

Condemned Rosenberg Story Traces Back to Arrest of Dr. Klaus Fuchs

(Editors Note: Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, man and wife, are in the death house at Sing Sing Prison. Next Thursday night, unless they can win another of many stays, they will be electrocuted. The great conspiracy case that led to their downfall and the long and heated legal battle to save their lives is told in a three-part series by Arthur Everett.)

By ARTHUR EVERETT

NEW YORK (AP)—On a cold winter's day three years ago last February, Scotland Yard Inspector Leonard Burt dropped his hand on the shoulder of a German-born scientist at work in Great Britain's atomic laboratory.

The scientist was Dr. Klaus Fuchs, a brilliant, balding expert who had been present at the birth of the first atomic bomb in New Mexico in 1945.

His arrest that Feb. 9, 1950, was the first step in cracking a treacherous international atomic spy conspiracy, that numbered among its plotters Julius Rosenberg and his tiny 100-pound wife Ethel.

Never were the stakes as high in mankind's history as in the cat and mouse drama to follow. In the background of the ensuing three years of pursuit, arrest, trial and appeal was the atom bomb.

FUCHS CONFESSES

Fuchs, now 41, confessed his part in the spy plot. He had been a Soviet agent since 1939. He was a Soviet agent when he helped American scientists produce the first A-bomb, a Soviet agent privy to the greatest military secret of all time. He now is serving 14 years in prison, the maximum under British law.

From Fuchs, the trail of conspiracy led the American FBI to Harry Gold, a mousy little Swiss-born chemist in Philadelphia. A parlor pink, dabbling in small-time espionage for years, he had hit the jackpot in 1945 when he was able to deliver to Russia the dreadfully potent secret of atomic destruction.

GOLD, GREENGLASS

Gold was arrested May 23, 1950, pleaded guilty and now is serving 30 years. He cooperated with the government and through him FBI men were able to proceed along the trail of the conspiracy.

Three weeks later came the arrest of David Greenglass, a short, wavy-haired \$75-a-week machinist. He was picked up in New York. Greenglass was a wartime Army sergeant at Los Alamos, N. M., where the world's first A-bomb was produced—under the prying eye of Dr. Fuchs.

Greenglass, born 31 years ago

in New York's Lower East Side of a Russian father, found himself in a tight spot. His life was at stake if he was convicted of passing atomic secrets to Russia. And his wife Ruth, the mother of his two children, was mixed up with him in the plot.

GREENGLASS TALKS

So Greenglass eventually talked. Meanwhile, the Korean War exploded on June 25, 1950, as gov-

By Aug. 1, the government was able to report it was "getting more information every hour." That information was not coming from Rosenberg, however, as he maintained his innocence and offered no co-operation.

MRS. ROSENBERG SEIZED

It was on Aug. 11 that the FBI struck again. They seized Mrs. Rosenberg in her modest \$51-a-month apartment in New York's

"If the crime with which she is charged had not occurred, perhaps we would not have had the present situation in Korea."

Gold, it was alleged, picked up A-bomb secrets from Fuchs and Greenglass at Los Alamos. He identified himself to Greenglass with a torn piece of a Jello box top. It matched the other half in Greenglass's possession. Greenglass said his half was given to him for just that reason by the Rosenbergs.

Informed of these allegations, Rosenberg reportedly "laughed out loud."

ENTER BLOCH Emanuel H. Bloch, a Manhattan attorney who was to devote days and months and years to Rosenberg's case, entered the picture at this point as his defense counsel and told reporters of the Jello top plot.

"He called it fantastic—something like his kids hear over television on the Lone Ranger program."

On Aug. 17, 1950, the government indicted Anatoli Yakovlev, former Russian vice consul in New York. But it was like indicting a shadow. He had slipped back to Russia in 1946 and there was no way the government could lay hands on him.

'SINISTER LINK' The government said Yakovlev provided the \$500 which Greenglass admitted accepting as the price of his treachery.

On Aug. 18, 1950, the government arrested the last of the star players in this macabre betrayal. He was Morton Sobell, 36, who had fled to Mexico before the Rosenbergs were arrested. But he was deported and American agents were waiting for him at the border town of Laredo, Tex.

Sobell, it was charged, took part with the Rosenbergs in the plot



MRS. SOPHIE ROSENBERG weeps as she speaks at a rally in Union Square, New York City, sponsored by the "Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case." The rally of about 4,000 persons was conducted to obtain clemency for Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, convicted atom spies under death sentence. Mrs. Rosenberg, Julius' mother, told the crowd, "I know they are innocent." On June 11, a three-judge U. S. court of appeals denied applications of the Rosenbergs for a new trial and for a stay of execution—set for June 18.

ernment agents questioned and requested the thick-set Greenglass.

In this supercharged atmosphere on July 17, 1950, FBI agents arrested Julius Rosenberg, the brother-in-law of Greenglass. The thin, bespectacled, mustached college graduate had married Greenglass' sister Ethel on June 18, 1938. She bore him two sons, Michael, now 10, and Robert, 6.

Knickerbocker Village, far downtown. A stenographer turned housewife, she, like her husband and her brother, was a product of Manhattan's tenement area. She is now 37. Rosenberg is 35.

The significance the government attached to these arrests was first revealed by Myles J. Lane, then as assistant U. S. attorney. He said at Mrs. Rosenberg's arraignment:

to pervert Greenglass and to furnish secrets to Soviet Russia. The Rosenbergs and Sobell pleaded innocent to the conspiracy charges. But on Oct. 18, 1950, David Greenglass, with bowed head, pleaded guilty and prepared for the difficult role that doomed his sister and her husband. By so doing, Greenglass possibly saved his own life.

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