FAMOUS Spies

AN ESPIONAGE SERIES

RICHARD SORGE 1895-1944

German Federal Archive

Richard Sorge 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 gave the Soviets of exact launch date of Operation Barbarossa.

In 1941, he was arrested and, even under torture, denied ties to the Soviet Union. He was executed in 1944.

SPY AWARDED "HERO OF THE SOVIET UNION"