

U.S. & U.S.S.R. Both Want the Vanished Fields

A Red curse hangs over the Field family. One by one, the Soviet secret police, the terrible NKVD, has been picking them off.

First to feel the curse was Noel Haviland Field, son of a distinguished Quaker family. Noel had joined the Communist Party in the late 1920s. In 1934, as a State Department official, he was sucked into the Soviet underground. (Alger Hiss and onetime key Communist Hede Massing wanted him for their cells.)

Noel left the State Department in 1935, turning up in Geneva working for the League of Nations. But he continued to carry out secret Soviet assignments, this time under Gen. Walter G. Krivitsky, chief of Red Army Intelligence in Western Europe.

In the late '30s he popped up again, doing relief work among Spanish Loyalist refugees at the notorious Le Vernet camp. Among the inmates, he got to know Laszlo Rajk (later Foreign Minister of the Hungarian puppet government) and Erika Glaser, an attractive, young brunette, whom he "adopted."

During the war, he wormed his way into the confidence of the OSS in Berne, receiving money for underground work in Germany. The German Communists got these funds, however.

He brought Erika into OSS with him. Though a Soviet operative, she was able to follow OSS officers into Berlin and Wiesbaden after the Nazi

FAMILY:



BROTHER HERMAN,



SISTER-IN-LAW KATE,



WIFE HERTA

COLLEAGUES:



ALGER HISS,



HEDE MASSING,



BOSS KRIVITSKY

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collapse. Erika lived among the OSS people, literally looking over their shoulders as they handled secret material. Her function was to be what derisive leftists called "a revolutionary mattress," a kind of sordid Mata Hari. Then she tried to pull out, marrying an American officer. But because of her past, she was not granted a U. S. passport.

Then the Red curse fell on the Fields. Noel's friend, Rajk, was purged and in the Soviet show trial, he named Field an agent of the "FBI" and "OSS" who plotted against Russia. In June 1949, Noel disappeared without a trace from his hotel in Bratislava. Two months later, his brother Herman vanished in Warsaw. Shortly after, Noel's wife disappeared in Prague. Erika Glaser read the handwriting on the wall, went into hiding with her husband and two children.

But she still tried to reach Noel through old party contacts. This summer, she called Leo Bauer, head of the Communist Radio Berlin, and they arranged to meet in the west zone of Berlin. When she arrived on August 26, he was not there. And she vanished too. Shortly after, Bauer was purged with other German Red leaders.

The charge against him: co-conspirator with the "American agent Noel Field." But why? Intelligence sources believed Stalin was mounting another huge Moscow trial. Were these his witnesses?

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