

THE EIFFEL TOWER HOAX

One day in 1925, a Czech man called Victor Lustig invited six French businessmen to a meeting in Paris. Lustig told the men that the Eiffel Tower was becoming too expensive to maintain.

He said that the Government had decided to sell it, and he showed them secret official documents to prove it. He told them they couldn't tell anyone else about it.

One of the businessmen, André Poisson, agreed to buy the Tower, but his wife was suspicious. She said Lustig wasn't telling them the truth. Lustig met Poisson again in private – and told him he was acting strangely because he expected a bribe. So Poisson said to Lustig that he would give him a large bribe – as well as the money for the Tower.

In fact, Lustig was a conman and disappeared with all of Poisson's money. The 'official documents' were forgeries and the whole story was a lie. Poisson never told anybody except his wife that Lustig had tricked him – he was too embarrassed!

