

Der Chef der Sicherheitspolizei
und des SD

IV A 2 - B.Nr. 330/42gRs -

Bitte in der Antwort vorstehendes Geschäftssymbol u. Datum anzugeben

Berlin SW 11, den 24. Dezember 1942.
Drinz-Albrecht-Straße 8
Fernsprecher: Ortsverkehr 12 00 40 - Fernverkehr 12 04 21

Schnellbrief

Gehcimd Reichssache!

An den Reichsführer-SS und Chef der
Deutschen Polizei,

Betriift: Rote Kapelle.



THE RED ORCHESTRA

LICHTBLICK FILM

in co-production with



iota
production

VICE
AERSA
FILMS

THE RED ORCHESTRA

documentary feature
by Carl-Ludwig Rettinger

Logline

The Red Orchestra was a most important resistance net in Nazi Germany, which also collected military information. With the assistance of a Jewish espionage ring in Brussels and Paris, they passed it to the Soviets. After locating their radio transmissions, Hitler set off a deadly hunt.

During the Cold War, the legacy of the Red Orchestra got ground down between the propaganda of East and West. Two large-scale feature films were launched on both sides, each telling merely half of the truth. Excerpts are now 'reunited' to impart the story in full. Furthermore, descendants of the people involved, in Berlin, Brussels, Paris, Jerusalem and New York contribute to this first comprehensive filmic account of the defamed resistance network.

Synopsis

The Red Orchestra was a collaboration of different resistance circles. Its members distributed pamphlets, helped Jews to flee and hid deserters. One of its leading members was Harro Schulze-Boysen. As a ranking officer in the Ministry of Aviation he got hold of Hitler's plan for the invasion of the Soviet Union and, later, for the advance on Stalingrad. He passed this information to the Allies, with the assistance of a Soviet espionage ring based in Brussels and Paris. Its ranks were predominantly made up of Jewish communists, expelled from Palestine; among them the 'Grand Chef' Leopold Trepper.

In 1942, German military intelligence succeeded in locating the encoded radio transmissions. Hitler was stunned to find out there were still resistance nests under his dominion. He set off a deadly hunt that extended from Berlin to Brussels and Paris. Only a few survived.

After the war, the involved Gestapo henchmen had not been convicted but even courted by Western intelligence services. They informed on their victims for the second time. The legacy of the Red Orchestra got ground down between the frontiers of the Cold War. In the early seventies, two large-scale film projects were launched concurrently on both sides of the iron curtain, in West- and East-Germany. But each film merely tells half of the truth.

Excerpts from both films are now "reunited" not only to tell the story of the Red Orchestra but also to reflect its misinterpretation after the war. Furthermore, we were able to shoot with descendants of the people involved, in Berlin, Brussels, Paris, Jerusalem and New York. They still struggle with their heritage and now contribute to the first comprehensive filmic account of this defamed resistance network.



THE RED ORCHESTRA



duration 120 min.
colour colour and b/w
format Ultra HD (4K), DCP
sound 5.1
release 2020

a production of LICHTBLICK FILM, Cologne
with IOTA PRODUCTION, Brussels
and VICE VERSA FILMS, Tel Aviv

in cooperation with
RBB/Arte (GER-FRA) **and** RTBF (BEL)

funded by German Federal Film Board,
Medienboard Berlin Brandenburg, Film- und
Medienstiftung NRW, Tax Shelter Belgium

world sales global screen



writer & director
Carl-Ludwig Rettinger

co-director
Lorenz Findeisen

editor
Martin Kayser-Landwehr

cinematographers
Lutz Reitemeier, Olivier Verdoot

original sound recordists
Benedikt Gaussling, Damien Rouchaud

score by
Eloi Ragot

producers
Joachim Ortmanns, Isabelle Truc, Gidi Avivi

narrated by
Brendan Coyle



filming locations
Berlin, Brussels, Paris, Jerusalem, New York City,
Schloss Liebenberg, Breendonk Prison

THE RED ORCHESTRA

protagonists

Lital Levin, granddaughter of Leopold Trepper, Paris

Rebecca Donner, granddaughter of Mildred Harnack, New York City

Roberta Böcker, niece of Libertas Schulze-Boysen, Einbeck

Yehudit Kafri, writer, Tel Aviv

Dr. Hans Coppi, son of Hans and Hilde Coppi, Berlin

Guillaume Bourgeois, historian, Paris

Sacha Barcza, grandson of Anatoli Gurewitsch and Margarete Barcza, Alicante

André Possot, Brussels

Dr. Gerhard Sälter, historian, Berlin



excerpts

Die Rote Kapelle, FRG/France, 1972 by Franz Peter Wirth

Werner Kreindl, Rada Rassimov, Georges Claisse

KLK an PTX - Die Rote Kapelle, GDR, 1971 by Horst E. Brandt

Klaus Piontek, Jutta Wachowiak, Manfred Karge

