

THE SECRET OF TUXEDO PARK

1 x 54 HD

HOW A RECLUSIVE MILLIONAIRE
CHANGED THE COURSE OF WWII



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In the fall of 1940, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill ordered a small team of scientists on a clandestine transatlantic mission to deliver his country's most valuable military secret—a revolutionary radar component—not to the U.S. government, but to a mysterious Wall Street tycoon, Alfred Lee Loomis.

Alfred Loomis didn't start out reclusive, a millionaire, or even a scientist. After graduating from Harvard in 1912, he became a corporate lawyer on Wall Street, married well, and settled in the upscale suburb of Tuxedo Park, outside New York City. But under his conventional façade was a man of fierce ambition, obsessed with scientific exploration. With the outbreak of World War I, Loomis got a reprieve from the humdrum world of finance; he was posted to the Army's research center in Maryland, where he got his first intoxicating taste of science on a large scale.

Following the war, Loomis's plan was to amass enough of a fortune to pursue science full-time. Even as he was conquering Wall Street, Loomis kept up with the scientists he had met during the war, including physicist Robert Wood. Loomis enlisted Wood, and the two men began exploring the effects of high frequency waves using a massive GE oscillator they installed in his mansion's garage. Quickly outgrowing his makeshift lab, Loomis purchased nearby Tower House, an enormous crumbling Gothic mansion, and turned it into a state-of-the-art laboratory. The fiercely private Loomis shunned publicity but the comings-and-goings of foreign scientists gave rise to rumors and speculation about what was transpiring at his mysterious lab.

In the spring of 1933, Loomis was finally wealthy enough to walk away from Wall Street, and devote himself entirely to research at Tower House. Using his connections, his money, and his brilliant scientific mind, Loomis and his team of scientists developed radar technology that would arguably play a more decisive role than any other weapon in the war. *The Secret of Tuxedo Park* tells a long-overlooked story of an individual who helped alter the course of history in World War II.

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CREDITS

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