

F. B. I. SHADOWED SPYING SUSPECT

Officials Say Meetings With Reds Were Observed

By E. W. KENWORTHY
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 13—Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation observed meetings between William Henry Whalen, a retired Army lieutenant colonel, and Soviet diplomats here from 1959 to 1961, officials said today.

Colonel Whalen, who was retired in February, 1961, with a 40 per cent disability after 20 years of service, was arrested at his home in Alexandria, Va., late yesterday afternoon and charged with conspiracy to deliver documents and information "relating to the national defense of the United States" to two former officers in the Soviet embassy.

The arrest of Colonel Whalen, who is 51, came a few hours after a Federal grand jury in Newport News, Va., returned an indictment.

8 Meetings Charged

It alleged that between early 1959 and early 1963, the colonel conspired with Col. Sergei Edemski, former Soviet assistant military attaché, and Mikhail A. Shumaev, former first secretary in the embassy, to transmit plans of the United States Strategic Air Command and information on atomic weapons, missiles, European defense plans, estimates of comparative military capabilities and troop movements.

The indictment also charged that eight times between early 1959 and March, 1961, Colonel Whalen met with Colonel Edemski or Mr. Shumaev at Alexandria shopping centers, and

during this period was paid \$5,500 in five installments of \$1,000 and one of \$500.

Asked today why there had been such a long time between the alleged offenses and the arrest, an official insisted that there had been no unwarranted delay. He said the intervening period had been taken up with assembling all the facts for presentation to a grand jury.

"As soon as we had a case, we got an indictment," the official said.

Colonel Whalen and his wife, Bernadine talked to some reporters early today, but by early afternoon they had obtained counsel and were refusing to answer questions.

In Albany, The Knickerbocker News quoted Colonel Whalen as saying he did not know "what it's all about" and the charges "just aren't true."

'Certain' of Exoneration

"I am almost certain I will be exonerated in time," the Albany paper quoted the colonel as saying. Colonel Whalen was born and grew up in Watervliet, near Albany.

Mrs. Whalen was quoted by the paper as saying, "we haven't had a wink of sleep all night. It has been a nightmare. I just can't believe Bill is involved. Bill is not well. He has had four heart attacks in the last six years. I don't know what will become of us."

Later in an interview with the Columbia Broadcasting System, Mrs. Whalen said the neighbors "won't believe it" and had come to their support. Speaking of the effect of the father's arrest on their 11-year-old daughter, Kathy, Mrs. Whalen said:

"Don't you think that from now on they'll say, 'Kathy Whalen, we don't want you, now or at any other time, and we don't want your mother.'"

Justice Department officials said that the Whalens' home was valued at \$38,000 and that their equity was \$19,000. Mrs. Whalen used the equity last

night as security for the \$15,000 bond set for the colonel's release by the court in Newport News.

The indictment did not charge that Colonel Whalen had ever turned over information to the Soviet diplomats but only that he had conspired to do so.

One official familiar with the case said today that he doubted very much that any important security information had been compromised by the actual transmission to the Soviet embassy.

During the late 1950's Colonel Whalen was the Department of Defense representative on an interagency committee that keeps up to date the plans for the evacuation of United States citizens from any area of potential trouble.

Classified Plans

While these plans are classified, they are not in the category of information involving military security.

Robert J. McCloskey, State Department press officer, said this committee assignment provided Colonel Whalen's only access to the State Department "that I am aware of."

After becoming a second lieutenant in the National Guard in June, 1940, he entered on duty the following October. Until June, 1941, he was a company commander of the 105th Infantry, first at Fort McClellan, Ark., and later at Camp Forest, Tenn. This was his only command of troops.

From March to May, 1942, he was a patient at the Letterman General Hospital at the Presidio, San Francisco. An Army spokesman said it was contrary to regulations to give out information on the reason for hospitalization.

Three Years in Japan

From the time of his release until December, 1947, Colonel Whalen served in various capacities in the Special Services in the country and in Europe. The Special Services arrange

programs of sports and recreation, including U.S.O. shows.

Then in January, 1948, he was assigned to the intelligence division of the Army General Staff in Washington. From March, 1952, to May, 1955, he was in Japan, also assigned to intelligence, and continued working for G-2 for two years after his return to the Pentagon.

From August, 1957, to October, 1960, he worked in the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, but an Army press officer said today he did not know what his duties were.

From November, 1960, to January, 1961, he was again hospitalized, this time at Fort Belvoir. In February he was placed on the retired list for temporary disability, and then, in April, 1964, he was permanently retired for disability.

According to the indictment, the alleged conspiracy continued for two years after his retirement in February, 1961.

Colonel Edemski returned to Russia in 1960; Mr. Shumaev did not leave Washington until September, 1963.

The indictment states that, after his retirement, Colonel Whalen agreed with "Mike" [Mr. Shumaev's code name] to seek a civilian job in intelligence at the Pentagon. He did seek such a job, but was turned down, the indictment said.

Wife in Tears

Mrs. Whalen was described by The Washington Star as breaking into sobs last night when a reporter informed her of her husband's arrest.

She was quoted as saying: "I never asked him questions about what he did. We've been married 14 years and I knew him four years before that. I used to work for the Government, too, so I know what security is."

"I don't know how this could happen. It isn't possible. I don't believe it, I don't believe it, I'll never believe it. We're good Catholics and we go to church

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regularly. This can't be happening to us. What's going to become of our daughter? It just isn't true, it just isn't true, he never said anything about this to me."

Edemsky Denies Role

LONDON, July 13 (Reuters) —A Soviet general implicated in the Whalen case today denied United States charges that he was a contact man in the hand-over of American military secrets to Russia, a press report said here tonight.

Maj. Gen. Sergei A. Edemsky, a military attaché at the Soviet embassy here, was quoted as saying he knew Lieut. Col. William Henry Whalen, now facing charges of spying in the United States.

However, General Edemsky added: "But I'm no spy—or contact man."

Questioned by reporters outside his home, the grey-haired general said: "I really have nothing to say. This is the beginning of the cold war from the American side."

Of the American allegation that he and a colleague were handed defense secrets by Colonel Whalen, General Edemsky said: "It's all lies. I am just a soldier."

General Edemsky is listed in 11th place in the Soviet embassy staff list, but is the most senior military attaché.

He was in Washington as a colonel, between two tours of service in Britain. He took up his present post here in December, 1962, and lives with his wife in a large mansion.

His wife is in Moscow and diplomatic sources said the general was expecting to leave London soon for a new appointment.