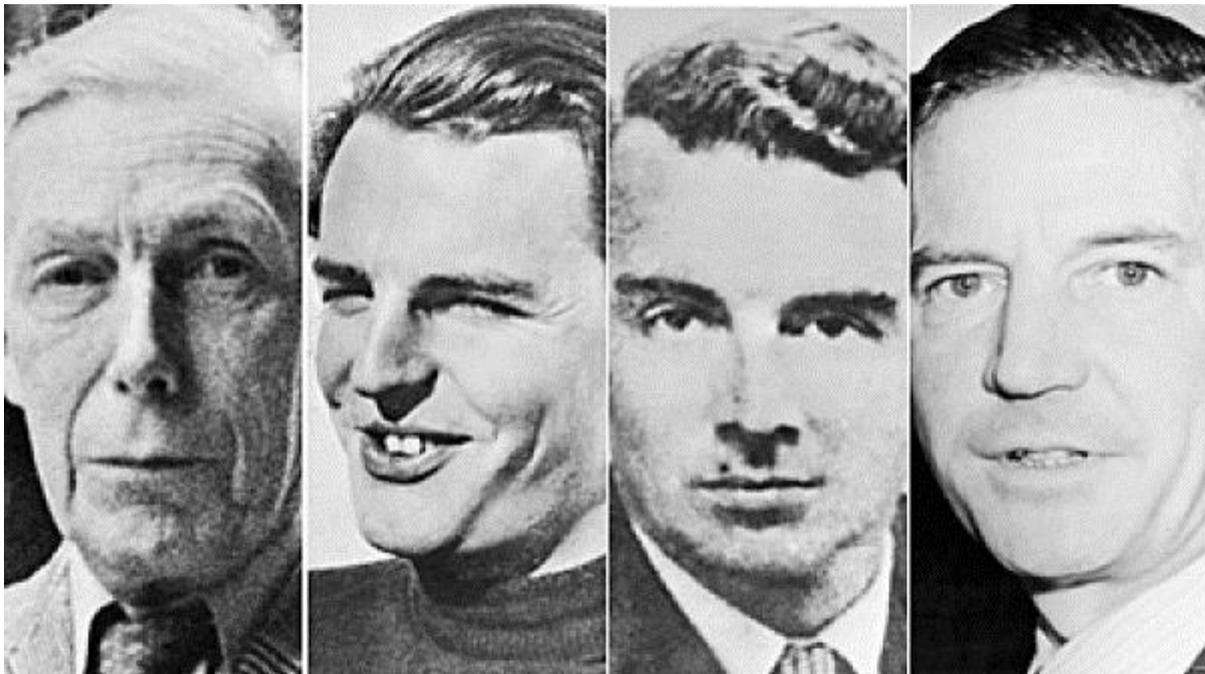


Before I can even say what this 'On this day' is about, we have to go over a bit of history - but we've already done some of it before. When I told you about BOBBY FISCHER, I told you about how RUSSIA was taken over by a COMMUNIST government after the RUSSIAN REVOLUTION in 1917, and how, especially after WORLD WAR II ended, Russia (or, as it was called then, the SOVIET UNION) and the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA were engaged in a COLD WAR, with each side trying to ensure that their system of government - COMMUNISM or CAPITALISM - was adopted across the world. The UNITED KINGDOM - where we are - obviously took the side of the United States in this conflict.

But there were a number of people working in the British government who were unhappy about this. When they were young, the Russian Revolution had only just happened, and it seemed like a really exciting thing that could do a lot to improve the conditions of working people. And they also tended to come from very rich homes and go to very nice schools, and they probably disliked the United States a lot because the United States was taking over from the United Kingdom as the biggest power in the world. And these people all ended up going to the same university - Cambridge! - and met each other there. They talked to each other and they discovered that they all thought the Soviet Union was a good thing, and they wanted to do what they could to help protect it and stop it being treated unfairly (in their view) by Western countries like the United States and the United Kingdom. So when they left university, they all joined the British government, with the aim of SPYING for the Soviet Union - using their positions to find out information that could help the Soviet Union, and secretly hand it over to Russians who were based in the UK. There were at least four of these spies - and they came to be known as the CAMBRIDGE SPIES, or the CAMBRIDGE SPY RING, because they had all gone to Cambridge as students, and met each other there.

These four spies were:



ANTHONY BLUNT

DONALD MACLEAN

GUY BURGESS

KIM PHILBY

They all spied for the Soviet Union during World War II (when the Soviet Union was on America and Britain's side in fighting Germany, so they could think that in spying for the Soviet Union they were helping out a friendly nation) and after World War II ended (by which time it was clear that the Soviet Union wanted to harm America and Britain; but the Cambridge spies didn't care and chose to help the Soviet Union even if it meant hurting their own side). But increasingly, the British

government started suspecting that people working for it were spying for the Russians and became determined to root them out. Unfortunately, they gave the job of finding out who the spies were to... Kim Philby!! - who was one of the spies himself. (He was also the best friend of an America spymaster, who was in charge of America efforts to spy on the Soviet Union - JAMES JESUS ANGLETON.) Philby did his best to ensure that no one suspected that Maclean and Burgess and Blunt were spies, but Maclean and Burgess were really careless and in the end it became too difficult to protect them from being revealed as being spies for Russia.

So in 1951, Philby told Maclean and Burgess 'Get out of the country!' and on this day, June 23 1951, Maclean and Burgess left the UK and made their way to the Soviet Union. In other words, they DEFECTED (pronounced 'Duh - fek - ted') to the other side. Their defection was huge news, and Philby told his superiors, 'I'm shocked! Shocked I tell you! Ah well, you can't win them all' and carried on doing what he could to help the Soviet Union from his very high position in the British government. But in the end, suspicion of being a spy fell on him as well, and in 1963 Philby did the same as Maclean and Burgess and defected to the Soviet Union. (James Jesus Angleton was so shocked to hear that his best friend was a spy that he had a nervous breakdown and ended up thinking that everyone was a spy - this created a lot of problems for the Americans in the 1970s: they didn't know who they could trust when their top spymaster was accusing everyone of being a spy.) That left Anthony Blunt, who was actually working for the Queen looking after her paintings (he was an art expert) and had been made Sir Anthony Blunt. Because of his past associations with the other three Cambridge spies, he was interrogated (which means, asked lots of tough questions) as to whether he was a spy with a promise that if he just came clean, nothing would happen to him. And so in 1964, he confessed to having spied for the Russians as well. And, as promised, nothing happened to him - none of his arty and posh friends knew that he was actually a Soviet spy. But all that ended in 1979, when the British press found out that Blunt had been a spy, and the Prime Minister MARGARET THATCHER had to confirm that this was the case. He became a complete outcast and died four years later, in 1983. Donald Maclean died the same year (Guy Burgess had died 20 years before, in 1963).

DAILY EXPRESS
 No. 15,901 THURSDAY JUNE 7 1951 CONTROLLING SHAREHOLDER LORD BEAVERBROOK Weather: Mainly fine, cloudy at first

HUNT British Government employees sought on Continent **ROW** Tories protest over late vote **PRICES** Some baby clothes to cost double **PERSIA** The first rift in the oil grab

YARD HUNTS 2 BRITONS
'On way to Russia' 'He talked and died like a gangster'

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE? **TORY M.P. HELD IN SOCIALIST LOBBY** Charge by Boothby to be proved

KILLER'S FATHER TELLS ALL
'I went to face my son even if he fired'

THE STORY OF SYMONS AVENUE

ALAN POOLE

Daily Herald
 FRIDAY, JULY 2 1963
 10p

Clean away - the man who warned Burgess and Maclean

WAS THIRD MAN PHILBY TIPPED OFF?

Man who was cleared by

BULLIED GUARDS INQUIRY

I'm not a ticket tout, says Pat

SOMEbody IS SPREADING RUMOURS'

ISOLATED?

Philby lived a bit longer, in his flat in MOSCOW (pronounced 'Moss - koe'): he died in 1988, just one year before the Soviet Union collapsed.

After the four Cambridge spies were revealed, there was a lot of speculation about whether there was a FIFTH MAN - a fifth spy who was part of the same ring of spies as Maclean, Burgess, Philby and Blunt, but had escaped detection. While a fifth spy was identified - JOHN CAIRNCROSS - he didn't seem to have much to do with the Cambridge spies. So maybe there wasn't a fifth man - or maybe there was... You never can tell when you are dealing with people who lie all the time and betray their country. Anyway, when you are a bit older, you'll be able to watch an excellent BBC series about the Cambridge spies:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Cambridge-Spies-DVD-Tom-Hollander/dp/B00009PBTC/>

There are also a couple of excellent BBC series about a fictional British spy hunter called George Smiley that you might want to watch one day:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Tinker-Tailor-Soldier-Smileys-People/dp/B005CW117C/>

and George Smiley made his first appearance in the RICHARD BURTON film THE SPY WHO CAME IN FROM THE COLD, which is also excellent:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Came-Criterion-Collection-Richard-Burton/dp/B01GWC9FB4/>