

— *April 23rd, 1917. Eisenach, 3:12 P.M.* —

The Golden Battalion received a tip from rumors circulating around Eisenach, Thuringia about a Psychokinetic hiding out in the city. The entire journey for the squad to walk from Hanover to Eisenach was about 42 hours. They stopped in various towns and cities, such as Hildesheim, Northeim, Göttingen, and Mulhausen. Aigis' feet ached as she had to walk with heavy weaponry on her waist and back, trudging through forests and ditches wearing those torture boots. Sweating under the infantry uniform made it feel even hotter than it was, and her face was painted pink from the perspiration. Her eyes were red, and her cheeks were chafed, and she looked like a mess. She thought about her home and how she would give anything to be back there again, but that wasn't going to happen. Kollner would put all nine rounds in her back the moment she even turned in the other direction. It would be best if she just listened to everything the Battalion told her, whether or not she agreed.

The Thuringian sun beamed down upon her and the squad, and Aigis was getting thirsty. She was hungry too. They hadn't eaten anything since breakfast, and that was seven hours ago. Her stomach gurgled, and she felt like she was going to collapse. She found a nice bench where she could sit and rest for a few minutes.

“Schumacher, move your ass AWAY from that bench!” Sergeant Kollner hissed.

“But it's been almost two days without a break!” Aigis whined.

Kollner smacked her across the face, and her cheek stung from the blow. “You can rest AFTER the mission is done! Now straighten up and go look for the traitor!”

Aigis reluctantly straightened her back, readjusting the Gewehr on her back. She continued searching the streets, looking around every corner. She sensed something faint coming from the food area of the town. The feeling was like her brain magnetically pulling her in a

certain direction like a compass. Aigis followed the sensation, walking past food vendors and shops, past the marketplace, past the church, all with the Golden Battalion carefully following her with their guns raised. She stopped when she found the source of the sensation.

It pointed her to a cafe. It was moderately busy, having about two dozen customers both in the inside and outside dining area. One of the outside tables was a woman wearing a hat, shading her face from the sun. But something else she saw made her freeze, and her arm hair stand straight on end. The lady had a young child, around preschool age. She was feeding the child a slice of cake, and the two seemed to be having a nice time together. That's when it hit her. It's not just the mother who was psychokinetic. Her daughter was too.

Aigis couldn't move. She simply watched the mother and daughter enjoying their red velvet cake without a care in the world. Her mission was to rob a random man who she had never met before of his wife and his daughter. And why? "National security"?

"Well, Schumacher," Sergeant Kollner called out from behind her. "Where's the Psychokinetic?"

Aigis tried to speak, but something caught in her throat. She thought to point, but her arm felt numb and paralyzed.

She felt a hand grip her shoulder and shake her. Kollner was now standing right next to her.

"You're not already having traitorous thoughts, are you?" He threatened. Aigis bit her lip to hide her fear. She swatted Kollner's hand off of her. She walked towards the woman and her child.

"Hey, guys!" A young man's voice shouted. Aigis, Kollner and the other seven Battalion men looked at the source of the voice. Oswald was waving and jumping.

“Volkmann, this better be the most vital piece of information...” The grumpy sarge started cursing Oswald out.

“Sarge, I found the psychokinetic!” He shouted. Aigis took a couple of steps back.

“You’re serious?” Schultz questioned. “How’d you find them before the Greenblood?”

“Doesn’t matter! I saw them running that way!” Oswald pointed behind himself with his free hand while his other hand held onto his rifle. Aigis sensed nothing in the direction he was pointing in.

“And you’re SURE?!”

“Yes, I’m sure! If we don’t hurry, we’re going to lose them!” Kollner nodded and then pointed in the same direction Oswald was pointing. The Battalion immediately ran away from the cafe and towards the street where Oswald directed. Aigis was now alone. She stood there for a second processing what just happened. Why did Oswald just point to nothing and lead everyone away when the real psychokinetics were right in front of him?

Aigis shook her head vigorously. She ran towards the outside dining of the cafe. With one hand, she vaulted over the decorative fencing and reached the table with the mother and daughter.

“Can I help you, young man?” The lady gently asked Aigis. Her brows furrowed and she wore a confused expression on her face.

“Listen, stop whatever you’re doing and run.”

“You look pale. Should I fetch you some water?”

“Don’t worry about me, you need to worry about yourself! About eight men with guns are trying to kill you!”

The lady stroked her chin for a second. She then looked up at Aigis.

“Are you talking about those soldiers with the golden helmets?”

Aigis snapped her fingers and smiled. “Yes, them!”

“Say no more.” She said, putting on a more grave expression. She picked up her young daughter with both arms and walked towards the back fence. Before she left, she turned around to face Aigis again.

“I just want to know,” She asked. “You wear their uniform and you wear their helmet. Yet, you’re still trying to help us?”

Aigis looked the lady in the eye with determination. Her blue eyes remained still as a statue, and they were clear of doubt. “I’ve had enough of watching my own people suffer.”

The lady smiled at Aigis. Her young daughter waved at her too.

“What you’ve done for me today will not be forgotten. Farewell, and may the Lifestream bless you.”

“May the Lifescream bless you.” The 4-year-old girl echoed her mother. The two jumped the fence and ran away from the scene. If this would be her life in the Gibor squad, then she could hold out for a little longer until she found a way to see Frieda again.