

The Enemy Within

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Treason is very much a matter of perception. John Dryden once reminded us; we “hate traitors and love treason.” In our history, we remember Julius and Ethel Rosenberg who gave the Soviets our nuclear secrets. But do you remember Oleg Penkovsky-the Soviet colonel who revealed secrets of his country’s nuclear rocket to the United States? He is regarded as a “hero for peace,” a man whose conscience compelled him to betray his nation’s deepest secrets because he was convinced the Soviet Union planned to start World War II.

Isn’t that precisely the same argument that the Rosenberg’s and others used to justify their betrayal of American atomic bomb secrets to the Soviet Union? Didn’t they claim they were “heroes for peace,” working to make sure the fearsome weapon did not remain the domain of a so-called “imperialist power”? That is why all nations still go through semantic gyrations to justify the treason of the people they have managed to recruit among their enemies, while condemning (usually by death) the very same crime among their own people.

Treason is a vital component of espionage. No better intelligence exists than the secrets spilling directly from sources on the other side that are in a position to know. These traitors are willing to reveal secrets because they feel politically or morally compelled to do so, or because they have no conscience and are willing to

sell out their country. Soviet intelligence referred to this as RAZVEDKA (true intelligence), meaning intelligence that, to cite Stalin's definition, "comes right out of the enemy's safe."

Intelligence agencies spend a great deal of time growing and nurturing traitors among their enemies. Huge chunks of intelligence training school's curricula are dedicated to the techniques of betrayal: how to spot potential traitors, how to cultivate them, how to exploit human weaknesses (sex, liquor, drugs), and how when necessary to create betrayal with such techniques as a "honeypot" operation (sexual blackmail).

One of the most critical examples is of a morally compelled German scientist who betrayed his Nazi countrymen. He decided a nuclear weapon would represent the ultimate threat to civilization.

On the evening of November 9, 1939, the defeat of Nazi Germany began on a quiet street in a fashionable section of Oslo, Norway. At Drammensvien 79, a young man hurried to the front door of the mansion housing the British embassy and asked to see Francis Foley, the passport control officer. When Foley was not there, the man thrust the package at one of the diplomats and said, "Mr. Foley must get this as soon as he returns."

The diplomat who received the package opened it and found a stack of technical reports written in German, along with several diagrams and a glass tube, which he deduced to be some sort of radio valve. He was particularly struck by one diagram that to his trained eye appeared to be a new type of advanced torpedo for German U-boats, an acoustic homing weapon far more advanced than anything in the world at that point.

When Foley returned, he was given the package. He did not need to ask who delivered it, for he knew that the promise of the man he called "Griffin" was now reaching full potential.

It was Griffin who for the next six years was to single handedly reveal to the British every important development in Hitler's arsenal. He would betray the secrets of German science, the one great weapon that could reverse the fortunes of war for Germany. Griffin would neutralize that weapon, in the process saving countless lives and making a significant contribution to the defeat of Hitler. Seldom has one man been able to thoroughly betray a nation's technical and scientific capability. Griffin was the source of the allies' information ~~on the~~ ^{ON THE} German's atomic bomb.

Griffin was the code name for Paul Rosbaud. Few people have ever heard of him, and still fewer know of his role as one of the greatest spies of modern espionage. That perfectly suited Rosbaud, a self-effacing and modest man who was content with obscurity. His quiet personality concealed an inner storm set off by a terrible conflict between patriotism and evil. It was a conflict he resolved with an extraordinary betrayal.

Pal Rosbaud was a small, thin boy, a serious and studious child destined for an academic career. He was a sad child: his mother a German had immigrated to Austria where she met Paul's father. Rosbaud was born in 1897 in the city of ~~GRAZ~~ ^{GRAZ}. Paul's father left soon after he was born. Fatherless, Paul Rosbaud spent his sad days buried in books.

At the outbreak of World War I, Rosbaud enlisted in the Army and fought at the Italian front. He was captured by the British in 1917, and although he didn't ^{realize} it at the time, the experience would prove to be a seminal event in his life. He was treated kindly by the British, whom he came to like and admire.

After the war, determined to become a scientist, he studied chemistry at the Darmstadt Technical University and won a fellowship at the famed Kaiser Wilhelm

Institute in Berlin. His work earned him a doctorate from Berlin Technical University.

His impressive credentials gave him access into the elite world of German science. There was not a single scientific or technical field that was not dominated by the Germans, from composite materials to nuclear physics. All the best scientists of the time studied at German universities including a young American nuclear physicist named Robert Oppenheimer.

The theory of relativity and quantum theory were being studied and revolutionized by the likes of Albert Einstein, Max Born, Otto Holm, Lise Meitner, and Werner Heisenberg.

There were so many discoveries and developments seemingly occurring almost daily that Rosbaud decided his best contribution to science would be disseminating them to the world at large. He went to work for one of Germany's prestigious publishers to create a number of scientific journals and a line of books that would bring news of the scientific revolution to the literate world. His plan was to solicit papers from the leading scientists, edit them, and then publish their findings as rapidly as possible.

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In the process, Rosbaud began to build a wide range of valuable contacts in the German scientific world. By 1933, he was on a first-name basis with a full complement of German scientific and technical genius, ranging from Einstein to the more obscure aeronautical scientists who were already hard at work in experiments to prove the feasibility of supersonic jet aircraft. Rosbaud was their vital link with the outside world, for his publications provided the essential airing of their work, the resulting feedback from other scientists, and stimulation of further thought.

In 1933 Rosbaud became progressively more disturbed by the Nazification of science. The theory of relativity was declared "Jewish science". Einstein, Meitner, Born, and other great scientists were being driven out of Nazi Germany. Much of Rosbaud's scientific literature was being thrown in the bonfires of Nazification.

Early in 1935, Rosbaud accompanied his old friend Max Born back to his flat to retrieve some of his scientific papers. Born had been exiled from Germany ^{EARLIER} ~~earlier~~ because of his Jewish faith. Born's house was occupied by a gang of jeering Nazi thugs who called the titan of twentieth-century science a "Jewish

swine.” Born was spat upon and cursed in his home and barely escaped with his life. Rosbaud was outraged but felt helpless.

There now occurred a fateful encounter in his life.

. Increasingly concerned about his wife, who was Jewish, Rosbaud decided to send her to live in England until the Nazi tide in Germany had passed. He would stay in Germany to battle the Nazi's. Rosbaud went to the British embassy in Berlin to rescue a visa for his wife. He met a remarkable man named Francis Foley.

A World War I infantry veteran who was reassigned to intelligence after being wounded in 1918, Foley was recruited into MI 6 after the war, largely on the strength of his talent as linguist (his German was perfect). Foley was assigned to the Berlin embassy in 1931 under the then-standard MI 6 cover of passport control officer. Morally outraged by Hitler and his ^{HENCH}~~hand~~ men, Foley bent the regulations to write up large numbers of “Tourist” visas for Jews trying to flee Germany, especially scientists and their families.

When Rosbaud met Foley in 1937, Foley was running a virtual smuggling operation to get Jews out of Germany. Foley happily obliged Mrs. Rosbaud with a visa to “Visit” England, then suggested that her husband may want to join her.

Rosbaud declined. He and Rosbaud had ^{it}hit_^off immediately, and as Rosbaud spoke frankly of his hatred for the Nazis, his determination to avenge their outrages against his scientific friends, and his dilemma of trying to reconcile his German patriotism with his intention to hurt the regime (and thereby also damage the country he loved), Foley proposed an idea.

Since Rosbaud visited Great Britain periodically to arrange English translations of his publisher's works, Foley suggested he could take the opportunity to have "discussions" with some prominent British scientists whom Foley just happened to know. It was deliberately low-key recruitment; aware of Rosbaud's intense German patriotism, Foley moved very carefully. Rosbaud did not want to be a British spy, a traitor against his country.

And yet, that is precisely what Rosbaud became. The low-key exchanges went on for over year with Rosbaud freely exchanging information about German militarization of science.

The low-key relationship suddenly changed on the night of December 22, 1938, when one of Rosbaud's scientist friends, the Nobel Prize-winning chemist Otto Hahn, called him with electrifying news. He and Fritz Strassman, conducting laboratory experiments involving the bombardment of uranium atoms with slow

neutrons, had managed to achieve fission. They discovered that when the nucleus of the uranium atom fissions, a tremendous amount of energy is released.

Rosbaud's background in nuclear physics allowed him to grasp the significance of the Hahn-Strassman development instantly; the two men had split the atom. He further understood if such a fission process could be controlled on a large scale it would create a weapon of incredible destructive power.

He encouraged Hahn and Strassman to publish a paper as soon as possible. If the German government realized the significance of this discovery, they would ban all information leaving Germany. Rosbaud managed to get a paper published by the two scientists only months before the Nazi government banned all details of the experiment.

Rosbaud's rush to print had the desired effect: in New York the exiled Italian physicist Enrico Fermi read the Hahn-Strassman paper and held his hands in a grapefruit-sized ball. A bomb that size, Fermi told fellow physicists, could make the entire city of New York disappear.

In September of 1939, the British embassy in Berlin was shut down as war was declared and Rosbaud's trips to Britain were curtailed.

Foley fled to Norway and recruited Norwegian exchange students as his couriers. They were anti-Nazi's who were only too glad to contribute to the downfall of Hitler. They convinced the Nazi's that they were pro-Nazi right up to the end of 1945.

One morning in September, a Norwegian exchange student showed up at Rosbaud's Berlin home bearing "greetings from Mr. Foley" and announced he would carry any "news" for his old friend. Rosbaud became a full-fledged asset of British intelligence.

Rosbaud began his serious work by telling the British that a German scientist by the name of Werner von Braun ~~■~~ was developing a long-range military rocket.

Griffin, as Rosbaud was known, told the British about rocket-propelled gliders that were controlled by ~~electric~~ ^{ELECTRONIC} signals. He also revealed that German rocket scientists were developing the Wasserfall, the world's first anti-aircraft missile and a special proximity fuse for ant^ae-aircraft shells.

After the German invasion of Norway, more ingenious methods of transmittal had to be found. One involved a Norwegian student who was a fanatic tennis player. Having received permission from German authorities to send his rackets

home for occasional stringing, he agreed to have some of them hallowed out and filled with blueprints and diagrams.

As a publisher who had a monopoly on all scientific literature in Germany, he was able to contact many scientists in his work. Authorities consulted Rosbaud on what scientific material should be protected for security reasons.

Rosbaud realized by early 1943 that the Germans would not succeed in building an atomic bomb by the war's end. They lacked the resources and didn't totally understand that the reaction produced the material for the bomb.

The British didn't want to chance a possible "unanticipated breakthrough" and with Rosbaud's information, found out about a "heavy water" plant in Norway. The Norwegian underground was sent to blow up the plant, ~~and was~~ followed by a British bombing raid which destroyed the plant.

Rosbaud discovered the German's had developed and advanced ceramic material named "Cermet", essential for such high-temperature applications as jet engines. Foley was sent a sample of "Cermet" and the complete plans for the ME-262, the world's first operational jet fighter. Rosbaud provided details of the schnorkel, an advanced breathing-tube apparatus for U-boats.

When Rosbaud (Griffin) told the British of Peenemunde, the research facility for the Nazi rocket program, they leveled it with bombs in 1943. This set the V-1 and V-2 program back by over a year.

With the end of the war, Rosbaud became worried about Soviet intelligence. The Russians knew about the existence of Griffin and tried to track him down. MI 6 moved Rosbaud to London where he performed one more task. He wrote an extensive report for British and Americans, listing all the important German scientists he thought should be evacuated westward to keep them away from the Soviets.

This ended the career of Griffin. Paul Rosbaud resumed his career in scientific publishing and worked quietly until his death in 1963. He died virtually forgotten; no award or honor was ever given him. He never accepted a cent for his work in World War II and his estate amounted to less than \$1,000. Only three people attended his private funeral service.

Frank Foley died in 1958 also in obscurity. There was no mention of his contributions to the war and Britain gave him no awards or honors. Israel alone honored Foley by planting a grove of trees in his memory and declared him a "righteous Gentile".