

# ACCUSED WOMAN CONFESSES GUILT IN AIDING REDS

## Three Others Charged in Ottawa Court with Disclosing Secrets

Ottawa, March 4.—(CP)—Four Canadian-born civil servants today were charged in court under the Official Secrets Act as the Government disclosed the ramifications of a vast "network" of Soviet under-cover agents seeking information on the atomic bomb, radar, explosives, the make-up of the Canadian army and the movement of United States troops returning from Europe.

The four—two women and two men—were named in the interim report of the Royal Commission probing the spy ring and their arraignment in police court on charges of conspiring to provide and providing secret and confidential information to the Soviet came simultaneously with the release of the 3,000-word report from Prime Minister Mackenzie King's office.

### Official Secrets Bared

Before their arraignment, the four were technically released from the big R.C.M.P. barracks, where they have been held in close detention since February 15, and then rearrested on two charges, each under the Official Secrets Act—charges which can bring a maximum of seven years' imprisonment on each count.

These are the accused:

Capt. Gordon Lunan, a member of the Canadian Information Service, described as "head of a group of agents;" Mrs. Emma Woikin, a cipher clerk in the external affairs department; Edward Mazerall, an electrical engineer in the national research council working on radar, and Kathleen Mary Willsher, deputy registrar in the office of the British High Commissioner.

Mrs. Emma Woikin pleaded guilty in magistrate's court to two

charges of conspiring to give confidential and secret information to the Soviet.

Miss Kathleen Mary Willsher, an employee of the United Kingdom high commissioner's office in Ottawa, facing two similar charges, asked for a week's remand so she might decide how to plead and whether she wished to be represented by counsel.

The charges against Mrs. Woikin said she had conspired with Major Sokolov—identified in the Government's statement as a member of the staff of the commercial counsellor at the Soviet embassy—and Mrs. Sokolov.

### Three Gain Adjournments

The four were remanded until March 11. Capt. Gordon Lunan, Edward Wilfrid Mazerall and Kathleen Mary Willsher did not enter any plea or elect how they wished to be tried.

Each of them faced two charges one of conspiring with others to provide secret information to the Soviet and the other a charge of having provided the information.

The four appeared before Magistrate Glenn Strike, who said that he would take under consideration applications for bail for Capt. Lunan and Mazerall. Mrs. Woikin and Miss Willsher were not represented by counsel.

### Crown Opposes Bail

Lee A. Kelley, K.C., special crown prosecutor, said that the "crown is diametrically opposed to bail in all these cases."

Mrs. Woikin, a medium-height woman dressed in a black cloth coat and wearing no hat, was the first to appear. She elected trial by magistrate and said that she did not wish to be represented by counsel.

After the charges against her were read, Mrs. Woikin was informed by the court that she could elect to be tried by magistrate, by a judge or by a judge and jury. She said she did not know enough to decide what to elect and then said she wished to be tried by the presiding magistrate.

When asked to enter a plea on the charges, she said "I did it—yes, I did it." Magistrate Strike said the plea had to be guilty or not guilty. In a scarcely audible voice she replied "guilty."

### Worked With Russian

The first of her charges said that she had conspired with a Major Sokolov, of the commercial attache's staff at the Russian embassy, and with Mrs. Sokolov to provide secret information to the Soviet. The second charge accused her with having made the information available. The charges said the exchange occurred between May 1, 1945, and September 7, 1945.

Miss Willsher, dressed in a seal coat and wearing a black hat on top of her braided hair, was charged with conspiring to communicate information to the Soviet and with communicating that information between January 1, 1942, and September 7, 1945. The person or persons with whom she conspired were not named.

She informed the court that she was not yet ready to enter a plea or to elect how she wished to be tried.

HAMILTON SPECTATOR

Mazerall, a short, youthful-looking man, was charged with conspiring with Capt. Lunan to make the information available between May 15, 1945, and September 7, 1945.

Capt. Lunan was charged with conspiring with Mazerall and with Lieut.-Col. V. M. Rogov, assistant military attache for air at the Russian embassy here. He was charged with having made secret information available to the Soviet between March 1, 1945, and September 7, 1945.

Counsel for both Capt. Lunan and Mazerall asked for and obtained remands without a plea or election. Counsel for the two also said they wished to apply for bail. Magistrate Strike said that the charges were so serious that he wished to take the matter of bail under advisement before giving a decision.

### Other Charges Probable

Mr. Kelley, who is representing the crown with Byron W. Howard, K.C., of Ottawa, said after Mrs. Woikin pleaded guilty that he did not want to make any statement of the case against her at this time because the royal commission investigating the espionage activities still was sitting. Any such statement might be prejudicial to the investigation.

The four accused were taken below to the block of police cells where they were booked and where they spoke to counsel. Later they will be removed to the county jail, where counsel will be able to interview them formally for the first time since they were detained February 15.

A representative of the crown said that before their appearance March 11, additional charges may be laid. He did not know when charges would be laid against others held in detention at Rockcliffe R.C.M.P. barracks.

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