

# 'Perfect' British Spy

Unfortunately, Kim Philby  
Was a Russian Agent Also

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FOR 20 YEARS Kim Philby was almost the perfect British spy. He had only one disability. All the time, he was working for the Russians too. The story of his career as a double agent for East and West is only now emerging in London, while Philby is living out the autumn of his career in Moscow.

Philby's biography might read like a movie thriller, except the story is so strange that few producers would regard the story as credible, even as fiction. It might be turned into a television play, but the drunken episodes and messy love affairs would make it unsuitable for family viewing.

A good spy needs brains, friends, discretion and luck. A double-agent, working for two sides at once, needs at least twice the ordinary ration of these qualities. Philby was fortunately endowed.

From his birth in 1912 in India, he was different. As a youth, he was nicknamed Kim, after a half-English, half foreign hero in a Rudyard Kipling story. His father, H. St. John Philby, was then a civil servant who turned passionately pro-Arab in World War I. His father sent him to boarding school in London. Westminster School, a lesser version of Eton, was not only located close to Westminster Abbey and Parliament, but also within walking distance of the headquarters of the British spy network.

While Kim was at school, his father turned Muslim and took an Arab slave girl as an additional wife, with the consent of his first wife, Kim's mother. One day Philby went to work for King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia. Who's Who, he listed his addresses: St. John's Wood, London, and Mecca, Arabia. In



Donald MacLean, friend of Kim Philby, was once head of the British Foreign Office's American department. He was a Russian agent who fled to Moscow after being warned by Philby.



Guy Burgess, another friend of Philby, was an alcoholic homosexual who at one time was second secretary of the British embassy in Washington. He fled with MacLean.

World War II, while Kim was working for the Russians, his father was accused of acting as a German agent in the Middle East.

IN 1929, Kim Philby had entered Cambridge. He resided in Trinity College, now the college of the Prince of Wales, but then a center of left-wing bohemianism. There he met Donald MacLean and Guy Burgess, two men later to become Soviet agents. At Cambridge, Philby took a degree in history with sufficiently mediocre marks to save him from later suspicion as a long-haired intellectual.

By 1934, Philby had witnessed Nazism at firsthand in Germany, married an Austrian Communist, and joined the Communist Party. For many young intellectuals at this time, a fleeting flirtation with Communism was normal. Hence, few kept this left-wing background in mind when, in 1936, Philby was back in London working for the pro-Hitler Anglo-German Fellowship. In retrospect, it seems that his pro-Fascist phase was only a clever camouflage, designed to help him penetrate British intelligence on behalf of his Communist friends.

During the Spanish Civil War, Philby reported activities from the side of right-wing General Franco. In the war, he won a medal, an expatriate titled mistress, and a job as war correspondent for The Times of London. Throughout his career, Philby was to use the job of journalist as a cover for his spying. He also tested his luck in Spain. His biggest scoop was reporting the death of three war correspondents from a single Russian shell; Philby was the sole survivor of the blast.

WHEN World War II broke out, Philby had a modest reputation as a man who knew war at first-hand. This, plus his Cambridge friends, got him a job with the British Secret Intelligence Service, M.I.6. There was no problem obtaining a

security clearance, for his father's reputation and his Cambridge background meant that he was a typical gentleman, perhaps a bit eccentric, but then, eccentricities were often useful in spies.

In a popular British phrase, Philby enjoyed "a good war." After drinking his way through the Fall of France in 1940, he directed British efforts to disrupt German espionage in Portugal, Spain and the Western Mediterranean.

A stammer saved him from being sent behind enemy lines. In England, he fought major battles on the home front against M.I.6's chief enemy — M.I.5, the British Agency officially charged with combatting foreign spies operating within the United Kingdom.

In the 1940s, Philby succeeded in building M.I.6's empire at the expense of M.I.5. He thereby acquired the loyalty and respect of friends he was later to need, when he denied that he had been a Russian agent at this time. Philby also found time to acquire a second wife, a woman with an impeccable social background.

In 1944, this Soviet double agent was put in charge of British counter-espionage against Russia, then a wartime ally. In his new post, Philby was expected to keep the British government informed of what the Russian spy network knew about British military affairs. His appointment showed no one suspected his left-wing undergraduate views were still significant. It also made easy his second task, supplying the Russians with details of British intelligence.

As the Cold War against Russia gained pace, Philby's reputation rose. The Russians skillfully fed him sufficient information about their spying activities so that he could use this to ingratiate himself with the British government. In this way, Philby gained increasing access to top British secrets, and these, in turn, he could pass on to the Russians. The climax of his British career came in 1949, when he was sent to Washington as liaison officer between the British Secret Service and the American Central Intelligence Agency.

PHILBY'S downfall started in Washington. CIA men were outside his set of old school con-

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