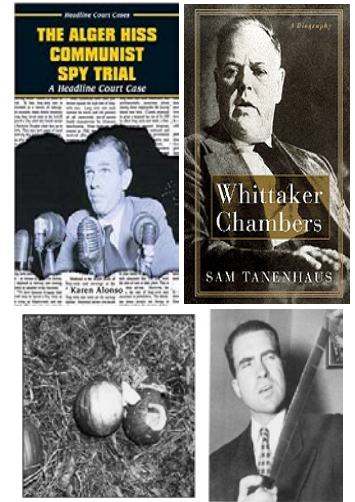


Web of Spies

Case #1

(1) On January 21, 1950 a high ranking State Department official, **Alger Hiss**, went on trial for perjury. Hiss was accused of denying under oath that he had passed sixty-five pages of retyped secret State Department documents and five rolls of 35 mm film to a Communist agent named **Whittaker Chambers**. Whittaker Chamber had dramatically led two HUAC investigators to a field on his farm, where the film had been hidden inside a hollowed-out pumpkin. He claimed that film was hidden by Hiss.



Case #2

(2) A British physicist named **Klaus Fuchs** worked on the Manhattan Project in Los Alamos, New Mexico. Fuchs was arrested and confessed to giving the Soviets information about the Manhattan Project.

(3) The FBI found secret cables from the Soviet Consulate to the KGB (*Venona Cables*) in a search of Fuchs' things. One cable was a report by Fuchs on the progress of the Manhattan Project. When confronted with evidence of his espionage, Klaus confessed and told authorities of his meetings with a spy he knew only as "Raymond."

(4) The FBI began to focus on a pudgy, middle-aged chemist, **Harry Gold**, as the "Raymond" to whom Fuchs had given information about the bomb. Within a week after the FBI first began to ask Gold questions he offered a voluntary confession.



(5) On June 15, 1950, FBI officials questioned **David Greenglass**. In his first interview, Greenglass admitted that he was the machinist-soldier stationed in Los Alamos that had passed information to Gold. He also identified his wife, Ruth, and his brother-in-law, **Julius Rosenberg**, as participants in the Soviet spy ring.

(6) David Greenglass stated that in late 1943 Ethel and Julius Rosenberg dropped out of the Communist Party and began to talk to him about espionage. Greenglass suggested that the Rosenbergs dropped out of the party to cover-up their espionage work for the Soviet Union.

(7) Shortly after 8 a.m. on June 16, 1950, FBI agents showed up at the apartment of Julius Rosenberg and asked that he accompany him for questioning. To the FBI at the time, Julius was "just the next in a row of falling dominoes"--but unlike the dominoes in line before him, Julius did not tip over. When informed of Greenglass' s accusations, Rosenberg said to FBI agents, "Bring him here-- I'll call him a liar to his face." That evening Julius hired Emanuel Bloch as his defense attorney.



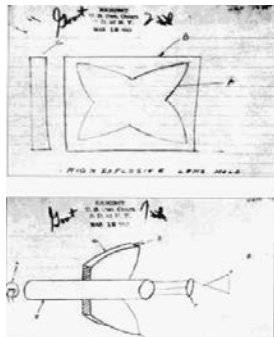
(8) The Government then arrested Julius's wife Ethel. Even threatened with his wife's prosecution, Julius refused to cooperate with authorities. The lever wasn't working, and now the Government was committed to the prosecution of Ethel as an equal partner in the espionage conspiracy.



(9) The case of the United States v Julius and Ethel Rosenberg began on March 6, 1951. Each defendant was charged with conspiracy to commit espionage, a capital crime. United States Attorney Irving Saypol, told the jury that the defendants "have committed the most serious crime which can be committed against the people of this country." The Rosenbergs conspired, Saypol said, to deliver to the Soviet Union "the weapons the Soviet Union could use to destroy us." Emanuel

Bloch, in his opening statement, asked the jurors to give the defendants "a fair shake in the American way." He urged the jurors not to "be influenced by any bias or prejudice or hysteria."

(10) The first witness for the prosecution was **Max Elitcher**. He described his 1948 midnight car trip to deliver a film can to Julius Rosenberg.



(11) David Greenglass was the next witness. He testified that Julius had given him sketches of a high explosive lens mold essential for the development of an atomic bomb. Greenglass also provided incriminating details of Rosenberg's other espionage activity which included: burning notes in a frying pan, cutting a Jell-O box in two for use as a recognition signal, meetings in cars on dark streets, and offering Greenglass money and a plan for escaping safely behind the Iron Curtain.



(14) Next up for the prosecution was David's wife, Ruth Greenglass. Ruth testified as to how she was asked by Julius to ask her husband, who has been recently stationed in Los Alamos, to provide information on the progress of the Manhattan Project.

(15) The only evidence of Ethel's guilt was the Greenglass testimony about her typing notes from Los Alamos. Ethel's testimony was mostly a confirmation of Julius's version of events along with a few terse denials concerning her own role in espionage activity. She seemed to display a contempt for the whole proceeding.

(16) Both Rosenbergs plead the Fifth Amendment in response to all questions concerning their membership in the Communist Party, most likely to head off potential questions about other acquaintances who might be members of their spy network.