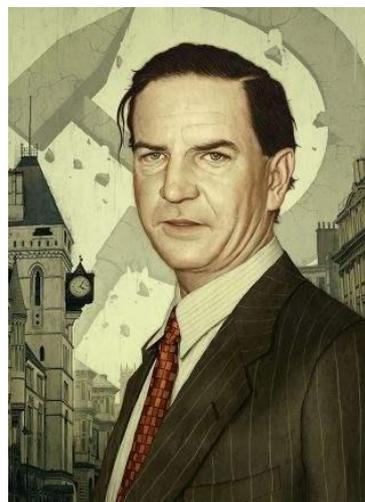


## 'Kim' Philby

by Jean Jacques Filby

Well, a lot has been said about **Harold Adrian Russell Philby** (a.k.a. Kim Philby). He was a British double agent, and there is evidence that he was (the only?) triple agent (see "Young Philby" by English Gold Dagger awardee Robert Littel). Attention should be given to Robert Littel, as he is the only journalist to have a total of over 350 hours of interviews with Philby, and also the only journalist who was granted access to his KGB dossier.



In sum, he was a member of the British secret service, the MI6, chief liaison officer with the CIA, and then a spy for the KGB. Born in Ambala, India on New Year's Day 1912, the son of the illustrious St. John Philby and Dora Johnston, he took on the nickname of "Kim" after the boy in Rudyard Kipling's novel of the same name. Like his father, he went to Westminster School and left there at 16, for a scholarship to Trinity College (Cambridge), where he became a communist while a student. In 1933 when he graduated, he became a Soviet agent, and was introduced to the World Federation for the Relief of the Victims of German Fascism in Paris. He continued his work for the World Federation in Vienna, where he met his future wife, young Austrian communist Litzi Friedman (Alice Kohlmann). After the several hundred deaths in the February Uprising, Kim married Litzi in February 1934, allowing her to escape to England on his British passport. It is said that Litzi's Viennese friend, Edith Tudor Hart, living in London, was the first Soviet agent to contact Kim (and Litzi) about working for the Soviets, not Guy Burgess. Kim's father was a friend of the director of the School of Slavonic Languages and he was instrumental in enrolling Kim to learn Russian there. Kim and Litzi separated, although they did not divorce until 1946. In 1940, Kim arranged Litzi's escape from Paris where she was living, in light of the increasing threat of a German overrunning of the city.



In 1937, Kim went to Seville, where a civil war was going on. As a journalist, he reported from the side of the pro-Franco forces. Travelling by car with three other journalists in December 1937 during the Battle of Teruel, the car was shelled; one journalist died instantly and the other two subsequently died of their injuries. Kim, who always spoke well of the victories of the Nationalist forces, was decorated by Franco himself, as a result of this incident. This gave Kim access to fascist circles. Philby writes: "Before then, there had been a lot of criticism of British journalists from Franco officers who seemed to think that the British in general must be a lot of Communists because so many were fighting with the International Brigades. After I had been wounded and decorated by Franco himself, I became known as 'the English-decorated-by-Franco' and all sorts of doors opened to me."

Kim attempted to recruit Flora Solomon as a Soviet agent. Flora was a gold dealer, the daughter of a Russian banker, and was married to a London stockbroker. She was also related to the Rothschilds. But at the same time, Burgess was trying to introduce her to the MI6! Moscow was informed that Philby's motives were suspicious.

Less than twenty-four hours before the French surrender in World War II, he sailed from France for Plymouth. In London, Kim was appointed as an instructor in the art of clandestine propaganda for the new SOE (Special Operations Executive). Philby provided Stalin with advance warning of Operation Barbarossa and of Japan's intent to strike at Singapore, rather than the Hitler-suggested target of the USSR. This influenced Stalin's decision to bring troops from the Far East so they could be used around Moscow as a counteroffensive. In the midst of the war, Kim's intelligence responsibilities included Portugal, Spain, North Africa and Italy, and received the OBE (Order of the British Empire) in 1946.

In the winter of 1947, Kim became publically known as "First Secretary at the British Consulate" for Turkey, as a cover for his position as head of British intelligence for Turkey. Kim's wife, Aileen, used to inflict injuries upon herself (a psychological problem since her childhood). In 1948, her husband's drinking and depression caused her to stage an accident, and she was sent to Switzerland to recover. She returned to Istanbul at the end of 1948, was burned by a stove and returned to Switzerland. Then the Philby family moved to Washington, D.C. in Kim's new post as Chief SIS representative.

In an attempt to protect an agent (Maclean), Philby arranged to have Burgess sent back to London to warn Maclean (who was under surveillance) of an impending SIS interrogation. Burgess accumulated three speeding tickets in the same day, provoking the British Ambassador to send him back to England. Philby then sent a "coded" message to Burgess about his car abandoned in the Embassy car park, and that "If he did not act at once it would be too late...there was nothing more [he] could do". Instead of just simply warning Maclean, Burgess had to flee with him to France on Maclean's birthday and then on to Russia. This "affair of the missing diplomats" as it was known caused Kim to return to London, where he underwent MI5 interrogation, and in the summer of 1951 he resigned from the MI6 in order to avoid being dismissed. In the end, Kim was officially cleared of the matter in the autumn of 1955.



Kim moved to Beirut in August 1956 as a journalist, which he then used as a cover for more work with the MI6. His wife, Aileen, was discovered dead on 12 December, 1957, in her bedroom. Although her psychiatrist suspected that Kim may have murdered her because she knew too much, the coroner ruled otherwise. After Aileen's death, Kim remarried in 1959 in London and returned to Beirut. Nicholas Elliott was assigned to get a confession from Kim.

On 23 January, 1963, Philby disappeared from Beirut and went to Russia, some say via a Soviet freighter to Odessa, others report it was overland through Soviet Armenia and then on to Russia. Philby's whereabouts became clear later that year on 30 July when Russia officially announced that it had given him political asylum in the USSR. But it was then suggested that the entire ordeal with Elliot was a charade, aimed at convincing the KGB that he should be brought back to Moscow, where in the end he could become a British penetration agent of Moscow Centre. Philby himself thought that the opportunity to flee to Moscow was actually left open for him by the MI6, in order to avoid an embarrassing public trial.

Led to believe that he was a colonel in the KGB, Kim learned upon arrival that he would be paid 500 roubles a month and that his family could not join him immediately. Ten years would pass before he visited KGB headquarters where he then received a negligible amount of unimportant work. He was actually under house arrest, with all visitors screened. A close KGB contact Mikhail Lyubimov said that was for his protection, but subsequently admitted that the KGB feared he would return to London. Kim stated that he didn't miss much of anything from England, but his wife Rufina Ivanovna Pukhova (they got married in 1971) said that Kim was "disappointed with what he found in Moscow, especially how badly old people live here".



Kim died in 1988 in Moscow of heart failure. Russia granted him a hero's funeral and he received many medals.

This Russian stamp was produced to commemorate his life.

