

COUNTRY GERMANY		51-B-13547-C		LEAVE BLANK)	
<b>AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT</b>					
SUBJECT American National in Penal Camp at UKHTA					
AREA REPORTED ON UKHTA, USSR			FROM (Agency) 7050th AISW (USAFE)		
DATE OF REPORT 10/11 May 54		DATE OF INFORMATION 1948 to Feb 50		EVALUATION C-3	
PREPARED BY (Officer) A. P. MAREYDT, Lt. Col., USAF			SOURCE 216649		
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) None					
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)					
<p>I. <u>PREAMBLE:</u></p> <p>SOURCE was interned in a Russian penal camp at UKHTA (6334N/5342E) from 1947 to Feb 50. In 1948 an American national was brought to this camp to serve a 10 year penal term and SOURCE and this American soon teamed up in friendship and planned to escape. This way SOURCE learned all about this American national whose prison history in the USSR was very similar to his own. SOURCE was captured in Italy in May 45 and escaped shortly after. He was recaptured by Americans three times but always managed to escape again and finally arrived at his home in the Sovzone of Germany. Soon after he was jailed by the MVD as a former paratrooper officer, and early in 1946 he was transported to MOSKVA (5545N/3735E) where he was jailed for six months in the "LUBLIYANKA" prison. Then a secret court convicted him for "Espionage for the Americans" to 10 years of hard labor and he was transported into the area of UKHTA. In 1947 he attempted escape together with a Lithuanian national but they were recaptured and again arraigned in front of a court. This time SOURCE was sentenced for "Attempted Escape and Sabotage" to 25 years penal labor and loss of all Soviet Citizen's Rights for five years". In 1948 SOURCE and an Estonian national attempted another escape but again they were recaptured very shortly after and again they were arraigned in front of yet another court, where SOURCE was given an additional 15 years of penal labor. Through his numerous escape attempts and because SOURCE was the only German national in the penal camp at UKHTA, SOURCE had gained a fair amount of fame among the camp inmates, and it was not long after the American national's arrival in this camp that he proposed to SOURCE to plan an escape together. Following is a complete story of the American national's history as learned by SOURCE through direct conversation with him and from statements made to him by Estonian nationals who had known him before his jailing by the MVD.</p> <p>II. <u>AMERICAN NATIONAL IN PENAL CAMP AT UKHTA:</u></p> <p>The true name of said American national was JAMES STAFFORD, however, in camp he was better known as Mr. Kurt NISSLONE or NISSLONI, a cover name which had been assigned to him during WW II. STAFFORD was born between 1910 and 1914 (exact date not recalled by SOURCE) in BRESLAU (5107N/1700E), where his father was an official with the city police. In 1919 his father had to leave Germany for political reasons, he went first to Czechoslovakia and from there to the USA. In 1920, STAFFORD, his mother and his sister followed their father to the USA, where his last residence was SAN FRANCISCO (3748N/122 25W). Names of STAFFORD's father, mother and sister were not recalled by SOURCE, however, SOURCE did remember that the mother was born at CHEMNITZ (5050N/1255E). Before going to</p>					
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## AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency) 7050th AISW (USAFE)	REPORT NO. 51-B-13547-C	PAGE 13 OF 14 PAGES
<p>America, where the entire family adopted the name STAFFORD, James' surname was LENZ. He went to school at SAN FRANCISCO and later married a South American woman of Spanish descent who bore him a child, settling with his family at SAN FRANCISCO. In 1939 STAFFORD was sent to an intelligence school for six months, and after graduation received his first assignment in SPAIN, where he worked as radio technician. This was the first step of his undercover work as an American intelligence agent. STAFFORD from then on always worked together with numerous other intelligence agents, however, he knew none of them and only knew his intermediate agent, most of the time a woman, to whom he had to surrender his info and from whom he received his assignments. When the German Army captured PARIS (4851N/2205E), STAFFORD was in the city as a civilian. He was then given the assignment to collect info on the German aircraft industry and he received papers and the uniform of a German Luftwaffe Lieutenant. After this first assignment STAFFORD was sent as T/Sgt on a mission to the Dornier Aircraft Plant at FRIEDRICHSHAFEN (4739N/930E). There the German Counter Intelligence received the first clue of STAFFORD's job, and he had to escape. After a short rest period he was sent as civilian to BERLIN (5232N/1325E) and established connections to the "Reichsluftfahrtministerium" (Air Ministry) over a German staff officer Lt Col von STEPTEN. This officer often gave STAFFORD secret papers in exchange for food and liquor, which STAFFORD received from France. Soon however, the counter intelligence caught up to him and he had to escape again. His next assignment was as German Airman with a tactical air force unit in Bulgaria and from there he was sent on a mission to Turkey. After his return he worked numerous other assignments in Germany, and when the counter intelligence caught up to him again he went as airman without rank to an Airforce ground and constr unit known as "Epenlaub", stationed in the area of TALLINN (5924N/2445E). His job with this unit was to perform acts of sabotage. Soon, however, counter intelligence caught up to him again and he escaped to HELSINKI (6010N/2458E). After receiving a new assignment there, the German secret service apprehended him and he was arraigned in front of a military tribunal. After his entire WW II activity was proven to him he was sentenced to death and transported for execution to TALLINN. There he was still in the local prison when the Russian troops captured town, and he was immediately turned loose. For some time after he made a living on the black market, however, yet in 1945 he decided to escape to Finland, together with a group of Estonian civilians. A fisherboat was acquired but by the time the escape was to take place the MVD had gotten report, and STAFFORD and his Estonian friends were jailed and arraigned in front of court where they accused each other, resulting in a 10 year penal term for every one of them. He was then deported to a penal camp in the area of UKHTA. Not very long after his arrival there he and an Estonian national escaped and together they came as far as KIROV (5405N/3419E), killing a Russian on their way. At KIROV the Estonian continued on by himself, while STAFFORD moved in with a Russian woman whose brother was a Militia member. Living with her for almost three months he managed to get excellent ID papers, however, through lack of security on his part, the MVD apprehended him while black marketing, and he was again arraigned in front of court. This time his old sentence was rescinded and he was sentenced to one year restricted penal camp and nine years of penal labor and returned to the area of UKHTA, where he was immediately put into a confined penal camp. After working in this camp as medic for one year he went to the camp commander and asked him for a transfer to a normal penal camp, however, the camp commander told him "You as an International swindler and adventurer will never leave this camp". After two more unsuccessful tries to get out of this camp STAFFORD saw his chance one day when killing a Russian criminal in self-defense. This act made it impossible to hold him in the camp any longer, and he was immediately transferred to the "Regime Penal Camp" at UKHTA, where he met with SOURCE shortly after. For almost one year the two prepared an escape attempt which was to take place in Aug 49. Compasses and knives were made, rubber protections because the escape was to start through an underground high tension canal, and maps</p>		

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## AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE	OF	PAGES
7050th AISW (USAFE)	51-B-13547-G	14	14	14

were acquired or drawn of the areas through which the escape was to go. It was planned to go to KOTLAS (6115N/4640E) and from there through the Karelo-Finnish swamps and forests to Finland, along the White Sea Canal. However, as it came this attempt could not be started, as two Russian camp inmates escaped on the day before SOURCE's scheduled departure, and as a consequence the camp guards were doubled. The escape was then planned for May 50, however, in Feb 50 SOURCE was transported from the camp while STAFFORD remained there. When leaving, SOURCE left all items for the planned escape with STAFFORD. On the day before SOURCE left, when it was already known that he would leave, STAFFORD came to him and asked him to report, should he ever get to Western Germany, to the nearest American intelligence office, that he, SOURCE, had met STAFFORD in a Russian penal camp. He told SOURCE "all you have to do is mention to them that you met K-226 Helsinki and they will know who I am".

James STAFFORD was 1.78m tall, weighed about 75kg, had dark hair and grey-blue eyes, husky built, prominent cheek bones, short chin and high, backward ascending forehead. He spoke fluent American, German with Silesian dialect, and Russian. He was sentenced as NISSLONI STAFFORD and his American identity was known to the MVD. When SOURCE saw him last he was in excellent physical condition, he worked as electrician on numerous constr sites, always alone but in company of an armed guard. In the penal camp he was respected by guards and criminals alike as a man who feared absolutely nothing.

*for* *Vitoldumovich*  
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