

Wonder if Russians Trapped Briton for Spy Exchange

Strange Ordeal Makes a True Life Thriller

BY ARTHUR VEYSEY
[London Bureau Chief]
[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

LONDON, April 26—It reads like a true life story of a spy who came in from the cold—this strange experience of the British business man who nearly died in a Russian prison. His name is Greville Wynne. He is 45 but looks 60, the effect of having become a pawn in vicious cold-war espionage.

Wynne, who was exchanged last week for a Russian spy, entered a hospital on a stretcher here today. Physicians said he was going thru a nervous and physical reaction to the strain of recent events.

Wynne's business was arrang-



Greville Wynne

ing small exhibits for British firms seeking to sell their wares behind the iron curtain. He traveled thru eastern and central Europe with a big truck fitted out as a display room. He met many persons.

He was in Moscow in the early spring of 1961. One day

a Russian came up to him and asked Wynne if he knew "any important people" in London. He said he was going to London himself in a few weeks and asked Wynne, as a favor if he would carry a small parcel to the British people who were acting as his host. It would help so much in facilitating his arrangements.

Red Spy Sentenced

The Russian was named Dleg Penkovsky. At the time he was director of the foreign section of the central committee for scientific research. But for six years, in the 1950's, he had been military attache in Turkey and then, at least, was a member of the soviet intelligence net.

Looking back, he was probably still a spy member, and an important one, that day in Moscow when he sought out Wynne.

Three weeks earlier, the most important Russian spy ever caught in Britain had been sentenced, in London's Old Bailey criminal court, to 25 years in prison. He was Konon Molody, a major in the soviet air force. In London he had masqueraded for five years as a Canadian citizen, Gordon Lonsdale, dealer in anti-burglary devices. He lived in a fancy London apartment house called the White House, a name which must have caused many chuckles in Moscow.

Molody had been a very effective spy. With the help of two British naval employes, he had winnowed submarine warfare secrets out of the British overseas research center. Two Americans, Peter and Helen Kroger, ran a secret radio station for him in their London suburban home, passing on to

Moscow the naval secrets, and perhaps a lot more.

Molody's usefulness in collecting secrets vanished with his arrest. But he was still a valuable property to his masters. What had he told his captors? And what had he learned, even while under arrest, about British counter-intelligence operations? From questions put to him, his sharp mind should sort out what Britain knew of the soviet spy system.

Russians Lacked Prisoner

But how to get him back?

A swap was the obvious solution—a trade like that between Russia and the United States—Russian spy Col. Rudolph Abel for American U-2 pilot Gary Powers.

But the Russians had no Briton as prisoner. If only someone could be arrested.

And there, in Moscow, ready

at hand, was Wynne. Could Penkovsky lead him into a trap?

Wynne apparently carried the parcel to London. In itself, the parcel was harmless. But it lead him into the hands of British intelligence. British agents saw in Wynne a new opening into Moscow. They, according to Wynne's evidence later at his Moscow trial, urged him to develop the contact with Penkovsky. He said he agreed to act as courier only after a man he assumed to be chief of British intelligence — tho never introduced by name—pleaded with him as a British patriot, and threatened to ruin his business if he refused.