

KGB Chekists Staged a Forced Striptease of the Captured American Spy

Stories about legendary KGB General Bobkov

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Recently, one of the last giants of the Soviet state security agencies, passed away, General Philipp Denisovich Bobkov, former 1st Deputy Chairman of the KGB USSR. He was a man of legend and many circumstances of his life and work are still shrouded in mystery. We decided to dispel this mysterious fog at least partially.

His former colleague, retired Colonel Dmitry Kovalyov, a veteran of the 5th "Ideological" Directorate of the Committee of State Security (KGB), told about some hitherto unknown episodes from Bobkov's Chekist biography.



Photo: From personal files

Excited crowd demands violence over The Meskhetians.

"Of course, our conversation is about events of bygone days, but they still remain, as they say, on everyone's lips," said Dmitry Leonidovich. "These are the tragic and heroic pages of Soviet history, to which not only the officers and entire units of our organs, headed by General Bobkov, but also Philipp Denisovich himself were directly involved.

"And I will start the story with a spy epic, which became famous throughout the country thanks to the later multiseriess of the film *"TASS Is Authorized to Announce."* But in reality, many events did not happen as shown on the screen..."



F. D. Bobkov. Photo: ks54.ru

TASS Was Not Authorized to Announce

"There is hardly a person among the adult population of Russia who does not know the spy's code name - *Trianon*. The basis of the screenplay, written by the remarkable mystery writer Julian Semenov, was a true story: the case of a former employee of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, Ogorodnik, who became a CIA agent and was neutralized by Soviet secret services in 1977.

"In the finale of the film - a memorable scene of the detention of an American diplomat, caught red-handed trying to take a 'package' from a secret hiding place on the railway bridge allegedly left by *Trianon*. Such a special operation was indeed carried out in the late evening of July 15, 1977. However, the espionage mission was performed not by a man, but by a woman - CIA officer Martha Peterson.

"The question arises: how could an experienced 32-year-old CIA girl [цэрэушница] "screw up"? Why didn't she detect surveillance - the guys from our 7th Directorate - and still go on the operation to pick up the spy container on the Krasnoluzhsky Bridge?

"So this is the way it happened. Martha - a CIA agent who worked under diplomatic cover (officially she was listed as vice-consul of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow) - left for the "case" in the afternoon. The American lady wandered around the city for a long time. She changed her clothes, changed her hair, went to the cinema, and moved from the trolley bus to the subway trying to identify surveillance. In addition, she had a cunning radio device hidden on her body, specially tuned to detect chatter on the frequencies of our "surveillance," but it stubbornly remained silent. By evening, Peterson was finally convinced that there was no tail. Although in fact all this time she was "under surveillance."

"Why didn't the precautions of this "diplomat" work?

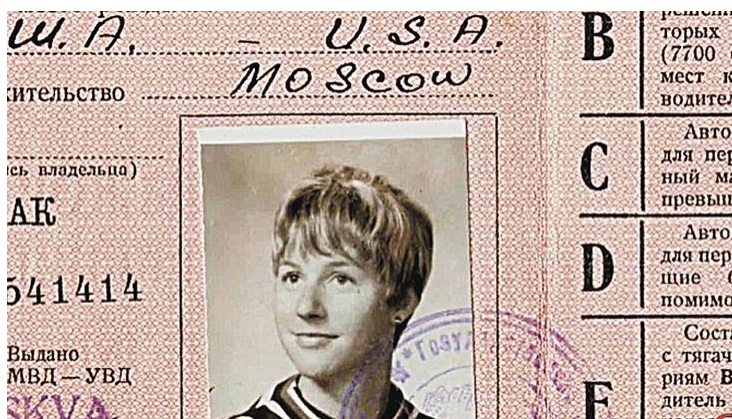
“First, a large number of our employees, almost 100 people, were involved in the operation to catch the culprit red-handed. Some of them, remaining undetected, monitored Martha's movements around the city. Others, also very numerous, reliably disguised, waited for the enemy agent near the drop cache on the bridge over the Moscow River, the location of which had been learned in advance.

“And secondly, the American miracle device did not work, as it simply had nothing to "catch". After all, on Bobkov's orders, all operatives were placed on the highest level of radio silence, which was violated only at the last moment by a single radio codeword message: ‘000,’ which was the command ‘Capture!’”

“Memoir writers from counterintelligence keep silent about this fact in their stories. But it was so... And we - officers of the 5th Directorate KGB of the USSR - were proud of our boss Philipp Denisovich Bobkov, who proved himself in the "Peterson case" not only as a knowledgeable leader, but also as a real cool operational officer!

“Although there, on the bridge, things did not go without surprises. After all, *our guys were expecting a man at the dead drop*, and here ... As the direct participants of the detention later told, at first they were, to put it mildly, *taken aback*. And one of the guys even took a painful blow to the shin from the "lady." Being surrounded by Soviet secret service officers," like a bolt from the blue," Martha Peterson desperately resisted, furiously kicked and yelled so loudly (probably to warn perhaps the nearby agent Trianon), that flocks of crows on the roofs of Novodevichy Monastery woke up from her noise and flew off into the sky!

Photo: from personal files



Martha Peterson.

“When, at last, the CIA girl was "secured," our guys found the infamous SRRS device used to monitor the airwaves on her body. It was specially adapted for female wear and hidden in a very intimate place - let's say, under the arm of Martha ... I had to arrange a little striptease on the lady and use scissors to cut the attaching straps. And after that, Mrs. Peterson, to Lubyanka, please!

“It was already deep nighttime when the KGB investigator called the American Embassy Consul Gross, who was responsible for the proceedings in such "spicy" cases. In a hurry, the caller

confused the name of the detained American: saying Paterson and not Peterson. "Well, again some tourist distinguished herself," the just-awakened official murmured. But when he saw Martha, the CIA officer, he went speechless.

"But TASS did not really announce anything about the Ogorodnik case. Failed CIA officers, working under the cover of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, quickly gathered and left our country. U. S. Ambassador Malcolm Toon apologized for them and asked that it not be made public, "which would be highly appreciated by the U. S. government"... And this episode was reproduced exactly in the film."



Photo: From personal files

Taking off Martha's special radio device.

[Translator note: The remainder of the article did not concern this subject so was not translated.] Link:

<https://www.mk.ru/social/2019/07/22/poymannoy-amerikanskoy-shpionke-chekisty-ustroili-prinuditelnyy-striptiz.html>