

# Nazis Seize Estate Of Local Man's Kin

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## Orvid Harnack, Germany, Husband of Former Mildred Fish Is Executed In Feb.

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Sunday newspapers received in Evansville carried the following story concerning Mrs. Mildred Fish Harnack of Germany, sister of M. D. Fish, this city.

The Milwaukee Journal said "all the property and estate of a woman, listed as a former Milwaukeean but who apparently has been living in Germany for a period of years, has been confiscated by the German Reich following the execution of her husband for treason, according to a New York Times dispatch received Saturday from Bern, Switzerland.

"The German Gazeteer listed 'communistic activities' as the reason for the confiscation. Mrs. Harnack's last place of residence in Germany was given as Woyrschstrasse 16 Berlin, West.

"According to the Swiss account, her husband, whose name was Arvid Harnack, was reported to have been one of a dozen or more Germans hanged last February in connection with an alleged plot suspected of having ramifications leading the Mme Kolontai, Soviet woman diplomat in Stockholm, Sweden.

Only fragmentary details of the trials and the identity of those implicated

have reached Switzerland. Mr. Harnack was said to be a grandson of the late Adolf von Harnack, eminent German theologian and historian."

Mrs. Harnack, formerly Miss Mildred Fish, was a student in the University of Wisconsin when she met her husband who came from Germany to Madison to study economics under Dr. John Commons in the early 1920s. They were married at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Fish when they resided north of Evansville near Brooklyn. They did not leave for Germany until several years after their marriage and often visited here after Mr. and Mrs. Fish and family moved to this city. Mrs. Harnack has not been heard from by members of the family here for many months.

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## Local 4-H Club To Meet Friday Night

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Mrs. Orville Devlin will have charge of the evening's activities at the regular meeting of the Evansville 4-H club to be held at 8 p.m. tomorrow, Friday, evening in the city hall auditorium. New members will be initiated by Mrs. Potter Porter.

The refreshment Committee is comprised of Harold Abey, Archie Reese, Melvin Janes and Howard Severson. Those in charge of the games are Donald Janes and Kenneth Devlin. All enrollment blanks must be turned in at the meeting.

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# Local Man's Sister Passes In Germany

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## Death of Mrs. Mildred Harnack Early This Year Looks Like Gestapo Job

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Mrs. Mildred Fish Harnack, native of Milwaukee and sister of M. D. Fish, this city, who has been residing in Germany for some years and whose property and estate the Nazis seized after the execution of her husband for treason, last February, is now reported dead, according to information received here by Mr. Fish. The report said that she died early this year and it looked like a Gestapo job.

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Mrs. Harnack was born in Milwaukee, Sept. 16, 1902 and was graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1925. She was married to Arvid Harnack, August 7, the same year. He was at the university as an exchange fellow from Germany. She taught English at the university through 1927 and also at Goucher college, Baltimore, for two years before joining her husband who had preceded her to Germany. The last letter received from her was in August, 1942, when she was teaching at the University of Berlin. She had many acquaintances in Evansville, having often visited Mr. and Mrs. Fish and family here.

October 14, 1943, Evansville Review, p. 1, col. 3, Evansville,

Wisconsin

# Local Couple's Niece, Children Leave Berlin

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**Mrs. Jane Donner Travels 300  
Miles Across Germany In  
Horse Drawn Wagon**  
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Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Fish, Evansville, recently received a letter from the former's sister, Mrs. Fred Esch, Maryland, in which she enclosed the following newspaper clipping regarding her daughter.

"With the Ninetieth Division near the Czech border, April 18. A former Maryland girl and her three small children—the youngest a year-old baby—are sleeping in a little town here tonight after a 300-mile flight by horse and wagon across central Germany, through lines of the retreating German army and into territory occupied by troops of this division.

"She is Mrs. Jane Donner, 29, daughter of Fred Esch, retired Department of Justice attorney, who lives at Chevy Chase, Md. Evacuated from Berlin, where her husband is a university professor, Mrs. Donner and her three small sons, the oldest one aged 4, had been four weeks on the road from Mecklenburg to Bavaria.

"Slim, brown-haired and blue-eyed and wearing slacks and a blue woolen turtle-neck sweater, Mrs. Donner told her story with cheerful good humor and perfect poise. 'My children thank goodness 'are tough,' she laughed, 'but they've all got miserable colds and the diaper problem for baby these last two days has been acute. I feel like the worst of it is over now. The war can't possibly last more than a few days longer, don't you think?'

"Mrs. Donner was born in Chevy Chase and attended high school there. She took a degree in English at George Washington university in 1936 and the following year attended the University of Maryland at College Park, where she took courses in education.

"But I was rather foot-loose and  
(Continued on last page)

# Local Couple's Niece, Children Leave Berlin

(Continued from page one)

wanted to see the world,' she said. 'My parents didn't altogether agree with me on that. But in June, 1937, I came to Germany to visit my mother's sister, Mrs. Mildred Harnack, whose husband was an economist in Berlin.

"There I met my husband who is 43 and a professor at the University of Berlin, where he teaches money, banking and statistics. My father came to Germany the next year and in the summer of 1939 we went back to America to visit my family. But we came to Berlin to live. Life was rather pleasant then in Germany and living in a foreign country appealed to me. It seemed romantic.'

The aunt whom she went to Germany was Mrs. Mildred Harnack, was a sister of M. D. Fish, this city. She was born in Milwaukee and attended the University of Wisconsin where she met Mr. Harnack. She was killed in Germany in February, 1943. Her husband was hanged for "treason to the Reich" in December, 1942.

"I had the privilege recently of talking with Frau Prof. Clara Harnack, Mother of Arvid Harnack. She asked me to tell you that her son Arvid was executed by the Nazis on 22, Dec., 1942 for trying to organize resistance, and on 16, Feb., 1943, they killed his wife Mildred Fish Harnack.

"I read a letter which Arvid wrote his Mother 3 hours before his death. It contained certain predictions of startling accuracy and showed beyond question how great is the loss to democratic, peace loving people, all over the world when a life like this is rubbed out.

"Frau Prof. Harnack wanted you to know that before her death, Mildred translated many of Goethe's works into English but she didn't say anything about the whereabouts of the manuscript. Apparently toward the end both these people found spiritual strength in the beauty and power of nature. The last known act of Mildred was that on a photograph of her mother she wrote something like this "this picture says all that I want to say". One other long letter from Arvid is missing. He is said to have given it to a padre in prison, and his mother hopes to recover it.

"Falk, the other son, was prominent in the dramatic life in Germany and for a while was director of the Stadt Theatre in Weimar. He too was anti-Nazi and is thought to have disappeared into the hands of the Gestapo at an airport in Athenes. His exact fate is unknown.

"I should like to talk more about these matters and comment on our political policies in relation to such tragedies as this, but since this letter is somewhat semi-official I shall have to wait until I return to America to speak my mind.

"Angela Harnack, sister of Arvid, continues her musical studies at the Conservatory here in Heidelberg and Frau Prof. Harnack is living at present at Amviehtrieb, 21, Neckargemund, a small village down the river from here. I shall be glad to try to transmit a personal message to her if you care to write me."

Sincerely yours,  
John B. Schwertman,  
Field Director.

## Sister's Fate Is Revealed To Local Man

About two years ago M. D. Fish, this city, received word that his brother-in-law, Arvid Harnack, had been executed in Germany. Mr. Fish was also notified that the fate of his sister, Mildred Fish Harnack, was unknown. The following letter was received recently through the Red Cross by Fred Esch, Washington D. C. another brother-in-law of Mr. Fish. It explains the fate of the Harnack family.

"I had the privilege recently of talking with Frau Prof. Clara Harnack,

## DEATH STORY TOLD OF LOCAL MAN'S SISTER

The story of a Wisconsin woman who was beheaded on Feb. 16, 1943, as a personal reprisal by Adolph Hitler, is published in the current issue of the Wisconsin Alumni magazine.

The magazine, which will be mailed later this week to alumni of the University of Wisconsin, tells the full story of the death by guillotine at Brandenburg, Germany, of Mildred Fish Harnack, formerly of Milwaukee and Madison. She was a 1925 graduate of the university.

Mildred Fish met Arvid Harnack, a German student attending the university on a Rockefeller scholarship, in 1926 while she was teaching English there, the magazine stated. They were married and left for Germany in 1930. When Hitler came into power, Harnack joined the German underground. In September, 1942, he was arrested by Nazi secret police and was hanged on Christmas eve, 1942. Mrs. Harnack, who had aided her husband in underground work, was given six months at hard labor.

Several weeks after Mrs. Harnack's trial, Hitler, going through the court records, came across the woman's dossier and immediately ordered her trial reopened as she was the only American then in his power, the magazine reported.

Manfred Roeder, the Nazi chief judge who had decreed the original sentence, at Hitler's command changed it to the death penalty and Mrs. Harnack was guillotined. Her headless torso was recognized by a personal friend, the magazine added, and he spirited it away and had it secretly cremated. The urn with her ashes now is at the home of her sister-in-law in Berlin.

The magazine reported it had learned most of the details of the executions from the records of the U. S. office of military government. Mrs. Harnack was a sister of M. D. Fish, Evansville.

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## About *Resisting Hitler*

*(The following material is adapted from author Shareen Blair Brysac's website.)*

Mildred Fish Harnack—a Milwaukee native and University of Wisconsin alumna and faculty member from the '20s—joined the German resistance and became the only American woman executed for treason during World War II, on the personal orders of Hitler. Her heroism and self-sacrifice were well known when the war ended, but her story was later suppressed or forgotten. Now, more than half a century later, Shareen Blair Brysac gives us the first full account of her incredible life story in *Resisting Hitler*, one of a few accounts devoted to the brave women active in the German resistance.

As members of a key resistance group, Mildred and her husband, Arvid Harnack, assisted in the escape of German Jews and political dissidents, circulated illegal leaflets, held surreptitious meetings with prisoners of war, documented Nazi atrocities on the Eastern Front and for years provided vital economic and military intelligence to both Washington and Moscow. But in 1942, following a Soviet blunder, the Gestapo arrested, tortured, and tried some four score members of the Harnack's group, which the Nazis dubbed the Red Orchestra. Mildred Harnack was guillotined in Berlin on February 16, 1943. Yet as World War II ended and the Cold War began, her courage, idealism and self-sacrifice went largely unacknowledged in America and the democratic West, and were distorted and sanitized in the Communist East. Only now, with the opening of long-sealed archives, has the complete story been told.

At once gripping and heartbreaking, *Resisting Hitler* is based on extensive interviews with the Harnack family, friends and associates; it draws on personal correspondence, dozens of interviews, and formerly classified German and Soviet KGB files and recently declassified CIA and FBI dossiers. *Resisting Hitler* is a great love story of a Wisconsin girl whose intelligence and beauty captivated a visiting scholar, Arvid Harnack, a member of a distinguished German academic family. It explores for the first time the complex familial connections of the Harnacks, Delbrücks and Bonhoeffers, a number of whom were executed for resistance acts. It details Mildred's friendship with Martha Dodd, daughter of FDR's ambassador to the Third Reich, whose affair with a Soviet diplomat led to his death. And it depicts the human side of the Red Orchestra that for too long has been portrayed as merely a Soviet spy network. The extraordinary story of Mildred Harnack's nine dramatic years of resisting the Nazi regime also reminds today's readers of the desperate moral choices that beset opponents of a ruthless totalitarian dictatorship.

Finally, *Resisting Hitler* is the story of Mildred Harnack's great and abiding love for Arvid Harnack and for Germany. Her last words before the guillotine were "And I have loved Germany so much."

### Interview with Shareen Blair Brysac

#### **Q. Mildred Harnack is not exactly a familiar name, how did you decide to write about her?**

Brysac: Mildred was a close friend of my husband's family. I thought the story—a woman

guillotined for opposing Hitler—was quite extraordinary. I was immediately attracted to the idea of a biography. My husband's family knew the Wisconsin parts of the story and her final fate. It was left up to me to find out about her middle years in Berlin (1929-1942)—the real heart of the story.

**Q. How did you go about doing that?**

Brysac: It was a very long and complicated task. When I started the book in 1989, I was still able to interview people who had known her. I traveled all over East and West Germany talking with relatives and friends of the Harnacks. Mildred's own archives were in East Germany—there was still the Berlin Wall in 1989—and I had to obtain special permission to see them. I also had to file under the Freedom of Information Act in the U.S. to obtain Mildred's records and those of the Red Orchestra from the CIA, the FBI, and military intelligence. They dribbled out over several years. I received the Harnack's KGB files from a former agent in 1993. I secured the records of the SED, the East German Communist Party records in 1995 during a year I spent living in Berlin. Other material was in Prague. So the book took several years. The essential story remained the same but the details kept changing.

**Q: How did a beautiful woman from Wisconsin get involved in espionage for the Soviets?**

Brysac: Mildred Fish, as she was then known, was born in Milwaukee—a German city at that time in 1902. She attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison. After she graduated, she taught English there and met Arvid Harnack, an exchange scholar from Germany, and married him in 1926. In 1929, she returned to Germany with him, completed her doctorate in American literature while she taught—at the University of Berlin and the People's University. After Hitler came to power in 1933, she and her husband formed a group to actively oppose Hitler. At first the opposition consisted of study groups which involved various opponents of Hitler. Later this was expanded into active opposition and from 1938 onwards the Harnacks passed on information to the Americans and Soviets on what to expect from Hitler—i.e. war. Arvid Harnack was a middle level official in the Economics Ministry and was sent to the U.S. twice in 1938 and 1939 to secure German assets in the event of war so he had a very good idea of what was going on.

**Q. What is the Red Orchestra?**

Brysac: The Red Orchestra, *Rote Kapelle*, in German was the generic name given to Soviet intelligence rings by the Germans. Red, was for the Communists, orchestra because the radio operators who were called musicians. Although there were branches of the so-called Red Orchestra in Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, France, and Japan, the most important members were in Berlin. The two leaders of the Berlin group were Mildred's husband, Arvid Harnack and a young lieutenant in the Luftwaffe, Harro Schulze-Boysen. But, of course, they never called themselves the Red Orchestra. Nor did they have any idea of the other groups.

**Q. You say that Harnack and Schulze-Boysen were the most important Soviet agents of WWII?**

Brysac: They would not have considered themselves agents. They viewed the Soviet Union as the most likely opponent of the Nazis—they were very disappointed in the lack of opposition to Hitler in the U.S. and Britain. Even during the Nazi-Soviet Pact that lasted from 1939 to June 1941, when the Germans invaded the Soviet Union, Harnack and Schulze-Boysen believed that there would be a war between the Soviets and the Germans. The only way to stop Hitler, they felt, was by helping the Soviets.

**Q. But were they successful?**

Brysac: If you believe the Nazis... very. They were responsible for the loss of 250,000 Germans—not to mention—Austrians, Italians, Rumanians—at Stalingrad, the most famous battle of WWII. At the trial of the Harnack group in December 1941, the Germans claimed that they relayed 500 radio messages to Moscow. Actually, between June and November 1941 there was only one radio message that was successfully transmitted to Moscow.

**Q. Why was that?**

Brysac: Arvid Harnack did provide the Soviet agent resident in Berlin, Alexander Korotkov, with many details of the planned invasion of the Soviet Union—including the Luftwaffe order of battle—which did reach Moscow, Stalin and his minions in the NKVD, the KGB's predecessor, didn't want to do anything to provoke Hitler. Stalin was sure it was disinformation. And, although just

before the Germans launched their offensive, Korotkov provided Harnack and Schulze-Boysen with two radios, the Soviets failed to train an operator. The person chosen was totally inexperienced, he didn't even know Morse code. He plugged the one radio into the wrong kind of current and blew the tubes; the other radio was dropped and had to be repaired. So the vaunted Red Orchestra in Berlin was totally silent and unprepared to pass on their very valuable information such as information they obtained from informers in all the important ministries, the Wehrmacht, Luftwaffe, etc.

**Q: How then did they get their information to Moscow?**

Brysac: After about six months, a Soviet agent, operating out of Brussels, was contacted by radio and ordered to Berlin. The names and addresses of the Berlin group were sent in code. Unfortunately, after he returned and transmitted the information from the Berlin group, the Brussels group was picked up by the Nazis and when they finally obtained the key to the Soviet code by torturing a radio operator, they could finally decipher the messages and the addresses.

**Q. Who was Martha Dodd?**

Brysac: Martha Dodd was Mildred Harnack's best friend. She was the twenty-something daughter of the American ambassador in Berlin. Martha was from Chicago and she slept her way through the German and French diplomatic corps. She had an affair with Rolf Diels, the head of the Gestapo, Louis Ferdinand, the grandson of Wilhelm II, the flying ace Ernst Udet, the American writer Thomas Wolfe, and the occasional stray newspapermen, and, most importantly, a Soviet diplomat named Boris Vinogradov.

**Q: Why was Vinogradov important to your story.**

Brysac: Martha Dodd fell in love with Vinogradov—they even wrote to Joseph Stalin for permission to marry. And it was through Boris that Martha Dodd fell in love with the Soviet Union and offered her services to the Russians. She basically opened her father's mail and passed it on to the Russians plus any other information she was able to garner through her affairs.

**Q. Mildred Harnack was guillotined. Was that a usual practice of the Nazis?**

Brysac: Actually, the Nazis brought the practice back. Prisoners were given guillotine kits and assembled them. However, it was usually used only for women as it was thought to be the most humane method of execution. Death comes within a few seconds. They hung male civilians and shot the soldiers.

**Q: What's new in the book?**

Brysac: A good deal. Mildred's story has never been told. There are many new details about Martha Dodd. And, I think even those intelligence buffs who are familiar with the Red Orchestra will find a lot of new information. In addition, the fact that the Harnacks were also working with the Americans for a couple of years will come as a surprise to many experts.

**Q: Did you have a sense of identification with Mildred?**

Brysac: It's been said that biographer's often show signs of the Stockholm syndrome—although they identify not with their torturers but with their subjects. I didn't really identify with Mildred. In fact, I found it very hard to sympathize with her infatuation with Communism although when I really got into the period and realized just how desperate Germany was during the Weimar depression I could see how appealing a planned economy and a country with supposed equality for women and justice for all might have looked if you were sitting in Germany. But I did find that I became Mildred's advocate. Sitting in Hanover for a week reading the transcripts of what the Nazi judges and Gestapo torturers said about Mildred and the group—after the war when they were unable to defend themselves from their tormentors insulting, self-serving remarks—I was outraged. It was not the Nazis and their judicial system that was on trial—after all, testimony in the case was obtained through torture—but their victims, the men and women of the resistance who were being slandered.

**Q. So *Resisting Hitler* is a blend of espionage, Third Reich history and biography?**

Brysac: Actually I think of the book as all that but it's a story of courage under impossible odds. These people worked against Hitler from 1933 to 1942 before Germany was losing the war. They wrote leaflets, saved Jews, collected files on war crimes. But above all it's three great love stories—the primary one being that of Mildred and Arvid Harnack, but also the tragic story of Martha Dodd and Boris Vinogradov. Vinogradov was executed by the Soviets in 1938 and she died in exile in

Prague. Also the story of Harro and Libertas Schulze-Boysen—they were executed together, as Libertas said, for having the “misfortune to fall in love in this rotten country.”

**from the *New York Times***

by Shareen Blair Brysac in "Ideas": *At Last, Recognition and Praise for the Resistance in Nazi Germany*

7 October 2000

When the British historian A. J. P. Taylor declared in the 1960's that German resistance to the Nazis was a myth, his was a widely held view. Even today many people in Germany and elsewhere believe there was little internal opposition to Hitler.

After decades of bitter debate, however, the German resistance's tangled history is coming into sharper focus. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the cold war in 1989, newly released K.G.B. and C.I.A. files and long-ignored documents in the Roosevelt Library in Hyde Park, N.Y., reveal that the once-scorned Communist and socialist resistance deserves more credit.

As Germany celebrates the 10th anniversary of reunification this week, there are signs that the left's contributions are finally being recognized. Streets in western Germany are being named for members of the Red Orchestra, a leftist resistance group that had been maligned for decades, while the high-speed trains plying from Hanover through the former eastern zone to Berlin bear names of German resisters like Count Claus Schenk von Stauffenberg, who had been honored only in the former West Germany.

But this searching re-examination has not been painless. Old East-West antagonisms have shot through attempts to correct the record. Delicate political sensibilities are part of the reason that a more complete picture of the German resistance has been so long in coming. During the Nazi era the breadth of internal opposition was hidden from the German people and, except for the failed Stauffenberg plot of July 20, 1944, to assassinate Hitler, from the rest of the world. Yet Gestapo records reveal that approximately 800,000 Germans in a population of more than 66 million were jailed for active resistance during the Reich's 12-year reign. Indeed, the first concentration camps, notably Dachau, built near Munich in 1933, were meant for left-wing dissidents. In 1936, a typical year, 11,687 Germans were arrested for illegal socialist activity, according to Peter Hoffmann's standard 1977 study, "The History of the German Resistance, 1933-1945."

Even after the war the record was obscured. To many Germans the resistance was an awkward reminder that choices were possible, even in wartime. In Germany's western sector, influential voices echoed the Nazi judiciary in defining all resistance against the fatherland as high treason. This view persisted after the founding of the German Federal Republic, or West Germany, in 1949. Survivor benefits, for example, were denied to the widows and children of the conservative officers who tried to kill Hitler in 1944, even though the widows of SS officers were receiving benefits.

As West Germany became the anchor of Western Europe, its frontiers guaranteed by NATO, a less defensive populace began to honor some resistance leaders like the army officers led by Count Stauffenberg who tried to assassinate Hitler in 1944, churchmen like Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and the Catholic students in the so-called White Rose group. Even so, Communist opponents were still shunned. In 1956 the Bonn Parliament voted to compensate many German victims of Nazism, but when the Communist Party was declared illegal in West Germany, the Communists were excluded from any benefits.

Perhaps no group was more consistently misrepresented during the cold war or better illustrates the current re-examination of German resistance than the Red Orchestra. The Red Orchestra was a loosely organized group of about 120 Catholics, socialists, conservatives and former Communist Party members centered on Arvid Harnack, a former Rockefeller scholar and official in the German Economics Ministry; his American wife, Mildred; a Luftwaffe lieutenant, Harro Schulze-Boysen; and his wife, Libertas, who worked for the film section of the Propaganda Ministry.

Although often portrayed as a Soviet agent, Harnack in fact provided top-secret intelligence to an American diplomat in Berlin as well as to the Soviets. And despite Soviet requests to cease all

resistance activities, the group printed and distributed anti- Nazi literature and helped Jews and dissidents escape until, because of a gross Soviet intelligence blunder, the Gestapo arrested 120 people in 1942 and 1943. One result was the torture, secret trial and execution of 31 men and 18 women, including Mildred Harnack.

In East Germany, the Soviet-installed government celebrated the Red Orchestra and other "anti-fascist heroes" to lend a measure of legitimacy to the regime. Streets and schools were named after Marxist resisters. History was rewritten with Orwellian zeal. Arvid Harnack's last words, uttered before he was executed, were changed from "I believe in the power of love" to "I die as a convinced Communist!"

In West Germany the truth was obscured in a different way. Writing in 1954, the historian Gerhard Ritter expressed a common West German judgment about the Red Orchestra: "This group had nothing to do with `German resistance.' They were frankly in the service of the enemy. They not only sought to induce German soldiers to desert, but they also betrayed important military secrets and so destroyed German troops." They were, Ritter declared, traitors.

Information that emerged after reunification has renewed the debate over who deserves to be honored. In 1992, for example, the Memorial Museum of the German Resistance in Berlin installed a corrective exhibition on the Red Orchestra intended as a "tardy atonement for the victims and their survivors, and an apology for long neglect in the history of the German resistance." But the group's inclusion at the memorial site provoked an outraged protest by families of the July 20 conspirators.

And when an exhibit from the museum was sent to Washington and New York in 1994, Maria Hermes, the daughter of the Catholic resister Josef Wirmer, insisted that a distinction be made between the men who planned the overthrow of Hitler to restore peace and re-establish Germany as a free constitutional state "and those of the anti-fascists who wanted to establish Communist rule." Schulze-Boysen's brother, Hartmut, fired back that unlike the officers who served Hitler loyally until 1944, his brother and friends had never served the National Socialist state. They "had given their lives not for Stalin but rather in fighting Hitler," he said.

Yet with the 10th anniversary of reunification, critical opinion is decisively turning in the revisionists' favor. A permanent exhibit honoring Schulze-Boysen and a comrade, Erwin Gehrts, opened last December in the Finance Ministry, a building which at onetime housed Hermann Göring's Luftwaffe.

Perhaps the most telling signal of the shift in German public opinion was the warm reception accorded "This Death Suits Me," the collected letters of Schulze-Boysen, when it was published last fall. Many people were moved by the final letter that the 33-year-old Schulze-Boysen sent to his parents: "I am completely calm and ask that you accept this with composure. Such important things are at stake today all over the world that one extinguished life does not matter very much. . . . Everything that I did was done in accordance with my head, my heart, my convictions, and in this light you, my parents, must assume the best. . . . It is usual in Europe for spiritual seeds to be sown with blood. Perhaps we were simply a few fools, but when the end is this near, one perhaps has the right to a bit of completely personal historical illusion." Even the reviewer in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, the most conservative of dailies, described the Red Orchestra as one of the "most moving, most courageous and most farsighted groups of the German resistance."



**about the author:**

**Shareen Blair Brysac** is the co-author with her husband, Karl E. Meyer, of the acclaimed *Tournament of Shadows: The Great Game and the Race for Empire in Central Asia*. A former producer for CBS News, her landmark documentaries "1968," "American Dream, American Nightmare," "The Cowboy, the Craftsman, and the Ballerina," and "Juilliard and Beyond: A Life in Music, Once in Lifetime," won several Emmys, a Dupont Citation, the George Foster Peabody Award, the Writers Guild Award, and medals from New York and Chicago film festivals. Her work has also appeared in *The New York Times*, *The*

*Washington Post*, *The Nation*, and *Lear's Magazines*. Currently, she is contributing editor of *Archaeology Magazine*. She lives in New York City and Weston, Connecticut.

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