

Occupied France, 1942

Sue Lee's thoughts returned to her problem. She was told to get out as soon as she found Schumacher's file, but her organization skills, she had used to find it put hundreds of other Jewish people in the hands of the Nazis. "Damn, not following orders, could jeopardize the mission." She was thinking about this when the door opened, it was the little man.

"We need you all outside in the hallway in a few minutes. We are privileged to have a visit by a few of the Council of Ministers."

He was arranging his dirty tie as he walked out.

Sue Lee knew the Vichy Council of Ministers was a group of puppets run by the Nazis, but it could be the opportunity she needed. She was scared. Sue Lee could just wait then disappear this evening, but so many lives were at stake. She made her decision.

Maria was smoking as she walked by scowling as Sue Lee straighten files on her desk for the parade of officials to see. Sue Lee stood then stretched watching Maria leave the room. Maria left a pack with a book of matches on the table. "I do hope that one she's had in her mouth will keep her away for a while."

Sue Lee took a cigarette from the pack after lighting it, quickly took several puffs to make sure it was going well. She folded the matchbook cover back placing the burning cigarette between the unlighted matches. She then set it on several sheets of parchment paper under the old curtains.

She picked up her suitcase walking out of the office stopping to asked one of the girls to direct her to the washroom to freshen up. From the layout Alex showed her, she knew the toilet, was located in the back part of the building by a door leading to an alleyway. She didn't stop went through the door then turned down the alley leading away from the street out front.

Stepping into another doorway, Sue Lee opened her suitcase, pulling out a coat with a large matching hat. She needed to look different. She left the bag by the door, turning to go, there stood Maria swinging her arm in a high arc with a club screaming, "Halt!"

Sue Lee jumped from the steps inside the swinging arm thrust her body against Maria's, knocking her down, she landed on top, pushing her forearm across Maria's throat. She then saw the blood. "My god her head must have hit the cobblestone I need to get the hell out of here."

Sue Lee stood up, looked in both directions, it was clear. She forced the smaller women into the doorway, quickly walking away. Her heart was pounding. She wanted to run but didn't want to attract attention to herself or the alley. She was sure Maria did not have time to go back to discover her arsonist trick. It would only be a few minutes, then the fire would start. The lighted cigarette would ignite the matches. The parchment would feed the fire to the old curtains the room would turn into an inferno. At least, that is what she hoped for as she walked quickly towards the River Seine looking at the addresses. The plan was to go immediately to the boulangerie located next to the Point Mari. It was there she would meet her contact.