

INFAMOUS SPIES

An
Espionage
Series



RICHARD SORGE



THE HERO OF THE SOVIET UNION

Richard Sorge (1895-1944) was a spy working for the Soviet Union, posing as a journalist to infiltrate Japan. He was eventually imprisoned and hung by the Japanese. Twenty years after his death, Sorge was awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union.

Sorge fought in World War I where shrapnel sliced off three of his fingers and broke both his legs. While recovering, he studied and adopted communist ideology. Sorge was then recruited as a spy for the Soviet Union and, under cover of being a journalist, was sent to various European countries and China to assess the possibility of communist uprisings.

In 1933, Sorge was sent to Japan to develop a spy network. He supplied the Soviets with information about the Anti-Comintern Pact, the German-Japanese Pact, and warned of the Pearl Harbor attack. In 1941, Sorge informed the Soviets of the exact launch date of Operation Barbarossa.

In 1941, he was arrested but, even under torture, denied his ties to the Soviet Union. He was executed later that year.



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