

III - 67 - 8. Named Red Spy - Charged by Gen. Douglas MacArthur's Intelligence Officers With Being a "Spy and Agent" of Russia, Missouri-born Agnes Smedley (-----) a writer, appears to consult with attorney here. She says the charge is a "dispicable lie" Daily News, New York City, N. Y., Friday, February 11, 1949.

FINAL

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(NEWS photo by Wallace)

Named Red Spy. Charged by Gen. Douglas MacArthur's intelligence officers with being a "spy and agent" of Russia, Missouri-born Agnes Smedley [→], a writer, appears to consult with attorney here. She says the charge is a "despicable lie." —Story p. 1

2 Writers Here Called Red Spies

(Continued from page 3)

anese Commie wanted to get even with a woman, the ring was uncovered in October, 1941. Seventeen spies were convicted in leisurely trials which lasted until 1944. Two were hanged, five died in prison and the others were released when the American military government opened the doors for Jap political prisoners in 1945.

The Jap Commie who turned "Judas," as the report calls him, is Ito Ritsu, now a member of the central committee of the Jap Communist Party and "admired, respected and followed by thousands of the faithful."

The report did not make it clear whether Sorge had tipped the Russians about the impending attack on Pearl Harbor but left the strong implication the Reds knew what was coming.

"Sorge maintained a steady watch and report on United States-Japanese negotiations during the Summer and Fall of 1941," the report said. "His information was full and accurate."

By the first week in October, 1941, Sorge sent word to Moscow that "the next two or three weeks will be the most crucial with respect to Japan's advance to the south."

On May 20, 1941, he had sent Moscow a flash that on June 20 the Germans would attack Russia with 170 to 190 divisions. The main drive, he warned, would be toward Moscow. The assault came June 22.

The report gave Sorge credit for being "a primary architect" of the Tripartite—Axis—Pact among Germany, Italy and Japan on Sept. 27, 1940, a deal he helped engineer while sitting in the lap of the Gestapo in Tokyo as a cover for his real activities.

The Army warned that the principals of the spy ring who still are at large "can be expected to be secretly busy with their trade at this very moment in the capitals of the world."

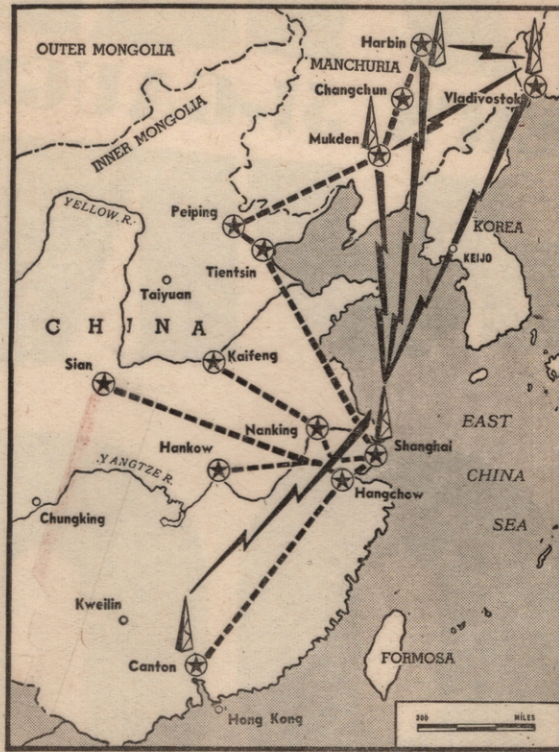
By comparison with Sorge's outfit, the Canadian atom spy nest broken up in Canada "was an amateur show," the Army said.

Sorge Boastful.

The Army was able to piece together the story through both investigation and the elaborate trial records captured from the Japs. After he was taken prisoner and before he was hanged, Sorge and his lieutenant apparently whiled away the dreary months by singing their heads off. Sorge liked to boast of his achievements.

One of the key figures in the ring, the report said, was Miyagi Yotoku of Los Angeles, "clearly recruited by the American Communist Party and the Comintern."

Many of Sorge's agents quit good jobs to take up their dangerous and ill-paid espionage work. Yotoku, for example, had run a flourishing restaurant, The Owl, in Los Angeles and made money as an artist on the side.



Map shows communications network Army says Soviet spy ring used in Far East before Pearl Harbor. Towers and jagged lines indicate radio stations and wireless communications. Broken lines show land wire connections. Vladivostok station was network's clearing house.

Sent Replacement.

Another direct link between the Sorge operations and the American Communist Party was established in the report. The Army said that when four Japs were arrested on the West Coast in 1929 for Commie activities, "the American Communist Party sent Yano Tsutomu from New York to continue their work."

Then in 1930, "a large number" of Jap Commies were arrested on the West Coast, which broke up the Jap section of the party. But the Nisei Communists reorganized in 1931, the tieups with Japan and Russian Reds was resumed. That's when Miyagi Yotoku, later to become one of Sorge's best aids was enrolled.

Sorge was born of a well-to-do German father and a Russian mother. He served with distinction in World War I and was twice wounded. He was well educated, turned himself into a Commie and became a writer for newspapers and magazines in 1922, the occupation he ostensibly followed until his death.

He became a member of the Russian Communist Party in 1924 and went abroad as an agent for the Comintern in 1927. In 1929 he

strongly protested that the spy work for the Red Army and the Comintern political activities be separated and when he went to China in 1930 this was done.

At that time, Sorge was an agent of the 4th Bureau of the Red Army General Staff, the top military espionage agency in Russia.

It was in China, the Army said, that Sorge became associated with Miss Smedley and another American journalist known only by the code name "Jacob."

"Miss Smedley," the report said, "has been one of the most energetic workers for the Soviet cause in China for the last 20 years. She was one of the early perpetrators, if not the originator, of the hoax that the Chinese Communists were not really Communist at all but only local agrarian revolutionists innocent of any Soviet connections. This tall tale has had enormous effect in molding American opinion in China, both private and official, and has bemused American writers for 20 years."

Turned to IWW.

Miss Smedley, born in Missouri, became interested in the International Workers of the World movement before World War I. In the early twenties she spent six months in the Soviet Union and in 1928 went to China as a correspondent for the Frankfurter Zeitung. Later she became correspondent for England's Manchester Guardian. She returned to the United States soon after Pearl Harbor.

Of Sorge's amazingly virile private life, the Army report had this to say:

"He was quick-tempered, a hard drinker and liked variety in his women. In addition to having a wife in Russia and another, a schoolteacher, in the United States, he is known to have been intimate with some 30 women in Tokyo during his years of service, including the wife of his chief foreign assistant and the mistress of this same assistant.

"And yet despite his philandering, his bad temper and his bouts of drunkenness, he never betrayed himself. For example, though he lived on the most intimate terms with the members of the German

Embassy Staff, and drank heavily with them over a considerable period of years, none of them ever suspected that he knew a word of Russian."

Sorge moved to Tokyo as a newspaper reporter and began recruiting his new spy circle, with the help of the Communists in Russia and the U. S. But, bearing out testimony offered over and over again before the House Un-American Activities Committee, he openly disavowed the Commies and was never seen in contact with a known Red. He posed as an ardent Nazi.

His chief assistant, moreover, Ozaki Hozumi, who became an intimate friend and counsellor of Prince Konoye, three times Premier, was never a member of the Communist Party at all.

The report said Miss Smedley "recruited" Ozaki for the spy ring in Shanghai in 1930 "and it is reasonable to assume that she had recruited other Soviet agents before and has recruited many others since."

Hanged With Sorge.

It was Ozaki Hozumi who was hanged along with Sorge. The report said "if Stalin has not posthumously granted them the most distinguished decoration of his country he is niggardly, indeed."

Ozaki got the secret Jap plans from Prince Konoye; Sorge worked the Nazi gag until after the outbreak of the European war, when Major Gen. Eugene Ott, the German Ambassador, appointed him press attache of the Embassy. Besides Ott, Sorge's chief pal among the Nazis was Col. Joseph Meissinger, Gestapo chief in Tokyo. Sorge was looking right down the throats of both Germany and Japan, for the benefit of his step-mother Russia.

Sorge's arrest was described as "a great shock" to Ott and Meissinger, who thought the Japs had made merely another blunder. Ott shortly was relieved by von Ribbentrop. Meissinger, the "Beast of Warsaw," sneaked through with a whole political skin and was still on duty when the end of the war came.

"He was flown to Poland," the Army said, "and charged with the commission of atrocities at Warsaw. He is believed to have been hanged."

(Other picture on page 1)



Agnes Smedley as a correspondent in China, 1937. With her is a Chinese boy she befriended there.



Agnes Smedley as she conferred yesterday with her attorney, O. John Rogge.

Army Brands 2 Writers Here As Spies for Soviets in Japan

By JERRY GREENE
of THE NEWS Bureau

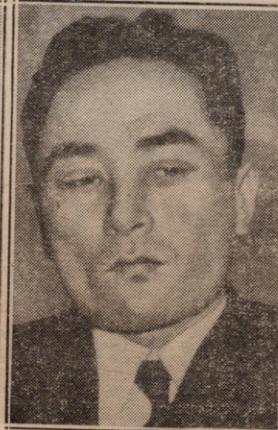
Washington, D. C., Feb. 10.—The Army broke today a fantastic story of Soviet espionage in prewar Japan, warned that some members of the Red network are still at



The late Dr. Richard Sorge



The late Ozaki Hozumi



Ito Ritsu

The two who were hanged and their betrayer.

large and busy, and tied the entire spy operation directly to the American Communist Party.

Specifically, the report prepared by Gen. Douglas MacArthur's intelligence officers charged that Agnes Smedley, a Missouri-born writer now living in Palisades, Rockland County, N. Y., "is a spy and agent" of the Russian Government.

Also named as a member of the ring was Guenther Stein, British writer now living in New York. Both journalists heatedly denied the charges and Miss Smedley branded the accusations "a despicable lie."

Of Miss Smedley, the 32,000-word report said: "The harm has been done but perhaps it could be mitigated if she is now exposed for what she is, a spy and an agent of the Soviet Government."

German Headed Ring.

The new House Un-American Activities Committee took such a grave view of the Army findings it summoned Major Gen. S. Leroy Irwin, chief of Army Intelligence, and Rear Admiral T. B. Inglis of the Navy's ONI for a special hear-

ing tomorrow. Attorney General Clark was invited to attend.

Headed by Dr. Richard Sorge, a German Communist posing as an ardent Nazi, the spy ring reached

into upper Japanese military and political circles from 1931 to 1941.

Through a fluke, because a Jap-

(Continued on page 33, col. 1)

Agnes Smedley Brands Charge 'Despicable Lie'

Accusing Gen. MacArthur of "privileged smearing," Agnes Smedley, 54-year-old Palisades, N. Y., author and champion of Chinese Red causes, denied yesterday the Army's charge that she had been an agent for a Soviet spy ring in China.

The Missouri-born author further struck back at MacArthur by charging him with "hiding the files" that would expose the Japanese spy network in the U. S. and China before Pearl Harbor, whose work, she said, "made Pearl Harbor a Japanese success."

Miss Smedley, who spent several years in China as a correspondent and radio commentator, called the charge against her "a despicable lie," adding that she had never been an agent for any country.

Her sweeping denial was made in a prepared statement issued at the office of her attorney, O. John Rogge, 401 Broadway.

Stein Denies Charge.

Guenther Stein, named with her in the Army report, also denied the charge, calling it "ridiculous." But he could not be reached for elaboration of the denial at his home, 102 W. 80th St., where he had been living for five years. He is married, but has no children.

Rogge revealed that he had sent a letter to Secretary of the Army Kenneth Royall demanding a retraction and immediate issuance of an apology to Miss Smedley.

In denying the charge, the author accused MacArthur of "sinister political motivations" and threatened to sue him for libel "if he would waive immunity."

Release of the Army report disclosed that last June 19, Shanks Village, N. Y., Legionnaires circulated petitions against the appearance of Miss Smedley there as a speaker for Henry Wallace under the sponsorship of the Rockland County committee of the American Labor Party.

The petitions practically made the same charges against her as the Army's report prepared by MacArthur's intelligence staff in Japan.

Attacking the report, Miss Smedley said:

"It is almost impossible to believe that Gen. MacArthur would, on the basis of files of the Japanese secret police, the most discredited agency of that enemy government, dare to call me a spy and agent for the Soviet Government."

"By thus using files probably dug from the torture chambers of the Japanese police, Gen. MacArthur and his staff are taking up where those same agents of the Japanese war lords left off. I must say that the pants of the Japanese secret police do not fit Gen. MacArthur well.



Guenther Stein
Denied all charges.

'Still at Large.'

"In another part of the report I am said to be 'still at large,' the implication being that I am hiding. The truth is that my profession as a writer has kept me in continuous contact with official circles and the general public."

The attack on Miss Smedley in Shanks Village was engineered by the Shanks Village Post, A. L., No. 1724, and was spearheaded by John Evans, chairman of the post's Americanism committee. Evans was a former Army intelligence officer.

Clarence Scott, vice commander of the post and a Navy veteran, said the post distributed 4,500 petitions at the time charging Miss Smedley and Stein with being Red spies. The petitions said in part:

"That two nationally known writers, Agnes Smedley and Gunther Stein, who have championed in books and in American diplomatic and military quarters the cause of the Chinese Communists and were connected with Stalin's secret service in the Far East, is perhaps the cardinal feature of the most amazing spy ring of World War II yet uncovered.

Called Recruiter for Ring.

"The full story of the operations of this ring, pieced together by Gen. MacArthur's intelligence staff

after his occupation of Japan, makes the activities of the Soviet atomic-spy network exposed in Canada seem positively amateurish."

The petition also named Miss Smedley, as the Army report did, as the recruiting officer for the ring in Shanghai which was bossed by Richard Sorge, German journalist. The Legionnaires' paper charged she introduced Sorge to Ozaki Hozumi, Japanese newspaperman, who became Sorge's right-hand man in the ring.

The petition further charged that the woman author "quietly carried on in recent years as the American adviser to Chou En-lai, Chinese Red leader.

Miss Smedley spoke briefly at the Wallace meeting to a scanty audience of 75, Scott said. Then, as yesterday, she laid the charges against her as attributable to her work as a correspondent, stressing that her work called for her meeting "all kinds of people."