

ESPIONAGE

C.I. - P. & B. Fri. June 16, 1950.

The F.B.I. is moving fast - in clearing up Soviet wartime espionage. [Another arrest today - on the ~~same~~ charge of turning over atomic secrets to Red spies. The latest prisoner - David Greenglass, of ~~the~~ ~~same~~ ~~place~~ New York. The second arrest - in two days.

It all goes back to Harry Gold, the Philadelphia bio-chemist, who has admitted that he collaborated with British scientist, Dr. Klaus Fuchs, in transmitting American atom bomb secrets to the Soviets. Last night the F.B.I. announced the arrest of a chemist at Syracuse, New York, Alfred Dean Slack. The charge against him is not atomic, but concerns something almost as secret - R.D.X., the most powerful wartime explosive, next to the atom bomb. Slack worked on R.D.X. and turned secrets over to Harry Gold. Last night, F.B.I. Chief J. Edgar Hoover gave the names of two Russian agents, who represented the Soviet side of the spy game. One - named Semenov, who was with Amtorg, the Soviet trading corporation. The

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other - Yakolev, Soviet vice-consul in New York. Both of whom - returned to Russia not long after the acts of espionage in question.

The story is that Harry Gold, directed by Semenov and then Yakolev - was getting secrets of R.D.I. from the chemist Alfred Dean Slack. Then he was instructed to discontinue his contact with Slack, and go to work on something more important. More important, indeed. He was told to get in touch with Dr. Klaus Fuchs - who, as a number one British scientist, was in this country on an atomic mission. So Gold procured atomic secrets from Fuchs.

It is now disclosed that Harry Gold also
~~Later, directed by Soviet vice consul Yakolev,~~
secured atomic information from
~~he worked with~~ David Greenglass - who, at the time, was a U. S. Army technical sergeant at Los Alamos, New Mexico, headquarters for assembling the atom bomb. Greenglass, who had been a member of the young Communist league, worked on what the F.B.I. calls "highly confidential" matters. Secrets of the atom bomb - which he turned over to Harry Gold for transmission to the

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Soviet vice-consul.

Today, Greenglass defended his action, declaring that it was justified. "I felt," he is quoted as saying, "that it was gross negligence on the part of the United States not to give to Russia the information about the atom bomb - because Russia was an ally in the war." In court, he seemed nervous and distracted. The F.B.I. states that he has been in a hysterical condition ever since the arrest of Harry Gold - to whom he gave the secret atomic papers. When he heard of the arrest of Gold, he thought of committing suicide, or running away - but his wife persuaded him not to do either.

At the time of the Fuchs case in England, we heard it was likely to lead to developments in America - and this has turned out to be the case.

COMMUNIST SCIENTIST

In Los Angeles, a research scientist at the California Institute of Technology, was arrested by the F.B.I. today - on the charge that he swore falsely that he was not a Communist. Dr. Sidney Weinbaum, born in Russia - who at one time worked on a secret jet propulsion project. His employment there ended in July of last year, and he tried to get back. In doing so, he stated under oath that he was not and had never been a Communist.

The F.B.I. states it has proof that Dr. Weinbaum was a member of the Red party in Nineteen Thirty-Eight -- under the name of Sidney Empson. (Which ties in with statements that a secret Communist is likely to be registered in the party under a false name, an alias - the way of Communists, who in public do not appear to be Reds at all.)

AMERASIA

The Amerasia case is all mixed up again - with Senator Hickenlooper of Iowa quoting the foreman of the New York grand jury as stating that there was no intention of clear^{ing} the Department of Justice of charges of "whitewashing" in the case of Secret State Department documents found in the files of the left wing magazine.

Senator Hickenlooper declares he spoke on the phone to jury foreman John Brunini, and claims that Brunini told him the jurors merely meant to say that they had not been able to uncover evidence of negligence. But - that the investigation of the case should be continued.

HARRY BRIDGES

Harry B_ridges loses his citizenship. The longshore union chief of the west coast - who was convicted of perjury in obtaining citizenship, when he swore he never was a Communist. That fraudulent naturalization is now revoked - ^(though) ~~through~~ Bridges will appeal.

SUB LEAD SPY

News tonight from the American zone of occupation in Korea - tells of a death sentence pronounced against a Korean Mata Hari. That hardly seems like American practice in peacetime, especially in the case of a woman spy. But the death sentence tonight was handed down by a military court of Koreans, six officers of the Army of southern Korea, including a Deputy Chief of Staff.

She is named Kim Suin, and is described as thirty nine and ~~an~~ ^{a beauty} Today she was convicted of some really remarkable exploits of espionage - which include the fact that she was living as the wife, ~~etc.~~

SPY

The spy stories of late have been a little disappointing, for the lack of that old espionage favorite - the beautiful blonde secret agent. I can't give you a blonde tonight, but here's an attraction almost as good - the Korean Mata Hari.

A dispatch from Seoul tells of the trial of ~~Kim Suin, a lonely Korean, accused of some really~~ remarkable exploits of espionage. ~~These include the~~ fact that she was living as the wife of an American Provost Marshal - a colonel. So she testified today.

The story showed that Kim Suin, the Korean Mata Hari, was educated at a Christian college - an orphan befriended by missionaries. But, during the war, Kim Suin fell in love with a Communist leader, Lee Kang Kook - described as a sort of dare devil of the Reds. In that way, she became a Communist agent - assigned to do spy work among the Americans, when they took over Southern Korea.

She met the American Provost Marshal, the colonel, made pretenses of supplying him with information,

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and won her way into that highly favorite position of romance combined with Red espionage - according to her testimony today. Whereupon she accomplished the following:

She procured the escape of Communist leaders - one was Lee Kang Kook, her first love who had inducted her into Communism. For such escapes, she was able to provide U. S. Army vehicles - in which four top rank Red agents fled to northern Korea, the Soviet zone. She enabled the Communists to use American cars and jeeps for subversive activities in and around Seoul. She gave shelter to Red agents, and hid weapons and documents for the Communist underground. And, of course, she transmitted secret information - procured, largely, from the Provost Marshal. He, by the way, is not in Korea any longer.

It all adds up to a rather grotesque spy story, which would be farcical if it were not so serious.

CHINA

In Berlin today, the high commissioners of the three western powers sent an appeal to Soviet Russia - asking Moscow to do something in behalf of Catholic missionaries held by the Reds in Korea. The missionaries mostly Germans of the Benedictine Order, are living under what the western note calls "abominable circumstances". Priests and nuns forced to toil on Korean farms and work in the coal mines - slave labor.

HARRIMAN

President Truman has named a special adviser for world problems of the cold war. This is a newly created post -- to provide the President with interpretations of international events in the diplomatic struggle with Soviet Russia. So who is ~~the~~ named as the cold war adviser? Averill Harriman, now roving Ambassador for the Marshall Plan. Son of the famous railroad empire builders of former days, Averill Harriman is now a diplomat of abundant experience;- and he takes a position somewhat reminiscent of that held by Harry Hopkins in the time of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

YETQ

President Truman today vetoed the "basing point" bill - about which there has been a lot of controversy. I wouldn't know a basing point, if I saw one, so I won't try to explain what it all means - except that it has something to do with freight rates. People whose business has to do with basing points, will understand - and the rest of us probably won't care. So let's not skip it - by saying that President Truman today vetoed the basing point bill.

MARIETTA

Extra

Tomorrow, one of the big sport headlines of the year will have an unfamiliar looking dateline - Marietta, not Poughkeepsie. The famous college rowing regatta will be held at the old historic city on the banks of the Ohio - not on the Hudson any longer.

Why the change? Well, a vivid answer will be given by the spectacle tomorrow. Marietta stands at the confluence of the Ohio and Muskingum Rivers, where there's an expanse of water three miles long and fourteen hundred feet wide - like a mirror, no current, no tide. At Poughkeepsie, the racing shells were often troubled by rough water - the Hudson having current compounded with effects of the tide. At Marietta, the B & O runs right along the river, parallel to the course - for the observation train. ^{also -} There are two highways, from which motorists can see the race - and there are seats for other spectators along the course of the regatta. ~~It is superior to the facilities on the Hudson.~~

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MILK

In Pittsburgh, tonight, a picket line of housewives is on guard at a grocery store. The dispatch says the ladies are armed with - "rolling pins, brooms and baseball bats." The rolling pins and brooms sound okay - but why take ~~little Johnny's~~ ^{the} baseball bat? Well, it's a case of - milk.

In Pittsburgh they're having a milk strike, and thousands of mothers are trying to get supplies for their children. The union has agreed upon emergency distribution, but that is not sufficient. Families have been driving out to the country to buy milk from farmers - and, in one Pittsburgh neighborhood, grocer Karl Stonbraker said that he would procure milk for his customers who have children. He has been driving a hundred miles a day, bringing in supplies from farms.

This, apparently, has provoked the anger of strikers - and a brick went crashing through the grocery store window. So today the customers rallied. They collected a hundred dollars to pay for the smashed plate glass and other damage - and a battalion of wrathful

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mothers formed a guard to see that no further attack was made. Hence the picket line of housewives armed with rolling pins, brooms - and baseball bats, to protect their favourite grocer.

HOMER COOK

We can hardly avoid a feeling of sympathy, even sadness, in the case of Homer Cook, the Oklahoma bad man - over in Germany. He was captured today - in the Munich apartment of his sweetheart, Anna Sperrer.

He met her when he was a soldier in Germany. Then, sent home with a dishonorable discharge, he sneaked back to see her. Arrested, he broke out of jail - and was recaptured in the attic of Anna's home. He made a second escape - and, likely enough, was on his way to Anna, but didn't get that far. His third escape, breaking out of a U. S. Army prison several days ago, really made the Army mad - and a manhunt was on in a big way. Yesterday Anna went on the radio with a tearful plea - begging her bad-man boy friend to surrender, before they shot him down.

Today they found him in Anna's apartment, sprawled across Anna's bed, almost helpless from hunger and blood poisoning - his left arm swollen and black. He had ripped his hand on a barbed wire stockade, when he escaped - and an infection had set in.

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He says he heard about Anna's plea yesterday, begging him to surrender - and was going to do what she asked. He went to her apartment just to see her once again - but Anna wasn't home. She works as a waitress at an American Army club. Today, when Anna was told the news of the capture - she fainted.

In his hospital bed, the Oklahoma bad-man begs: "Isn't there some way my little Anna can get to see me?"

Well, maybe - yes. But, before his last escape, Homer Cook was due to face an Army court martial - on forty-eight charges. There'll be a few more now - and the Army is humiliated and chagrined by all these jailbreaks. So it may look bad for romance.

POETRY

As a lover of poetry, I can't resist - when a lyric story comes on the news wire. I may be sentimental but the feeling and emotion of the verses make me want to repeat them - as in the case of a dispatch from Washington today, which tells of love songs in the Library of Congress. In that learned institution, Dr. Duncan Emerich, head of the folklore section, is preparing the history of romance - in terms of ballads. High on his list is - "Barbara Allen", an English favorite for two hundred years.

"Twas in the lovely month of May;
The flowers were all [^]blesmin'
Sweet William _^ on his deathbed lay
For love of Barbrey Allen."

Yes, a sad story about sweet William, and equally mournful is one from Dr. Duncan Emerich's collection of ballads from the Ozarks. It goes this way:

"Took my girl to the blacksmith shop,
To have her mouth made small.

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She turned around a time or two,

And swallowed shop and all."

The girl who swallowed the blacksmith shop!

How's that for Agark
~~but enough of this sentimentality,~~ Nelson?