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DAILY ENTERPRISE



(U) HISTORY TODAY - 2 September 2015 - Double Agents in WWII

FROM: CCH

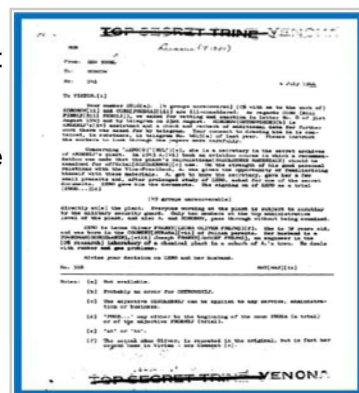
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(U) The Soviet Union and the United States might have been wartime allies from 1942 to 1945, but that didn't stop the Soviets from recruiting useful Americans as spies when they could. America might have been supplying the Soviets with enormous amounts of military aid, but that didn't keep the Soviets from taking advantage of that, either, to get more.

(U) Luckily, in some cases, the espionage was stopped. In others, even more fortunately, the spies were turned into double agents.

(U) Bell Aircraft employee Leona Franey, along with her husband, Joseph, agreed to the FBI's request in August 1944 to turn double agent for the United States, as did Bell engineer Loren Haas later. The FBI had begun surveillance of Soviet Lend-Lease official Andrey Shevchenko after receiving an anonymous letter. His approaches to the Franeys and Haas had been noted, and when they admitted that Shevchenko had asked them for information that amounted to espionage, the three were asked to cooperate with the FBI. They agreed.



(U) Lend-Lease was a World War II program in which the United States supplied its allies, notably Great Britain and the Soviet Union, with billions of dollars of military and other equipment for the common struggle against Nazi Germany. Bell Aircraft was sending thousands of P-39 *Airacobras* to the USSR, and Shevchenko was sent on official assignment to the plant, ostensibly as an inspector. As the FBI discovered, he was there to do more than inspect.

(U) Shevchenko was an aviation engineer by training, but a KGB officer by profession. He was there to spy, and VENONA confirmed it -- although not until the war was over.

(U) VENONA was a project of NSA and its predecessors to exploit a Soviet encryption error that rendered some 3,000 Soviet diplomatic, espionage, and other messages vulnerable. VENONA revealed considerable information on Soviet espionage, including Shevchenko's. However, the VENONA breakthrough did not come until the late 1940s, too late to be of practical value in this case of espionage, but important for understanding KGB operations in the United States.

(U) Consider excerpts from this [Venona message of July 4, 1944](#):

(U) "Concerning Zero [Leona Franey], she is a secretary in the secret archives [library] of Arsenij's [Shevchenko's] plant. In 1943, A. [Shevchenko/"Arsenij"] ... after prolonged study of Zero [Leona Franey], asked for one of the secret documents. Zero gave him the documents. The signing on of Zero as a trial ... [the text that can be recovered due to the encryption error breaks off here temporarily] ...

(U) "Zero is Leona Oliver Franey. She is 30 years old...."

(U) She also provided Shevchenko with jet aircraft information on July 25, 1944, according to [another VENONA message](#). Bell Aircraft had developed the first U.S. jet fighter, the P-59 *Airacomet*, which first flew in 1942.

(U) The Franey's continued as double agents for a few years, but certainly not after appearing before Congress in 1949. Leona Franey testified that Shevchenko had primarily been interested in jet engine technical information, the P-59's development, and its innovative swept wings. She also testified that she had passed nothing to Shevchenko before becoming a double agent in August 1944, which VENONA shows to have been a lie.

(U) Haas left Bell and moved to Westinghouse, continuing to work on jets and to be a double agent. After Elizabeth Bentley and other Soviet espionage figures defected to the FBI in 1946, the KGB cut contacts with most American agents for security reasons. Many contacts were never reestablished, and Haas seems to have been one such.

(U) As to the P-59, it might have flown early in World War II, but it didn't work out as some might have hoped, either. Early jet engines were not that reliable, and the P-59 had performance shortcomings, so it was never adopted, although it did pave the way for future development.

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