RUDOLF ABEL - A SPY BORN in ENGLAND



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Willy Fisher / Rudolf Abel lived with his family in England, the country of his birth, during his childhood years. This image—a screenshot from a Russian-language documentary—depicts him with his father.

Jim Donovan's new client was born in Newcastle upon Tyne—a city in Northumberland, England—on the 11th of July, 1903. His first (of many) names was William August Fisher.

Willy Fisher's father—a German-Russian who was friends with the Bolshevik leader and revolutionary, Vladimir Lenin—had moved to Britain in 1900. Henry (Genrikh) Matveyevich Fischer (Fisher) thought he would be safer in England (where he didn't have to fear arrest by Tsarist forces).

Still infused with his Lenin-supportive ideas—that workers should unite to overthrow capitalistic governments and should refuse to bear arms during WWI—Henry Fisher spent twenty years working in British factories. During that time, he did his best to organize (and indoctrinate) his factory colleagues.

His son, Willy, helped Henry to distribute anti-imperial leaflets to British factory workers. It was a job the child reportedly loved.

After the Bolshevik Revolution changed things in Russia, it was safe for Fisher to go home. When he left England, in 1921, he returned to Russia with his son.

Although his skill at speaking Russian was not that great, Fisher the younger spoke fluent English (the language of his birth country) as well as several other European languages. He also became a trained engineer and studied nuclear physics.

He was, in other words, a perfect candidate to join the Soviet spy agency.

Before the KGB was the KGB, the Soviet intelligence-and-spy organization was known as the OGPU. Willy Fisher joined that agency in 1927. It was here that he met someone who became a really good friend ... Rudolf Ivanovich Abel (who died, in Moscow, during 1955).

For two decades, Willy Fisher worked for the Soviet government in Western Europe. Because he could speak German, he worked as an intelligence officer—at the German front—during WWII.

After the war, relations between the U.S. and the USSR began to deteriorate. The Soviet government had a new job for Willy Fisher.

In 1948, leaving behind his wife and daughter, he entered the U.S. illegally—from Canada—using the name of Andrew Kayotis (a deceased man who was a naturalized U.S. citizen). The real Kayotis, who possessed a genuine American passport, had died in Latvia during a visit with relatives.

Traveling around the States for about a year, the Soviet spy decided to live in New York City.

Settling into a quiet life in Brooklyn, using the alias Emil R. Goldfus—a real person with a real birth certificate who had died a few months after he was born on August 2, 1902—the man whom everyone later knew as Rudolf Abel opened a photographer's shop and moved into a studio apartment.

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http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/RUDOLF-ABEL-A-SPY-BORN-in-ENGLAND-Bridge-of-Spies

Media Stream



Rudolf Abel with His Father

When he was a young boy, and for much of his entire life, Rudolf Abel was known as Willy Fisher.

This image depicts Fisher with his father while the family lived in England. The photo was likely taken sometime around 1908. It is included in a Russian-language documentary about Willy Fisher / Rudolf Abel.

Click on the image for a better view.

Image from a Russian-language documentary on the life of Willy Fisher / Rudolf Abel. Image now out-of-copyright.

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Vladimir Lenin

Leader of the Bolshevik Revolution, in Russia, Vladimir I. Lenin became the first head of the Soviet Union.

With Russians (including fighting troops initially inspired by their Tsar) exhausted by the demands of World War I, and demonstrations occurring—like the massive Nevsky Prospect gathering in St Petersburg (Petrograd) during July of 1917—Lenin and his comrades were able to persuade enough individuals to follow the Bolshevik political ideology. This led to the "October Revolution" in 1917.

One of the first things which the Bolsheviks did, when they assumed power, was to end Russia's involvement in WWI. No longer would the Tsar ever lead troops or have his soldiers support the status quo (as they did during the February Revolution of 1917).

During Lenin's time in power, the Last Tsar—Nicholas II—together with his wife and children—were executed in July of 1918.

Lenin was not-quite 54 years old when he had a massive stroke, and died, on the 21st of January, 1924. To this day, his death puzzles doctors, and who he was - as a man - is still somewhat of a mystery.

Very few recordings of Lenin's voice survive. Although he introduced sweeping changes, and those changes caused misery for many people, Lenin was still widely mourned when he died.

Image, described above, online via the Russian State Archives.

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