--MAJOR GEORGE RACEY JORDAN PROMOTED BY RUSSIANS--

BY DREW PEARSON

MOST INTERESTING FACT IN THE ARMY RECORD OF THE MYSTERIOUS MAJ. GEORGE RACEY JORDAN, WHO NOW CLAIMS URANIUM SECRETS WERE SHIPPED TO RUSSIA DURING THE WAR, IS THAT IT WAS THE RUSSIAN COMMANDER WHO URGED JORDAN'S PROMOTION.

TWO LETTERS ARE IN THE ARMY FILES FROM COL. ANATOLE KOTIKOV, COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE RUSSIAN LEND-LEASE STAFF AT GREAT FALLS, MONT., PRaising JORDAN AND ASKING THAT HE BE PROMOTED FROM THE RANK OF CAPTAIN TO MAJOR. AND WHEN THE GOLD-LEAF CLUSTER OF MAJOR WAS FINALLY GIVEN TO JORDAN, IT WAS PINNED ON BY NO LESS THAN KOTIKOV HIMSELF.

ALL THE OFFICIAL RECORDS ON MAJOR JORDAN'S BACKGROUND SO FAR SCRUTINIZED INDICATE THAT HE WAS ON THE FRIEnDLIEST TERMS WITH THE RUSSIANS AND AT ONE TIME COMPLAINED BECAUSE RUSSIAN OFFICIALS WERE BEING HELD UP TOO LONG ON THE BORDER BY CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS.

IN MARCH, 1944, JORDAN REPORTED THAT HE WAS CONFUSED AS TO THE SCOPE OF HIS DUTIES REGARDING SHIPMENT OF MAIL AND CARGO PASSING THROUGH GREAT FALLS FOR RUSSIA. HE ASKED WHETHER HE SHOULD INSPECT IT AND ESPECIALLY WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER IT HAD DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY.

THE ONLY REPORT THE ARMY HAS THAT HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN SUSPICIOUS OF RUSSIAN SHIPMENTS WAS AT THIS TIME, WHEN JORDAN SAID HE THOUGHT THE VOLUME WAS UNUSUALLY LARGE BUT SAID THE BULK OF IT WAS MAIL. HE TOLD A COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AGENT AT THE TIME THAT HE HAD HAD NO EXPERIENCE WITH DIPLOMATIC MAIL AND WAS UNABLE TO KNOW HOW TO HANDLE IT.


AT NO TIME DID MAJOR JORDAN MAKE ANY REFERENCE TO HARRY HOPKINS, HENRY WALLACE, URANIUM, BOMB POWDER, OR SECRET DOCUMENTS. HE GAVE NO INDICATION HE HAD BROKEN INTO ANY POUCHES, CRATES, OR SUITCASES. HE DID COMMENT THAT RUSSIAN PACKAGES WERE WELL-GUARDED AROUND THE CLOCK. THE WHOLE TENOR OF JORDAN'S REPORT AND HIS CONDUCT AT GREAT FALLS WAS FRIENDLY TO THE RUSSIANS AND ARMY FILES INDICATE THAT AFTER HE LEFT THE SERVICE HE MADE A SPEECH BEFORE A CIVIL CLUB IN NEW YORK PRAISING "OUR GALLANT ALLIES," THE RUSSIANS.

(MORE)

IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT JORDAN WAS NOT CONCERNED ENOUGH ABOUT HIS STORY TO REPORT IT TO THE FBI. ON THE CONTRARY, THE FBI CAME TO HIM, AFTER HE HAD TRIED TO GIVE THE STORY TO TIME MAGAZINE AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF WALTER WINCHELL. TIME MAGAZINE INCIDENTALLY REJECTED HIS STORY AFTER EXAMINING HIS DIARY.

AFTER HIS DISCHARGE FROM THE AIR FORCE, JORDAN STAYED AROUND WASHINGTON AS AN EXPEDITER, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS A FIVE PERCENTER. THAT'S HOW HE EASED IN TO HIS PRESENT JOB.

(COPYRIGHT, 1949, BY THE BELL SYNDICATE, INC.)