FAMOUS Spies

AN ESPIONAGE SERIES

KLAUS FUCHS

1911-1988

Emil Julius Klaus Fuchs was a German-born physicist who confessed in 1950 to giving American and British atomic-research secrets to the Soviet Union.

Fuchs was a member of the Communist party in Germany and studied physics at Edinburgh University. He became a British citizen in 1942 and transferred to Columbia University in New York in to take part in the American atomic bomb program known as the Manhattan Project. He then joined the Theoretical Physics Division at Los Alamos, New Mexico where he passed detailed notes on the project to the Russians in 1945 and further information about the hydrogen bomb in 1947.

Upon discovery that security on the Manhattan Project had been breached, Fuchs was interrogated. He admitted to transferring sensitive information via Soviet courier, for which he was sentenced to 14 years in prison. Fuchs served nine, was released and moved to East Germany where he spent the remainder of his life.

A SPY OF ATOMIC CALIBER