a German invasion; in respect to Vera.

We will also find some matters about after the war, where we encounter an interview with Hilmar Dierks' brother Gerhard. Also, an interview with a Siemens employee in Copenhagen, who was engaged in placing a hidden microphone, in a flat in Copenhagen, where we encounter Vera's and Dierks' name (von Wedel).

KV 2/15-3, page 96, quote: **her husband (Dierks) never introduced her as his wife and they never lived together as husband and wife. If necessary he referred to her always as a Journalist.**

Also, the latter matter is unexpectedly informative to us; I suppose.

I also managed towards the end of this file, to link some document copies onto their actual file Minutes; which regularly are to be found at the entrance of such file series.

Towards the end, we also find proves maintained before this document became publicly accessible. Sometimes, cutting quite un-elaborately names out of the paper-sheets. But after having myself worked through these many files, we, nevertheless, know who actually were concerned.

Another point of curiosity: is the lady (Tini) who owned, or headed, the boarding-house in The Hague (de Riemerstraat 24); she is fascinating me quite much. You might remember, that we possess a telephone directory of July 1937, covering the whole of the Netherlands. I take up the huge task - of going carefully through all names of people possessing telephone in The Hague. But, The Hague already, in 1937, provided six-digit phone-numbers; and you can imagine what an endeavour this is. It might even not be finished with my telephone-number search, before this Part VIII chapter will be added onto the website.

Like always, all selected text passages are my choice. Though, my additional comments, where necessary, are distinguishable by the application of **blue**, **red** and very seldom **green** colours.

This document is meant for study purposes only; therefore, please do not multiply it, as some still obey to Crown Copyright.

By Arthur O. Bauer

KV 2/16, page 48



Crown Copyright

Vera photographed in the context of her going on “holidays”; staying at Mr. and Mrs, Ustinov’s house in the country-side, 21 January 1942.



Crown Copyright

Vera photographed during the occasion on 12th January 1942



Crown Copyright

Vera’s profile photo

They went, a few weeks later, with Vera to a hairdresser in London
And she was dressed, with new clothes.

Please consider for more details about it our [Part VII](#)



Hilmar Dierks (luckily the Dierks family website, albeit shortened, is on the web again!)
<http://www.suche-im-dunkeln.de/index.html>

KV 2/15-3, page 24

83B.

DETAILS OF PROPERTY BELONGING TO
ERICHSEN, Vera

REMARKS:	DETAILS
Sent W. 8.10.40. (Capt. Robertson)	Nat. Reg. Identity Card, No. C.N.E.X., 141/2
Items given Prisoner (whilst here,)	1 Rly. Ticket, Portgordon to Forres via Elgin
	Lady's Imitation Leather Suitcase
All handed to B.S., Mr. Butler, 25.10.40., personally by Maj. Stimson.	1 pr. Ski-ing boots.
	1 pr. Walking Shoes
	(4 prs. Silk Stockings: (leaving 1 pr)
	Large Handbag containing:-
	1 Tube Morphine Tablets
	1 Small bottle Glycerine & Rosewater
	1 Round Compact
	1 pr. Kid Gloves +(See note below)
	2 prs. Scissors
	2 Prs. Eyebrow Pluckers
All handed to Capt. T.A. Robertson, 5.10.40.	1 Bottle Odorodo
	1 Tube Bromide Tablets
	1 Tube Aspirin Tablets
	2 Tubes Pervintin
	1 Tube Luminal
	2 Bottles Liquid (unmarked)
	1 Tin Dismenoll
	1 Small Box Rouge
	2 Tablets Dextro-Energen.
	1 Piece blue paper sewn up in blue canvaa.
	(MONEY: The following money was found in the joint possession of ERICHSEN and De DEEKER - £329.14.10d., (of which £2.4.10d., was in the purse of ERICHSEN.
	All personal apparel handed back to prisoner.
	Also:-
	2 Tubes Lipstick: 1 Eyebrow Brush
	1 Tube Eyebrow Cream: 1 Small pot Face Cream
	1 Black Eyebrow Pencil: 1 Small tube Cream
	1 Small Hair Comb: 1 Pkt. Hair Clips
	1 Pkt. Hair Pins : 1 Square Compact
	+ 1 Pr. Kid Gloves.
I.4/CAMP 020: /MB: 29.1.42.	

I would like to advice you to digest if yourself

What is of interest: 1 Tube of Morphine Tablets; 1 Tube Bromide Tablets; 2 Tubes Pervintin (pep); 1 tube Luminal (sleeping pills); 2 tables Dextro-Energen (grapes-sugar)

↓

Lt.Col. Hinchley Cooke, S.L.(b).

Vera ERIKSEN

I spoke to you about our plan regarding this woman and as agreed I should be grateful if you would interview her at Aylesbury Prison on Sunday, 1st. February, in order to inform her of our intentions. I suggest that she should be informed somewhat in the following terms:

You are to be granted the unusual privilege of a brief change from your prison surroundings, or, to put it in another way, you are to be allowed a short holiday in the country. You must realise, however, that although you are to be released temporarily from the custody of the Prison Authorities you must regard yourself as remaining under the direction of the people to whose care you are being consigned and who are to be responsible for you.

The following conditions must be implicitly observed:

- 1) You must obey without question all instructions which you receive from the people to whose care you are committed.
- 2) You must not proceed further than 50 yds. from the house where you are going to live, unless you are accompanied by or have previously obtained the express permission of, your host or hostess.
- 3) You must not be out of doors between the hours of sunset and sunrise.
- 4) You must not use the telephone or send or receive any written communications to anyone.
- 5) You must not converse with any persons except with the permission of your host or hostess.

As long as you understand these conditions you will be treated with consideration and you will find yourself among persons who are prepared to treat you kindly and who speak your language.

These privileges are being accorded to you in the hope and expectation that you will show your appreciation by reviving every memory you have of the past. If you choose to do this you need not fear that any further consequences will befall you. You need have nothing to fear and it is up to you to make the most of your unusual opportunity.

The lady who has already visited you at Holloway Prison has consented to procure the sort of clothing you may need on your holiday, and for this purpose will meet you and take care of you when you leave this place.

D.B.
30.1.42.

↓

Lt.Col. Hinchley Cooke S.L.(b).

Vera Eriksen.

I spoke to you about our (M.I.5) plan regarding this woman and as agreed I should be grateful if you would interview her at Aylesbury Prison on Sunday, 1st February (1942), in order to inform her of our intentions. I suggested that she should be informed somewhat in the following terms:

You are to be granted the unusual privilege of a brief change from your prison surroundings, or, to put in another way, you are to be allowed a short holiday in the country. You must realise, however, that although you are to be released temporarily from the custody of the Prison Authorities you must regard yourself as remaining under the direction of the people to whose care you are being consigned and who are to be responsible for you.

The following conditions must be implicitly observed:

- 1) You must obey without question all instructions which you receive from people to whose care you are committed.
- 2) You must not proceed further than 50 yds. (ca. 45,7 m) from the house where you are going to live, unless you are accompanied by or have previously obtained the express permission of, your host or hostess.
- 3) You must not be out of door between the hours of sunset and sunrise.
- 4) You must not use the telephone or send or receive any written communication to anyone.
- 5) You must not converse with any persons except with the permission of your host or hostess.

As long as you understand these conditions you will be treated with consideration and you will find yourself among persons who are prepared to treat you kindly and who speak your language. (German – Russian, English)

These privileges are being accorded in the hope and expectation that you will show your appreciation by receiving every memory you have of the past. If you choose to do this you need not fear that any further consequences will befall you. You need have nothing to fear and it is up to you to make the most of your unusual opportunity.

The lady who has already visited you at Holloway Prison has consented to procure the sort of clothing you may need on your holiday, and for this purpose will meet you and take care of you when you leave this place. (Holloway Prison)

D.B.
30.1.42

(AOB, please be aware that these kind of files - the page successions are running in a reversed order; the further you approach the earlier matters once took place)

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KV 2/15-3, page 30 + 31

SECRETTelephone No.
BRISTOL 23346.& Personal.

BOX No. 500,

BRISTOL.

Our ref: Sub/95A
Yr. ref: PF.53988/B.1.B./HPM

27th January, 1942.

Dear Milmo,

Vera ERIKSEN @ SCHALBURG

Thank you for your letter of the 22nd January addressed to me c/o Regional Control, which I duly received before I left Oxford.

I have seen the Chief Constable of Gloucestershire personally about Vera ERIKSEN and he is quite happy about the whole matter. He has merely made a note of the address where Vera ERIKSEN is staying in his personal notebook. He appreciated the point (as I thought he would) which I made to you when I spoke to you on the scrambler from Oxford on Thursday 22nd January, namely that Vera ERIKSEN should be detained in the event of invasion or some similar emergency. I informed him that the "legality" of this action, if the occasion ever demanded it, would be fixed up between you and the Home Office. The only point which he made in this connection was as regards the type of person looking after Vera ERIKSEN, i.e. could he for example be approached in the event of invasion etc. on the telephone by the police and asked to keep her in the house.

If, therefore, you are disposed to give me a few

H. P. Milmo, Esq.,
Box No. 500,
Parliament Street B.O.,
S. W. 1.

details about _____, I should be grateful and I could let the Chief Constable know, so that he would have some previous idea of what steps to take if any action on his part were demanded.

Yours sincerely,



Major E. A. Airy.

↓

27th January, 1942.

Dear Milmo (M.I.5),

Vera Ericksen @ Schalburg.

Thank you for your letter of the 22nd January addressed to me c/o Regional Control, which I duly received before I left Oxford.

I have seen the Chief Constable of Gloucestershire personally about Vera Eriksen and he is quite happy about the whole matter. He has merely made a note of the address where Vera Eriksen is staying in his personal notebook. He appreciated the point (as I thought he would) which I made to you when I spoke to you on the **scrambler** from Oxford on Thursday 22nd January, namely that Vera Eriksen should be detained in the event of invasion or some emergency. I informed him that the “legality” of this action, if the occasion ever demanded it, would be fixed up between you and the Home Office. (AOB, [Vera’s Detention Order has been revoked by the “Home Office”, thus she was legally for a restricted period: to be considered as not being in custody!](#)) The only point which he made in this connection was as regards the type of person looking after Vera Eriksen, i.e. could he for example be approached in the event of an invasion etc. on the telephone by the police and asked to keep her in the house.

If, therefore, you are disposed to give me a few details xxx, I should be grateful and I could let the Chief Constable know, so that he would have some previous idea of what steps to take if any action on his part were demanded.

Yours sincerely,

Major E.A. Airy

↓

KV 2/15-3, page 36

Miss Verel, B.1.A.

Following my telephone conversation with Mr. Marriott, I would be grateful if you would let me have

1. An Emergency Food Ration Card valid for a month, as from Tuesday, February 3rd., and issued in any bogus name you like. It is desired to draw the rations on the card in the Chelsea area.
2. The appropriate number of clothing coupons which will enable us to fit out a woman with complete clothing outfit starting from scratch. I imagine it will take something like 200 coupons, but I will confirm this in due course.

H.P.
H. P. Milmo.

B.1.B.
22.1.42.

Miss Verel, B.1.A. (M.I.5)

Following my telephone conversation with Mr. Marriott, I would be grateful if you would let me have

1. An Emergency Food Ration Card valid for a month, as from Tuesday, February 3rd, and issued in any bogus name you, like. It is desired to draw the rations on the card in the Chelsea area.
2. The appropriate number of clothing coupons with will enable us to fit out a woman with complete clothing outfit starting from scratch. I Imagine it will take something like 200 coupons, but will confirm this in due course.

H.P Milmo

B.1.B. (M.I.5)
22.1.42

↓

KV 2/15-3, page 44 + 45

D.G.

I have had a further talk with U.35 about Vera ERIKSON and I think it might be useful if you could spare the time to see him and hear his views. Briefly he would prefer not to see ERIKSON until she arrives at his house in the country. This arrangement would, I think, fit better into the following plan which we have in mind:

1. Vera ERIKSON would be taken to Aylesbury where she would be seen by Colonel Hinchley-Cooke and told that she was going to be given a short holiday in the country with people who had agreed to take her as a paying guest, and that after this special privilege had been granted she would be further interrogated. U.35 and his wife would not pretend to know anything but the very barest particulars about her past, but they hope that in the course of time she will open up. U.35 feels, therefore, that if he or his wife see her beforehand they will appear to be too closely connected with Government authorities.
2. (a) We propose to circulate copies of Vera ERIKSON's photograph to all R.S.L.Os, with instructions to keep them until such time as they receive some notification as to any action required.
- (b) We propose to send out one of Major Robertson's F.S.P. representatives to stay in the house with U.35's wife. He will pose as a friend of theirs or as a domestic help.
- (c) We would notify the local Chief Constable, through the R.S.L.Os, of Vera ERIKSON's presence in the area. This would avoid any difficulties about being an unregistered foreigner.
3. I think we should get the Home Office to agree that if it is decided to send Vera ERIKSON back into Holloway, they would be prepared to remove her intimate associates, such as My ERIKSSON and Jessie JORDAN, to some other place of detention, if this is at all possible. It would I think be undesirable if ERIKSON returned to Holloway and gave an account of her experiences. An alternative would be to send Vera ERIKSON herself to some other place of detention, but exactly where I do not know. She certainly could not go to the Isle of Man. What is of course really needed is a suitable place for the detention of women of her kind which could be properly installed with Special Facilities. It would, for example, have been extremely valuable for us to know the lines on which she has been talking to her namesake My ERIKSSON at Holloway. The establishment would not need to be a very large one and might be constituted in the vicinity of Ham, which would render it more convenient for administrative purposes. But for the purposes of this particular case we shall have to explore other possibilities.

D.B.
5.1.42.

G. L.

D.G. (Director General)

I have had a further talk with U.35 ([Ustinov](#)) about Vera Erikson and I think it might be useful if you could spare the time to see him and hear his views. Briefly he would prefer not to see Erikson until she arrives at his house in the country. This arrangement would, I think, fit better into the following plan which we have in mind:

1. Vera Erikson would be taken to Aylesbury where she would be seen by Colonel Hinchley Cooke and told that she was going to be given a short holiday in the country with people who had agreed to take her as a paying guest, and that after this special privilege had been granted she would be further interrogated. U.35 ([Ustinov](#)) and his wife would not be pretend to know anything but the very barest particulars about her past, but they hope that in the course of time she will open up. U.35 feels, therefore, that if he or his wife see her forehand they will appear to be too closely connected with Government authorities.

2. (a) We propose to circulate copies of Vera Erikson's photograph to all R.S.L.Os, with instructions to keep them until such time as they receive some notification as to any action required.

(b) We propose to send out one of Major Robertson's ([TAR](#)) F.S.P representatives to stay in the house with U.35's wife. He will pose as a friend of theirs or as a domestic help.

(c) We would notify the local Chief Constable, through the R.S.L.Os, of Vera Erikson's presence in the area. This would avoid any difficulties about being an unregistered foreigner.

3. I think we should get the Home Office to agree that if it is decided to send Vera Erikson ([actually the fake surname given to her by the Germans who sent her to England on a spy mission](#)) back into Holloway, they would be prepared to remove her intimate associates such as My Ericsson and Jessie Jordan, to some other place of detention, if this is at all possible. It would I think be undesirable if Erikson returned to Holloway and gave an account of her experiences. An alternative would be to send Vera Erikson herself to some other place of detention, but exactly where I do not know. She certainly could not go to the Isle of Man. What is of course really needed is a suitable place for the detention of women of her kind which could be properly installed with Special Facilities. It would, for example, have been extremely valuable for us to know the lines on which she has been talking to her namesake Erikson ([My Ericsson](#)) at Holloway. The establishment would not be a very large one and might be constituted in the vicinity of Ham, which would render it more convenient for administrative purposes. But for the purposes of this particular case we shall have to explore other possibilities.

D.B.

5.1.42

(AOB, [remember, the sequence of documents is running reverse in time the further one approach the older a document appears](#))

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KV 2/15-3, page 47

7A166

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM.

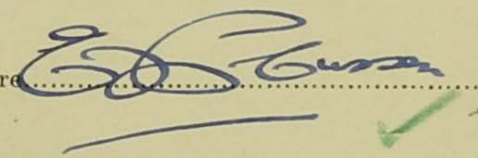
From Major Cussen (S.L.(B))..... To Mr. H. P. J. Milmo (B.1.B.).

Vera ERIKSON.
P.F. 53988.

I agree with you that the answers should be as you state.

The case of this woman was reported to D.P.P. and he decided not to take proceedings against her under the Treachery Act.

As to Holloway Prison, it seems very much wiser to keep her there.

Date.....16.10.41..... Signature.....

S. Form 161 ✓ DG

Internal Memorandum.

From Major Cussen (S.L.(8))

To Mr. H.P.J. Milmo (B.1.B.)(M.I5.)

Vera Erikson.
P.F. 53988.

I agree with you that the answers should be as you state.

The case of this woman was reported to D.P.P. and he decided not to take proceedings against he under the Treachery Act.

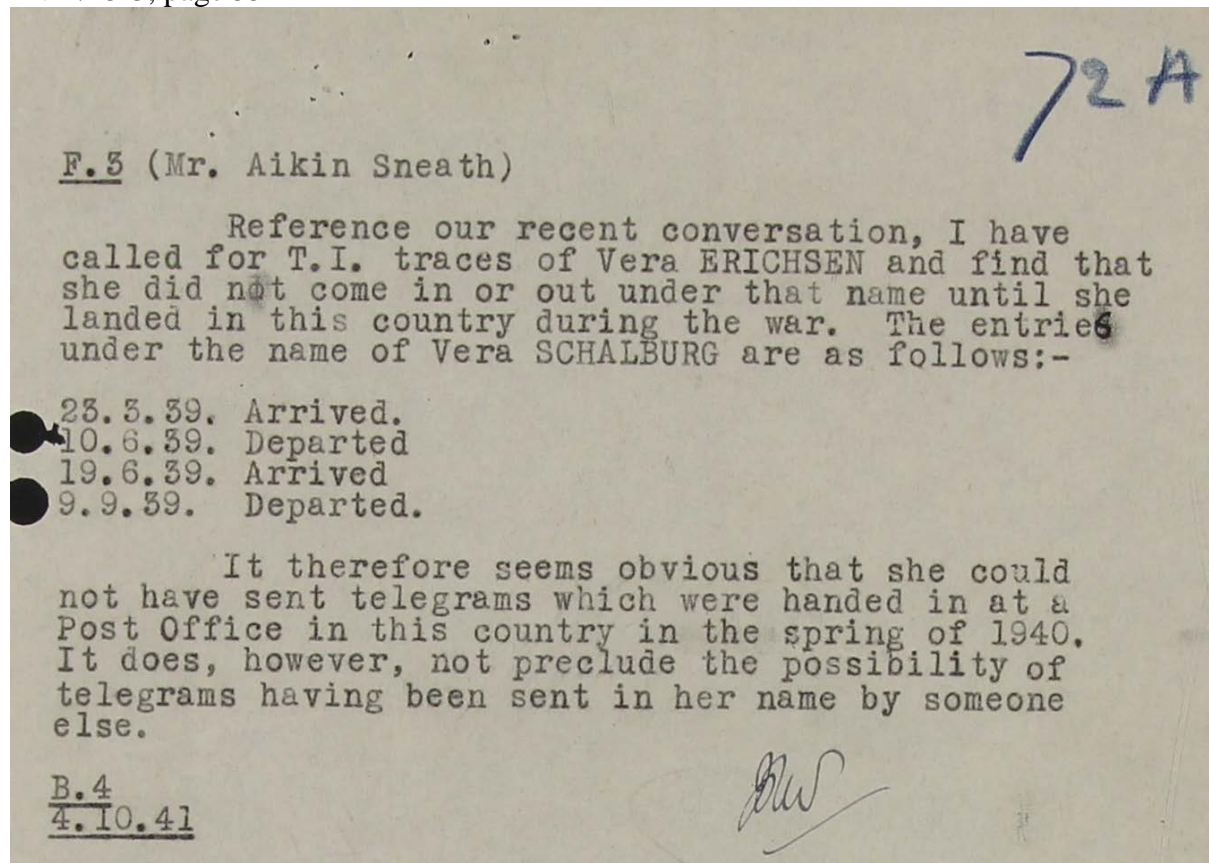
As to Holloway Prison, it seems very much wiser to keep her there.

Date 16.10.41

Sign. ? Cussen



KV 2/15-3, page 55



F.3. (Mr. Aikin Sneath)

Reference our recent conversation, I have called for T.I. traces of Vera Erichsen and find that she did not come in or out under that name until she landed in this country during the war. The entries under the name Vera Schalburg are as follows:-

23.3.39	Arrived
10.6.39	Departed visiting Belgium, maybe meeting her husband v. Wedel/Dierks
19.6.39	Arrived returned from Belgium
9.9.39	Departed War had started and she had to take the ferry to Holland

It therefore seems obvious that she could not have sent telegrams which were handed in at a Post Office in this country in the spring of 1940. It does, however, not preclude the possibility of telegrams having been sent in her name by someone else.

B.4.
4.10.41.

↓

Secret.In reply, state NUMBER and DATE. 12**CX/ /801 dated 4.3.41
V. B. 7.

B3

TA

My dear Hart.

The following information about Kapitän Leutnant JONETZ, obtained from recent productions of our most delicate source seems worth putting on record.

On 5.9.40. Korvetten Kapitän Dr. Erich Pfeiffer put JONETZ' name forward as a substitute for Oberleutnant Dierks, who had been killed in a motor car accident. It was at that time intended to send DIERKS, together with the other German agents, Walti and Vera, to the U.K. as spies.

JONETZ took an agent, S. 2110, from (it is believed) Brest to Germany on 5.2.41. He then had to take the same agent and two others called WILLY and HOTCHKINS from Stuttgart to Bremen. JONETZ wished to arrive by February 26th.

On 28.2.41., JONETZ, who was in Hamburg, informed Brest that he would arrive there on March 13th with S. 2110 and two others (presumably WILLY and HOTCHKINS) and Fr. SCHAMFER.

From this it would seem that JONETZ is an active, if junior, member of the Brest Stelle. There is a possibility that Vera may know him, although it may be difficult to put the question to her.

Yours truly
L. A. Hart Esq. M. I. 5

THIS IS A COPY
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS
ACT 1958.

Nov 98

V.B.7.
 CX/ /801 dated 4.3.41
 V.B.7.

My dear Hart (M.I.5).

The following information about Kapitän-Leutnant Jonetz obtained from recent productions of our most delicate source ([Enigma decrypts/ Bletchley Park](#)) seems worth putting on record.

5.9.40 Korvetten-Kapitän Dr. Erich Pfeiffer put Jonetz' name forward as a substitute for Oberleutnant Dierks (Vera's husband who was killed in a road accident on 2nd Sept. in Hamburg.

KV 2/267-5, page 5

5.9.40. PFEIFFER hears of DIERKS' death. Suggests Kptlt. JONETZ as substitute for the special enterprise.

Who had been killed in a motor car-accident. It was at that time intended to send Dierks, together with the other German agents, Waelti and Vera, to the U.K. as spies.

Jonetz took an agent, S 2110, from (it is believed) Brest to Germany on 5.2.41. He then had to take the same agent and two others called Willy and Hotchkins from Stuttgart to Bremen. Jonetz wished to arrive by February 26th.

On 28.2.41, Jonetz, who was in Hamburg, informed Brest that he would arrive there (March 13th with S.2110 and two others (presumably Willy and Hotchkins) and Frl. Schaefer.

From this it would seem that Jonetz is an active, if junior, member of the Brest Stelle. There is a possibility that Vera may know him. Although it may be difficult to put the question to her

L.A. Hart Esq.
 M.I.5.

(AOB, a cross check within Pfeiffer's KV 2/267-5, did not give any further clues)

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KV 2/15-3, page 75

SECRET

Telephone Nos.
 SHEPHERD'S BUSH 5391-2
 ACORN 3286-7

BOX NO. 500,
 PARLIAMENT STREET, B.O.,
 LONDON, S.W.1.

PERSONAL.

25th February, 1941.

Dear Dick,

Vera ERICHSEN.

1. Colonel Hinchley-Cooke telephoned me to-day in regard to Vera ERICHSEN. I set out the subject of the conversation for a report by Dr. Dearden and he has complied with my request. I think you should have these two documents.
2. Colonel Hinchley-Cooke's contention is that a jury would be affected by the statement of a prisoner that an inducement has been held out to her, notwithstanding the fact that the statement might be false. From the point of view of a prosecution the normal procedure would be to call Dr. Dearden as a witness for the Crown to give the lie direct to Vera ERICHSEN. This procedure, however, is open to extreme objection in view of the character of Latchmere House.
3. Colonel Hinchley-Cooke's solution is that he should be permitted to question a prisoner magisterially between the time of apprehension by the local police and admission to Latchmere House. From his point of view there are advantages but from our point of view there are considerable disadvantages and in view of our recent arrangement that we should have a Black Maria to fetch prisoners from the R.S.L.O's direct I think the whole issue should be discussed between us?

Yours,

Robert

D. G. White Esq,
 B.2.

B.L.
 RS/JRK.

*Question under
 discussion.*

↓

Shepherd's Bush
Personal

25th February, 1941

Dear Dick ([White](#)) ([M.I.5](#)),

Vera Erikson.

Colonel Hinchley-Cooke telephoned me today in regard to Vera Erikson. I set out the subject of the conversation for a report by Dr. Dearden and he has complied with my request. I think you should have these documents.

Colonel Hinchley-Cooke's contention ([argument](#)) is that a jury would be affected by the statement of a prisoner that an inducement ([stimulus](#)) has been held out to her, notwithstanding the fact that the statement might be false. From the point of view of a prosecution the normal procedure would be to call Dr. Dearden as a witness for the Crown to give the lie direct to Vera Erichsen. This procedure, however, is open to extreme objection in the view of the character of Latchmere House ([Camp 020](#)).

Colonel Hinchley-Cooke's solution is that she should be permitted to question a prisoner magisterially between the time of apprehension ([worry](#)) by the local police and admission to Latchmere House. From this point of view there are advantages but from your point of view there are considerable disadvantages and in view of our recent arrangements that we should have a Black Maria to fetch prisoners from the R.S.L.O's direct think the whole issue should be discussed between us?

Yours

Sgd Robert ([Robin](#)) Stephens?

D.G. White Esq.
B.2.
B.L. ([Home Office?](#))

↓

DR. DEARDEN.

600

Vera ERICHSEN.

1. Colonel Hinchley-Cooke telephoned to-day saying that he had examined Vera ERICHSEN magisterially with a view to obtaining a statement for trial at the Old Bailey. The relevant transcript is as follows:

2. Q. Where did you get the idea to come to this country?

A. You see I would rather not answer at all really. I would rather speak with the people from the Military Internment Camp and they told me I did not need to answer any more because I told them everything.

Q. Who told you that?

A. Dr. Dearden. I do not know the other people. There was six gentlemen there. Dr. Dearden came here (Holloway Prison). He told me I would off trial if I told everything and that I would not be shot or hanged.

Q. I know nothing about that. Do you remember when you left Stavanger?

A. Not exactly. Sunday. It was just at night. The morning we were arrested. I was told by Dr. Dearden I would be here for the duration of the war.

Knowing Vera ERICHSEN to be a prize liar I assume that you never held out the inducement or promise which she mentions but I must have the matter confirmed by you. Colonel Hinchley-Cooke is troubled about the position as he feels the impression which would be caused by her statement true or untrue might vitiate the trial not only of ERICHSEN but of DRUEKE and WAELTI also. A solution is that you should appear as a witness for the Crown but there are obvious objections to this course. Will you please let me have a note on this subject as soon as possible.

SGD. R.S.

B.L.
25.2.41.

RS/JRK.

✓

↓

Dr. Dearden.

Vera Erichsen.

1.Colonel Hinchley-Cooke telephoned today saying that he had examined Vera Erichsen magisterially with a view to obtaining a statement for trial at the Old Bailey. The relevant transcript is as follows:

2Q Where did you get the idea to come to this country?

A You see I would rather not answer at all really. I would rather speak with people from The Military Internment Camp (020) and they told me I did not need to answer any more because I told them everything.

Q Who told you that?

A Dr. Dearden. I do not know the other people. There was six gentlemen there. Dr. Dearden came here (Holloway Prison). He told me I would off trial if I told everything and that I would not be shot or hanged.

Q I know nothing about that. Do you remember when you left Stavanger?

A Not exactly. Sunday. It was just at night. The morning we were arrested. I was told By Dr. Dearden I would be here for the duration of the war.

Knowing Vera Erichsen to be a prize liar I assume that you never held out inducement or promise which she mentions but must have the matter confirmed by you. Colonel Hinchley-Cooke is troubled about the position as he feels the impression which would be caused by her statement true or untrue might vitiate the trial not only of Erichsen but of Drueke and Waelti also. A solution is that you should appear as a witness for the Crown but there are obvious objections to this course. Will you please let me have a note on this subject as soon as possible.

SGD R.S. (Robin/Robert Stephens?)

B.L. (Home Office?) (War Office?)
25.2.41.

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MAJOR STEPHENS.Vera ERICHSEN.

At no time have I held out any promise to this prisoner that she would not be sent for trial, nor have I at any time promised her that she would not be shot or hanged if she were sent for trial. I have advised her on many occasions to be frank and to tell the whole truth about herself and others, on the grounds that by so doing she was doing that which was wisest in her own interests.

I give this advice as a routine practice to every prisoner but I am invariably careful to make it clear that I have no connection with the Intelligence Branch of the Service and therefore no power to do other than give them friendly and disinterested advice.

SGD. HAROLD DEARDEN.

Dr. H. Dearden.

B.L.
25.2.41.

HD/JRK.

Major Stephens.Vera Erichsen.

At no time have I held out any promise to this prisoner that she would not be sent for trial, nor have I at any time promised her that she would not be shot or hanged if she were sent for trial. I have advised her on many occasions to be frank and to tell the whole truth about herself and others, on the grounds that by doing so she was doing that which was wisest in her own interest.

I give this advice as a routine practice to every prisoner but I am invariably careful to make it clear that I have no connection with the Intelligence Branch of the Service and therefore no power to do other than give them friendly and disinterested advice.

SGD Harold Dearden
Dr. H. Dearden.B.L.
25.2.41

Dr. DEARDEN's Report of an Interview
with VERA ERICHSEN on 9.1.41.

I interviewed this woman from 3 o'clock until 5.30 today at Holloway Prison for the purpose of obtaining replies to a further series of direct questions drawn up for me by Lieut. Meurig Evans. I propose to give the questions and Answers as far as possible in the order in which they were put and received, adding such incidental information as emerged during my conversation from time to time.

Question. Did the Duchess of CHATEAU-THIERRY actually use the name RANTZAU to Vera when giving her the address in The Hague at which she was to call for cash and assistance on her return to Germany from England as described in my last interview with her.

Answer. The Duchess may have used either the name RANTZAU or REINHARDT when giving this address to Vera. Vera commonly discussed RANTZAU with the Duchess and the latter was undoubtedly aware of the identity of the man she knew as REINHARDT with the man known to Vera as RANTZAU. If the Duchess on the occasion referred to did not use the name RANTZAU it would be merely because she was more accustomed to refer to him as REINHARDT. Vera frequently referred to him as "Schlittauge" in reference to his peculiar slit-like eyes.

Question. Is the brother of DRUEKE's whom you saw an officer; What rank and what arm; describe the uniform if you can't tell otherwise. What was his Christian name?

Answer. DRUEKE's brother was undoubtedly not an officer. I pointed out to Vera the unexpectedness of a man whom she had described as either a Judge or Solicitor in civil life not holding the rank of an officer, but she explained this to me immediately. Anyone who was of military age during that period when Germany was forbidden to have an army in being was compelled, when the army was finally raised, to join up as a private soldier, irrespective of his peace time avocation DRUEKE's brother, on the only occasion when Vera saw him, was in the ordinary field grey uniform of a private soldier. Vera does not know to what arm of the service he belongs, but she understood from his conversation with DRUEKE that he was in a reserve battalion quartered in a fort in Ostend. He actually stated that he had no idea where he would be going to when transferred from there.

Question. Did DRUEKE's brother also live formerly in France? Obtain the fullest details possible as to DRUEKE's life in France when first he went there.

Answer. Vera knows nothing whatever about this first journey to France beyond the fact that DRUEKE's family had at that time lost all their money. She received the impression, however, at some time and in some way which she is unable to particularise, that DRUEKE's other brother was not in France with DRUEKE in the latter's youth. About DRUEKE's second trip to France when he was about 28 or 29 years of age Vera can give little more information. DRUEKE's father had at that time lost all his money and DRUEKE himself was earning his living selling pictures and other articles, presumably on a commission basis, and giving German lessons in Paris. He spoke to her frequently of the one very good friend whom he made at this time, who was an older man than he but whose name Vera never learned. This man according to DRUEKE was responsible for DRUEKE's arrest and imprisonment in France, and he told Vera of this incident in the following circumstances. Vera and he were dining in a Restaurant on one occasion when the orchestra struck up a piece of music which DRUEKE said he had heard before in very dramatic circumstances. He was in a restaurant and this tune was being played when he saw two plain clothes police enter and obviously keep him under observation. For



Dr. Dearden's report of an interview with Vera Erichsen on 9.1.41.

I interviewed this woman from 3 o'clock until 5.30 today at Holloway Prison for the purpose of obtaining replies to a further series of direct questions drawn up for my by Lieut. Meurig Evans. I propose to give the question and Answers as far as possible in the order in which they were put and received, adding such identical information as emerged during my conversation from time to time.

Question. Did the Duchess of Chateau Thierry actually use the name Rantzau to Vera when giving her the address in the Hague ([boarding house at "de Riemerstraat 24" where Drueke apparently stayed as well](#)) at which she was to call for cash and assistance on her return to Germany from England as described in my last interview with here.

Answer. The Duchess may have used either the name Rantzau or Reinhardt when giving this address to Vera. Vera commonly discussed Rantzau with the Duchess and the latter was undoubtedly aware of the identity of the man she knew as Reinhardt with the man known to Vera as Rantzau ([albeit that during interrogations also used the name Hansen and others](#)) If the Duchess on the occasion referred to did not use the name of Rantzau it would merely because she was more accustomed to refer to him as Reinhardt. Vera frequently referred to him as "Schlittauge" ([Schlitzauge?](#)) in reference to his peculiar slit-like eyes.

Question. Is the brother of Drueke's whom you saw an officer; what rank and what arm; describe the uniform if you can't tell otherwise. What was his Christian name?

Answer. Drueke's brother was undoubtedly not an officer. I pointed out to Vera the unexpectedly of a man whom she had described as either a [Judge or Solicitor \(PDF pages 9 - 10\)](#)([he actually was a Judge called: Amtsgerichtsrat](#)) in civil life not holding the rank of an officer, but explained this to me immediately. Anyone who was of military age during that period when Germany was forbidden to have an army in being compelled ([obliged](#)), when the army was finally raised, to join up as a private soldier, irrespective of his peace time avocation Drueke's brother, on the only occasion when Vera saw him, was in the ordinary field grey uniforms of a private soldier. Vera does not know to what arm of the service he belongs; but she understood from his conversation with Drueke that he was in a reserve battalion quartered in a fort in Ostend. He actually stated that he had no idea where he would be going to when transferred from there.

Question. Did Drueke's brother also live formerly in France? Obtain the fullest details possible as to Drueke's life in France when first he went there (1919).

Answer. Vera knows nothing whatever about this first journey to France beyond the fact that Drueke's family had at that time lost all their money. She received the impression, however, at some time and in some way which she is unable to particularise, that Drueke's other brother was not in France with Drueke in the latter's youth. About Drueke's second trip to France when he was about 28 or 29 years of age Vera can give little more information. Drueke's father had at that time lost all his money and Drueke himself was earning his living selling pictures and other articles, presumably on a commission basis, and giving German lessons in Paris. He spoke to her frequently of the one very good friend whom he made at this time, who was an older man than he but whose name Vera never learned. This man according to Drueke was responsible for Drueke's arrest and imprisonment in France, and he told Vera of this incident in the following circumstances. Vera and he were dining in a restaurant on one occasion when the orchestra struck up a piece of music which Drueke said he had heard before in very dramatic circumstances. He was in a restaurant and this tune was being played when he was two plain clothes police enter and obviously keep him under observation. For → some reason best known to himself (although he insisted he was innocent of any crime) he immediately concluded that he was in fact arrested in the street outside.



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some reason best known to himself (although he insisted he was innocent of any crime) he immediately concluded that he was about to be arrested. He got up and left the Restaurant and was in fact arrested in the street outside. He fully expected to be released immediately but realised later that both this intimate friend and the lawyer he had engaged with his defence had conspired to let him down. He did not tell Vera with what he was charged. This friend was some years older than DRUEKE, in easy circumstances and extremely intelligent and charming. He was not in the army.

Question. Where did you meet LEHMANN and when. Did he live at 5 Rue Faider in Brussels. What was his nationality. When was he arrested by the French and for what reason.

Answer. Vera met LEHMANN in Hamburg. He lived in Hamburg and had a wife and children there, but was for some time staying in Brussels and looking after DRUEKE's business. His address in Hamburg Vera does not know, nor does she know whether, when he stayed in Brussels, he lived in the Rue Faider or not. She believes, however, that it was probable that he did stay in the Rue Faider at these times. He was a German. He was arrested by the French in April or May of 1940 just before the German invasion. Vera is clear that he was not arrested for espionage or he would have been immediately shot. A great many Germans were at that time. The French and Belgians were arresting Germans on the flimsiest of pretexts. "They arrested old women and all sorts of people." Vera does not know on what charge LEHMANN was arrested but she believes that it was on some similar unimportant excuse.

Question. Have you ever heard of a friend of DRUEKE who was a Polish Jew.

Answer. No.

Question. Where was DRUEKE living from September 1939 to March 1940. Was it in Holland or Belgium?

Answer. All Vera can say on this point is that DRUEKE undoubtedly spent a good deal of time in Holland during this period. Vera was in Hamburg, staying in rooms of her own under the protection of Von WEDEL, whose purpose it was to conceal the fact that they were married. Von WEDEL frequently went to Holland himself and must at these times have seen DRUEKE for he ^{consequently} brought Vera back courteous remembrances from the latter. Vera was living in very uncomfortable circumstances during this period in Hamburg because RANTZAU strongly objected to her meeting any friends or indeed living anything resembling a normal social life. She spent her time either in bed or in her rooms, sleeping or reading, or going to cinemas and theatres alone. It was during this period and as the result of this abnormal manner of life that she first took to drugs. She obtained these drugs from various doctors on the true grounds that she was suffering a good deal of pain from the old stab wound in her right side. During this period she paid a visit to Copenhagen and made the acquaintance of one MEISSNER who described himself as a journalist in Copenhagen employed by the German Embassy. When she had been going about with him for approximately a fortnight he confided to her that he had orders to spy on her movements in that city and to report to his employers in the Embassy anyone with whom she appeared to be friendly. This man MEISSNER was "a big blond fellow", 29 or 30 years of age, who did not wear glasses. Among the people she met in Copenhagen at this time was MAX BODENHOF. She does not believe that this man had anything to do with espionage but admits she has no grounds for certainty. He was a business man, well to do, acting as agent for an American firm of machinists of whom the head, in Vera's belief, was a man of the name of ~~Watts~~ Watson.

→ some reason best known to himself (although he insisted he was innocent of any crime) he immediately concluded that he was in fact arrested in the street outside. He fully expected to be released immediately but realised later that both this intimate friend and the lawyer he had engaged with his defence had conspired to let him down. He did not tell Vera with what he was charged. This friend was some years older than Druke, in easy circumstances and extremely intelligent and charming. He was not in the Army.

Question. Where did you meet Lehman and when. Did he live at 5 Rue Faider in Brussels. What was his nationality. When was he arrested by the French and for what reason.

Answer. Vera met Lehmann in Hamburg. He lived in Hamburg and had a wife and children three, but was for some time staying in Brussels and looking after Druke's business. His address in Hamburg Vera does not know, nor does she know whether, when he stayed in Brussels, he lived in the Rue Faider or not. She believes, however, that it was probable that he did stay in the Rue Faider at the same times. He was German. He was arrested by the French in April or May of 1940 just before the German invasion. Vera is clear that he was?? not arrested for espionage or he would have been immediately shot ?? a great many Germans were at that time. The French and Belgians were arresting Germans on the flimsiest of pretext. "They arrested old women and all sorts of people". Vera does not know on what charge Lehmann was arrested but she believes that it was some similar unimportant excuse.

Question. Have you ever heard of a friend of Druke who was a Polish Jew.

Answer. No.

Question. Where was Druke living from September 1939 to March 1940. Was it in Holland or Belgium?

Answer. All Vera can say on this point is that Druke undoubtedly spent a good deal of time in Holland during this period. Vera was in Hamburg, staying in rooms of her own under protection of Von Wedel ([her husband Dierks](#)), whose purpose to conceal the fact that they were married. Von Wedel frequently went to Holland himself and must at these times have seen Druke for he continuously brought Vera back courteous remembrances during this period in Hamburg because Rantzau ([Maj. Ritter](#)) strongly objected to her meeting any friends or indeed living anything resembling a normal social life. She spent her time either in bed or in her rooms, sleeping or reading, or going to cinemas and theatres alone. It was during this period and as the result of the abnormal manner of life that she first took to drugs. (AOB, [true? Earlier she told that her husband Ignatieff dealt also with drugs which she learned to appreciate in this context!](#)) She obtained these drugs from various doctors on the true grounds that she was suffering a good deal of pain from the old stab wound in her right side ([once caused by Ignatieff](#)). * During this period she paid a visit to Copenhagen and made acquaintance of one Meisner ([Hans](#)), who described himself as a journalist in Copenhagen employed by the German Embassy. (AOB, [Hans Meisner came from the Pfeiffer group and later became K.O. Leiter Switzerland](#)). When she had been going about with him for approximately a fortnight he confided to her that he has orders to spy on her movements in that city and to report to his employers in the embassy anyone with whom she appeared to be friendly. This man Meisner was "a big blond fellow", 29 or 30 years of age, who did not wear glasses. Among the people she met in Copenhagen at this time was Max Bodenhof. She does not believe that this man had anything to do with espionage but admits she has no grounds for certainty. He was a business man, well to do, acting as agent for an American firm of machinists of whom the head, in Vera's believe, was a man of the name Watson.

* [Here we likely encounter evidence: that Vera went to Copenhagen; just within the period as is witnessed by Christensen, in this post-war statement, that he encountered Vera and her husband von Wedel/Dierks in an apartment in Copenhagen! Notice pdf page number 43!](#)

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Question. You say that after his return to Brussels in 1940 DRUEKE was always travelling about to places. Which were these places.

Answer. As far as Vera is sure DRUEKE went to Antwerp and Bruges frequently. He may also have gone elsewhere, but she has no means of being sure on this point.

Question. Did he or you ever go to Rotterdam and stay at the Metropole Hotel. Did you ever meet a man called WOLLERT.

Answer. Vera has no information whatever to give about Rotterdam, or the Hotel Metropole. She has never heard the name of WOLLERT.

Question. When DRUEKE travelled about did he usually go by car. What was the make and number plate of this car?

Answer. DRUEKE almost invariably travelled by car; it was a Peugeot with a long number which Vera does not remember. It was a closed 4-seater with a sunshine roof.

Question. DRUEKE seems to think that his mission to England failed because he was betrayed. Had he any enemies who might have done this?

Answer. Vera can only theorise on this question. She thinks it not impossible that the woman who kept the Pension in The Hague and with whom DRUEKE was having an affair may have betrayed him when he left for England. She has no real grounds for believing that this was so, other than the undeniable statement offered by her that "You never know what a woman will do."

Another, and in her view, more probable betrayer was a certain ZIEGLER whom Vera and DRUEKE met in Oslo on their way to England. This man was employed by RANTZAU in the Ostkommandantur and had to do with German ration cards and cards for clothes. His function in connection with Vera and DRUEKE, and specially in connection with the former, was to buy her suitable clothes in order to make her less conspicuous and more drab for her trip to England. This he did. He was a small dark man with black eyes in slits and about 38 years of age. He spoke excellent Norwegian, and was so obtrusively courteous and charming as to be offensive and unpleasant company. He told Vera that he had lived for a long time in Asia and Russia and appeared to have an intimate knowledge of places in China and Tibet. He did not wear glasses. Vera never learned his christian name. DRUEKE disliked and distrusted him and told Vera on many occasions that this man was "false". It is for this reason that Vera believes that he may have betrayed DRUEKE. I asked Vera for details of her meeting with this man and the following information emerged. She lunched with him, Dr. MULLER and DRUEKE in a restaurant situated practically in the courtyard of the Grand Hotel in Oslo. (Vera is not sure of the name of this restaurant but it was the best in Oslo and was got up to resemble an auberge.) Dr. MULLER paid the bill. There was at this luncheon party also a man who had brought them from Hamburg. Vera used this word "brought" deliberately and emphasised the fact that DRUEKE and she were handed over from one emissary of RANTZAU's to another as though they were "pigs going to be sold." This man was Captain ARDLERS or AHLERS. He was very smart and good looking, age about 42 or 43, with a small dark face like those of "inquisitors that you see in pictures." He gave them to understand that he had a plantation in South America. He was by no means going out of his way to be pleasant during their trip from Hamburg; he did not even invite them to join him at lunch on the train. Vera first met him on one occasion on the evening before they left for Norway in the bar of the Atlantic Hotel with DRUEKE, and it appeared to her that DRUEKE and he were already acquaintances of fairly long standing. (I was instructed by Lieut. Evans to ask Vera about a man AHLERS in a

Question. You say that after his return to Brussels in 1940 Druke was always travelling about to places. Which were these places.

Answer. As far as Vera is sure Druke went to Antwerp and Bruges ([Brugge](#)) frequently. He may also have gone elsewhere, but she has no means of being sure on this point.

Question. Did he or you ever go to Rotterdam and stay at the Metropole Hotel. Did you ever meet a man called Wollfert.

Answer. Druke most invariably travelled by car; it was a Peugeot with a long number which Vera does not remember. It was a closed 4-seater with a sunshine roof.

Question. Druke seems to think that his mission to England failed because he was betrayed. Had he any enemies who might have done this?

Answer. Vera can only theorise on this question. She thinks it not impossible that the woman who kept the Pension in The Hague ([Tini / Tine, de Riemerstraat 24](#)) and with whom Druke was having an affair may have betrayed him when he left for England. She has no real grounds for believing that this was so, or other than the undeniable statement offered by her ([Druke speaking](#)) that “You never know what a woman will do”.

Another, and in her view, more probable betrayer was a certain Ziegler whom Vera and Druke met in Oslo on their way to England. This man was employed by Rantzau ([Major Ritter](#)) in the [Ortskommandantur](#) and had to do with German ration cards and cards for clothes. His function in connection with the former, was to buy her suitable clothes in order to make her less conspicuous and more drab ([dull](#)) for her trip to England. This he did, he was a small dark man with black eyes in slits and about courteous and charming as to be offensive and unpleasant company. He told Vera that he had lived for a long time in Asia and Russia and appeared to have an intimate knowledge of places in China and Tibet. He did not wear glasses. Vera never learned his Christian name. Druke disliked and distrusted him and told Vera on many occasions that this man was “false”. It is for this reason that Vera believes that he may have betrayed Druke.

I asked Vera for details of her meeting with this man and the following information emerged. She lunched with him, Dr. Müller and Druke in a restaurant situated practically in the courtyard of the Grand Hotel in Oslo. (Vera is not sure of the name of this restaurant but it was the best in Oslo and was got up to resemble an auberge). Dr. Müller paid the bill. There was at this luncheon party also a man who had brought them from Hamburg. Vera used this word “brought” deliberately and emphasised the fact that Druke and she were handed over from one emissary of Rantzau to another as though they were “pigs going to be sold”. This man was Captain ([Hptm](#)) Ardlers or Ahlers. He was very smart and good looking, age about 42 or 43, with a small dark face like those of “inquisitors that you see in pictures”. He gave them to understand that he had a plantation in South America. He was by no means going out of his way to be pleasant during their trip from Hamburg; he did not even invite them to join him at lunch on the train. Vera first met him on one occasion on the evening before they left for Norway in the bar of the Atlantic Hotel (not [Hotel Reichshof?](#)) with Druke, and it appeared to her that Druke and he were already acquaintances of fairly long standing. (I was introduced by Lieut, Evens to as Vera about a man Ahlers in a → previous interview and she then denied having heard the name.



previous interview and she then denied having heard the name. As I believe her to be sincerely trying to tell the truth in these interviews I did not think it advisable to remind her of this denial. I propose to do so, if necessary, at a future interview. I think it best to adopt this course for two reasons:-

- (a) She was by no means sure of the spelling of this Captain AHLERS who accompanied them from Hamburg, and it may not, therefore, have struck her as referring to the man about whom I had previously asked her.
- (b) I think it most important not to convey the impression to her at any time that I doubt her word. She appears to take some pride in the assumption, which is doubtless unusual for her, that everything she says is being accepted as the truth. I feel it would be bad tactics to disillusion her.)

When they arrived at Oslo Dr. MULLER met them at the station and they first went round to an Hotel which was of such a poor class that Vera refused to stay in it. They had travelled second class from Hamburg and she was tired and stiff. From this poor class Hotel they went to the Grand Hotel Restaurant where they met ZIEGLER who immediately went off in connection with the clothes he had to supply to Vera for use in England. These he gave to them at the table. That evening both AHLERS and ZIEGLER saw them off by train for Berlin where they were met at the station by the two ANDERSENS. It is perhaps worth mentioning that according to Vera the "flying Major" who saw them off in their seaplane from Stavanger is dark, very energetic and good looking man. He referred to their mission to England as "madness and sure to fail".

A third possibility as a betrayer was the ANDERSEN whom Vera refers to as Public Enemy No.1. She merely suspects him because he had been an alcohol smuggler, and a man engaged in other undesirable activities for a number of years. He had been very rich at one time and having now lost all his money Vera not unnaturally assumes that he would be prepared to do anything to rehabilitate himself.

Question. You said you would be able to remember the name of the agent whom your husband called Alfonso. What was it.

Answer. The name of this man was Captain HOFFMAN.

Question. Can you describe Von BERGMANN. Did he go back to Spain.

Answer. Von BERGMANN was tall, very slim, very nervous manner and wore spectacles. He was a dark blond, but had not much hair left on his head. He was very highly cultured and passionately devoted to the piano. He and Vera frequently discussed music together. He was an exporter with business connections in South America. His wife was Spanish. Vera met him in Hamburg, at first with her husband and subsequently on a number of occasions alone. His behaviour was always most proper, and as this is Vera's own description it is perhaps necessary to point out that what she meant by that was that they did not have an affair together. He enjoyed talking to her partly because "like all men he liked to talk about himself" and Vera would prefer not to talk at all, and partly because he wished to learn French from her. He lives in Hamburg at an address of which Vera is not certain but she believes that it may have been in the Uhlenstrasse (2). There would appear to have been some confusion in my previous report about this man since Vera sees no reason why he should have gone to Spain or had any intimate Spanish associations. She suggests, probably with truth, that I have confused him with ALFONSO.

Question. What special mission was your husband to have gone on, and who took his place?

Answer. Vera's husband told her sometime before her English mission materialised that he was to go on a very dangerous mission to the

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→ previous interview and she then denied having heard the name. As I believe her to be sincerely trying to tell the truth in these interviews I did not think it advisable to remind her of this denial. I propose to do so, if necessary, at a future interview. I think it best to adopt this course for two reasons:-

- (a) She was by no means sure of the spelling of this Captain (Hptm.) Ahlers who accompanied them from Hamburg, and it may not, therefore, have struck her as referring to the man about whom I had previously asked her.
- (b) I think it most important not to convey the impression to her at any time that I doubt her word. She appears to take some pride (there aren't many worldwide without it; I consider this constituted arrogance) in the assumption, which is doubtless unusual for her, that everything she said is being accepted as her truth. I feel it would be bad tactics of dissolution her.)

When they arrived at Oslo Dr. Müller met them at the station and they first went round to an Hotel which was of such poor class that Vera refused to stay in it. They had travelled second class from Hamburg and she was tired and stiff. From this poor class Hotel they went to the Grand Hotel restaurant where they met Ziegler who immediately went of in connection with the clothes he had to supply to Vera for use in England. These he gave to them at the table. That evening both Ahlers and Ziegler saw them off the train for Bergen where they were met at the station by the two Andersens. It is perhaps worth mentioning that according to Vera the "flying major" who saw them off in their seaplane from Stavanger is dark, very energetic and good looking man. He referred to their mission to England as "madness and sure to fail".

A third possibility as a betrayer was the Andersen whom Vera refers to a Public Enemy No. 1. She merely suspects him because he had been an alcohol smuggler, and a man engaged in the other undesirable activities for a number of years. He had been very rich at one time and having now lost all his money Vera not unnaturally assumes that he would be prepared to do anything to rehabilitate himself.

Question. You said you would be able to remember the name of the agent whom your husband called Alfonso. What was it.

Answer. The name of this man Captain Hoffmann.

Question. Can you describe von Bergmann. Did he go back? To Spain.

Answer. Von Bergmann was tall, very slim, very nervous manner and wore spectacles. He was dark blond, but had not much hair left on his head. He was very highly cultured and passionately devoted to the piano. He and Vera frequently discussed music together. He was an exporter with his business connections in South America. His wife was Spanish. Vera met him in Hamburg, at first with her husband (Dierks, alias von Wedel) and subsequently on a number of occasions alone. His behaviour was always proper, and as this is Vera's own description it is perhaps necessary to point out that what she meant by that was that they did not had an affair together. He enjoyed talking to her partly because "like all men he liked to talk about himself" and Vera would prefer not to talk at all, and partly because he wished to learn French from her. He lives in Hamburg at an address of which Vera is not certain but she believes that it may have been in the Uhlenhorst (according to Rudolf Staritz: Uhlenhorst a wealthy part of Hamberg bording the Alster; from there opposite the Alster we look at the Sophienterrasse, where during the war the Abwehr headquarters was located (formerly Knochenhauerstrasse)) There would appear to have been some confusion in my previous report about this man since Vera sees no reason why he should have gone to Spain or had any intimate Spanish associations. She suggests, probably with truth, that I have confused him with Alfonso.

Question. What special mission was your husband (Dierks) have to go on, and who took his place?

Answer. Vera's husband told her sometime before her English mission materialised that he was to go on very dangerous mission to the → Balkans.



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Balkans. This was about March 1939. He did not go on this trip, however, for some reason unknown to Vera, and she believes that he may have been going on this postponed trip when last she saw him. She cannot say who would be likely to take his place.

Question. Had DRUEKE heard of CHATEAU THIERRY or MACKENZIE before you mentioned them to him.

Answer. No. DRUEKE heard of these people for the first time from Vera.

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Question. You have said that DRUEKE got an address in Soho from Dr. KREMER. Where was this and when. Who else was present. Did DRUEKE write the address down? If so, in what?

Answer. KREMER gave the Soho address to DRUEKE in the Reichshof Hotel in Hamburg, just before they left for this trip. No one else was present and she does not know whether DRUEKE wrote the address down or not. It was on this occasion that KREMER gave them the ration cards and Identity cards for use in England. Vera had had tea with him in Hamburg in the previous September, when he told her he had been in the Embassy in England and had left with Ribbentrop and the other important members of the Embassy staff. On this occasion RANTZAU was present and had indeed asked Vera to come to this Restaurant (the Rathauskeller) to meet him. He was sitting with KREMER when Vera arrived and introduced them to one another. KREMER is a man who drinks a great deal, but shows no sign at any time of having done so. When in Hamburg he was still in the Embassy entourage. So far as Vera is aware, KREMER had no business other than that in connection with the Embassy. He was in England when War was declared.

Question. Dorothy MORRISH has said that once when the Duchess was away a gentleman called and took you away for the week-end. Who was this?

Answer. Vera has never been away for the week-end with anyone whilst staying with the Duchess. On one occasion Major MACKENZIE took her out for lunch in a car to the Hotel de Paris (?at Bray), thereafter for a trip in a motor boat, and finally back home. MACKENZIE came often when the Duchess was in the flat. He came at least once for lunch. He frequently came for coffee after dinner and took Vera out to dance at the Casino de Paris and Quaglinos.

Question. Where were you when ANDERSEN told you about EDWARDSSEN. When was it. Have you ever heard the name ANGELMEIER?

Answer. ANDERSEN told her about EDWARDSSEN in the Restaurant of the Hotel in Bergen at which they were staying. She has never heard of the name ANGELMEIER.

Question. Can you tell me any more about the three agents RANTZAU despatched from St. Malo last summer?

Answer. All Vera knows about this is that RANTZAU told her he had sent a number of people from St. Malo to England. "I am sending them all the time", he said. He told her this in August 1940, but she knows nothing whatever about these people except that RANTZAU told her they came by aeroplane and all got into England.

B.L.
10.1.41.
HD/MD.

KV 2/15-3, page 96: her husband (Dierks) never introduced her as his wife and they never lived together as husband and wife. If necessary he referred to her always as a Journalist.

→ Balkans. This was about March 1939 (thus before the 23rd as she arrived on that latter date in England). He did not go on this trip, however, for some reason unknown to Vera, and she believes that he may have been going on his postponed trip when last she saw him. She cannot say who would be likely to take his place.
(AOB, this statement is most curious: was the fatal wine-bar party also a farewell for Dierks?)

Question. Had Druke heard of Chateau Thierry or Mckenzie before you mentioned them to him.

Answer. No. Druke heard of these people for the first time from Vera.

Question. You have said that Druke got an address in Soho from Dr. Kremer. (maybe meant Lt. Dr. Karl-Heinz Kraemer, by then engaged at Ast-Hamburg, from November 1942 an Air Attaché in Stockholm and a most important person!). Where was this and when. If so, in what?

Answer. Kremer (there existed quite some Kremer's with ae – C in various spelling) gave the address in the Reichshof Hotel in Hamburg, just before they left for the trip. No one else was present and she does not know whether Druke wrote the address down or not. It was this occasion that Kraemer gave them the ration cards and Identity cards for use in England. Vera had had tea with him in Hamburg in the previous September (1939), when he told her he had been in the Embassy in England and left with Ribbentrop and his and his other important members of the Embassy staff. (AOB, herewith it is sure that we deal in both cases with Dr. Karl-Heinz Kraemer, who had relations with the AA (German Foreign Office) as he in Stockholm was also stationed there on behalf the AA as an Air Attaché (because there was no room for an additional KO employee) On this occasion Rantzau was present and he had indeed asked Vera to come to this Restaurant (the Rathauskeller) to meet him. He was sitting with Kraemer when Vera arrived and introduced them to one another. Kraemer is a man who drinks a great deal, but shows not sign at any time of having done so (Kraemer was Dr. Jura). When in Hamburg he was still in the Embassy entourage. So far as Vera is aware, Kraemer had no business other than that in connection with the Embassy. He was in England when the war was declared. (it is still diplomatic custom, that in such cases diplomats and their staff could leave the country where they had been stationed. This happened even with the Japanese diplomats in the US, often via intermediate of a neutral state)

Question. Dorothy Morrish has said that once when the Duchess was away a gentleman called and took you away for a weekend. Who was this?

Answer. Vera has never been away for the weekend with anyone whilst staying with the Duchess. On one occasion Major Mckenzie took her out for a lunch in a car to the Hotel Paris? At Bray), thereafter for a trip in a motorboat, and finally back home. Mackenzie came often when the duchess was in the flat. He came at least once for lunch. He frequently came for coffee after dinner and took Vera out to dance at the Casino de Paris and Quaglinos.

Question. Where were you when Andersen told you about Edwardsen. When was it. Have you ever heard the name Angelmeier?

Answer. Andersen told her about Edwardsen in the restaurant of the Hotel in Bergen at which they were staying. She has never heard of the name Angelmeier.

Question. Can you tell me any more about the three agents Rantzau despatched from St. Malo last summer?

Answer. All Vera knows about this is that Rantzau told her he had sent a number of people from St. Malo to England. "I am sending them all the time", he said. He told her this in

August 1940, but she knows nothing whatever about these people except that Rantzau told her they came by aeroplane and all got into England.

B.L. 10.1.41 HD/MD

KV 2/15-3, page 95

ANNE: When VERA arrived at the Pension it did not take her long to observe that there was a very warm feeling existing between DRUEKE and the Proprietress, and this was very shortly confirmed by the Proprietress herself. After dinner, in the Pension, the Proprietress and VERA went out and DRUEKE put through the telephone call, to which I have referred in my last report, to facilitate VERA's return to Germany. The three then travelled to Scheveningen by tram, a journey of about a quarter of an hour, and spent the rest of the evening in a place of entertainment. It was during the course of this evening that the Proprietress confided to Vera that she and DRUEKE had been having an affair for some time and the Proprietress expressed to VERA her delight in having DRUEKE there at the moment as it was some time since she had seen him. The Proprietress was a woman of about thirty-five, not pretty but with a pleasant and homely manner and it was, according to VERA, this lack of good looks which enlisted VERA's sympathy. It had been clear to her that DRUEKE was attracted to her from the first and it had always been against her code to make trouble between a man and his mistress. She, therefore, decided to leave the Pension that same evening and stay at another Pension, the address of which had been given to her by a fellow traveller (a woman) on the trip coming over. She does not remember the address of this Pension, it did not seem to me to be of sufficient importance to press the point. VERA understood, both from the Proprietress and from DRUEKE himself that though he had considerable business affairs in The Hague and went there very often he had no permanent address there but always used the Pension. His permanent address at that time was in Brussels.

VERA never met any of the other people staying in the Pension but the Proprietress during the evening asked DRUEKE and her to speak in as low tones as possible as she had several Jews staying in the Pension and they would naturally not care to hear German spoken. VERA, however, did on one occasion meet a man of the name of LEHMANN, a small red-haired man with spectacles. DRUEKE told her that this man was in charge of his affairs in Brussels at the moment since he (DRUEKE) was at that time unable to obtain a visa to return to Brussels. The date when he had tried to get this visa for Belgium was March 1940.

On the morning after her arrival in The Hague VERA left for Hamburg, DRUEKE saw her off on the train. That was on the 13th. Sept. 1939 and she did not see DRUEKE again until some time in March or early April of 1940. DRUEKE had asked her to write to him often, having already made known his feelings for her; but here again affection for her

Answer. When Vera arrived at the pension it did not take long to observe that there was a very warm feeling existing between Druke and the Proprietress, and this was very shortly confirmed by the Proprietress herself. After dinner, in the Pension, the proprietress and Vera went out and Druke put through the telephone call, to which I have referred in my last report, to facilitate Vera's return to Germany. The three then travelled to Scheveningen by tram, a journey of about a quarter of an hour, and spent the rest of the evening in a place of entertainment. It was during the course of this evening that the Proprietress confided to Vera that she and Druke had been having an affair for some time and the proprietress expressed to Vera her delight in having Druke there at the moment as it was some time since she had seen him. The proprietress was a woman of about thirty-five, not pretty but with a pleasant and homely manner and it was, according to Vera, this lack of good looks which enlisted Vera's sympathy. It had been clear to her that Druke was attracted to her (Vera) from the first and it always been against her code to make trouble between a man and his mistress. She, therefore, decided to leave the Pension that same evening and stay at another Pension, the address of which had been given to her (Vera) by a fellow traveller (a woman) in the (ferry) trip over (from England, on 9 September 1939). She does not remember the address of this Pension and it did not seem to me (the interrogator/or report writer) to be of sufficient importance to press the point. Vera understood, both from the Proprietress and from Druke himself that though he had considerable business affairs in The Hague and went there very often he had no permanent address there but always used the Pension (de Riemerstraat 24). His permanent address was in Brussels.

Vera never met any of the other people staying in the Pension but the Proprietress during the evening asked Druke and her to speak in as low tones as possible as had several Jews staying in the Pension and they would naturally not care to hear German spoken. Vera, however, did on one occasion meet a man of the name of Lehmann, a small red-haired man with spectacles. Druke told her that this man was in charge of his affairs in Brussels at the moment since Druke was at that time unable to obtain a visa to return to Brussels. The date when he had tried to get this visa for Belgium (yet a neutral Country) was March 1940 (say, one month before the German invasion of the Low Countries and there existed already quite some tension).

On the morning of her arrival in The Hague Vera left for Hamburg, Druke saw her off the train. That was on the 13th. September. 1939 (AOB, Vera left Britain on 9.9.'39 and may have arrived on the 9th or 10th September; thus, she stayed at least 2 full days in The Hague). And she did not see Druke again until some time in March or early April of 1940. Druke had asked her to write to him often, having already made known his feelings for her (Vera); but here again affection for her → husband von Wedel (Lt. z.V. Hilmar Dierks) restrained her.

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husband Von WEDEL restrained her. She did not communicate with DRUEKE at all during this whole period, but on one or two occasions her husband told her that he had heard from DRUEKE who had sent his kind regards. It is evident from this, and other similar observations made by VERA in the course of her conversation with me, that Von WEDEL and DRUEKE had been in close contact for some time and were continuously in contact from the time when VERA first met DRUEKE until her departure for England. It was obvious to VERA that her husband was jealous of DRUEKE's attention from the start.

Her second meeting with DRUEKE took place in Hamburg in the following circumstances. In March or early April VERA happened to walk past a restaurant in which DRUEKE was lunching and he saw her. But he did not make himself known to her at that time because, since he had not heard from her, he was angry and wished to punish her. He did, however, on that same day put himself to the trouble of calling on her husband and mentioning this incident, whereupon it was impossible for Von WEDEL to avoid bringing them together again. They had dinner together in the Reichhof Hotel. Shortly after this Von WEDEL had to go away. He told VERA that he was going to Belgium, but as he very rarely told her the truth about these trips, and as she attaches no importance to that.

The affair between VERA and DRUEKE did not begin until after the end of April 1940; they spent their evening more or less innocently dining and dancing together. VERA has at no time met any of DRUEKE's friends, except the man LEBMANN, and it was during this period in Hamburg that DRUEKE told her that LEBMANN had let him down in some way in connection with his business in Brussels. VERA knows that LEBMANN was arrested at one time by the French but immediately released. She says that a good many Germans were arrested by the French at this time for one thing or another.

QUESTION 5: When did DRUEKE go to Brussels? When did you yourself go to Brussels? Give the names and descriptions of anyone who knew DRUEKE in Brussels.

ANSWER: DRUEKE went to Brussels one week before Vera, in June 1940. VERA never met or heard of any of DRUEKE's friends in Brussels. She emphasizes the fact that both Von WEDEL and DRUEKE were at pains to prevent her meeting any of their friends. Her husband never introduced her as his wife and they never lived together as husband and wife. If necessary he referred to her always as a Journalist. It was in this capacity that he introduced her on one occasion when the trip to Spain was in the air, to a certain Von BERGMANN in Hamburg. This man had some post in the Spanish Legation and was to give to Vera, if the Spanish mission had materialised, the addresses in Spain where she would be comfortable. He was always referred to by Von WEDEL as "ALPHONSO" on account of his really striking resemblance to King Alphonso.

QUESTION 6: How often did you see DRUEKE with RANTZAU?

ANSWER: VERA never saw DRUEKE with RANTZAU at all, but she has no doubt that he knew RANTZAU well, because they frequently discussed that latter together. DRUEKE disliked and distrusted RANTZAU intensely. He regarded it as particularly disgusting that RANTZAU, in dealing with his Agents, took no trouble whatever to ensure either their comfort or their safety. On one occasion in the summer of 1940 he sent three Agents from St. Malo over to England in an extremely casual and un-organised manner. When DRUEKE pointed this out to him RANTZAU expressed his complete indifference to their safety, adding that he could always get plenty of Agents to replace those who were captured. VERA herself

→ husband von Wedel (Lt. z.V. Hilmar Dierks) restrained her. She did not communicate with Druke at all during this whole period, but on one or two occasions her husband told her that he heard from Druke who had sent his kind regards. It is evident from this, and other similar observations made by Vera in the course of her conversation with me, that von Wedel and Druke had been in close contact for some time and were continuously in contact from the time when Vera first met Druke until her departure for England. (But at that very moment her husband “Dierks” was already dead for about over a week) It was obvious to Vera that her husband was jealous of Druke’s attention from the start.

Her second meeting with Druke took place in Hamburg in the following circumstances. In March or early April Vera happened to walk past a restaurant in which Druke was lunching and he saw her. But did not make himself known to her at that time because, since he had not heard from her, he was angry and wished to punish her. He did, however, on that same day put himself to the trouble calling on her husband and mentioning this incident, whereupon it was impossible for von Wedel to avoid bringing them together again. They had dinner together in the Reichshof Hotel. Shortly after this von Wedel had to go away. He told Vera that he was going to Brussels, but as he very rarely told her the truth about these trips, and-as-she attaches no importance to that.

The affair between Vera and Druke did not begin until after the end of April 1940; they spent their evening more or less innocently dining and dancing together. Vera was at no time met any of Druke’s friends, except the man Lehmann, and it was during this period in Hamburg that Druke told her that Lehmann had let him down in some way in connection with his business in Brussels. Vera knows that Lehmann was arrested at one time by the French but immediately released. She says that a good many Germans were arrested by the French at this time for one thing or another (war was imminent!).

Question 5: When did Druke go to Brussels? When did you yourself go to Brussels? Give the name and description of anyone who knew Druke in Brussels.

Answer: Druke went to Brussels one week before Vera, in June 1940. Vera never met or heard of any of Druke’s friends in Brussels. She emphasizes the fact that both von Wedel and Druke were at pains to prevent her meeting any of their friends.

Her husband (Dierks) never introduced her as his wife and they never lived together as husband and wife. If necessary he referred to her always as a Journalist.

It was in this capacity that he introduced her on one occasion when the trip to Spain was in the air, to a certain von? Bergmann in Hamburg. This man had some post in the Spanish Legation and was to give to Vera, if the Spanish mission had materialised, the addresses in Spain where she would be comfortable. He was always referred to by von Wedel as “Alphonso” on account of his really striking resemblance to King Alphonso.

Question 6: How often did you see Druke with Rantzau (Major Ritter)?

Answer: Vera never saw Druke with Rantzau at all, but she has no doubt that he knew Rantzau well, because they frequently discussed that later together. Druke disliked and distrusted Rantzau intensively. He regarded it as particularly disgusting that Rantzau, in dealing with his Agents, took no trouble whatever to ensure either their comfort or their safety. On one occasion in the summer of 1940 he sent three Agents from St. Malo over to England in an extremely casual and unorganised manner. When Druke pointed this out to him Rantzau expressed his complete indifference to their safety, adding that he could always get plenty of Agents to replace them who were captured. Vera herself → disliked Rantzau, though it would appear that this dislike is largely due to the fact that he unmistakably took no interest in her whatever as a woman.



disliked RANTZAU, though it would appear that this dislike is largely due to the fact that he unmistakably took no interest in her whatever as a woman. She described him as a man with no manners and completely unreal, "even when he is angry he smiles." His whole bearing is that of a self-educated man of intense ambition who has got on in his career without any assistance from tact or charm, otherwise. He detests the English, but in VERA's opinion his opinions of the English are so wrong as to be almost childish. He says, for instance, that the English love to be cruel and VERA knows this to be untrue. He had lived for some time in America and married an American woman with whom he was very unhappy. He was "making propoganda in America". The only good feature he could see in the English was that they could keep their mouths shut, and he illustrated this by the following anecdote. Before he had got married in America he had stayed in America with an Englishman and only discovered a long time afterwards that this Englishman was an Agent, like himself. (This anecdote would be more flattering if one could feel quite sure that the Englishman had seen through RANTZAU).

Von WEIHEL also disliked RANTZAU. RANTZAU on one occasion told VERA that HUBNER had told him to take care of himself, as he was one of his very best men, and this has remained in VERA's memory as characteristic of the inordinate conceit of the man. RANTZAU was very fond of women and very naive in his relations with them. Any woman could get what she wished from him by flattery. In spite of this disability he never kept a mistress, a fact which VERA attributes to his monstrous meanness. Two years ago he married again, the lady having formerly been his secretary. He described her to VERA "not very attractive but quite nice". He had two children by his first wife, approximately eight or ten years old.

QUESTION 6: You say you saw DRUMS in Antwerp. When and where did you see him? What friends had he in Antwerp? Did he do a business in Antwerp? Have you ever heard of him? Mention the name ANDERSON?

*20 CAROLINE
11 JUL 1955*

ANSWER: VERA met DRUMS in Antwerp in the following circumstances. She was in Brussels when she received a telephone message from her husband from Antwerp, asking her to see him there. This was a coincidence. In order to spare her the tedium of a train journey DRUMS offered to take her to Antwerp in his car, and did so. He drove her to her husband's flat at No. 26 Sternstraat. Her husband's flat was on the second floor and his office on the floor below. His office he used as an exporter and importer, clearly as a cover for his espionage activities. His espionage activities were invariably conducted in the flat above and it was for this reason, as VERA recognises, that he made her live at another address. VERA has never heard DRUMS refer to ANDERSON, nor has she met any of his friends in Antwerp. She knows, however, that he did a considerable business in Antwerp, though he had no office address there.

Arising out of this question VERA tells me that she did on one occasion meet someone whom her husband had admitted was a spy, one day in the flat. This was a certain Captain, whose name she feels sure she will recollect. He was a tall man with dark hair and a striking white streak running straight back from the centre of his forehead. He was of medium height, wore no glasses and had a fat and pimply face. He was a German and seemed very stupid. Her husband told her that he was a man of no importance.

The following facts were elucidated in general conversation:-

ANDERSON (the man she refers to as Public Enemy N .1., who organised the trip to England) told her that EDWARDS was coming over

→ disliked Rantzau, though it would appear that this dislike is largely due to the fact that he unmistakably took no interest in her whatever as a woman. She described him as a man with no manners and completely unreal, “even when he is angry he smiles”. His whole bearing is that of a self-educated man of intense ambition who has got on in his career without any assistance from tact or charm. He detests the English, but Vera’s opinions of the English are so wrong as to be almost childish. He says, for instance, that the English love to be cruel and Vera knows this to be untrue. He had lived for some time in America and married an American woman with whom he was very unhappy. He was “making propaganda in America”. The only good feature he could see in the English was that they could keep their mouth shut, and he illustrated this by the following anecdote. Before he had got married in America he stayed in America with an Englishman and only discovered a long time afterwards that this Englishman was an Agent, like himself. (This anecdote would be more flattering if one could feel quite sure that the Englishman had seen through Rantzau).

Von Wedel also disliked Rantzau. Rantzau on one occasion told Vera that Himmler had told him to take care of himself, as he was one of their very best men, and it remained in Vera’s memory as characteristic of the inordinate conceit (**self importance**). (AOB, **we must consider that Rantzau/Ritter was employed at Abwehrstelle Hamburg and in this regard not employed by Himmler’s SS complex**) Rantzau was very fond (**loving**) of women and very naïve in his relations with them. Any woman could get what she wished from his flattery. In spite of this disability he never kept a mistress, a fact which Vera attributes to his monstrous meanness (**nastiness**). Two years ago he married again, the lady having formerly been his secretary. He described her to Vera not very attractive but quite nice. He had two children by this wife, approximately eight or ten years old.

Question 6: You say you saw Druke in Antwerp. When and where did you see him? What friends had he in Antwerp? Had? He a business in Antwerp? Have you ever heard the? Mention the name Ahless?(**decarded on 11 June 1965**)

Answer Vera met Druke in Antwerp in the following circumstances. She was in Brussels when she received a telephone message from her husband (**Dierks**) from Antwerp, asking her to see him there. This was common occurrence. In order to spare her tedium (**monotony**) of a train journey Druke offered to take her to Antwerp in his car, and did so. He drove her to her husband’s flat at No 26 Sternstraat (**Sterstraat**). Her husband’s flat was on the second floor and his office on the floor below. His office he used as an exporter and importer, clearly as a cover for his espionage activities. His espionage activities were invariably conducted in the flat above at another address. Vera has never heard Druke refer to Ahless (**Ahlers**), nor has she met any of his friends in Antwerp. She knows, however, that he did a considerable business in Antwerp, though he had no office address there.

Arising out of this question Vera tells me that she did on one occasion meet someone whom her husband had admitted was a spy, one day in the flat. This was a certain Captain, whose name she feels sure will recollect. He was a tall man with dark hair and a striking white streak running straight back from the centre of his forehead. He was of medium height, wore glasses and had a fat and pimply face. He was a German and seemed very stupid. Her husband told her that he was a man of no importance.

The following fact were elucidated in general conversation.

Anderson (the man she refers to as Public Enemy No. 1, who organised the trip to England) told her that Edvardsen was coming over → on the first trip to do sabotage in England.

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on the first trip to do sabotage in England. As ANDERSON was drunk at this time VERA's extensive knowledge of human nature leads her to believe that this was true. There was no suggestion that EDWARDSHAW on his arrival in England should stay at the same address as VERA and DRUSKE.

During the whole time, subsequent to the car accident in which Von WEDDEL was killed, DRUSKE seemed to VERA to be in an abnormal state of mind. He accused VERA from time to time of hypnotising him, he would, even whilst talking to her, fall down on the floor with his hands by his side and lie very rigidly. On one occasion, after accusing her of hypnotising him, he assaulted her and tried to strangle her. His whole behaviour after the accident was definitely unlike that which has formerly characterised him. He told her that he could be very easily hypnotised and that in the past he had frequently hypnotised himself. She has no reason to believe that he has ever been on the stage, though he did, at one time, take elocution lessons. As a young man, he told her, when he first lived in Paris he gave private lessons in German in order, to add to his income.

On the last trip to Hamburg VERA travelled there with her husband from Brussels. DRUSKE had gone to Hamburg about a week or ten days before by car.

DRUSKE's movements between September 1939 and August 1940 are as follows, to the best of VERA's recollection. He was in Holland until March 1940. He was in Hamburg between March and the end of June. He was in Brussels from then until his departure for England. During all this time, VERA points out, DRUSKE was travelling from place to place ostensible on business but probably in connection with espionage.

I asked VERA about a photograph which had been shown to her by Dr. FISCHER in Hamburg. She had said in a previous interrogation that this photograph closely resembled Major Stephens, and I had been instructed by the latter to ascertain whether, in VERA's opinion, it actually was a photograph of him. She told me that the resemblance between the photograph and Major Stephens was sufficiently striking to justify anyone in believing it to be an actual photograph of him. At the same time she recognises now that this was an impossibility, because the photograph was among those of Red Anti-German Agents. FISCHER had, in fact, shown VERA this photograph since he hoped she might recognise it as being that of someone whom she had met whilst she herself was working as a Red Agent.

B.L.
5.1.41.

HD/MB:

→ on the first trip to do sabotage in England. As Anderson was drunk at this time Vera's extensive knowledge of human nature leads her to believe that this was true. There was no suggestion that Edwardson (KV 2/21 + KV 2/22) on his arrival in England should stay at the same address as Vera and Druke.

During the whole time, subsequent to the car accident in which von Wedel was killed (in the night of 2nd September 1940, where Druke was the driver) Druke seemed to Vera to be in an abnormal state of mind. (AOB, he might have been forced to step-in their endeavour as to prevent legal action against him, or, what Vera conveyed: that she got the strong impression that viewing at Dierks corpus that he was shot in his head from near-by!) He accused Vera from time to time of hypnotising him, he would, even whilst talking to her fall down on the floor with his hands by his side and lie very rigidly. On one occasion, after accusing her of hypnotising him, he assaulted her and tried to strangle her. His whole behaviour after the accident was definitely unlike that which has formerly characterised him. He told her that he could be very easily hypnotised and that in the past he had frequently hypnotised himself. She has no reason to believe that this was ever been on the stage, though he did, at one time, take elocution (pronunciation) lessons. As a young man, he told her, when he first lived in Paris he gave private lessons in German order, to add to his income.

On the last trip to Hamburg Vera travelled there with her husband (Lt. Hilmar Dierks) from Brussels. Druke had gone to Hamburg about a week or ten days before by car.

Druke's movements between September 1939 and August 1940 are as follows, to the best of Vera's recollection. He was in Holland until March 1940. He was in Hamburg between March and the end of June. He was in Brussels from then until his departure for England (not entirely true, as they arrived about the end of August 1940 in Hamburg, for a meeting at the Reichshof Hotel where Dierks tried, in vain, to change Rantzau/Maj. Ritter's mind in respect to sending Vera on this fatal mission to England). During all this time, Vera points out, Druke was travelling from place to place ostensible (seemingly) on business on business but probably in connection with espionage.

I asked Vera about a photograph which had been shown to her by Dr. Fischer in Hamburg. She has said in a previous interrogation that this first photograph closely resembled Major Stephens, and I had been instructed by the latter (Maj. Stephens) to ascertain whether Vera's opinion, it actually was a photograph of him. She told me that the resemblance between the photograph of him. She told me the resemblance between the photograph and Major Stephens sufficiently striking to justify anyone in believing it to be an actual photograph of him. At the same time she recognises now that this man was an impossibility. Because the photograph was among those of the Red Anti-German Agents. Fischer had, in fact, shown Vera this photograph since he hoped she might recognise it as being that of someone whom she had met whilst she herself was working as a Red agent.

B.L.
5.1.41.

HD/MB:

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AGE 140 REPORT DC916 90/00098

*** SECRET ***
M A S T E R C A R D

THIS PERSONAL PARTICULARS SHEET IS FOR REGISTRY USE AND TO FACILITATE INDEX AMENDMENTS. IT MAY NOT BE CHANGED EXCEPT BY AUTHORISED MEMBERS OF THE REGISTRY.

HISTORICAL

A O O S	nat Danish German pob Kieff Starlizky, Siberia emp 1940:Dancer	STARIZKY, Vera (Ms) pto born 10.12.1912 1940:U.K 1945:GERMANY
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HISTORICAL

1 O O S	ref PF53988 (3/ J/SU/) 1930&1936:Agent; Intell Serv; USSR (3/ J/GE/) 1937&1940:Agent; Intell Serv; Germany (43/ /GE/) 1945:Repatriate; Germany pto 30.01.1990 (rep) 18
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A O O S	@ ERIKSEN, Vera (Ms) SHALBERG, Vera, De-Cottami (Ms) VON WEDEL, Vera (Ms) IGNATIEFF, Vera (Ms) STUHRIG, Vera (Ms) ERIKSON, Vera (Ms) DE COTTAMI, Chaiburg, Vera (Ms) SCHALBOURG, Vera, De-Cottami (Ms) SCHALBURG, Vera, De-Cottami (Ms)	STARIZKY, Vera (Ms) CHALBURG, Vera, De-Cottami (Ms)
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1 O O S	ref PF53988 (55/11/ /545) 1989:Current; File Status: AMBER 30.01.1990 (rep) 2
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HISTORICAL

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.....

*** SECRET ***

Please digest it yourself
 Most of these Master Cards, have been dated 4 / 5 October 1989

KV 2/16, page 68

COPY in PF 64066.

[copy in fi. 603,065, Dierks.]

~~SECRET~~SUBJECT: DIERKS, GerhardWRC-1006
SP.
912.CIB/B3/PF.564To: CI WAR ROOM LONDON ✓

28 Nov 1945

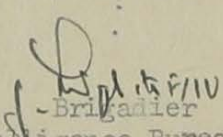
Reference your PF/603,065/WRC1c/JP of 1 Oct 45.

The following are ^{the} rather sketchy results of DIERK's interrogation about Vera von WEDEL.

1. Vera was introduced to DIERKS in HAMBURG in 1936 as Vera von der SCHALBURG, by Hilmar, as one of his girl friends, of whom he apparently had many.
2. DIERKS has not seen her since then and does not know whether she was married to his brother or not. He does not think so. His reasons are that Hilmar, after a first unsuccessful marriage, always stated he would not marry again. He may have done, so, however, but concealed it from DIERKS who would have disapproved in view of Vera's past. DIERKS thinks she may be claiming to have been Hilmar's wife in order to obtain money from his estate.
3. Hilmar also used the name of VAN OHLLEN .
4. DIERKS confirms that his brother was killed in a motor accident in 1940.
5. He knows DEEKER and WALTI as friends of Hilmar.
6. Vera's brother, Van der SCHALBURG was later killed fighting as FUHRER of the Danish SS. DIERKS saw this in the Hamburger Freudenblatt.

CIB
c/o GSI(b)HQ BAORTel: 2842/40

SRC Regd. ADLS


 -Brigadier
 Counter Intelligence Bureau

↓

Subject: Dierks, Gerard.

To: CI War Room London. (CI = Central Intelligence)

The following are rather sketchy results of Dierks' interrogation about Vera von Wedel.

1. Vera was introduced to Dierks in Hamburg in 1936 as Vera von der Schalburg, by Hilmar, as one of his girl friends (Freundin), of whom he apparently had many.
2. Dierks has not seen her since then and does not know whether she was married to his brother or not. He does not think so. His reasons are that Hilmar, after a first unsuccessful marriage, always stated he would not marry again. He may have done, so, however, but concealed it from Dierks who would have disapproved in view of Vera's past. Dierks thinks she may be claiming to have been Hilmar's wife in order to obtain money from the state.
3. Hilmar also used the name of van Ohlen.
4. Dierks confirms that his brother was killed in a motor accident in 1940. (2nd September 1940)
5. He knows Decker as Waelti as friends of Hilmar. (this might prove that Waelti's story was mostly bogus)
6. Vera's brother, Van der Schalburg was later killed fighting as Führer of the Danish SS. Dierks saw this in the Hamburger Fremdenblatt.

Brigadier
Counter-Intelligence Bureau

CIB
c/o/ GSI (b)
HQ BAOR (British Army over the Rhine)

↓

↓

KV 2/16, page 70 + 71

S. Form 81/B.P./5000/1.44.

EXTRACT.

190ab

Extract for File No. P.F. 53988 Name ERIKSEN @ von WEDEL @ SCHALBUR
 Original in File No. P.F. 603,256 CHRISTENSEN Serial: 1a Dated: 27.11.45.
 Original from: British Mil. Mission, Denmark, Under Ref.: 281/328. 10.9.45.
 Extracted on: 7.1.46. by: O.B. Section: H4.

Extract taken from Interrogation Report on Holgar Winding CHRISTENSEN, dating from 14.7.45 to 18.9.45, forwarded by B.A.O.R. on 27.11.45.

(At the end of 1939, when on the staff of SIEMENS & HALSKE, Berlin, CHRISTENSEN was sent by the firm to COPENHAGEN to an address in Palagade to install a microphone in an apartment, so as to tap the apartment situated above which belonged to the French Military attache. On his arrival he was met by a German Naval officer called WEDEL and a lady, Miss Vera von SCHALBURG, sister to the chief of the Freecorps. After some delay the work was completed.)

.....The tapping itself was done by the persons staying in the apartment and was in full swing at my departure, but should, if I understood Mr. WEDEL quite right, be taken over by a special staff of ladies proficient in languages, and they were expected at my departure. It is furthermore well-known to me from Lt.Capt. von SCHALBURG that his sister shortly after my departure was attacked in the apartment in question one night, when she was there alone, and she was severely wounded by a stab. It is possible that the installation at the same occasion was destroyed, as the culprits are said to have ravaged the apartment seriously. Miss von SVHALBURG was brought to a lazarett in FLENSBURG at the request of Mr. WEDEL.

P.T.O. *WV 7/1/46*

(Later, when discussing von WEDEL)

.....The French and English he always mentioned with sympathy, as if there was no war at all. "They are brilliant fellows", he said. But he was on the other hand always very sombre, if the Sovjet-Russians were brought up. This is certainly due to the fact that Vera von SCHALBURG, with whom he was in love and probably later on has married, as a Russian emigrant was always threatened by Sovjet's agents and had several times been exposed to attacks.....

↓

..

Original from British Mil. Mission, Denmark

10.9.45

Extracted on: 7.1.46.

Extract taken from Interrogation Report on Holgar Winding Christensen, dating from 14.7.45 to 18.9.45 forwarded by B.A.O.R on 27.11.45.

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(notice: for some proof page 23 of this pdf)

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..The French and English he always mentioned with sympathy, as if there was no war at all. "They are brilliant fellows". He said. But he was on the other hand always very somber, if the Soviet-Russians were brought up. This is certainly due to the fact that Vera von Schalburg, with whom he was in love and probably later on has married as a Russian emigrant was always threatened by Sovjet's agents and had several times been exposed to attacks ...

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KV 2/16, page 78

Copy in. Kt. 53988, Eviden.

1876

SECRET

Original in:

HS/603,065/WHLG/JP

1st October 1945.

To : SACOR for Lt. Col. Hoaken.Gerhard DIENKS.

We would be glad if you could arrange for the above I.M. official of Ast Hamburg, on whom the interrogation report No. 0751/1260/1 of 12 July has now been received, to be asked what he knows of the wife of his brother, Hilmar DIENKS. It is believed that Vera ERIKSON, who was landed in Scotland in 1940 from a small vessel together with de BEMER and WALPI, was married to Hilmar DIENKS in October 1937. The following is Vera's own account of her antecedents and personal history:

She was born at Klaff on 10 December 1912 and was the adopted child of August SCHALBURG and his wife nee SHARINIKI. In 1924, Vera and her parents moved to Paris and Vera became a ballet dancer. In 1930, her father obtained employment in Brussels and went to live at 193 Avenue Paul, Dochanal, Schaerbeek. In 1930, Vera married Sergei Ivanovitch IGNATIEFF, an unscrupulous roger engaged in drug traffic and in espionage for the Soviet Government. In 1936, IGNATIEFF was reported shot by the Bolsheviks. In 1937, Vera married Hans Friedrich von WEDEL @ SEUERIG @ Hans zum STUHNEN @ Oberitz. DIENKS at a Registry Office in Hamburg. Von WEDEL is known to have been killed in September 1940, ostensibly in a motor accident, but Vera believes that he may in fact have been assassinated.

Vera's present nationality cannot be established on present evidence, and it would be of considerable interest to learn Gerhard DIENKS' version of his brother's relations with Vera.

Vera was equipped with an illegal Danish passport in the name of Vera ERIKSON by her German masters, but she destroyed it while at sea en route for Scotland from Norway. She also held a legal Danish passport in the name of Vera de SCHANBURG. She says that her German passport in the name of Vera von WEDEL was ^{deposited} ~~deposited~~ together with other belongings at Oberkommando H.Q. in Hamburg.

DIENKS has presumably already told all he knows of his brother's activities on behalf of Ast Hamburg.

JP/WHL.

↓

To : BAOR (British Army over the Rhine) for Lt.Col. Noakes. 1st October 1945

Gerhard Dierks.

We would be glad if you could arrange for the above I M official of Ast Hamburg, on whom the interrogation report No. 0731/1260/1 of 12 July has now been received, to be asked what he knows of the wife of his brother, Hilmar Dierks. It is believed that Vera Erikson, who was landed in Scotland in 1940 from a small vessel together with de Deeker and Waelti, was married to Hilmar Dierks in October 1937. The following is Vera's own account of her antecedents and personal history:

She was born at Kieff (Kiev) on 10 December 1912 and was the adopted child of August Schalburg and his wife nee Staritzky. In 1924, Vera and her parents moved to Paris and Vera became a ballet dancer. In 1928, her father obtained employment in Brussels and went to live at 123 Avenue Paul Dechanel, Schaerbeek. In 1930, Vera married Sergi Ivanovitch Ignatieff, an unscrupulous rogee? engaged in drug traffic and in espionage for the Soviet Government. In 1936, Ignatieff was reported shot by the Bolsheviks. In 1937, Vera married Hans Friedrich von Wedel @ Sturig @ Hans zum Stuhreck? @ Oblt. Dierks at a Registry Office (Standesamt) in Hamburg. Von Wedel (Dierks) is known to have been killed in 2nd September 1940, ostensibly in a motor accident, but Vera believes that he may in fact have been assassinated.

Vera's present nationality cannot be established on present evidence, and it would be of considerable interest to learn Gerhard Dierk's version of his brother's relations with Vera.

Vera was equipped with an illegal Danish passport in the name of vera Erikson by her German masters (Rantzau/Major Ritter), but she destroyed it while at sea route for Scotland from Norway. She also held a legal Danish passport in the name of Vera von Wedel as deposited together with other belongings at Oberkommando H.Q. in Hamburg. (meant Abwehrstelle at the Knochenhauerstrasse, which latter was named it during the war)

Dierks has presumably already told all he knows of his brother's activities on behalf of Ast Hamburg.

↓

↓

P.A. Vera
ERICKSEN
P.F. 53988.

Home Office,
(Aliens Department),
10 Old Bailey,
London E.C.4.

Ref. G.M. 440/27/22

London E.C.4.

17th September, 1945.

Dear Forrest,

Copy to 020.19/9

It has been decided that aliens who are still in detention shall no longer be detained under the wartime powers under which they were detained originally but under the peace time power provided by Article 12(4) of the Aliens Order. This gives power to detain, pending deportation, an alien against whom a deportation order has been made.

I herewith enclose a copy of a Direction by the Secretary of State giving effect to this decision as far as the special detainees are concerned who were formerly detained under Article 12(5A). I am also sending a copy of the Direction to our Internment Camps Division since some of the aliens affected are now in open camps.

I am writing to you separately about the special detainees who have been held under Defence Regulation 18 B.

Yours sincerely,

Major M. Forrest,
M.I.5.

sgd. J.H. Street.

21 SEP 1945

Home Office,
(Aliens Department),
10 Old Bailey,
London E.C.4.

17th September 1945

Dear Forrest.

It has been decided that aliens who are still in detention shall no longer be detained under the wartime power under which they were detained originally but under the peace time power provided by Article 12(4) of the Aliens Order. This gives power to detain, pending deportation, an alien against whom a deportation order has been made.

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I am writing to you separately about the special detainees who have who have been held under Defence Regulation 18 BA. (AOB, **such as was the Argentinian Hellmuth, who was rather poorly handled by M.I.5.; which I consider a "black page" in their history**) (AOB, **I may disapprove sometimes in respect to M.I.5's handling; though I admire! the Home Office Legal considerations and views**).

Yours sincerely.

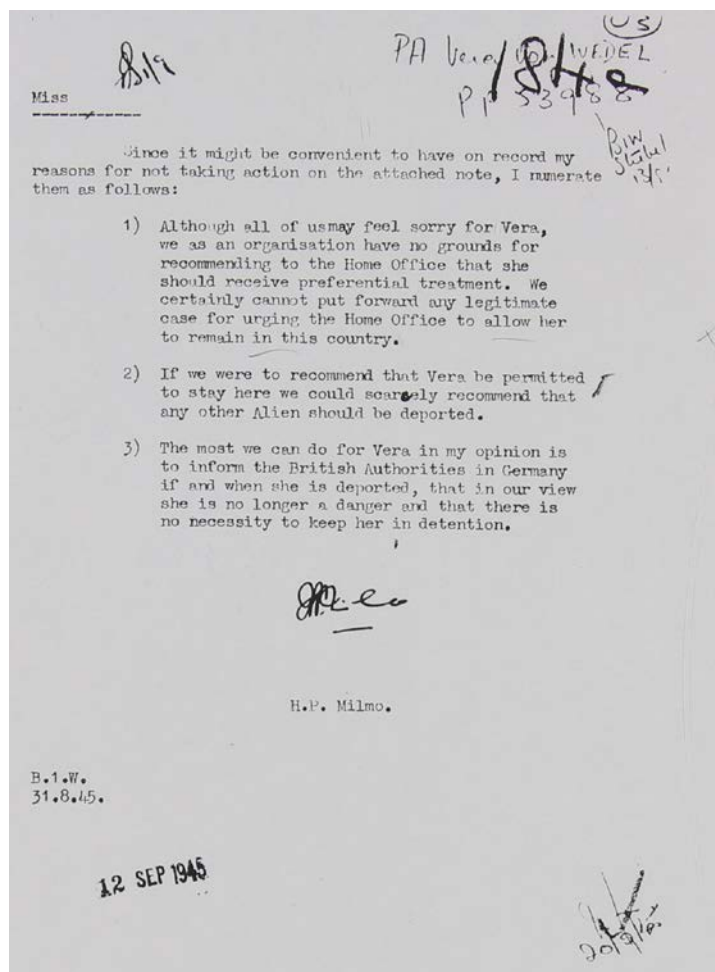
Major N. Forrest, (M.I.5)

Signed. J.H. Street

↓

↓

KV 2/16, page 90



Miss ...

Since it might be convenient to have on record my reasons for not taking action on the attached note, I numerate them as follows:

- 1) Although all of us may feel sorry for Vera, we as an organisation have no grounds for recommending to the Home Office that she should receive preferential treatment. We certainly cannot put forward any legitimate cause for urging the Home Office to allow her to remain in this country.
- 2) If we were to recommend that Vera be permitted to stay here we could scarcely recommend that any other Alien should be deported.
- 3) The most we can do for Vera in my opinion is to inform the British Authorities in Germany if and when she is deported, that in our view she is no longer a danger and that there is no necessity to keep her in detention.

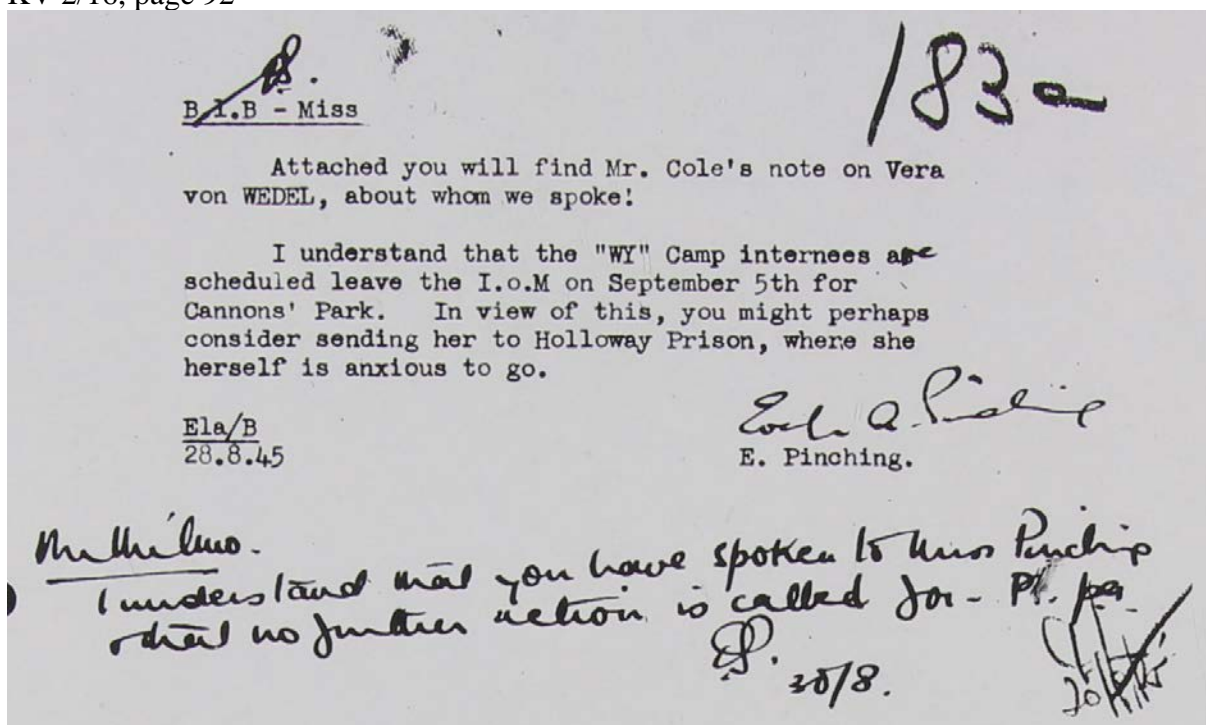
H.P. Milmo (M.I.5.)

B.1.W.
31.8.45

(The British authorities in Hamburg gave actually a damn on this matter!) (Vera arrived in Hamburg, and even the services in England, sometimes tried to find out where and how she is doing, but since in vain.)

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KV 2/16, page 92

B.I.B. (M.I.5) - Miss Joan Chenhalls?

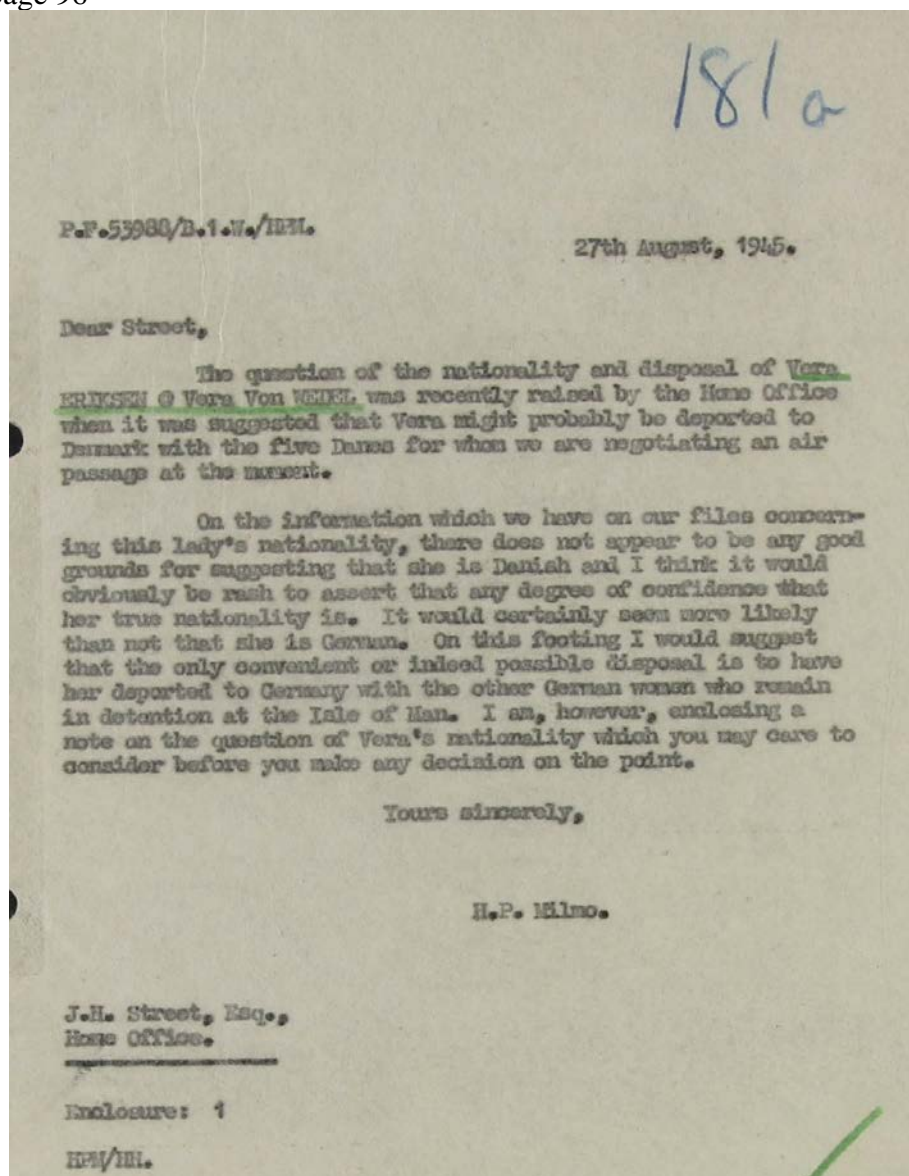
Attached you will find Mr. Cole's note on Vera von Wedel, about we spoke!

I understand the "WY" Camp internees are scheduled leave the I.o.M. (Isle of Man) on September 5th for Cannon's Park. In view of his, you might perhaps consider sending her to Holloway Prison, where she herself s anxious to go.

Wla/B.
28.8.45

E. Pinching

↓



Dear Street,

The question of the nationality and disposal of Vera Eriksen @ vera von Wedel, who recently raised by the Home Office when it was suggested that Vera might probably be deported to Denmark with the five Danes for whom we are negotiating an air passage at the moment.

On the information which we have on our files concerning this lady's nationality, there does not appear to be any good grounds for suggesting that she is Danish and I think it would obviously be rash to assert that any degree of confidence that her true nationality is. It would certainly seem more likely that not that she is German. On this footing I would suggest that the only convenient or ideal possible disposal is to have her deported to Germany with the other German women who remain in detention at the Isle of Man. I am, however, enclosing a not on the question of Vera's nationality which you may care to consider before you make any decision on the point.

Yours sincerely,

H.P. Milmo (M.I.5)
J.H. Street, Esq. Home Office,

↓

181a

Notes on the Nationality of

Vera ERIKSEN

The information available on the subject of this woman's nationality comes from two sources, her own story and statement obtained from her uncle who has resided in England for 30 years. The story told by Ver herself has not been a consistent one and even her final account cannot therefore be regarded as reliable. On the other hand her uncle's statement did carry conviction but his information is necessarily limited as he does not appear to have kept in very close touch with his niece's family. Combining the two sources, Vera's family history would seem to be as follows:

She is probably the second child of one August SCHALBURG and his wife nee SEARITZKY. She has herself stated that August SCHALBURG was a Russian of German origin but then she has cast doubts on her own legitimacy, maintaining that she was only adopted by SCHALBURG. Her uncle's statement suggests that she is probably lying on this point. She has stated that she was born at Kieff on the 10th December, 1912 but it seems more probable that she was born in Siberia. In 1917 or 1918 the family fled to Denmark from Russia and there probably assumed Danish nationality. In 1924 Vera moved to Paris with her parents and worked there as a ballet dancer. In 1928 her uncle, referred to above, was able to get her father a job in Brussels where he may still be living, according to Vera at 193 Avenue Paul, Dechanel, Schaerbeck,

Vera states that in 1930 she married one Sergei Ivanovitch IGNATIEFF, an unscrupulous rogue engaged in the drug traffic and espionage for the Soviet Government. She says that in 1936 IGNATIEFF was reported to have been shot by the Bolshevics. There seems to be doubt about this as also about her assertion that she was married to IGNATIEFF.

Vera maintains that she next married a member of the German Intelligence Service named Hans Friedrich von WEDEL @ STURIG @ Hans zum STURHECK @ Oberleutnant DIERKS at a Registry Office in Hamburg in October 1937. She swears that this was true and is to some extent corroborated by her uncle, who states that he had heard since the outbreak of war that Vera was "happily married". The uncle states categorically that this was her first marriage but he does not know her husband's name. According to Vera, Von WEDEL was killed in September 1940 ostensibly in a motor car accident though she feels he may have been assassinated.

We are disposed to believe that Vera was in fact married to von WEDEL whom we know to have been a German citizen. We have no documentary proof, however, though Vera says that she once had a German passport which was subsequently deposited with the G.I.S. in Hamburg before she departed for England.

28.8.45.

↓

Notes on the Nationality of
Vera Eriksen.

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Vera maintains that she next married a member of the German Intelligence Service named Hans Friedrich von Wedel @ Sturig @ Hans zum Stuhrheck @ Oberleutnant Dierks ([Thus was his true name and rank after 21 June 1940](#)) at the Registry Office in Hamburg ([Standesamt](#)) in October 1937. She swears that this was true (AOB, [in some lines of the no-longer available Dierks family website, was hinted that they might even have found apparently a divorce document](#)) The uncle states categorically that this was het first marriage but he does not know her husband's name.

[According to Vera: von Wedel was killed \(on 2nd September 1940 in Hamburg\). Ostensibly in a motor car accident though she feels he may have been assassinated.](#)

We are disposed ([willing](#)) to believe that Vera was in fact married to von Wedel whom we know to have been a German citizen. We have no documentary proof, however, though Vera says that she once had a German passport which was subsequently deposited with the German Intelligence Service ([Ast-X](#)) in Hamburg before she departed for England.

28.8.45



"WY" Camp,
Isle of Man.

Ref: PF.53988/B.1.A/GRL

Vera von WEDEL & ERIKSON

From my knowledge of Vera over the past two years, I make the following observations on her.

POLITICAL

I should not care to say that Vera had any political views in the academic sense. Her political feelings seem to arise from her experiences. She feels strongly about Russian communism and all Germans. She has the conventional 1920ish view of Russian communism, which is understandable as she seems to live very much with her memories. When she talks of Germans it is usually with contempt. She makes against them the customary accusations of the Germanophobe - that they are cruel, that they have a slave mentality, that they have no sense of humour, and that they are immature. It must not be supposed from these remarks that she displays her prejudices frequently. It is only rarely that she mentions the world outside herself and, indeed, she seems to have very little knowledge of current events at all. Incidentally, she says she would like to stay in England, always adding "But I don't know what they will decide to do with me."

PHYSICAL

I am not quoting the camp medical department on this subject; Miss Pinching will understand why. In appearance Vera is often a somewhat alarming sight - an expression for which the over-worked term "mask like" is appropriate, a white drawn face and dark lines under the eyes. When I ask her how she is she invariably replies: "All right", adding that insomnia is her only trouble. Just now she looks as though she has not slept for a fortnight. She smokes incessantly; internees in her billet tell me that she lives on nothing but cigarettes and coffee. I am also told that she has on occasions collapsed. She is sometimes troubled by pain from the wound in her side.

EMOTIONAL

Emotionally, Vera seems to me to be nearly dead. She has a look of remoteness. She has had a few women friends in the camp, but

they have told me that she hardly ever loses her reserve and they make no progress in getting to know her. I understand that she is religious and spends hours praying before a crucifix. She has kept herself fairly busy in camp occupations, and is at present - rather oddly - running the camp cafe. She goes regularly to camp social events, and even dances, but her face hardly ever loses its expression of remoteness.

I think all of us who have known Vera for any time feel sorry for her. She is as dead as any living person could well be. I should not like to hazard a guess as to whether she will ever recover. I think it highly improbable that she will ever have the zest for any of the colourful activities in which she has engaged in the past. Taking her as she is now, I do not think she is of any security interest to us. I make this last observation without knowing whether she is in possession of any information that might cause such an observation to be qualified.

22nd. August, 1945

JAC/EH



Vera von Wedel & Erikson.

From my knowledge of Vera over the past two years, I make the following observation on her.

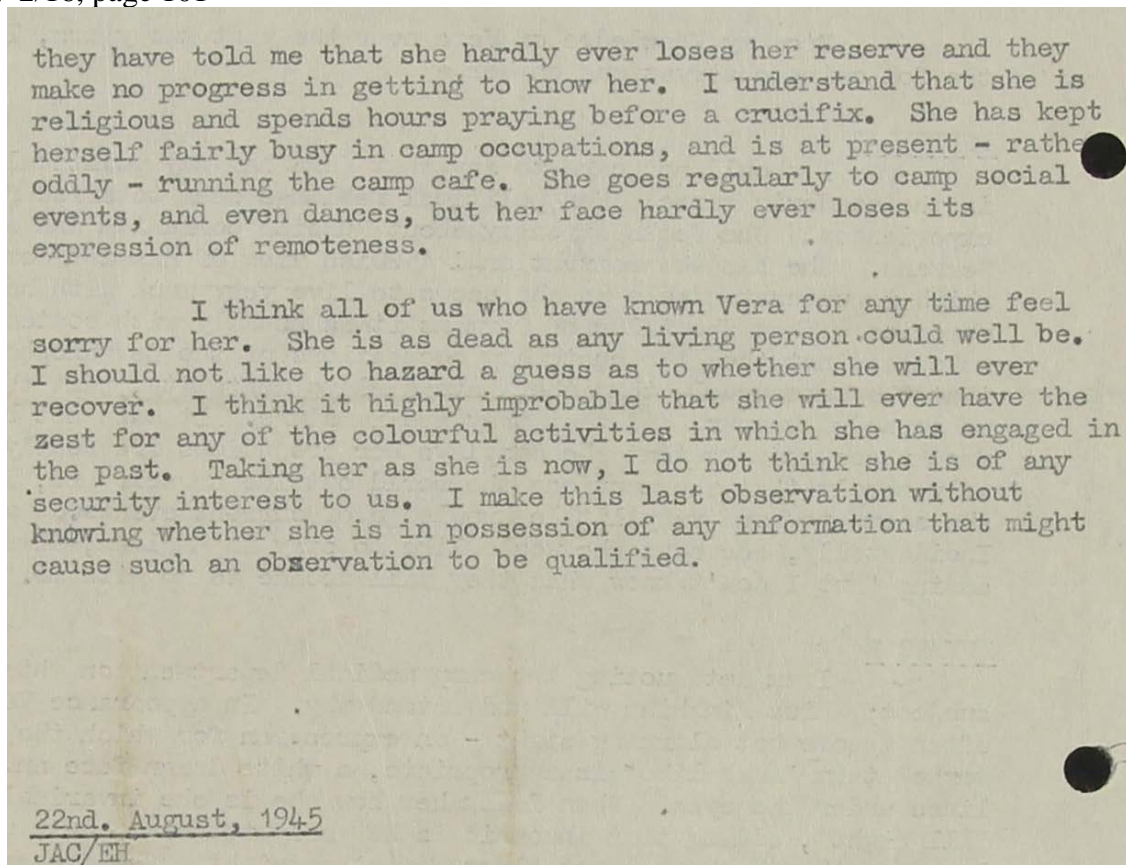
Political.

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Physical.

I am not quoting the camp medical department on this subject; Miss Pinching will understand why. In appearance Vera is often a somewhat alarming sight – an expression for which the over worked term “mask like” is appropriate, a white drawn face and dark lines under the eyes. When I ask her how she invariably replies: “All right”: adding that insomnia ([sleepless](#)) is her only trouble. Just now she looks as though she has not slept for a fortnight. She smokes increasingly; internees in the billet ([accommodation](#)) tell me that she lives on nothing but cigarettes and coffee. I am also told that she has on occasions collapsed. She is sometimes troubled by pain from her wound in her side.

KV 2/16, page 101



They have told me that she hardly ever loses her reserve and they make no progress in getting to know her. I understand that she is religious and spends hours praying before a crucifix. That she has kept herself fairly busy in camp occupations, and is at present – rather oddly – running the camp café. She goes regularly to camp social events, and even dances, but her face hardly ever loses its expression of remoteness ([inaccessibility](#)).

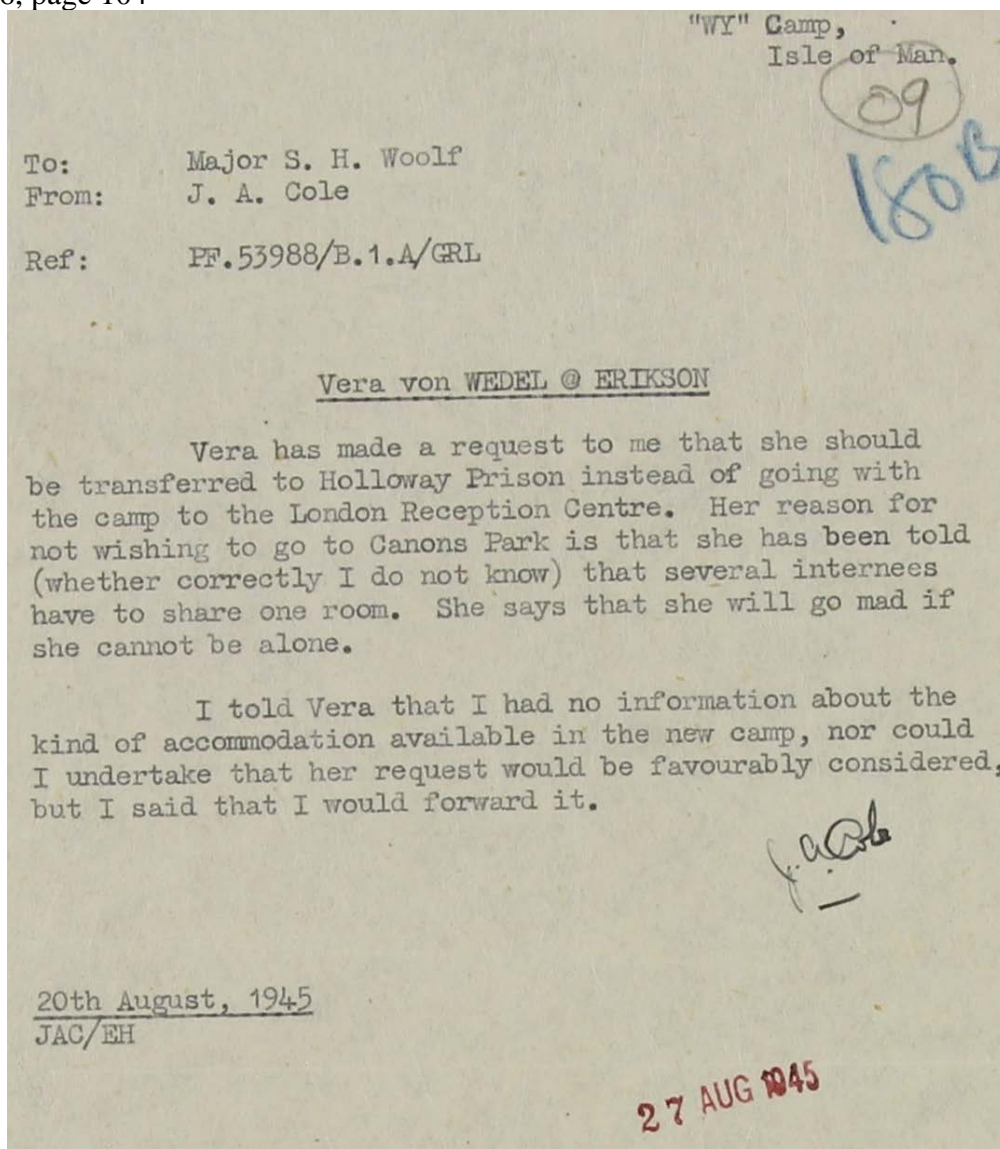
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22nd August, 1945.

(AOB, from the sadly no longer operational Dierks family website, I remember that they did find out: that Vera was declared (registered) dead; owing to pneumonia somewhere mid-1946. [Historical fact: the British occupying Authorities of Germany imposed \(say, autumn 1945 early 1946\) a ban on truck movements - generating a feminine \(starving\) among the population, particularly living in great conglomerates; such as was Hamburg. Also, Penicillin was restricted and not available. And, last but not least - the country suffered from a very harsh winter, where hardly coal was available, also due to transport restrictions\)](#))



KV 2/16, page 104



"WY"camp,
Isle of Man.

To: From Major S.H. Woolf
From: J.A. le

Vera von Wedel @ Erikson.

Vera has made a request to me that she should be transferred to Holloway Prison instead of going with the Camp to London Reception Centre. Her reason for not wishing to go to Canons Park is that she has been told (whether correctly I do not know) that several internees have to share one room. She says that she will go mad if she cannot be alone.

I told Vera that I had no information available in the new camp, nor could I undertake that her request would be favourably considered, but I said that I would forward it.

20th August, 1945.

↓

KV 16, page 106+108; partially because the rest is identical to 181a at page 98

Vera maintains that she next married a member of the German I.S. named Hans Friedrich von Wedel, alias, Sturig, alias, Hans zum Stahrheck, alias, Oberleutnant Dierks, at a Registry Office in Hamburg in October 1937. She swears that this is true and adds that von Wedel faked the answers to the questionnaire as to her "arian" descent. Since the outbreak of War, Vera's uncle has had confirmation that Vera was "happily married", and he states categorically that this was her first marriage. He does not know her husband's name, however, but there seems little doubt that this was in fact von Wedel. According to Vera, von Wedel was killed in September 1940. She was told that he died in a car smash but she feels that he may have been assassinated.

Assuming, therefore that under German Law, a woman marrying a German subject acquires his nationality, there is certainly a prima facie case for considering Vera as a German, being the widow of the German, von Wedel. We have no documentary evidence to produce however. She says that she once had a German Passport but this was deposited with Rantzau, Oberkommand, Hamburg on her departure for England.

If it is decided to treat her as a German, perhaps the British Occupying Forces could arrange for her documentation on their simple declaration of her nationality. If evidence is required however, perhaps they could produce the German Passport referred to above, or failing this, perhaps they could arrange for a search of the Marriage Registry Offices' records of Hamburg for the month of October 1937. This might produce evidence of Vera's marriage to a German.

If, on the other hand it is decided that more precise information should be obtained, before deciding on her nationality it might be considered worth while having her father interviewed in Brussels. His address is given above but it might be desirable to check this with her uncle who might also be able to suggest other fruitful sources of enquiry, such as her aunt in Denmark. This uncle certainly seems to be the one reliable character in the whole case. In May 1942 he was serving in Southampton as a Pilot Officer in the R.A.F. and was contacted through his private address, Flat D, 13 Sheffield Terrace, Kensington. His previous report is in the file at 120a.

To :-
Mr. Milmo.

C. A. Haines

C. A. Haines.
17th August 1945.

If, on the other hand it is decided that more precise information should be obtained, before deciding on her nationality it might be considered worth while having her father interviewed in Brussels. His address is given above but it might be desirable to check this with her uncle who might also be able to suggest other fruitful sources of enquiry, such as her aunt in Denmark. This uncle certainly seems to be the one reliable character in the whole case. In May 1942 he was serving in Southampton as a Pilot Officer in the R.A.F. and was contacted through his private address, Flat D, 13 Sheffield Terrace, Kensington. His previous report is in the file at 120a.

To :-
Mr. Milmo.

C. A. Haines

C. A. Haines.
17th August 1945.

Assuming therefore that under German law, a woman marrying a German subject acquires his nationality, there is certainly a prima facie case for considering Vera as a German, being the widow of the German, von Wedel (was his fake name). We have no documentary evidence to produce however. She says that she once had a German passport but this was deposited with Rantzau (Major Ritter), Oberkommando (Abwehrstelle at the Knochenhauerstrasse (wartime name), Hamburg.

If it is decided to treat her as a German, perhaps the British Occupying Forces could arrange for her documentation on their simple declaration of her nationality. If evidence is required however, perhaps they could produce the German Passport referred to above, or failing this, perhaps they could arrange for a search of the marriage Registry Offices (Standesamt) records of Hamburg for the month of October 1937. This might produce evidence of Vera's marriage to a German.

If, on the other hand it is decided that more precise information should be obtained, before deciding on her nationality it might be considered worth while having her father interviewed in Brussels. His address is given above but it might be desirable to check this with her uncle who might also be able to suggest other fruitful sources of enquiry, such as her aunt in Denmark. This uncle certainly seems to be the one reliable character in the whole case. In May 1942 he was serving in Southampton as a Pilot Officer in the R.A.F. and was contacted through his private address, Flat D, 13 Sheffield Terrace, Kensington. His previous report is in file 120a.

Sgd. C.A. Haines
17th August 1945

Mr. Milmo (M.I.5)

↓

↓

KV 2/16, page 5

22.6.45.	S.I.S. letter re the possibility of	173a
	174.	
24.6.45.	To R.O. Isle of Man asking if	174a
	175.	
3.7.45.	From R.O. I. of M. enclosing report on	175a
	176.	
4.7.45.	Minutes between officers of B.I.A. re the	176a
	177.	
4.7.45.	To S.I.S. in reply to 173a giving results of interview with Vera ERIKSEN.	177a

KV 2/16, page 108

1

174A
175A
176A
177A

THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
RETAINED IN DEPARTMENT
UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF
THE PUBLIC RECORDS
ACT 1958.

Nov '98.



KV 2/16, pages 117 + 118 +(5)

CONFIDENTIAL

WY Camp,
I. o. M.

170a

To Major S.H. Woolf
From J.A. Cole
P.F. 53988/B. I. B./HPM

Vera von WEDEL @ ERIKSEN

Herewith a letter from Vera for transmission to Mr. [REDACTED] if approved, please.

J.A. Cole.

April 4, 1945.

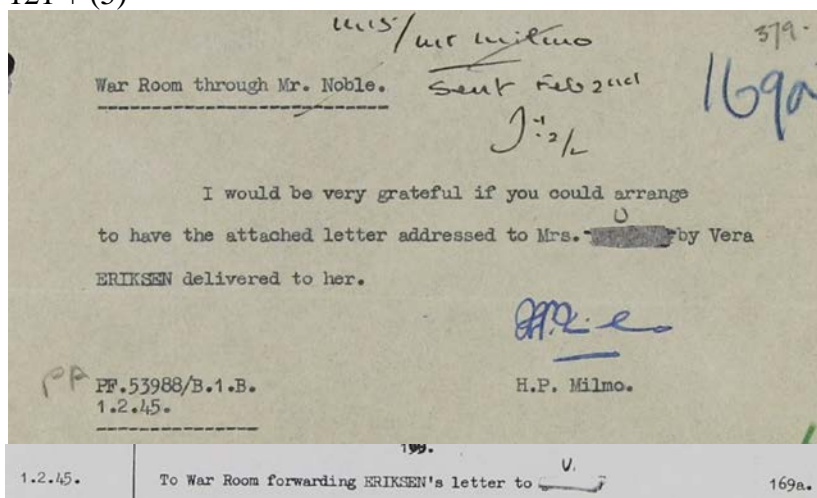


7.4.45. From CIO, IOM forwarding note re delivery of letter from ERIKSEN to U [REDACTED]

170a.

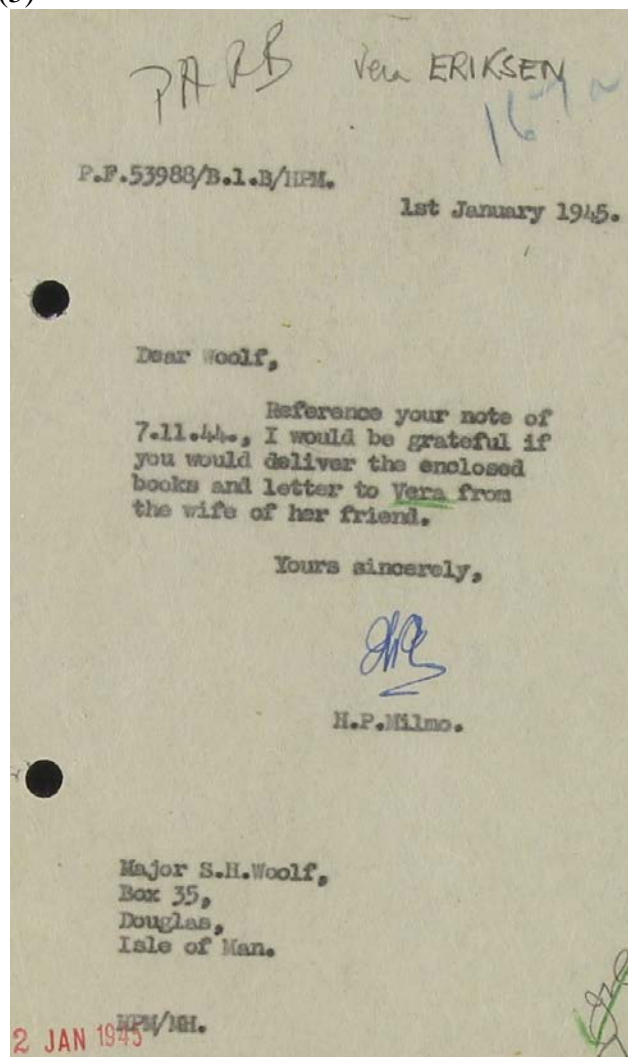
The cut-out text starts with a U →likely stood for: U.35 or directly Ustinov.
B.I.B. and HPM were the initials of Mr. Milmo (M.I.5)

KV 2/16, page 121 + (5)



Mrs. U = Mrs. Ustinov, at who's house she once stated in early 1942, Vera was told being a holiday, but on the other hand providing the opportunity - to be more or less - freely questioned in a friendly environment (atmosphere). This family was one of the few she knew and was allowed to communicate with.

KV 2/16, page 123 + (5)



The returning letter from Ustinov's wife on to Vera. Thus, actual substance and the according Minutes references.

Termination **Part VIII** on 30 January 2020