

KV 2/1701 – 1706
Series

Part I

Vera Baronesses von Wedel (apparently an alias)
Druecke and Waelti

Correctly spelled: Drücke and Wälti

Correct spelling is commonly a severe shortcoming of British Historians,
they might even not have being aware of it; which is a true shame!

This subject started as a foreseeable subject, but it certainly is not like this!

Journalist historians, approach matters with a kind of “time pressure” as time is money.
Sad for them, history can only be a fruitful source of information, as long as one is intending
to go for it, whatever time or involvement it costs.

Please be aware, that a great deal of nonsense is around, such as novels, but also journalistic
involvements; all short term commitments.

I will not say, that we cannot make errors, but the huge complexity of these cases inevitably
will cause some errors, here and there.

But, what is found so far is rather limited. As going deeper into such intriguing subject
demands a huge commitment, without being hampered by journalistic deadlines or frames set
for researching a subject.

In my perception, in particular the Anglo-Saxon field, is ignoring correct spelling on names
involved.

The implications are, that they aren't aware of the errors involved in particular documents.

Whether once “weeded” or particularly covering particular practices.

Therefore, this contribution will be extensive, which is already an anti-journalistic attitude;
but it will reveal matters available; though differently expressed.

The beginning of this **Part I** may be indeed considered a bit boring.
Though we follow mainly the line of this post war reconstructed file.

Somewhere towards the end of Part I, intriguing matters come to bear.

Please keep in mind, this series will be rather extensive!

Though, there is so much nonsense around, that I have no other choice than to go for it.

Please notice: that all text sections selected are my choice, and my additional comments are
always recognisable due to their: blue, red and sometimes, green colours

Notice:

The purpose of this document is for study only; please do not multiply its content, as it partly
still obeys to Crown Copyright.

By Arthur O. Bauer

Group KV
Class 2
Piece 1701

KV 2/1701

3W
402

W
402

P.F. No. 56136

SUPPLEMENTARY A VOL. I
(PROSECUTION)

90

- (1) DRUEKE, KARL THEO
- (2) WAELTI, WERNER HEINRICH
- (3) WEDEL, VERA BARONESS VON

SA
1034

HISTORICAL


HELD LA

HELD BY L.L. (B)

See Also

PF 53989 WAELTI
PF 53990 DRUEKE

PF 53988 WEDEL

Section	Date		Section	Date
MS 2	7.12.93			
MS 2				
RSTO				

HISTORICAL

KV2/1701

HISTORICAL

FILE HELD BY

RMSX

S 238D Edn. 1

KV 2/1701

Druecke, Karl Theo

Waelti, Werner Heinrich

Wedel, Vera Baroness von

PF 53989 Waelti; PF 53990 Druecke (Druecke); PF 53988 Wedel



S.L.B.1. (Colonel W.E. Hinchley Cooke)

I acknowledge receipt of Mauser pistol,
No.489366, for inclusion in the Security Service
exhibits to be given to the Imperial War Museum.

B.1.a.
1.2.46.

(Sgd) S. RIESEN.

NOTE. The above Minute and accompanying papers were
found amongst the papers left by Brigadier
Hinchley Cooke. Another set of copies will
be found in the WALDBERG & MEIER Pros.file (No.6)
PF.53126

S.L.B.1. (Colonel W.E. Hinchley Cooke).

I acknowledge receipt of Mauser pistol, No. 489366 (once owned by someone of the [Seeloewe group](#)), for inclusion in the Security Service exhibits to be given to the Imperial War Museum.

B.1.a. (M.I.5)
1.2.1946

(Sgd) S. Riesen.

Note. The above Minute and accompanying papers were found amongst the papers were found amongst the papers left by Brigadier Hinchley Cooke. Another set of copies will be found in the Waldberg & Meier Pros. file (No.6)

PF 53126.

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B.3.b. (Mr. Hughes)

1. The Rt. Hon. Mr. Justice Humphreys has approved the draft captions contained in the attached B.M.
2. As arranged I am sending you herewith MAUSER Pistol No. 489366 (minus ammunition).

S.L.B.1.
1. Feb. 46.

(Intd) H.C.

B.3.b. (Mr. Hughes)

- 1 The Rt. Mr. Justice Humphreys (in 1940 the barrister of Kieboom and Pons?) has approved the draft captions contained in the attached B.M.
- 2 As arranged I am sending you herewith Mauser Pistol No. 489366 (see [previous page](#)) (minus ammunition).

S.L.B.1.

1 Feb. 46.

(Intd) H.C.

KV 2/1701-1, page 6

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM EXHIBITS.

1. W/T set WALTI and DRUECKE
2. W/T set WALDBERG and MEIER.
3. Parachute, harness, flying suit, entrenching tool and agent's revolver.
4. Secret writing match.
5. Secret writing letter (Photographs).

Imperial War museum Exhibits.

- 1 W/T set Waelti and Druecke
- 2 W/T set Waldberg and Meier. (www.cdvandt.org/seeloewe-espionage.htm)
- 3 Parachute, harness, flying suit, entrenching tool and agent's revolver.
- 4 Secret writing match.
- 5 Secret writing letter (Photographs).

↓

Werner Heinrich WALTI & Karl Theo DRUECKE.

WALTI, who claimed to be Swiss but was believed to be German, and DRUECKE, a German, arrived in September 1940, landing by means of a rubber dinghy dropped from a seaplane off the Scottish coast near Port-gordon, and were subsequently executed. They brought with them, amongst other things, two sets of wireless equipment, one of which is contained in a black fibre reinforced suitcase

And consists of:-

1. a combined transmitter and receiver, battery operated;
2. the high tension and low tension dry batteries;
3. crystals for controlling the transmitter frequency;
4. aerial insulators and cut lengths of aerial wire;
5. Morse Key;
6. voltmeter for checking condition of batteries;
7. spare valve for the transmitter;
8. pair of telephones.

Technical details.

The transmitter consists of a single valve crystal controlled oscillator circuit supplied with two plug in type crystals. Power supply is obtained from the dry batteries, giving an input of from five to seven Watts, and a communicating range of up to five hundred miles in good conditions. The receiver is a three valve type with a tuned radio frequency stage, detector and low frequency stages, the frequency range being approximately 4,000 - 8,000 Kcs.

Werner Heinrich Waelti & Karl Theo Druecke.

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- 2 the high tension and low tension dry batteries;
- 3 crystals for the controlling the transmitter frequency;
- 4 aerial insulators and cut lengths of aerial wire;
- 5 More key;
- 6 voltmeter for checking condition of batteries;
- 7 spare valve for the transmitter;
- 8 pair of telephones

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S.L.(B).

Might I please see the eleven maps brought to this country by Werner Heinrich WALTJ (P.F.53989) who landed at Buckie on 30.9.40. and was executed on 6.8.41. His Supplementary (Prosecution) file is P.F.56136.

I should also like to see the list of aerodromes, apparently Vera ERIKSON's handwriting, which she or de DEEKER had in their possession when arrested. ERIKSON's P.F. is P.F.53988, but it looks as if her case was covered by the prosecution volume referred to above.

S.L.A.(2).
22.12.41.

J. C. S. Katz

S.L.(B).

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I should like to see the list of aerodromes, apparently Vera Erikson's handwriting, which she or De Deeker ([Druecke](#)) had in their possession when arrested. Erikson's PF is PF 53988, but it looks as if her case was covered by the prosecution volume referred to above.

S.L.A. (2).
22.12.41

PF.56136/S.L(B)

1 December, 1941.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner,
Special Branch.

Rex v. DRUECKE and WAELTI

I should be most grateful if the exhibits in this case could now be returned to us, especially as a number of them are urgently required by other Government Departments.

PF 56136/S.L(B)

Deputy Assistant Commissioner,
Special Branch.

Rex v. Druecke and Waelti.

I should be most grateful if the exhibits in this case could now be returned to us, especially as a number of them are urgently required by the Government Departments.

WHC/YM

↓

6th August, 41

Enemy Agents.

405/41/1177.

The execution of Karl Theo DRUEKE and Werner Heinrich WALTJ took place at Wandsworth Prison at 9 a.m. on 6th August, 1941. It will be recalled that these two men were sentenced to death at the Central Criminal Court on the 16th June, 1941, on charges contrary to Section 1 of the Treachery Act, 1940.

Later in the day an inquest was held by Raymond Benedict Hervey Wyatt, Esq., (Coroner for the South-Western district) sitting with a Jury and after evidence had been given by Sir Bernard Spilsbury, the Prison Governor, the Prison Doctor and myself the Jury returned verdicts in both cases that death was caused by "injury to the brain and spinal cord consequent upon judicial hanging."

I ask that a copy of this report be sent to the Chief Constable, Edinburgh City Police and the Chief Constable, Banffshire Constabulary, for their information.

R. Spilsbury
Inspector.

6th August, 41

Enemy Agents.

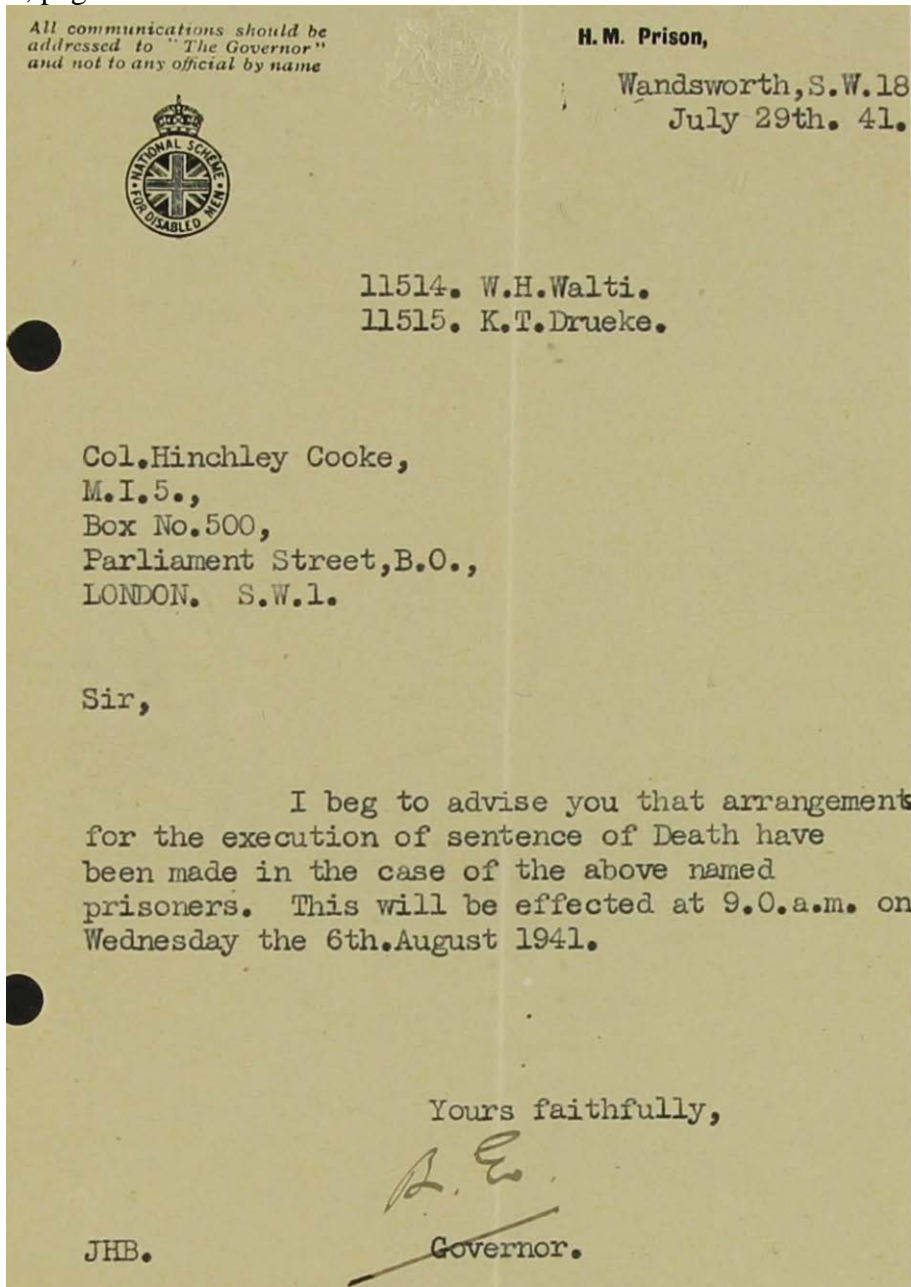
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Inspector

↓



H.M. Prison
Wandsworth, S.W. 18 (London)
July 29th. 41.

11514 W.H.Walti
11515 K.T. Druecke

Col. Hinchley Cooke,
M.I.5.,
Box No. 500
Parliament Street, B.O.,
London S.W.1.
Sir,

I beg you to advise you that arrangements for the execution of sentence of Death have been made in the case of the above named prisoners. This will be effected at 9.am on Wednesday the 6th August 1941.

Yours faithfully,
Governor

↓

Two German Secret Service agents were executed at Prison this morning. They were:-

(1) Karl Theo DRUEKE, a German national, born at Grebenstein, Hessen, on 20th March, 1906; and

(2) Werner Heinrich WAELTI, a Swiss citizen, born at Zurich, Switzerland, on 14th December, 1915.

These men arrived by German sea-plane off the Banffshire coast and rowed themselves ashore in a collapsible rubber boat which they subsequently tried to jettison.

DRUEKE was arrested within a few hours at Portgordon Railway Station. *Karl: Dr. Druecke's photo kept for identification purposes* WAELTI was arrested later on the same day at Edinburgh. *His arrest was due to the vigilance of two men in office of the Criminal Investigation Dept. of the Edinburgh City Police*

On arrest both men were found to be in possession of wireless receiving and transmitting sets and loaded automatic pistols.

They were convicted under the Treachery Act, 1940, after a trial (in which they were defended by counsel) before Mr. Justice Asquith and a jury at the Central Criminal Court on 12th and 13th June, 1941. Their appeal against the sentence of death was heard by the Court of Criminal Appeal on *21st July, 1941* and dismissed.

The proceedings in both courts were held in camera.

Two German Secret Service agents were executed at this Prison ([Wandsworth](#)). They were:-

- (1) Karl Theo Druecke, a German national, born at Grebenstein, Hessen, on 20th March, 1906 and
- (2) Werner Heinrich Waelti, a Swiss citizen, born at [Zürich](#), Switzerland, on 14th December 1915.

These men arrived by German sea-plane off the Benffshire coast and rowed themselves ashore in a collapsible rubber boat which they subsequently tried to jettison ([get rid off](#)).

Druecke was arrested within a few hours at Portgordon Railway Station. Waelti was arrested later on the same day at Edinburgh.

On arrest both men were found to be in possession of wireless receiving and transmitting sets and loaded automatic pistols.

They were convicted under the Treachery Act, 1940, after a trial (in which they were defended by counsel) before Mr Justice Asquith and a jury at the Central Criminal Court ([Old Bailey, in London](#)) on 12th and 13th June, 1941. Their appeal against the sentence of death was heard by the Court of criminal Appeal on 21st July 1941 and dismissed.

The proceedings in both courts were held in camera.



S.B. No. 1 (Filmsy)	METROPOLITAN POLICE.	<u>COPY.</u>
Special Report } }	ENCL — 25 JUL 1941 TO <i>B13</i> REF	SPECIAL BRANCH,
Enemy Agents.	21st day of July, 1941.	
Reference to Papers 405/41/1177.	<p>On Monday, 21st July, 1941, the Court of Criminal Appeal - comprising the Lord Chief Justice (Lord Caldecote), Mr. Justice Oliver and Mr. Justice Tucker - refused an application for leave to appeal made on behalf of Karl Theo DRUEKE and Werner Heinrich WALTI, who it will be remembered were sentenced to death at the Central Criminal Court on the 16th June, 1941 for offences under the Treachery Act, 1940.</p>	
<i>M.I.5.</i>	<p>Drueke and Walti were represented by Mr. Figg and Mr. Whitebrook respectfully.</p>	
	<p>The application for leave to appeal was made on the following grounds:-</p>	
	<u>DRUEKE:</u>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That there was no evidence to support the verdict of the jury. 2. That there was no evidence that the Appellant conspired with Walti or other persons unknown within the United Kingdom as charged. 3. That there was no evidence that the Appellant landed in this country with the intent charged. 4. That the learned Judge misdirected the jury as to the conspiracy charged. 5. That the verdict was contrary to the weight of the evidence. 	
	<u>WALTI:</u>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the presumption, that "Ignorance of the Law does not excuse", should have been proved applicable with reference to acts out of the jurisdiction and in Scotland, and that, in the absence of proof of the existence of the presumption in Scotch Law, the maxim does not apply to acts or conspiracy laid in the indictment. 2. The prisoner, by reason of his status was a person outside the King's Peace, incapable of the offences of treason, treachery or felony, and did not become so, until he was arraigned. 3. The prisoner's account of his actions, under coercion and fear, supplied a sufficient justification of his acts, and that the 	

Metropolitan Police
 Special Branch
 21st day of July 1941?

On Monday, 21st July, 1941, the Court of Criminal Appeal – comprising the Lord Chief Justice (Lord Caldecote), Mr. Justice Oliver and Mr. Justice Tucker – refused an application for leave to appeal made on behalf of Karl Theo Druecke and Werner Heinrich Waelti, who it will be remembered were sentenced to death at the Central Criminal Court on the 16th June, 1941 for offences under the Treachery Act, 1940.

Druecke and Waelti were represented by Mr. Figg and Mr. Whitebrook respectfully.

The application for leave to appeal was made on the following grounds:-

Druecke:

- 1 That there was no evidence to support the verdict of the jury.
- 2 That there was no evidence that the Appellant conspired with Waelti or other persons unknown within the United Kingdom as charged.
- 3 That there was no evidence that the Appellant landed in this country with the intent charged.
- 4 That the learned Judge misdirected the jury as to the conspiracy charged.
- 5 That the verdict was contrary to the weight of the evidence.

Waelti:

- 1 That the presumption, that “Ignorance of the law does not excuse”, should have been proved applicable with the reference to acts out of the jurisdiction and in Scotland, and that, in the absence of proof of the existence of the presumption in Scotch Law, the maxim does not apply to acts of conspiracy laid in the indictment.
- 2 The prisoner, by reason of his status was a person outside the King’s Peace, incapable of the offences of treason, treachery or felony (**law breaking**), and did not become so, until he was arraigned
- 3 The prisoner’s account of his action, under coercion and fear, supplied a sufficient justification of his acts, and that the justification of his acts, and that the → the verdict was such as a jury should not have reached owing to reasonable doubt.

the verdict was such as a jury should not have reached owing to reasonable doubt.

4. And the Appellant prays that, in view of the statement of the learned Judge that no moral stain attached to the acts of the accused, the Court will state grounds for the exercise of His Majesty's Prerogative of Mercy to the Home Secretary, with a view to the commutation of the sentence to one compatible with the exercise of Justice.

I ask that a copy of this report be sent to the Chief Constable, Banffshire Constabulary and the Chief Constable, Edinburgh City Police, for their information.

Sinclair
Inspector.

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I ask that the copy of this report be sent to the Chief Constable, Banffshire Constabulary and the Chief Constable, Edinburgh City Police, for their information.

Inspector ??

BANFFSHIRE CONSTABULARY.

Constabulary Office,
BUCKIE, 21st June, 1941.

POLICE REPORT.

Karle Theo Drucke and Werner Heinrich
Walti - Con. Treachery Act.

I beg to report that in connection with the hearings of the above case at Bow Street Police Court and at the Central Criminal Court in the Old Bailey, London, the civilian witnesses from this district said the expenses they received did not cover their actual outlay. Consequently, I got up from each a statement of what was received and necessary expenses incurred. These statements are attached.

The witness Addison's allowance is fixed according to the time he is absent.

I received a telephone message at 7-30 p.m. on Tuesday, 10th June, 1941, from Headquarters, Banff, that the witnesses in the case had to appear at the Old Bailey, London, at 10-30 a.m. on Thursday, 12th June, 1941. I had all the witnesses informed, and, as there was no train or 'bus service, I hired a motor car to take the six of us to Aberdeen to join the 6-10 a.m. train on Wednesday for King's Cross.

It was out of the question to delay leaving by a later train, as members of this Force, when escorting Norwegians to London, have not been into London until as late as 11 a.m., and 12 noon when leaving Aberdeen with the evening train.

Respectfully reported by

John Simpson
Inspector.

Banffshire Constabulary.

Constabulary Office,
Buckie, 21st June, 1941

Police Report.

Karle Theo Dru~~e~~cke and Werner Heinrich Waelti – Con.
Treachery Act.

I beg to report that in connection with the hearings of the above case at Bow Street Police Court and at the Central Criminal Court in the Old Bailey, London, the civilian witness (he was involved in that one of the spies had been caught) from this district said the expenses they received did not cover their actual outlay (expenditure). Consequently, I got up from each a statement of what was received and necessary expenses incurred. These statements are attached.

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Respectfully reported by

John Simpson

Inspector

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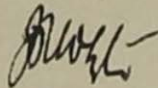
Here actually a new case starts, on first linked onto the Ritter/Dr. Rantzau case KV 2/85-88 (PF 62876). Please notice that the Vera Baronesses von Wedel case will be the core of this file series.
KV 2/1701-2, page 62

To B.13 (Col. Hinchley Cooke).

Herewith photographs of 13 young men of approximately the age of the man "WILKINSON" who called on the Duchess of CHATEAU THIERRY in July 1939.

Would you be good enough to let Vera see these and ask whether any one of them is a likeness of the man who called on her and gave her greetings from Dr. HANSEN. They are all photographs of suspects who came to notice at one time or another.

B.22.
9.4.41.



To B.13 (Col. Hinchley Cooke).

Herewith photographs of 13 young men of approximately the age of the man "Wilkinson" who called on the Duchess of Chateau Thierry ([frequently noticed in Ritter's forenamed file series](#)) in July 1939

Would you be good enough to let Vera see these and ask whether any one of them is a likeness of the man who called on her and gave her greetings from Dr. Hansen. They are all photographs of suspects who came to notice at one time or another.

B.22
9.4.41

↓

REX v. DRUEKE & Others.

O P I N I O N.

I understand that there are reasons why Baroness Vera Von Wedel should not be prosecuted and I have therefore only considered the matter in relation to Drueke and Waldi. I should however in passing like to draw attention to the fact that in a statement made by Baroness Vera Von Wedel to Lieut-Col: Hinchley Cooke she appears to have said, "I do not wish to say anything more because I have been interrogated on several occasions by Dr. Dearden and other persons. Dr. Dearden said it was all finished and that I should be "off trial" and would not be shot or hanged".

If it is true that Dr. Dearden held out any such inducement it appears to me that it was a highly dangerous action on his part and one that should not be repeated as I can well imagine a case in which such an inducement might render inadmissible a statement of great importance.

With regard to Drueke and Waldi it appears to me that the appropriate charges to be made are as follows:-

1. Conspiracy to do an act, etc. contrary to Section I of the Treachery Act 1940.
2. Doing an act etc. contrary to Section I of the Treachery Act 1940.
3. Doing an act etc. contrary to Regulation 2.A.(I) of the Defence (General) Regulations 1939 and Statutory Rules and Orders made thereunder.
4. Entering a prohibited place etc. contrary to Section I (I) (a) of the Official Secrets Act 1911.

It should be noted that a fiat and/or consent must be obtained.

I would suggest that the defendants be charged with the 4 offences at the Police Court in order to avoid any technical question being raised at the trial as to whether the necessary fiat and/or consent was obtained for offences which were not charged at the Police Court but for which an Indictment was drawn, upon facts disclosed on the depositions.

(Signed) L. A. BYRNE.

1/4/41.

Rex v. Druecke & others.

Opinion

I understand that there are reasons why Baroness Vera von Wedel should not be prosecuted and I have therefore only considered the matter in relation to Druecke and Waelti. I should however in passing like to draw attention to the fact that in a statement made by Baroness Vera von Wedel to Lieut-Col (AOB, Colonel); Hinchley Cooke she appears to have said, I do not wish to say anything more because I have been interrogated on several occasions by Dr. Dearden and other persons. Dr. Dearden said it was all finished and that I should be "off trial" and would not be shot or hanged".

If it is true that dr. Dearden held out any such inducement it appears to me that it was a highly dangerous action on his part and one that should not be repeated as I can well imagine a case in which such an inducement might render inadmissible a statement of great importance.

With regard to Druecke and Waelti it appears to me that the appropriate charges to be made are as follows:-

- 1Conspiracy to do an act, etc. contrary to section I of the Treachery Act 1940.
- 2Doing an act etc. contrary to Section I of the Treachery Act 1940.
- 3Doing an act etc. contrary to regulation 2A(I) of the Defence (General) Regulations 1939 and Statutory Rules and Orders made thereunder.
- 4Entering a prohibited place etc. contrary to section I (I) (a) of the official Secrets Act 1911.

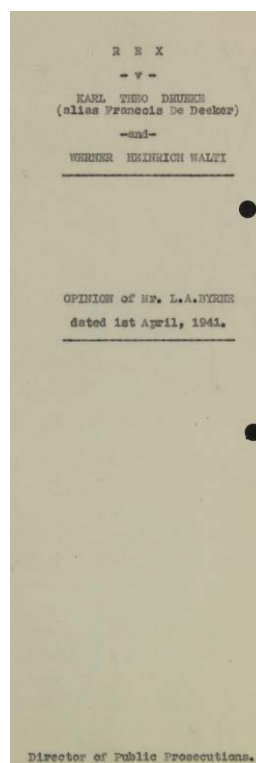
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(Signed) L.A. Byrne.

1/4/41.

KV 2/1701-2, page 66↓



William Edward Hinchley Cooke states:-

I am a Lieut:Colonel, General Staff, Directorate of Military Intelligence, War Office.

Rubber
Boat.
Ex

I have examined the Rubber Boat and other articles found by Coast Guard ADDISON. The boat and pump bear German markings. The boat is of the type frequently used by Enemy pilots who have had to bale out over the sea.

Oars.
Ex

I have examined the oars found by P.C. GRIEVE. These oars are of the same type as those which are normally found with Enemy rubber boats.

re DRUEKE

Pistol.
Ex

I have examined the Mauser Pistol produced by Inspector SIMPSON and found it to be in perfect working order. I used for this purpose the ammunition which was in the clip, and put the empty cartridge cases back into the clip.

Circular
Cardboard
Discs.
Ex

I have examined the circular cardboard Discs produced by Inspector SIMPSON. They appear to be a type of code capable of being used in connexion with morse signals. On the back of the larger discs are a number of notes in German, obviously referring to wireless telegraphy.

These notes read:-

QRX wait till (o'clock) (partly in English)
QRM disturbance in sending
QRN atmospherics
QRV I am ready
QSV will you send a series
QSY please change frequency
TMW to-morrow
VY (undecipherable)
NW now.

William Edward Hinchley Cooke states:-
I am a Lieut: Colonel, general Staff, Directorate of military Intelligence, War Office.

Rubber Boat I have examined the Rubber Boat and other articles found by Coast Guard Addison. The boat and pump bear German markings. The boat is of the type Frequently used by Enemy pilots who have had to bale out over the sea.

Oars. Ex .. I have examined the oars found by P.C. Grieve. These oars are of the same type as those which are normally found with Enemy rubber boats.

re Druecke.

Pistol Ex ... I have examined the Mauser Pistol produced by Inspector Simpson and found it to be perfect working. I used for this purpose the ammunition which was in the clip, and put the empty cartridge cases back into the clip.

Circular Cardboard Discs I have examined the circular cardboard Discs produced by Inspector Simpson. They appear to be a type of code capable of being used in connexion with morse signals. On the back of the larger discs are a number of notes in German, obviously referring to wireless telegraphy. These notes read:-

QRX Wait till (o'clock) (partly in English)

QRM disturbance in ~~sending~~ (wrong: receiving)

QRN atmospherics

QRV I am ready

QSV will you send a series

QSY please change frequency

TMW tomorrow

VY (AOB, very, or please)

NW Now?

↓

18th

March,

41.

Enemy agents.

405/41/1177.

On Monday, 30th September, 1940, Karl Theo DRUCKE @ Francois De Decker, German, aged 33, a merchant, Baroness Vera Von Wedel @ ERIKSON @ Von SCHALBURG, a German by marriage, aged 29, of no occupation and Werner Heinrich WALTI, a Swiss, aged 25, occupation chauffeur, were arrested in Scotland. They are undoubtedly enemy agents and there is sufficient evidence available for charges under section 1 of the Treachery Act, 1940.

Briefly, the facts are as follow:- The three above named persons left Norway during the night of 29/30th September, 1940 in a German seaplane which alighted in the Moray Firth during the early hours of the 30th. They came ashore in a small rubber boat at a point near Buckie, Banff, were provided with false documents, English money and apparatus (wireless sets etc.) for communicating with the enemy. A rolled up rubber boat with German markings was found some hours later in the sea off Buckie, and is probably the one used by these people, although it cannot actually be proved.

These three aliens were subsequently interviewed by Colonel Hinchley Cooke in the presence of Detective Sergeant Challoner, Special Branch, and each made a statement under caution.

Drucke says his real name is Karl Theo Drucke and that Francois De Decker is an assumed name. He was born at Grebenstein, Hessen on the 20th March, 1906 and is a German citizen. He is a merchant. The Belgian Passport

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18th March, 41.

Enemy agents. On Monday 30th September, 1940, Karl Theo Druecke @ Francois De Deeker, German, aged, a merchant, Baroness Vera von Wedel @ Erikson @ von Schalburg, a German by marriage, aged 29, of no occupation and Werner Heinrich Waelti, a Swiss, aged 25, occupation chauffeur, were arrested in Scotland. They were undoubtedly enemy agents and there is sufficient evidence available for charges under section 1 of the Treachery Act, 1940.

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These three aliens were subsequently interviewed by Colonel Hinchley Cooke in the presence of Detective Sergeant Challoner, Special Branch, and each made a statement under caution (previously being warned that when they - speak or declare - that this can be used against them).

Druecke says his real name is Theo Karl Druecke and that Francois De Deeker is an assumed name. He was born at Grabenstein, Hessen on 20th March, 1906 and is a German citizen. He is a merchant. The Belgium Passport → No. 6742/534 showed to him by Colonel Cooke is in his assumed name. ...

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No. 6742/534 showed to him by Colonel Cooke is in his assumed name. He declined to say where and how he obtained it, except that he did not apply for it to the authorities who normally issue Belgian Passports, but he did say it was given him by an intermediary. He also declined to make any statement about anything that happened before his arrival in England. He adds that he came to this country with a lady, Madame Erikson, but that he did not know anything about the other person arriving with them.

He goes on to say they landed in the neighbourhood of Port Gordon and his luggage consisted of a suitcase, a few toilet articles and something to eat. The suitcase contained a wireless apparatus which he intended to bring to London to hand over to a third person. He refused to give the name of this person or to say where they were to meet. Colonel Cooke showed Drueke National Registration Identity Card No. CNFQ/141/1; Ration Book, serial No. CA 568263; a watch with the initials 'H.W.D' on the back; circular cardboard discs and a sheet of paper with place names thereon and a leather wallet. He says that the Identity Card was given to him by the same person who gave him the Belgian Passport about 4/6 weeks before he came here. The signature and the address '15 Sussex Gardens, W.2' are written in his own handwriting but he does not know who filled in the name and numbers although he may have known this at the time it was done. He understood the address was some kind of boarding house. He had never stayed there and in fact had never been in England before. The address was given him by the same person who gave him the passport. The date 11th June, 1940 is pure invention.

Regarding the Ration Book, Drueke states that it also was given to him by the person who gave him the passport and Identity Card. He did not fill it in because he first wanted to see how this was done in England.

The watch belonged to Drueke's brother, the initials on the back being those of Hans Werner Drueke.

The wallet was Drueke's own property. The cardboard discs, he

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says, are presumably a code for the wireless although he does not know how to work it. He does not know who wrote on the back of the larger disc. The sheet of paper has a list of a number of English towns but he does not know its purpose and the list is not in his handwriting.

Continuing, Drucke says that after landing at Port Gordon he and Madam Erikson intended to go to London by train. They arrived, he believed, between 5 and 6 o'clock in the morning, although he did not look at his watch, and went to the railway station about 7.30 a.m. After looking at the time table and deciding that they might have to change at Forres, they bought two tickets to that town. They did not buy tickets direct to London because that would have been a little too conspicuous. Had he been able to reach London and hand over the wireless set he would have stayed there to perfect his English and later would probably have tried to get back to the Continent. He would probably have gone to the police to register as a Belgian, but he would certainly not have told the police anything about the wireless set or anything else. It would be nonsense to say now that he had intended to do so.

Drucke concludes by saying that he did not know what Madam Erikson intended to do on her arrival and that he did not wish to say how long he had known her. He reverts to the writing on the back of the larger cardboard disc and says he remembers who wrote it but does not wish to disclose who it was.

Baroness Vera Von Wedel alias Vera Erikson alias Vera Von Schalburg says she was born in Siberia in 1912 of a Danish father and a Russian mother. She danced professionally about 1929 and was then using her mother's maiden name Staritsky. In 1930 she married Ivan Ignatieff, a Russian who had a Nansen passport and who posed as a White Russian. He was in fact, a Red Russian agent and employed her from time to time as a courier. He died in 1937. About 3½ years ago - in October - she married in Hamburg, Baron Hans Friedrich Von Wedel, a German, who died in August 1940 in

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Baroness Vera von Wedel alias Vera Erikson alias Vera von Schalburg says she was born in Siberia (it was Kiev in the Ukraine) in 1912 of a Danish father and a Russian mother. She danced professionally about 1929 and was then using her mother's maiden name Staritsky. In 1930 she married Ivan Ignistieff, a Russian who had a Nansen passport (passport for those "Stateless" Russians, in 1922, by Fridjof Nansen instituted) and who posed as a White Russian (those opposing the Soviets). He was in fact a Red Russian (Soviet) agent and employed her from time to time as a courier. He died in 1937. About 3½ years ago – October – she married in Hamburg, Baron Hans Friedrich von Wedel, a German (Abw. I Hamburg) who died in August 1940 in → circumstances she did not wish to discuss. ...

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Von Wedel was shown National Registration Card number CNFX/144/2 in the name of Vera Erikson. She says she signed it but does not know who wrote the name and number on it. She was told to write the address but would not say who told her. The name Erikson was an invention.

The Baroness describes her arrival in this country and says she left Stavanger, Norway on a Sunday night some time ago in a German seaplane with two men - one named De Decker and one name Walti. When they reached the North of Scotland the seaplane alighted and De Decker, Walti and she came ashore in a small rubber boat. The two men rowed for about 3½ hours before reaching the shore near a place which she thinks was Gordon or something like that. It was then about 4 o'clock in the morning. De Decker and she got out of the boat into water which came nearly up to her knees and waded ashore. Walti stayed behind to sink the boat. De Decker had in his possession one suitcase and Walti had two. After landing De Decker and she turned to the right and Walti went to the left, because he wanted to go by himself. She has not seen Walti since. De Decker and she, after walking some distance, arrived at a small railway station believed Gordon, intending to proceed to London. After asking the name of the station she bought two tickets to the station where they thought they had to change. She did not know why they did not book direct to London, but it was probably so that people would not know where they went. She and De Decker were arrested shortly before the train was due and it was not until De Decker's suitcase was opened at the Police Station that she knew it contained a wireless set.

Von Wedel states she did not want to come over here to spy but was told by a Major Rantzau of the German secret service that she would be shot if she did not. Both De Decker and Major Rantzau were friends of her late husband, Baron Von Wedel. She intended to go to London to see a Major McKenzie a friend whom she had met on a

→ circumstances she did not wish to discuss.

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The Baroness concludes by saying that she has already been interrogated on several occasions by Dr. Dearden and others and that Dr. Dearden had said the case was finished and that she would be 'off trial' and would not be shot or hanged. Dr. Dearden is understood to be an official at Ham Common Internment Camp and Colonel Cook is dealing with Wedel's allegations.

Walti says he was born at Zurich, Switzerland on the 14th December, 1915 and was a chauffeur. He is of Swiss nationality and owner of Swiss Passport No. 626723, which he obtained for use in his work outside Switzerland. He had lived in Belgium for the last two years. He then goes on to say that as a result of taking Belgian refugees to the French border before the German invasion of Belgium, he was in serious trouble with the German authorities and that he was coerced into agreeing to take to England a case to be delivered to a third person in London. He was taken from Zeebrugge to Norway in a fishing boat, and after a short stay there was put aboard a German seaplane, where he met a tall man and a woman (Drueke and Von Wedel). A heavy suitcase and a brief case were put aboard and the plane set off with the three persons aboard. Owing to the roaring of the engines they could not speak a single word and he was not introduced to the other two. After a time the plane landed on the water during darkness, the luggage was handed out and he with the other two people got into what was found to be a rubber boat. He then had with him the heavy case and a brief case the other man another case and the woman a handbag. They were told they would be in a safe place and could go to a railway station. On leaving the plane they rowed for several hours during which time they had little conversation although the other man once spoke in French and owing to the water in the boat had suggested that he throw the luggage away. He could not then find it. They also thought of swimming ashore but finally reached a rock. After he had 'kicked' the boat away they waded ashore with the luggage on a falling tide. He says he did not wish to go with the others after

→ previous visit to London, and tell him the whole story with a view to being put in prison until war is over.

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Walti further states that he did not know what was in the heavy case until reaching this country, when on the shore he opened it and felt there was a wireless set in it. He did not throw any of the luggage away. He had received his instructions in Brussels that he was to hand this case and the brief case to a man he was to meet at Victoria Station on the Tuesday (the day after arrival) at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, or if he did not see him then the next day at the same time, but was only to wait ten minutes at the Station. He had been supplied with a description of the man, and shown a photograph of him.

He continues by saying that after reaching the shore he looked for a railway station and was told to take a bus which he did. On arrival at the station, the name of which he does not remember, he asked the time of the next train to Edinburgh and was informed that it was 10 o'clock. It was then only 7 o'clock so he left the luggage at the station and went for a walk. He later boarded the train and afterwards changed at a big station- the name of which he does not know - and was told by a porter that the heavy case would have to be placed in the luggage van. He was asked his name by the porter to label the case and told him it was 'Walti'.

On reaching Edinburgh he asked a porter to place the luggage in the cloak room, bought a ticket for London and as he had some time to wait went into the town. He returned to the station at about 9 p.m. when he was arrested by some gentlemen who came from behind.

He goes on to state that the Ration Book number CA 568427 (unused) and the National Registration Identity Card number CNXV/141/1 which were shown to him had been given to him in Norway. He had signed the Identity Card and copied the address '23 Sussex Gardens, W.2.' from a piece of paper in the hotel in Norway. A torn piece of paper with his name and the same address on he declared he knew nothing about although the writing looked like his.

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A slip of paper with words and figures on it shown to him he said had also been given him in Norway. He had it in his wallet and had to pay special attention to it, make sure he did not lose it and hand it to the man at Victoria.

Before leaving the seaplane he continues, he had been given a Mauser pistol and ammunition, a small brown copy book and a grey covered note book. He added that the brief case contained maps but was unable to say whether the ones shown to him were identical as it was dark when he looked into the case. A graph sheet, a circular cardboard disc, a small piece of oileilk and a small compass shown to him he did not remember having seen.

Walti concludes by stating that if he had not been arrested at Edinburgh he would have come to King's Cross at about 10 o'clock the next morning and would have put the case in Victoria that morning. If he should then meet the Germans he could say, 'perhaps you will find it in Victoria Station'. He wanted to do this he says because he could not then be blackmailed any more because the case would have been found there. If it had not been found there and it had appeared in the paper the Germans would have had proof that he had not done the job for them.

He added that he had never been to England before but had an idea of buying a car here 'to make transports' or to get work on a farm driving a truck. He already had about £200 in English notes given him by the Germans on leaving Norway. He did not think how he was going to live in England as a Swiss during war time but wanted to get away from all the things he had seen and take refuge in England. At the time he came here he did not think of going to the police, as in his condition at that time he did not think of those things and did not want to bring his name in connection with wireless sets and German Agents.

A statement about the rubber boat found in the sea and statement about the movements of the three prisoners up to the time of and including their arrest have also been made.

James Anderson Addison, a coastguard at H.M. Coastguard Station,

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James Anderson Addison, a coastguard at H.M. Coastguard Station, → Buckie, says that about 11.45 a.m. on the 30th September 1940, he saw an object floating in the sea a quarter of a mile from his look out hut and it was drifting from Portgordon towards Buckie. ...



About the location where this group came ashore in Scotland on 29/30 September 1940



Buckie, says that at about 11.45 a.m. on the 30th September, 1940, he saw an object floating in the sea about a quarter of a mile from his look out hut and it was drifting from Portgordon towards Buckie. Half an hour later he and the Buckie Harbour Master put out to recover the object and on the way out he found a pair of bellows floating in the sea. Soon afterwards he saw a rubber dingy which was rolled up. Mr. Addison unrolled it and inside found a brown blanket, a large canvas cover, a puncture repair outfit, a small sea anchor and an air bottle. He tested the bellows and the air bottle and found that they fitted. The articles found were handed to police.

John Donald, the Stationmaster at Port Gordon says that on the 30th September, 1940, in the booking hall at the Station he was approached by a man and a woman at about 7.30 a.m. The latter said 'What Station is this?' and Donald replied 'Port Gordon'. The woman said 'What?' and the name of the Station was repeated to her. The man was seen examining a time table on the Station, and he pointed to the name Port Gordon. He ran his finger down the list of Stations until he came to Elgin and then further down until he came to Forres.

Mr. Donald continues that it is very unusual for any one to call at Buckie Station at 7.30 a.m. and ask for the name of the Station. This and the fact that the man appeared to be hiding his face made him suspicious and he got in touch with the police. After getting in touch with the police the Stationmaster opened the ticket window of the booking office and the woman came to it and said 'Two tickets to Forres'. Donald issued her with two single tickets for which she paid 5/2d.

The stationmaster says the man was carrying a dark blue suitcase with nickel fittings, that he noticed the bottom of the man's trousers, his shoes, and the bottom of his overcoat were wet. The woman's shoes were also wet and there was a slight deposit of hoar frost on the shoulders of her coat.

Robert Grieve, Police Constable, Banffshire Constabulary,

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Buckie, says that at about 11.45 a.m. on the 30th September, 1940, he saw an object floating in the sea about a quarter mile from his look out hut and it was drifting from Portgordon towards Buckie. Half an hour later he and the Buckie Harbour Master put out to recover the object and on the way out he found a pair of bellows floating in the sea. Soon afterwards he saw a rubber dinghy which was rolled up. Mr. Addison unrolled it and inside found a brown blanket, a large canvas cover, a puncture repair outfit, a small sea anchor and an air bottle (to fill the rubber boat tubes). He tested the bellows and the air bottle and found they fitted. The article fund were handed to the police.

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Robert Grieve, Police Constable, Banffshire Constabulary, → stationed at Port Gordon, says that at about 8.10 a.m. on the 30th September, 1940, he went to Port Gordon Railway Station and there was a man and a woman sitting in the waiting room. ...

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stationed at Port Gordon, says that at about 8.10 a.m. on the 30th September, 1940, he went to Port Gordon Railway Station and there saw a man and a woman sitting in the waiting room. He asked them to produce their National Registration Cards. The man produced National Registration Card number CNFQ/141/1 in the name of Franciscus (should be Francois) De Decker, 15 Sussex Gardens, signed and dated the 11th June, 1940. The woman produced National Registration card number CNFX/141/2 in the name of Vera ERIKSON, 18 Sussex Gardens, London W.11, dated 18 - V1.

Grieve asked them their nationality and the woman said 'He is Belgian, I an Danish'. He then asked for their passports and the woman replied, 'I have left mine in London'. The man did not speak but produced Belgian Passport F No. 6742-534 in the name of Franciscus (Francois) De Decker. On examining the document the constable found that no Immigration Officer's stamp authorising the holder to land had been made in it.

They were asked where they came from and the woman said 'We came from London'. The man did not speak. Asked where they had stayed the previous night the woman said 'We stayed in a hotel at Banff'. Again the man did not answer. When asked the name of the hotel in Banff in which they stayed the woman shrugged her shoulders but neither made a reply. The constable then asked how they had got to Port Gordon from Banff and she replied 'We hired a taxi to within a mile of Port Gordon and then walked'.

The constable being dissatisfied with their explanations then told them he would take them to the Police Station pending enquiries. The woman then repeated what the officer had said to the man and he took hold of a small dark blue suitcase with nickel fittings. After arrival at the Police Station, Grieve communicated with Inspector Simpson at Buckie Police Station and after hearing the constable's conversation she said, 'I told you lies at the Railway Station' and continued 'We landed from a small boat about a mile along the coast, the boat was in charge of a man named Anderson. When asked where the boat was she replied 'It has gone back to Bergen'.

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The constable noticed when first seeing the man and woman that the bottom of the man's overcoat, trousers and shoes were wet and the woman's shoes were also wet and she had hoar frost on the shoulders of her coat. The roads he says, were in fact dry and it was a clear dry morning although there was morning frost.

Later that day Constable Grieve searched the beach between Port Gordon and Buckie and about midway between the points (mouth of Gallachy Burn) found what appeared to be one car in sections. This was about a mile from Port Gordon Railway Station.

Inspector John Simpson of Banffshire Constabulary says he saw the man and woman detained at Port Gordon Police Station. He asked the man who he was and the woman said, 'He cannot speak English'. The woman gave her name as Vera Erikson and said she was 27 years of age, a widow and had no occupation. She added that she was a Danish subject born in Siberia. They again produced their Identity Cards and the man his passport. Inspector Simpson observed that Continental figures were on both Identity Cards. When asked how they had arrived at Port Gordon the woman then said 'We came from Bergen on a small boat called the 'Nor Star', the name of the Captain being Anderson'. Inspector Simpson then searched the man and in his overcoat pocket found a box containing nineteen rounds of revolver ammunition and when asked if he had a revolver the man replied, 'No'. In addition the Inspector found an electric torch with a blue bulb, bearing the name of 'Hawe' and 'made in Bohemia' on the bottom; a watch with the initials 'H.W.D' engraved on the back; a pocket knife; safety razor; thin Gillette blades; a propelling pencil; a leather wallet; a Traveller's Ration Book (blank) bearing the number C.A. 568263; a piece of flexible material sewn into a piece of blue cloth; a single third class railway ticket from Port Gordon to Forres dated 30th September, 1940; £327 in Bank of England notes; a piece of German sausage and other foodstuffs. Later in the man's presence the small suitcase was forced open and the Inspector found a small 'Mauser' pistol containing six rounds of ammunition in the magazine; two circular cardboard discs

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fastened together with a brass split pin; a sheet of paper bearing a number of place names; a sheet of graph paper; a wireless set; three small and two large Petrex batteries; two valves wrapped in corrugated paper; a volt meter; a morse tapping key; a pair of headphones; a three way plug and a quantity of insulated wire. In the woman's handbag the Inspector found a third class railway ticket from Port Gordon to Forres dated 30th September, 1940. She also had £72 in Bank of England notes.

Following the detention of the man and the woman enquiries were instituted by Banffshire Police to ascertain if others had landed on the coast that morning in similar circumstances. It was ascertained from George James Smith, a railway porter at Buckpool Railway Station that at 6.50 a.m. on the 30th September, 1940, a man walked into the booking office at Buckpool Railway Station and had asked if the train for Aberdeen had gone. When told it had gone he asked the time of the next and was told by Smith that the next train for Aberdeen did not stop at Buckpool and advised him to go to Buckie Station about a mile away where he would get a train for Aberdeen at 9.58 a.m. The man asked Smith if he could get a bus and when told it was walking distance said 'Oh! I have some luggage'. The man then picked up a dark brown suitcase standing on the platform which appeared to be heavy. He also had with him a dark brown brief case. Smith then directed him to Buckie and returned to the booking office.

After a few minutes the man returned to the office and asked if he could obtain a ticket there and when asked where he wished to book to, replied 'Perth'. As Perth was not on the fare list at Buckpool, Smith told him he could obtain a ticket for Perth at Buckie Station and the man then asked 'Can I have a ticket to Aberdeen? He was told he could have a ticket to Aberdeen where he could re-book to Perth but if he wanted to go direct to Perth he could book at Buckie Station. The man did not reply, walked away and was not seen by Smith again. Smith remembered the man spoke fairly good English with a foreign accent.

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Walthi was apparently next seen at Buckie Station by William Reith Cardno, a booking clerk, who says that at about 7.45a.m on 30th September, 1940, he issued a third class single ticket to Edinburgh to a man who spoke with a foreign accent.

Alexander Paterson, a porter employed at Buckie Station saw the man on the station at about 8a.m looking at the train time table outside the station and asked him if he had lost his train. The man without speaking produced a third class single ticket to Edinburgh from his wallet when he was told that his train was at ten o'clock. Paterson suspected the man to be a foreigner and remembered that he had with him a suit case and a dark coloured brief case. He was advised to put the luggage into the booking office, which he did. At 10.4a.m Paterson saw the man board the Aberdeen train with his luggage.

Later, enquiries were made by Inspector Sutherland of the Edinburgh City Police and it was elicited from Thomas Cameron, a porter employed at Waverley Station, Edinburgh, that at about 5p.m 30th September, 1940, while on duty at the station a man carrying a dark brown suitcase had asked to leave the case and had said he was going by train to London, which he was told left Waverley Station at 10p.m. Together they went to the East End cloakroom where the case was deposited. The man was not seen again by Cameron until about 9p.m that day. Cameron was then standing near the East End cloakroom in company with Superintendent Merrilees of the Edinburgh City Police. The man produced his cloakroom ticket to Cameron and the latter went to the office to get his suitcase.

In the meantime, Inspector Sutherland had inspected the contents of a dark brown imitation crocodile leather suitcase in the Left Luggage office at the Waverley Station. There was a deposit label dated 30th September, 1940 and the number H 5221 thereon. On the top of the suitcase near the handle there was a London and North Eastern Railway label marked 'Aberdeen to Edinburgh' and attached to the handle a label bearing the name 'Mr. Walthi'. The suitcase was wet on the bottom and the sides and the Inspector was of opinion that it had been in salt water. There was also a slight deposit of sand. He

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In the meantime, Inspector Sutherland had inspected the contents of the dark brown imitation crocodile leather suitcase in the left Luggage Office at the Waverley Station. There was a deposit label dated 30th September, 1940 and the number H 5221 thereon. On the top of the suitcase near the handle there was a London and North Eastern Railway label marked 'Aberdeen to Edinburgh' and attached to the handle a label bearing the name 'Mr. Waelti'. The suitcase was wet on the bottom and the sides and the Inspector was of the opinion that it had been in salt water. There was also a slight deposit of sand. He → opened the suitcase which was locked and found inside a light brown suitcase and a volt meter. He opened the smaller case and found it contained a wireless set; four small and one large 'Pertrix' batteries; a pair of head-phones with leads; a Morse key with lead; two wireless valves wrapped in corrugated cardboard; six lengths insulated wire (likely each one possessing a particular length as to match onto one of the quartz crystals used as to determine a specific frequency with optimally matched antennae); three small flashlight bulbs; two loose insulators (each one fit at an antenna end); two loose leads; a small piece of yellow oilskin; a linen covered graph paper book; two circular cardboard discs joined with a split fastener; a sheet of graph paper headed 'S.E. 92/3 Nr. 21' a small notebook containing one page showing groups of letters and foreign writing.

At 7.10 p.m. on the 30th September, 1940, Inspector Sutherland's statement continues, he went with Superintendent Merrilees to the Waverley Station, Edinburgh and was present at about 9 p.m. when the Superintendent arrested Waelti.

Superintendent Merrilees states that he had already been supplied with a description of the man and had taken up observation at Waverley Station at 7.10 p.m. on the 30th September 1940. At 8.58 p.m. he saw the man whose description he had been furnished with and after going to the bookstall saw him produce cloakroom ticket number H 5221 to Cameron.

He then decided the man was identical with the one for whom he was looking and with Detective Inspector Sutherland closed with the man. The Superintendent states that the man endeavoured to put his hand in his left trouser pocket was found to contained a 'Mauser' automatic pistol containing five cartridges with one in the breach ready for firing. On the Superintendent seizing the pistol the man said 'I am not German, I am Swiss'. The man was then taken by two officers to the Left Luggage Office and searched. On his person was found a purse containing £5.4.7 in English money and one Norwegian coin; a leather wallet containing 100 £1 Bank of England notes and 90 loose £1 Bank of England notes. The Superintendent then conveyed the man to the Central Police Station and the man was further searched when he was to have National Registration Card No. CNXV/141/1 in the name of Waelti Werner, 23, Sussex Gardens, W.2. signed W.H.



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opened the suitcase which was locked and found inside a light brown suitcase and a volt meter. He opened the smaller case and found it contained a wireless set; four small and one large `Petrix` batteries+ a pair of head/phones with leads+ a Morse key with lead; two wireless valves (type KL 2) wrapped in corrugated cardboard; six lengths of insulated (antennae) wire; three small flashlight bulbs (for the torch); two loose insulators (as to mount an antenna in between, as well as insulating the antenna wire from HF losses due hanging or mounting spots) two loose leads (cords as to be used between the mounting spot and the antenna insulator); a small piece of yellow oilskin; a linen covered graph paper book; two circular cardboard discs joined with a split fastener; a sheet of graph paper headed 'S.E. 92/3 Nr. 21' (AOB, meant for tuning the wireless set type SE 92/3; such as frequency versus scale setting or reading, for both transmitter and receiver); a small notebook containing one page showing groups of letters and foreign writing.

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Walti, dated 14th June, and a piece of paper which appeared to be torn off a National Registration Card with the same address and signature; a traveller's Ration Book No. C.A. 568427 (unused); Swiss Passport No. 626723 in the name of Werner Heinrich Walti; a London and North Eastern Railway ticket No. 2574, third class, available between Edinburgh and London, dated 30th September, 1940; a slip of paper bearing writing in indelible pencil; a cardboard box containing 25 rounds of ammunition; a large jack knife; a multiple coloured pencil; four small batteries; three pencil erasers; a small pocket torch; a bakelite wireless component and five keys.

In the brown brief case Walti was carrying were found a number of maps, a pocket compass; some apples; sausages and other foodstuff.

The man was shown the dark brown leather suitcase left at Waverley Station which he admitted he intended collecting and whilst at the Police Station said 'Have you got the other two?'

It will be seen that although there are some contradictions in the statements of the prisoners, and Von Wedel and Walti hold that they were coerced into coming to the United Kingdom there is ample evidence in my submission, to prove that all three conspired together to do and later did acts which were designed to be of assistance to the enemy. After leaving the German seaplane they came ashore together in a small rubber boat under cover of darkness and their landing could obviously only have been effected by their combined efforts. All three speak English, French and German and Walti admits that some conversation took place in the boat. Shortly before landing, indeed, there was a proposal to throw the luggage (the heavy suitcases containing wireless sets) overboard and swim ashore because the boat was rocking and half full of water, but this was not done and passengers and cargo were safely landed.

Once on British soil the aliens arranged amongst themselves that two of them should go one way and one another - this on their own admission. That Drucke and Von Wedel did go separate ways to Walti is clearly shown by their own and witnesses statements.

→ Waelti, dated 14th June, and a piece of paper which appeared to be torn off a National Registration Card with the same address and signature; a traveller's Ration Book No. CA 568427 (unused); Swiss Passport No. 626723 in the name of Werner Heinrich Waelti; a London and North Eastern Railway ticket No. 2574, third class, available between Edinburgh and London, dated 30th September, 1940; a slip of paper bearing writing in indelible (impossible to remove); a cardboard box containing 25 rounds of ammunition; a large jack knife; a multiple coloured pencil; four small batteries (likely for his torch); three pencil erasers; a small pocket torch (with a blue coloured bulb) a Bakelite wireless component (quartz crystal as to determine his transmission frequency) and five keys (maybe for his two suitcases, one big suitcase and within it a smaller suitcase)

The man was shown the dark brown leather suitcase left at the Waverley Station which he admitted he intended collecting and whilst at the Police Station said 'Have you got the other two?'

It will be seen that although there are some contradictions in the statements of the (three) prisoners, and von Wedel and Waelti hold that they were coerced (forced, pressed) into coming to the United Kingdom there is ample evidence in my submission, to prove that all three conspired together (but not all in conjunction) to do and later did acts which were designed to be of assistance to the enemy. After leaving the German seaplane they came ashore together in a small rubber boat under cover of darkness and their landing could obviously only have been effected by their combined efforts (quite clear when they were forced to join a single boat). All three speak English, French and German and Waelti admits that some conversation took place on the boat (notice: that Waelti was an unknown stranger to both Druecke and Vera von Wedel). Shortly before landing, indeed, there was a proposal to throw the luggage (the heavy suitcases containing wireless sets) overboard and swim ashore because the boat was rocking and half full of water, but this was not done and passengers and cargo were safely landed.

Once on British soil the aliens arranged amongst themselves that two of them (Druecke and Vera von Wedel, both having an affair) should go one way and one another – this on their own admission. That Druecke and von Wedel did go separate ways to Waelti is cleverly shown their own and witness statements.

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she was formerly married to Ivan Ignatieff, a Russian agent who had a Nansen certificate and who posed as a White Russian. She was employed by him as a courier. Later she married Baron Von Wedel, a German, who died mysteriously in August, 1940. After this she was instructed by Major Rantzau of the German Secret Service, with whom her husband and Drucke was also acquainted. She alleges that had she not come here to spy she would have been shot. I submit that this woman is a professional spy.

Walti makes the excuse that he came here under coercion and explains his effort to bring his cases to London by saying he would have thus put himself 'on the right side' with the Germans and had done the job which he had undertaken for them. The flimsiness of this excuse is shown by the inconsistency of his statement that he wanted to take refuge in England but did not think of going to the police at any stage.

Copies of statements made by the prisoner and the various witnesses are attached. Other statements will be obtained from Lieut.-Colonel Hinchley Cooke (relative to the codes etc found) and from a Post Office Engineer as to the efficiency of the wireless sets.

Drucke and Walti have not previously come under the notice of police.

The Baroness came under notice of police however, on the 16th December, 1939. On that date a Mrs. Josephine Phillippine Emelie ERIKSSON, attempted to embark at Gravesend for Rotterdam but was detained because in the Central Security Suspect Book she was described as being an espionage agent for Germany.

When the woman was arrested she had in her possession a diary containing certain names and addresses. When she was questioned about some of them she said that Vera de Schalburg (undoubtedly identical with the Baroness) had asked her to obtain the addresses so that she might write to the people who lived there.

Proceedings were subsequently taken against Eriksson for

She was formerly married to Ivan Ignatieff. A Russian agent who had a Nansen certificate and who posed as a White Russian (which the actually was not!) She was employed by him as a courier. Later she married Baron von Wedel (real name: Major Hilmar Gustav Johannes Dierks, Major, Referatsleiter IM, Ast X, Hbg) Later she married Baron von Wedel, a German, who dies mysteriously in August 1940 (in a car crash in Hamburg on 2nd September 1940) After this she was instructed by Major Rantzau (= Major Nikolaus Ritter) of Hbg Secret Service, with whom her husband and Druecke was also acquainted. (Druecke apparently was the car driver on 2nd September 1940, in which accident Hilmar Dierks fatally was wounded and passed away) She alleges that had she not come here to spy she would have been shot. (AOB, to be shot, is a, in my perception, too often used story) I submit that this woman is a professional spy.

Waelti make the excuse that he came here under coercion (pressure, blackmail) and explains his effort to bring the case to London by saying he would have thus put himself 'on the right side' with the Germans and had done the job which he had undertaken for them. The flimsiness (weakness) of his excuse is shown by the inconsistency of his statement that he wanted to take refuge in England but did not think of going to the police at any stage.

Copies of statements made by the prisoner and the various witness are attached. Other statements by the prisoners and the various witness are attached. Other statements will be obtained from ~~Lieut. Colonel~~ Colonel Hinchley Cooke (relative to the codes etc. found) and from a Post Office Engineer as to the efficiency of the wireless sets.

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Proceeding were subsequently taken against Erikson for → "making a false statement to a person lawfully acting in the execution of the provisions of the Alien's Order, 1920" ...

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"making a false statement to a person lawfully acting in the execution of the provisions of the Alien's Order, 1920" and "making a statement likely to mislead a person in the discharge of a lawful function in connection with the Defence of the Realm" contrary to Regulation 1 (1) (e) of the Defence Regulations, 1939.

On the 3rd January, 1940 at Westminster Police Court she was found 'Not guilty' on the first charge but 'Guilty' on the second. She was sentenced to three months imprisonment and a fine of £100. A Deportation Order was made and she is now interned.

Home Office records show that Vera SCHALBURG arrived at Dover on the 19th June, 1939 and left again on the 9th September, 1939 from the Port of London. She stayed with the Duchess of Chateau Thierry at 102, Dorset House, London. The Duchess is now interned.

Colonel Hinchley Cooke has already been in touch with the Director of Public Prosecutions Department (Mr. Wallace) to whom he asks that a copy of this report be sent.

The three prisoners are still under the detention of the military authorities.

Inspector.

Superintendent.

"making a false statement to a person lawfully acting in the execution of the provisions of the Alien's Order, 1920" and "making a statement likely to mislead a person in the discharge of a lawful function in connection with the Defence Regulations, 1939.

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A Deportation Order was made and she was interned. ([on the Isle of Man](#)).

Home Office records show that Vera Schalburg arrived at Dover on the 19th June, 1939 and left again on the 9th September from the Port of London. (AOB, **what nationality was she considered to have? As Britain was at war with Germany since 4th September of that very month?**) The Duchess is now interned.

Colonel Hinchley Cooke had already been in touch with the Director Public Prosecution Department (Mr. Wallace) to whom he asks that a copy of his report be sent.

The three prisoners are still under detention of the military authorities

Inspector
Superintendent



Statement by Baroness Vera VON WEDEL 9 ERIKSON.

I have been cautioned by Lieut.-Colonel Hinchley Cooke that I need not say anything unless I wish to do so, but that anything I do say will be taken down in writing and may be used in evidence. I understand this caution.

I was born in Siberia in the year 1912. My mother's name was STARITSKY and my father's name was VON SCHALBURG. My mother was Russian and my father Danish. I adopted my mother's maiden-name (STARITSKY) in 1929 when I was on the stage in Paris as a dancer. In 1930 I married in Paris a man named IVAN IGNATIEFF, a Russian, who had a Nansen passport and posed as a White Russian. He was in fact a Red Russian Agent and he employed me from time to time as a courier. IGNATIEFF died in 1937. About 3½ years ago, it was in the month of October, I married in Hamburg a Baron HANS FRIEDRICH VON WEDEL, a German, who died in August 1940 under circumstances I do not wish to discuss. The National Registration Identity Card

1) CNFX/141/2.

in the name of VERA ERIKSON, produced to me by Lieut.-Col. Hinchley Cooke, was given to me in Germany. I do not know who wrote the name and number on it, but I signed it. They told me to put the address down, but I do not wish to say who 'they' are. The name ERIKSON is an invention. On a Sunday night some time ago I left Stavanger, Norway, in a German seaplane with two men, one named DE DEEKER and one named WALTI. When we reached the north of Scotland the seaplane alighted on the water and then DE DEEKER, WALTI and I went ashore in a small rubber boat. The two men rowed the rubber boat for about 3½ hours before we

reached

(Signed V.V. Wedel)



Statement by Baroness Vera von Wedel @ Erikson.

I have been cautioned by ~~Lieut.~~-Colonel Hinchley Cooke that I need not to say anything unless I wish to do so, but that anything I do say will be taken down in writing and may be used in evidence. I understand this caution.

I was born in Siberia in the year 1912. My mother's name was Staritsky and my father's name was von Schalburg. My mother was Russian and my father Danish. I adopted my mother's maiden-name (Staritsky) in 1929 when I was on the stage in Paris as a dancer. In 1930 I married in Paris a man named Ivan Ignatieff, a Russian, who had a Nansen passport ([stateless passport](#)) and posed a White Russian. He was in fact a Red Russian Agent and he employed me from time to time as a courier. Ignatieff died in 1937. About 3½ years ago, it was the month October, I married in Hamburg a Baron Hans Friedrich von Wedel ([actually he was: Hilmar Gustav Johannes Dierks, alias von Wedel](#)) who died in ~~August~~ ([2 September](#)) under circumstances I do not wish to discuss. The National Registration Identity Card CNFX/141/2 in the name of Vera Erikson, produced to me by Colonel Hinchley Cooke, was given to me in Germany. I do not know who wrote the name and number on it, I signed it. They told me to put the address down, but I do not wish to say who 'they' are. The name Erikson is an invention.

On a Sunday night some time ago I left Stavanger, Norway, in a German seaplane with two men, one named De Deeker ([alias of Druেকে](#)) (AOB, [she must have known Druেকে \(Drücke\)](#), [as he was driving the accidental car, on 2nd September 1940, in Hamburg](#)) and one named Waelti. When we reached the north of Scotland the seaplane alighted on the water and then De Deeker, Waelti and I ([Vera](#)) went ashore in a small rubber boat. The two men rowed the rubber boat for about 3½ hours before we → reached the shore near a place which I think was Gordon or something like that. ...

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reached the shore near a place which I think was Gordon or something like that. It was about four o'clock in the morning when we landed. DE DEEKER and I got out of the boat into water which went nearly up to my knees and waded ashore. WALTJ stayed behind, I think for the purpose of drowning the boat. DE DEEKER had in his possession one suitcase and WALTJ had ^{either one or} two suitcases. We parted company after landing, that is to say, DE DEEKER and I turned to the right and WALTJ to the left, because WALTJ wanted to go by himself. I have not seen WALTJ since. After DE DEEKER and I had walked some distance, we arrived at a small railway station, intending to go to London. I believe the name of the station was Gordon. I asked someone the name of the station and I bought two railway tickets to the station where I thought we had to change for London. DE DEEKER suggested that we should not buy tickets direct to London, but I don't know why. It was probably so that people should not know where we went. DE DEEKER and I were arrested shortly before the train came. It was not until DE DEEKER's suitcase was opened at the Police Station that I knew that there was a wireless set in it. I did not want to come over here to spy but I was told by a Major RANTZAU of the German Secret Service that I would be shot if I did not come. DE DEEKER was a friend of my late husband Baron VON WEDEL, My late husband was an acquaintance of Major RANTZAU. I really intended to go to London to see a Major MCKENZIE, a friend of mine, whom I met on a previous visit to London and it was my intention to tell him the whole story with a view to being put into prison until the war was over. I do not wish to say anything more, because I have been interrogated on several occasions by Dr. Dearden and other persons. Dr. Dearden said it was all finished and that

I would be 'off trial' and would not be shot or hanged.

I have read this statement over and it is true.

Signature Vera V. Wedel.....

Signature witnessed by Hinchley Cooke Lt. Col. G.S.....

Date 28/2/41.....



reached the shore near a place which I think was Gordon or something like that. It was about four o'clock in the morning when we landed. De Deeker ([Druেকে](#)) and I got out of the boat into water which went nearly up to my knees and waded ashore. Waelti stayed behind, I think for the purpose of drown ([sink](#)) the boat. De Deeker had in his possession one suitcase and Waelti had either one or two suitcases. We parted company after landing, that is to say, De Deeker and I turned to the right and Waelti to the left, because Waelti wanted to go by himself. I have not seen Waelti since. After De Deeker and I had walked some distance, we arrived at a small railway station, intending to go to London. I believe the name of the station was Gordon. I asked someone the name of the station and I bought two railway tickets to the station where I thought we had to change for London. De Deeker suggested that we should not buy tickets direct to London, but I don't know why. It was probably so that people should not know where we went. De Deeker and I were arrested shortly before the train came. It was not until De Deeker's suitcase was opened at the Police Station that I knew that there was a wireless set in it. I did not want to come over here to spy but I was told by a Major Rantzau ([alias Dr. Rantzau; real name Major Nikolaus Ritter](#)) of the German Secret Service that I would be shot if I did not come. De Deeker was a friend of my late husband Baron von Wedel ([he drove the accidental car!](#)). ([AOB, I yesterday discovered that the son of Hilmar Dierks, the latter was his real name, found somewhere a copy of the real marriage \(wedding\) certificate on both real names](#))

My late husband was an acquaintance of Major Rantzau (clear, both men a Major and Dierks (von Wedel) was Referat Leiter I M and Rantzau (Major Ritter) was a colleague at the same Ast -X, in Hamburg)

I really intended to go to London to see a Major McKenzie, a friend of mine, whom I met on a previous visit in London and it was my intention to tell him the whole story with a view to being put into a prison until the war was over. I do not wish to say anything more, because I have been interrogated on several occasions by Dr. Dearden and other persons. Dr. Dearden said it was all finished and that I would be 'off trial' and would not be shot or hanged.

I have read this statement over and it is true.

Signature Vera von Wedel
Hinchley Cooke

Date 28/2/41

Termination of Part I
on
9 December 2019