

CD-2551

"Spies in US Told Russia All"

[Unsigned]

Published in US News & World Reports,
Washington, D.C., 6 April 1951,
Pages 13-15

From court testimony supplied by Soviet espionage agents, this article describes in detail the way in which the agents stole secret data on the atom bomb from within Los Alamos, the most guarded area in the US, where during World War II a project for the manufacturing of atom bombs was being carried out.

The Los Alamos area was physically hedged about by the most careful secrecy. Only three categories of persons, all workers on the project, could gain admittance to the grounds. In the first group were the scientists who had access to the innermost workings of the project. They wore white badges. In the second group were those who worked in the machine shops and who wore red badges admitting them only to the immediate areas in which they worked and entitled them to be privy to only as much information as they needed to turn out materials to

* 1554

be used by the scientists. The third group included such employees as ditch diggers, steam fitters, and workmen generally assigned outside who came inside on occasion to do specific jobs and left when they had finished. They wore blue badges.

David GREENGLASS, a technical sergeant in the Army assigned to work in the machine shops wore a red badge. He is said to have had no idea at first of the end use of the metals he shaped on his latches. The first inkling he had of the nature of the project was after he had been there three months. His wife, Ruth, brought word from a Soviet agent [name not given] in New York that an atom bomb was being made at Los Alamos. Although not a hundred Americans outside Los Alamos were thought to be aware of what was being done there, the Soviets had learned that the project was under way in June 1944 because they were in contact with Klaus FUCHS, a white-badged scientist with full access to secret information at Los Alamos.

In November 1944, GREENGLASS was able to pass along to the Soviets a description of the Los Alamos plant, buildings, grounds, and the names of the scientists. The Soviets, however, were already several steps ahead of him. They had learned much more from FUCHS. FUCHS was passing his information to Harry GOLD, a courier for the Soviets, who in turn was transmitting it to Anatoliy [Antonovich] YAKOVLEV, Soviet Vice Consul in New York. FUCHS and GOLD met on Long Island, also in Brooklyn, and on a lonely road in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

When GREENGLASS went on furlough in January 1945, the Soviets already knew the principles of the bomb. Julius ROSENBERG, a Soviet spy and brother-in-law of GREENGLASS, had explained the principles to GREENGLASS.

In his college days Julius ROSENBERG had belonged to the Young Communist League. Afterward he became an active member of the Communist Party of the US (CPUSA). He decided that he wanted to help the USSR and began to seek out persons influential in the Party. Finally, he came in contact with a Soviet [name not given] who would listen to his proposition about getting information for the Soviet Union.

Once the contact was made, ROSENBERG and his wife, Ethel, withdrew from their earlier Party activity. As an apparent token of esteem from the USSR for his services, ROSENBERG received a citation that was supposed to give him certain privileges if he ever went to the Soviet Union.

Because of the information supplied by GREENGLASS, FUCHS, and, according to the article, possibly other persons [unnamed] the Soviets knew every step of the development of the A-bomb. In June 1945, a month before the explosion at Alamogordo, the Soviets were said to have known that it was scheduled. In September 1945, a month after the Nagasaki bomb was dropped, the Soviets had a detailed description of the bomb and recognized that it was of a different type from the earlier bomb.

The author cites two incidents, one during which GREENGLASS met Harry GOLD, his contact, and the other in which David and Ruth GREENGLASS and Julius and Ethel ROSENBERG worked together to draw sketches of the A-bomb and to write a description of its working parts. The first incident occurred on the third Sunday in June 1945. A man visited the GREENGLASS's in their apartment in Albuquerque. He said: "Julius sent me...I am Dave from Pittsburgh." After having matched two bits of cardboard, which had been cut from the same dessert box, Dave got from GREENGLASS

CD-2551

sketches of the plans and the accompanying descriptive material and in return handed GREENGLASS an envelope containing money. The GREENGLASS's did not open the envelope until the man had left. Inside they found \$500.

"Dave from Pittsburgh" was Harry GOLD who had travelled via a devious route from New York to Albuquerque to avoid surveillance. He first went to Phoenix and then doubled back to El Paso. Next he went to Santa Fe, where he picked up a package from FUCHS, and then moved on to Albuquerque.

Back in New York, GOLD met YAKOVLEV, whom GOLD knew only as JOHN, far out on the fringes of Brooklyn and turned over the material to him.

The second incident mentioned in the article occurred in the late summer of 1945 in a New York apartment. David GREENGLASS drew sketches of the A-bomb and wrote a longhand description of it while Julius ROSENBERG and Mrs. GREENGLASS corrected his English and Mrs. ROSENBERG typed the final copy.

GREENGLASS claimed he turned over secrets to ROSENBERG because ROSENBERG had been his idol and he could not let his hero down. When he gave ROSENBERG the material he did not feel he was doing wrong--not in the light of his philosophy at the time. Later, GREENGLASS began to wonder if what he had done was right. In the end, after a change of heart, he appeared as a witness for the prosecution against his older sister, Ethel, and his brother-in-law, Julius ROSENBERG.