

INFAMOUS SPIES

An
Espionage
Series



BELLE BOYD



THE CLEOPATRA OF THE SECESSION

Belle Boyd (1844–1900) was one of the most infamous Confederate spies of the Civil War. She repeatedly and dangerously relayed information regarding Union troop strengths and movements to Confederate commanders in the field.

According to Confederate general “Stonewall” Jackson, the intelligence she provided helped win multiple victories. For her contributions, she was awarded the Southern Cross of Honor. Jackson also gave her captain and honorary aide-de-camp positions.

Authorities suspected her of being a spy almost from the start. The Union imprisoned her multiple times, but Boyd was a master manipulator and managed to gain release each time.

In 1864, she fled to London where she married one of her captors and later penned a memoir that detailed her exploits, attracting international attention. Boyd died of a heart attack while touring the U.S. lecturing on her conquests as a spy.



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