



The Golden Age of Radio

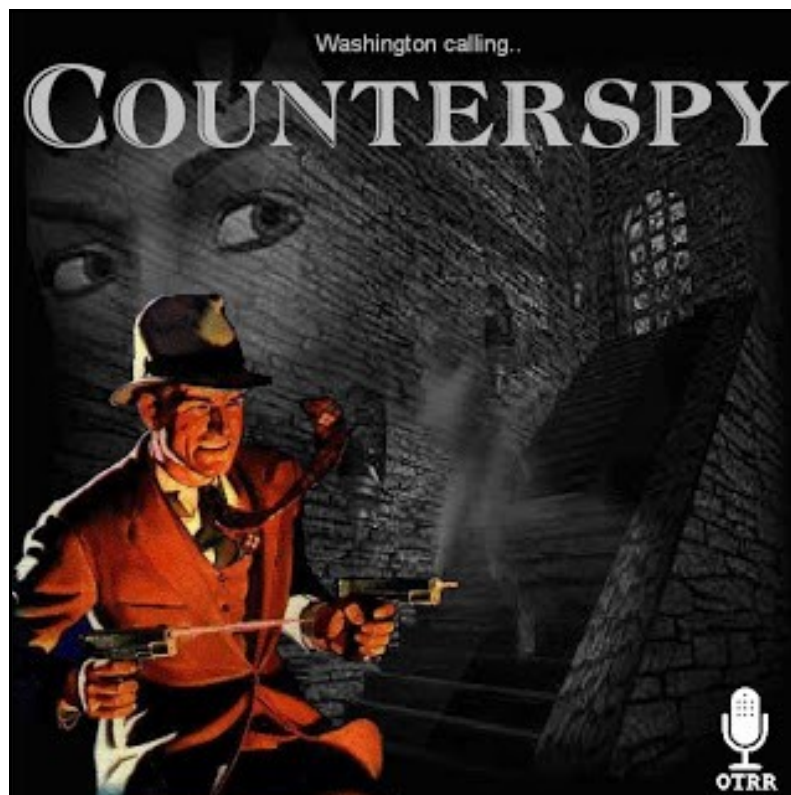
Counterspy

Counterspy was an espionage drama radio series that aired on the NBC Blue Network (later the ABC) and Mutual from May 18, 1942 to November 29, 1957. It was the child of Phillips H. Lord.

David Harding (Don MacLaughlin) was the chief of the United States Counterspies, a unit engaged during World War II in counterespionage against Japan's Black Dragon and Germany's Gestapo. With spies still lurking in the post-war years, as well as the Communist threat, the adventures continued well after World War II ended.

The Counter Spies were a fictional unit of the Federal Government. The unit was tasked with investigating all reports of suspicious espionage activities funneled to them. Initially the program combined the crime drama thrills of Lord's *Gang Busters* with the nation's growing patriotism and security awareness in the aftermath of Pearl Harbor. Promotional teasers for the show intimated that Lord had served in official but very confidential intelligence work for the government in the late 30s. His popularity with law enforcement resulting from *Gang Busters* allowed him access to files of police departments and the FBI, which became rich sources of plot material for *Counterspy*.

Lord held back little in pursuing production quality. Two sound effects men were reported to spend 10 hours in rehearsal to get the atmosphere just right. Sound was more than background, the effects were vital to presenting the plot of each episode.



The radio drama was adapted to film as *David Harding, Counterspy* (1950) with Howard St. John in the title role.

You can listen to episodes at: <http://archive.org/details/DavidHarding-counterspy-page1>