



Bridge of Spies is a 2015 American historical drama-thriller film directed by Steven Spielberg from a screenplay written by Matt Charman and Ethan Coen and Joel Coen. The film stars Tom Hanks, Mark Rylance, Amy Ryan, and Alan Alda. Based on the 1960 U-2 incident during the Cold War, the film tells the story of lawyer James B. Donovan who is entrusted with negotiating the release of Francis Gary Powers—a pilot whose U-2 spy plane was shot down over the Soviet Union—in exchange for Rudolf Abel, a captive Soviet KGB spy held under the custody of the United States.

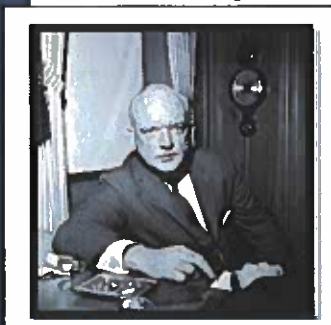
Bridge of Spies - The name of the film refers to the Glienicke Bridge, which connects Potsdam with Berlin, where the spy exchange took place.

**1957 - The Height of the Cold War.
The United States and the Soviet Union Fear Each other's
nuclear capabilities and intentions
Both sides deploy spies and hunt for them**

1. At the start of the movie Rudolf Abel a soviet KGB spy is being followed by U.S. agents. Abel goes to a park and is painting a picture of the Brooklyn Bridge. What does Abel find under a park bench?
2. When the U.S. agents confront Rudolf Abel in his apartment why does Mr. Abel ask to clean up his paints?
3. At the start of the movie James Donovan is an insurance attorney who is asked to defend Rudolf Abel. Why is it important Rudolf be seen as getting a fair trial?
4. When James Donovan sits down to dinner with his family and tells them about the Rudolf Abel case they compare Abel to the Rosenberg's. Why does Donovan insist that Rudolf Abel is not a traitor like the Rosenberg's? Who are the Rosenberg's?



Rudolf Abel



James Donovan

5. Rudolf Abel has three official charges against him. 1) Conspiracy to transmit United States defensive atomic secrets to the Soviet Union 2) Conspiracy to gather secrets and ... what is the third charge?
6. When Abel is arrested and interrogated is he beaten?
7. What does the U.S. government offer Rudolf Abel if he cooperates with them?

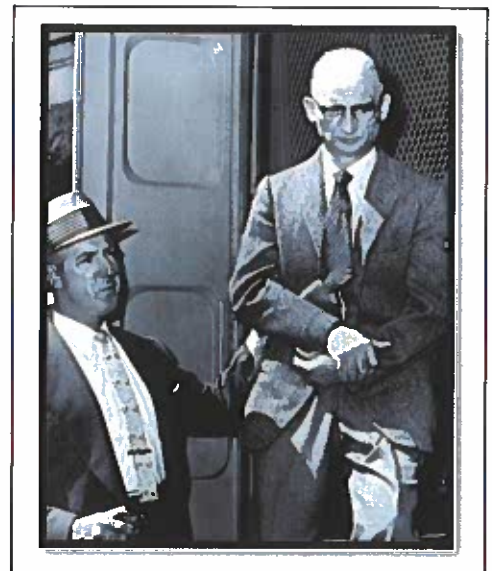


8. Why is Rudolf Abel not alarmed by the fact that everyone in America is interested in sending him to the electric chair?

9. After taking lie detector tests and getting top level security clearance Gary Powers and the other "drivers" are told what they will be doing in their new role of gathering information. It is reinforced to them that they cannot be shot down and they cannot be captured. What government agency are the drivers told they are working for?

10. How does the Judge respond to James Donovan's request to delay the Trial?
11. Who is following James Donovan in the rain? Why?
12. How does Donovan respond?
13. When the pilots are shown the U-2 at Peshawar air Station in Pakistan how are they told to refer to the plane in the future?
14. With an 80 foot wing span and a max speed of 430 MPH, what is the cruising altitude of the airplane?
15. With a 4500 millimeter lens X3, the camera on board the Article is 4X's more powerful than any other reconnaissance camera ever used. At 70,000 how many square miles of territory and be photographed with one pass?
16. Why does James Donovan file a motion disputing the evidence gathered against Rudolf Abel? How does the court rule on this motion?
17. How were children in the 1950's informed in school about the atomic bomb?
18. How do people on the train respond to James Donovan when they realize he is defending Rudolf Abel?
19. How does the Jury rule on the three counts against Rudolf Abel?
20. Why does Rudolf Abel compare James Donovan to "The Standing Man"?

During August of 1957, the U.S. government began its criminal proceedings against Rudolf Abel. In this image, Abel steps out of a patrol vehicle, transporting him from his place of confinement to the federal court house in Brooklyn. Image online via NPR





Francis Gary Powers

21. Why does Donovan visit the Judge at his home?
22. Why does Donovan believe it is in the United States best interest not to execute Rudolf Abel?
23. How does Judge Mortimer Byers rule in the sentencing?
24. What happens to James Donovan's home shortly after the sentencing?
25. Should it become necessary to abandon the aircraft over Soviet territory what instructions are the pilots given?
26. Why are the pilots given the silver dollar?
27. When Powers is shot down, is he able to push the self-destruct button in the plane?



Soviet photograph of Powers

28. How did the U.S. President attempt to explain the missing plane?
29. How did the Supreme Court rule in Rudolf Abel's Case?
30. What sentence does Francis Gary Powers receive from the Soviet Court?
31. Who was John Foster Dulles? Why does the Government want James Donovan to negotiate the Trade?
32. What is happening in Berlin during this period? If Soviet Checkpoints continue to be unsuccessful in preventing continued hemorrhaging to the West side what might the Soviets build to prevent it?
33. Why does the American Graduate student from Yale Frederic Pryor cross over to East Germany?
34. What happens to Mr. Donovan's Coat when he gets to East Berlin?
35. Who does Mr. Donovan meet at the Soviet Embassy?
36. Explain the dialogue between the Soviet representative and Mr. Donovan at the Soviet Embassy.
37. In the movie how is the Soviet treatment of Powers in prison portrayed?
38. When Mr. Donovan is riding in Mr. Vogel's car what happens?

39. Mr. Donovan returns to East Germany to negotiate with the German leader. When Mr. Donovan is asked to leave what message is given to the young aid?
40. Glienicke Bridge is the spot for the prisoner exchange of Powers and Able. Where do the East Germans release Pryor?
41. Why is it possible that Abel will be shot by the Soviets?
42. Following his return to Russia what happened to Rudolf Abel?
43. What happened to Gary Powers in 1977?
44. Where is Frederic L. Pryor currently Professor Emeritus of Economics?
45. What future President asked Mr. Donovan to undertake further negotiations on behalf of the United States?



Duck and Cover (1951)
Bert the Turtle video
 YouTube video link
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKqXu-5jw60>



Glienicke Bridge