

THE COVERT WORLD OF ESPIONAGE

EYE SPY

INTELLIGENCE MAGAZINE

NOVICHOK
THE DEADLY SEQUEL



NUMBER 117 2018

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FAKE NEWS

Intelligence Perspectives

TREASURE

CIA SECURE RUSSIAN SECRETS

ASSASSINATION

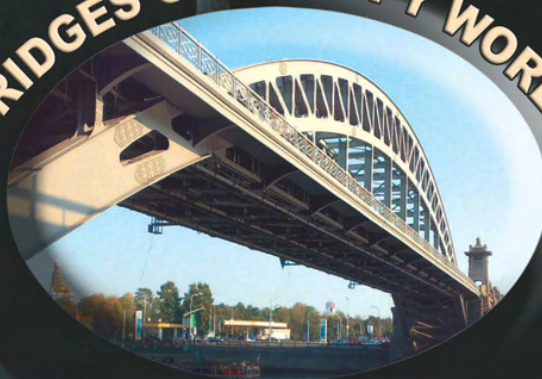
NEW TOOLS OF THE TRADE

COLD WAR



STRANGE BUT TRUE

BRIDGES OF THE SPY WORLD



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- Spy Artefacts
- Security Clearance

Printed and Published in Great Britain



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"The British have problems with securing poisonous substances at the Porton Laboratory..."

RUSSIAN COLONEL GENERAL SERGEI STEPASHIN



NOVICHOK INCIDENTS: HISTORY SET TO REPEAT ITSELF



When a nerve agent such as Novichok is used as a weapon, it is inevitable that casualties will result, even if great care is taken in its delivery. MI6 spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia were most fortunate, the same cannot be said about two totally innocent members of the public, especially Dawn Sturgess who died after spraying what she believed was perfume onto her arms. The bottle containing the solution was found by her partner Charlie Rowley in the vicinity of where Sergei Skripal lived, though its exact location remains a mystery - for now.

What puzzles detectives probing both events, is that the package containing the Novichok found by Rowley and the bottle - a branded and well known perfume - were unopened. This of course means that the original container remains elusive. There are stories in the media that two alleged assassins have been identified. "Extradition papers are being drawn up by the Foreign Office to ask Russia to hand over two of its nationals," I was told by a senior newspaper editor in London. UK Security Minister Ben Wallace countered by saying such talk is "wild speculation." But if the media is correct, it will be very interesting to see which organisation if any, the suspects belong to. However, I firmly believe that history will repeat itself. In 2006, London-based MI6 contact man Alexander Litvinenko was assassinated. Britain asked Russia that two prime suspects - both Russian nationals - be extradited. Moscow refused, and I have no doubt that even if New Scotland Yard (Counter Terrorism Command), ask the Kremlin to cooperate and deliver the suspects, they will refuse.

The latest poisoning case, called "Novichok the sequel," by Moscow, is examined in this edition.

MARK BIRDSALL, MANAGING EDITOR



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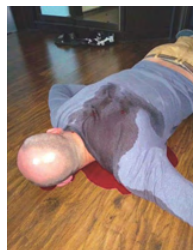


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INTELLIGENCE CHOICE

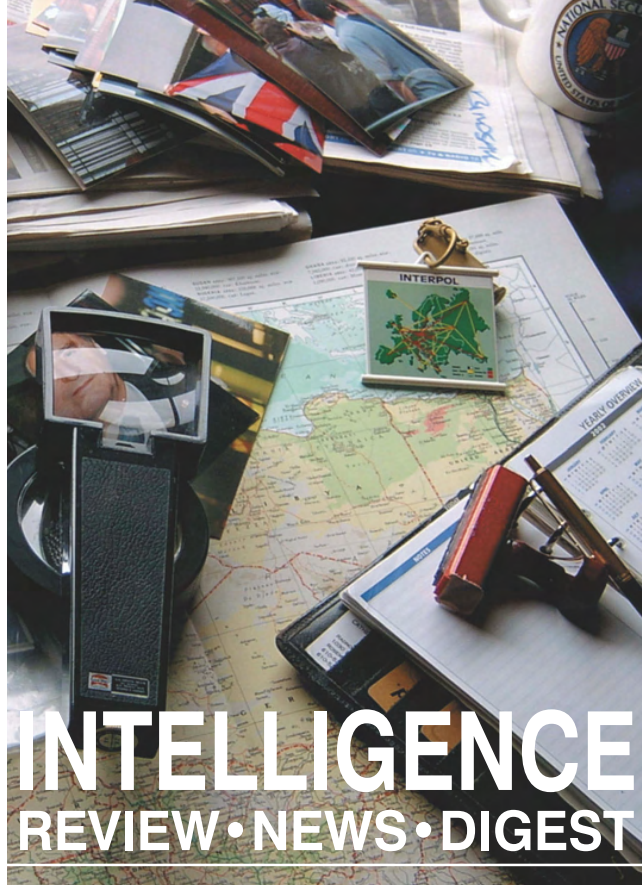
SOCIAL MEDIA • PROPAGANDA COUNTERMEASURES

Throughout history the written or spoken word has been used as a tool of influence. The way in which we receive information today, including visual news has changed dramatically. Governments are concerned that people are far too susceptible to bogus stories and all too easily fooled. In the UK, some government officials have been charged with examining social media and the numerous platforms which can be used to deliver information. "Are the stories true? How are they affecting voters?" Just two questions being asked by concerned ministers.



Eye Spy examines various methods of deception, especially disinformation and propaganda tools used in the world of intelligence.

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INTELLIGENCE REVIEW • NEWS • DIGEST



NEW CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR CAREER OFFICER APPOINTED BY LANGLEY

Long-time CIA career officer Vaughn F. Bishop, who retired in 2011, has been appointed Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Bishop has vast experience operating abroad, including a post as CIA Representative of the US Pacific Command. The former command operated as lead organisation in all military matters in the region, including North Korea. A reason perhaps why he was chosen by the White House. Bishop, who joined Langley in 1981, also served as National

Intelligence Officer in Africa and is a former Vice Chairman of the National Intelligence Council. Despite retiring, he returned shortly afterwards to serve as Ombudsman for Analytic Objectivity for four years during a recent modernisation period undertaken at Langley.

His appointment follows that of Gina Haspel as D/CIA in May. ODNI Director Dan Coats said: "His accomplishments are well known in the US Intelligence Community."

VEHICLE CRASHES AT PARLIAMENT

ATTACKER DELIBERATELY ATTEMPTS TO STRIKE POLICE SECURITY DETAIL

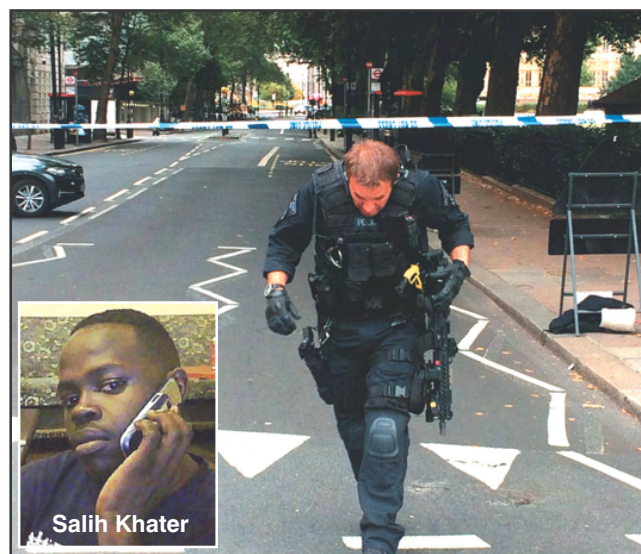
A man was arrested on 14 August as he crashed his vehicle into the main protective barrier which fronts the Palace of Westminster building. The actions of Sudan-born Salih Khater, 29, from Birmingham, raised the spectre of the attack on Westminster Bridge in March 2017.

His vehicle was caught on CCTV travelling westbound when suddenly it turned into eastbound traffic, injuring several cyclists who were waiting at a traffic signal, but none seriously. Eye witnesses said the vehicle, a small silver Ford Fiesta, was

driven at speed and deliberately swerved to strike pedestrians. Seconds later it accelerated and struck a barrier protecting the parliament building, narrowly missing two police officers,

Within seconds officers from New Scotland Yard's Counter Terrorism Command detained Khater, who had driven to the capital hours earlier. Eye Spy associates who were in the area at the time of the incident were told no other weaponry was found.

"Two armed police officers jumped over the barrier and dragged the driver out of the vehicle," a watching bystander



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said. "He didn't try to resist... there were about 20 people lying on the ground."



NSY Police Commissioner Neil Basu said: "Given that this appears to be a deliberate act, the method and this being an iconic site, we are treating it as a terrorist incident."

The area, which hosts MI5 and New Scotland Yard headquarters was cordoned off. Within hours, senior security, intelligence and political figures were called to

MI6 SPY GAMES IN COLOMBIA?

BRITISH INTELLIGENCE ACCUSED OF SECRET RECORDINGS

Alvaro Uribe, Colombia's former hardline President, has accused departing President Juan Manuel Santos and MI6, of conspiring in a plot against him, this on the same day he resigned his seat in the country's Senate.

He opted to stand down after an investigation was initiated against him over false allegations, and witness tampering in a case he himself brought against a left-wing senator. Some of the "damaged evidence" presented by the court, was collected by MI6, he alleges. Following his resignation, Uribe 'tweeted': *'There are repeated accusations that the recordings were made by the British agency MI6... friends of Juan Manuel Santos'*. He had originally referenced MI5. Uribe described the action as a "Foreign authorities ruse against him," claiming Britain is "very friendly" with Santos.

It's not clear just what the content is, or when the tapes were reportedly made, but in court it was revealed several telephone calls were intercepted between him and a solicitor.



Former Colombian President Alvaro Uribe

Uribe is remembered for his tough military response to Marxist guerrillas during his presidential tenure between 2002-2010. Similarly, he has long been accused by civil rights' groups and opposition figures of orchestrating attacks by right-wing military groups in the conflict with FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia). His brother, Santiago, is awaiting trial for heading one such outfit called the Twelve Apostles. During the civil war in Colombia, which lasted over half a century, 220,000 people were killed.

Some of the intercepts, according to intelligence sources, are



President Juan Manuel

connected to this dark chapter in the country's history. However, Uribe's accusations that MI6 was somehow involved with securing evidence against him has both puzzled and amused intelligence watchers. The Service's governing authority, Britain's Foreign Office, declined to comment.



FARC operatives detained by troops in neighbouring Peru



CTC officers detain Salih Khater as colleagues search his crashed vehicle for weapons and explosives

attend a meeting of the government's emergency committee - COBRA at Downing Street.

Khater, who was not known to MI5, was handcuffed and taken away by police. Various addresses in Birmingham linked to Khater were searched.



Injured cyclists



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Britain's New High Altitude Spy Plane Breaks Endurance Record

SKY SURVEILLANCE

The solar-powered Zephyr S, which Airbus Defense & Space calls a High Altitude Pseudo-Satellite (HAPS), achieved the new world flight endurance record after taking off from Arizona. The Zephyr S, which is the first production aircraft of the Zephyr programme, flew for 25 days, 23 hours, and 57 minutes. The record flight came two years after the Ministry of Defence ordered three of the high-flying unmanned aerial vehicles for surveillance missions.

HAPS are super-lightweight unmanned aircraft that can fly in the stratosphere for weeks on end and act as localised satellites.

Qinetiq, the private-sector offshoot of the British Defense Evaluation and Research

Agency, started the project in 2013 - but it wasn't always intended as a defense project.

In July, the UK's Office of Communication (Ofcom) announced plans for a five year rollout for deploying the 5G network that will work in conjunction with HAPS. Interestingly, and relevant to 5G, GCHQ Director Jeremy Fleming said hostile states and terrorists may attempt to hack the system. He referenced China in respect of posing a risk to the UK's infrastructure.



CIA DECLASSIFIED POTTERY FROM POLAND

WARSAW: Handiwork experts in the town of Boleslawiec, Poland, have been given permission to talk about a custom-made order - from the CIA. Boleslawiec Artistic Handicrafts Cooperative have produced pottery featuring the CIA seal.

Helena Smolenska, the head of the craft-maker cooperative said she was not at liberty to discuss how many sets were made or where they were shipped. However, she conjectured the order was made following a visit by US troops based in Poland to the factory in 2017.

"The biggest challenge was to render the agency's logo in the right way," said Smolenska. "Each time it had to be painted by hand with no templates used. The colour pattern also had to be selected properly and meet the requirements of the Americans."



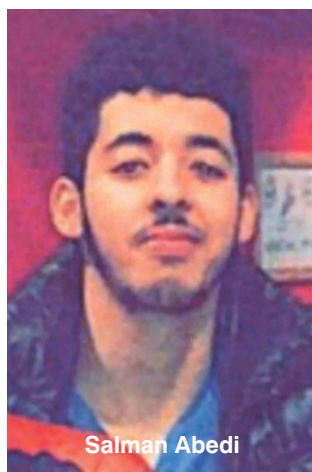
AN IRONIC TWIST MANCHESTER TERRORIST ATTACK

It has emerged that Manchester Arena bomber, Salman Abedi, who killed 22 people, including many youngsters at a music concert in May 2017, was actually rescued by the Royal Navy as continuing chaos between fighting factions in Libya threatened British nationals in the country.

In 2014, the Foreign Office asked HMS Enterprise, a survey ship, to



Hashem Abedi



Salman Abedi

sail to Tripoli and help evacuate around 100 people, mostly British nationals. Amongst them were Salman Abedi and his brother Hashem, who were visiting their parents in Libya at the time. Salman was investigated by MI5



Flowers and media at St Ann's Square, Manchester

at the time over his contact with an SOI - 'subject of interest'. However, there was never any real intelligence to link him to terrorism and at the time of the attack, MI5 were no longer surveilling him.

Hashem Abedi, however, returned to Libya where he is being held in prison. It is alleged he helped his brother buy components for the

bomb used in the Manchester attack. Several reports link him to other planned attacks. Britain wants him extradited. Both individuals operated for ISIS.

The men's father, Ramadan, had allegedly fought with resistance groups in the 2011 revolution which toppled Libyan leader Colonel Gaddafi.

INTELLIGENCE SERVICE OF RUSSIA

Senior Intelligence Officials Reject Merger

In 2016, senior Kremlin figures began discussing the possibility of merging two of the country's premier intelligence agencies - the FSB (Federal Security Service) and SVR (Foreign Intelligence Service), thus creating an organisation likened to the old Soviet KGB. The move was reportedly backed by President Putin, himself an officer in the 'old guard'. It also received backing from Russian treasury officials who said huge amounts of money would be saved if the organisations shared resources and operated as one entity. Intelligence analysts in the West called the move a "resurrection of the Committee for State Security," KGB for short.

The proposal coincided with the merger and reorganisation of various other government bodies, including drug enforcement and border agencies. It also resulted in the establishment of a new agency - the National Guard - which absorbed some elements from the Department of Internal Affairs.

NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES

However, the surprising and contentious plan regarding the two spy services was met with concern. It would have involved moving Aleksander Bortnikov, head of the FSB, to the Security Council, while SVR Director Sergei Naryshkin would be appointed as the chief of the new Service. However, the idea was soon opposed by senior intelligence figures, and it appears two years later President Putin himself had a change of mind. This follows comments made by Sergey Ivanov, former



SVR Director Sergei Naryshkin would have become the 'super agency's' first head



President Putin and Sergey Ivanov

KGB officer and Minister of Defence who now serves as Putin's Special Advisor for Ecology and Environment Protection. He said there would be "no benefits from such an idea," citing comments made by Mr Putin. Intelligence officials in Russia also admitted the

move would be chaotic and leave Russia vulnerable during the change.

Supporters of the new agency, which would, according to Eye Spy sources have been called the National Security Ministry (NSM) or Ministry of State Security (MGB), soon found themselves isolated by the powerful machinery of Russian Intelligence. And of course, the heads of the respective organisations were not impressed either. Besides its intelligence role, the NSM would also have compromised of military intelligence and investigative offices.

The 'super agency', as it was called in proposal documents, would have eventually been staffed and supported by an estimated 250,000 personnel.



High table. L-R. Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov, President Vladimir Putin, FSB Director Aleksander Bortnikov and SVR Director Sergei Naryshkin

THE SILVER FOX

US Special Forces Soldier Killed Assisting CIA's OMEGA

A US Special Forces soldier attached to a secret CIA mission to track and eliminate senior terrorist figures in Afghanistan, has been killed. Sergeant 1st Class Christopher Celiz, 32, from the

Ranger Regiment, was killed in July by small arms fire in the east of the country. According to colleagues, Celiz was attempting to help evacuate an Afghan commando who had been shot whilst engaging members of an ISIS affiliate.



US Ranger
Christopher Celiz

Intelligence sources say the CIA operation, previously codenamed Operation Omega, is a broad multi-faceted endeavour, which is intended to destroy terrorist factions in the country, whilst also assisting Afghan forces in intelligence collection. For well over a decade, a pseudo-CIA led force consisting of experienced Special Forces troops drawn from elite regiments such as the US Navy SEALs, Rangers and Marines, have assisted Omega and other similar operations.



US Army helicopters in Kabul, Afghanistan

Some 15,000 US troops are based in Afghanistan, mostly engaged in counter-terrorism work and training. The CIA and other US intelligence agencies are also represented, with the former operating a major Field Station in Kabul.

One former soldier attached to the programme said: "The Agency uses the Afghans to kill or capture guys on their target list. The CIA's Afghan surrogates are doing the assaulting, the killing and the

capturing. But the Rangers are out with them." Another said those selected for operations are "calm, collected, mature and professional... they are elite."

Celiz, known to his colleagues as 'silver fox' due to his grey hair, was described by Colonel Brandon Tegtmeier, commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment, as a "national treasure." He was posthumously awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart.

ONE BILLION DOLLAR RUSE OFFER FROM THE THIRD FLOOR

A ccording to North Korean defector Thae Yong Ho, a former senior diplomat and Deputy Ambassador to the UK who defected in 2016, NK offered to stop selling missile technology to enemies of Israel in exchange for one billion dollars in cash.

Thae acted as a translator during a series of meetings in 1999 between Son Mu Sin and Gideon Ben Ami, North Korea's and Israel's respective ambassadors to Sweden. During the first meeting, Son allegedly told Ben Ami that Pyongyang had a series of agreements in place to sell ballistic missile technology and "know-how" to Israel's adversaries, such as Syria, Pakistan and Iran. However, the North Korean government would be willing to scrap the agreements in exchange for \$1 billion in cash from Israel.

Ben Ami reportedly told his NK counterpart that he would pass along his offer to the Israeli government. A few days later the two diplomats held another secret meeting, during which Ami said Israel was not willing to pay the money. However, he explained that Tel Aviv was willing to donate humanitarian aid of



Man of many secrets - Thae Yong Ho

equal value. According to Thae, North Korea refused and "the talks ended without an agreement."

Details of the secret liaison were made in Thae Yong Ho's recently published book - *Cryptography From the Third Floor Secretariat*, in which he relates his experiences including acting as translator.

DOUBLE THE MONEY

US Still Intent on Finding 1998 Al-Qaida Embassy Bombers

WASHINGTON: The State Department has announced it is doubling the reward for information leading to the arrest of two of the country's most wanted. Since 2000, a bounty of \$5 million has been offered for information on the whereabouts of al-Qaida commanders Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah and Saif al-Adel for their role in the 1998 embassy bombings in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Nairobi, Kenya. Two hundred and fifty people died in the terror attacks, including 12 American nationals. A further 5,000 were injured.

The hike in the reward to \$10 million coincided with the 20th anniversary of the attacks on 7 August 1998.



Abdullah Abdullah and Saif al-Adel

END GAME FOR TOKYO TERRORIST

Sarin Gas Attack Mastermind Executed

Shoko Asahara, 63, the founder of Japanese doomsday cult Aum Shinrikyo, has been executed along with 12 other members. The group were responsible for carrying out the infamous sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway in 1995.

Members of Asahara's cult punctured plastic bags to release sarin nerve gas inside train carriages, resulting in 13 deaths and over six thousand injuries. Asahara, whose real name was Chizuo Matsumoto, was arrested after the attack and kept in prison for almost 22 years. Although sentenced to death in 2006, his trial dragged on for almost 12 years.

The 1995 Tokyo attack brought international infamy to the Aum group, which attracted a range of devotees, including doctors and engineers who produced chemical agents for the group. "Asahara was talented at brainwashing," said Kimiaki Nishida, a professor of social psychology at Ritsso University in Tokyo. "He lured



young people, who felt a sense of emptiness in Japanese society."

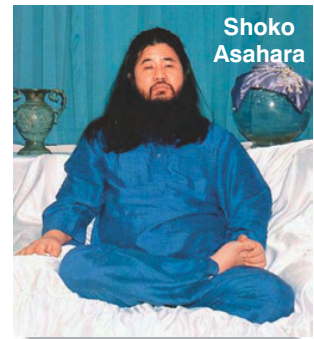
THE LEVITATING MAN

Asahara told followers that he would help them acquire "the power of God with the right kind of training" and they would "create a new world" after Armageddon, which he predicted would occur in 1997. His followers claimed their guru, who dressed in Chinese-style pyjama tunics, had extra-sensory powers and could levitate for hours at a time.

The Aum cult, now renamed Aleph, officially disowned Asahara in 2000, but experts believe his influence remains strong, with some members using pictures of

him and recordings of his voice for meditation.

The 'guru' with his wild hair and unkempt beard once led up to 40,000 followers, however, he looked a very different figure as he



was led to the gallows. Asahara cut his famous hair short and shaved off his beard.

The cult has disbanded, though nearly 2,000 people follow its rituals in three splinter groups; all are monitored by Japan security services. In Tokyo, government officials said precautionary measures are in place in the event his followers seek retaliation.



WMD specialists test for Sarin following the attack

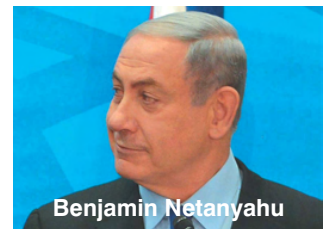
MUNICH & BLACK SEPTEMBER

Israeli Prime Minister Attacks UK Opposition Leader

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has criticised British opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn, for attending a wreath-laying ceremony in Tunisia in 2014, for senior PLO operatives, including

Salah Khalaf, a terrorist planner of the 1972 Munich Olympic attack. Eleven Israeli athletes were killed by terrorists from the Black September Organisation (BSO) in the attack. Netanyahu tweeted: 'The laying of a

wreath by Jeremy Corbyn on the grave of the terrorist who perpetrated the Munich massacre and his comparison of Israel to the Nazis deserves unequivocal condemnation from everyone...



left, right and everything in between'.



Footage of the event shows Corbyn with officials from the Embassy of Palestine. He is holding a wreath at the graves of others linked to the group. Corbyn, whose Labour party has been embroiled in a number of anti-semitism matters, said Netanyahu's claims were "false." When challenged about his attendance, Corbyn said he only had a "vague idea on the wreath laying." He then went on to say: "What deserves unequivocal condemnation is the killing of over 160 Palestinian protesters by Israeli forces since March."

NEW CODEBREAKERS

GCHQ Tweets News of Puzzle Book

As part of GCHQ's centenary celebrations to mark 100 years of intelligence service (1919-2019), the organisation tweeted several 'examples' from a new puzzle book that will be released in October. The first edition, published in 2016, was a great success and many believe the second will be equally as popular with readers.



Priced at £12.99 (\$16.00) all proceeds from sales of the book will go to the Heads Together mental health campaign spearheaded by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Duke of Sussex. The Duchess' grand-



mother was a Bletchley Park codebreaker during the Second World War.

GCHQ said the book will feature numerous new puzzles, "ranging in difficulty from easy to fiendishly difficult," as well as authentic entrance exams set for would-be recruits. It will also include anecdotes about the people, technology and partnerships that are central to GCHQ's mission.

A GCHQ spokesman said: "We were delighted with the success of our first puzzle book, which raised over £330,000 for the Heads



GCHQ Director Jeremy Fleming

Together campaign, an important cause to change the conversation around mental health. To mark our centenary next year in 2019, we have created a new puzzle book celebrating our 100-year history of keeping the country safe."

GCHQ changed its name from the Government Code & Cypher School established in 1919, to its current title in 1946.



NEW SECURITY SYSTEM AT LONDON TRANSPORT HUB

Following several TAV (Terrorist Attack by Vehicle) attacks by terrorists using vehicles in London, Nice, Berlin, Stockholm and elsewhere, the British Government has acted to protect one of the country's busiest transport hubs - London Victoria Station. Around 80 million people enter and exit the station every year.

New barriers or road block protectors to stop vehicles, have been installed at the entrance to the station. Developed by security company ATG Access, and called

Surface Guard, the barriers can withstand the force of a 2,500kg vehicle travelling at 30mph.

Its designers say Surface Guard can be installed quickly and does not hinder pedestrians, making it an ideal terrorist counter-measure at fixed building points and public events.

Eye Spy understands that security officials are also examining other systems which could augment transport hubs, including airport-type bomb detection apparatus and chemical detection systems.



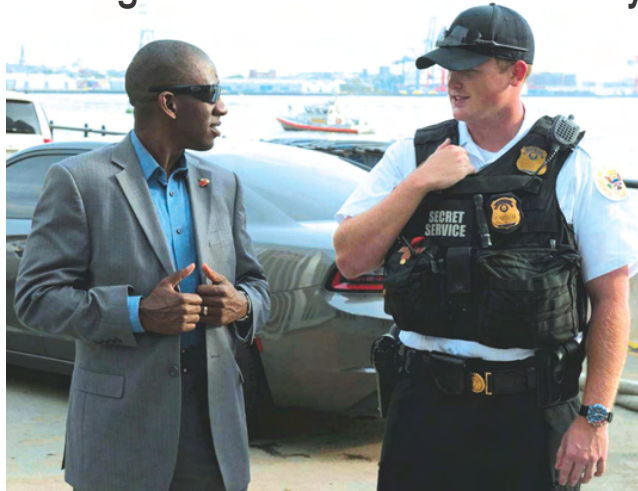
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THE FSB INSIDE WOMAN

Suspected Russian Intelligence Contact in US Embassy

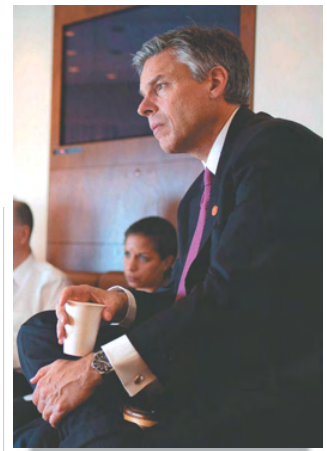
For a decade or so, a Russian female believed to be operating as a contact woman for the Federal Security Service (FSB), worked inside the US Embassy in Moscow. The suspected spy was reportedly employed by the Department of State and acted as a liaison alongside officers of the US Secret Service and Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS). During a recent security check, it was suspected she was engaged in regularly unauthorised meetings with an FSB officer.

An unnamed source within the intelligence community claimed that the US security officials were trying to quietly fire the woman to hide any possible security breaches. The woman was reportedly dismissed from her duties last summer, after a probe by intelligence officers confirmed her meetings with FSB agents. As part of the ruse to identify the



suspected agent, she was given non-sensitive information and duly surveilled at a meeting point in January 2017. Here she was observed handing the material to a known FSB contact person.

Although she had apparent access to Secret Service Intranet and emails, she was unable to glean any classified information. *'At no time, in any US Secret Service office, have FSNs*



US Ambassador to Russia, Jon Huntsman

[Foreign Service Nationals] been provided or placed in a position to obtain national security information', read a statement released by the Secret Service. This contradicts the unnamed source claiming that "she had access to the most damaging database, which is the US Secret Service official mail system."

It is not unusual for an embassy to employ foreign nationals from their respective countries as liaisons or in other domestic areas. A Secret Service official said: "Part of the duties of an FSN position in Moscow are to assist our attaches and agency by engaging the Russian Government, including the Russian Federal Security Service, the Russian Ministry of the Interior (MVD), and the Russian Federal Protective Service (FSO) in furtherance of Secret Service interests."

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, said she was oblivious to the case.



US Embassy, Moscow



US Secret Service Cyber Intelligence Center (CIS)

BIN-LADEN LEGACY

Son Marries 9/11 Cell Leader's Daughter

The family of Osama bin-Laden, have confirmed Hamza bin-Laden, the newly recognised deputy of al-Qaida, has married the daughter of Mohammed Atta, the head of the terror cell which attacked the United States on 11 September 2001. Hamza, who has vowed to avenge the death of his father seven years ago, following a joint

US intelligence-military raid in Abbottabad, Pakistan, is the son of one of bin-Laden's three surviving wives. He has recently taken to social media urging the terror group's followers to strike targets in the West and Israel.

Intelligence analysts see the move as one that emboldens the terror groups followers, and keeps alive



Hamza bin-Laden

the legacy of the 9/11 attackers. MI5 officials have warned about the resurgence of al-Qaida following the demise of ISIS.

In early 2017, Washington designated Hamza a "special

global terrorist." This effectively means his assets are blocked and persons associated with him could be arrested.

The CIA is unsure of his location, though some intelligence sources say he is in Iran. Others maintain he is in hiding in the border regions between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Either way, the heir to current al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri's 'throne', is regarded by Langley as a high profile target.

THE CONFERENCE BOMBERS

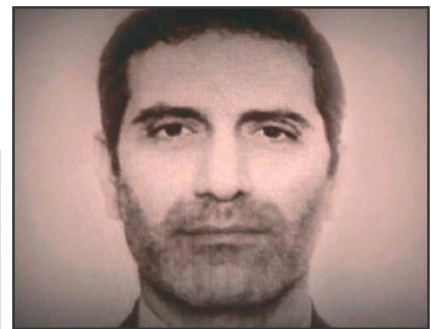


Iran Vienna Intelligence Station Chief Detained

Major Iranian MOIS-Sponsored Terrorist Attack in Paris Thwarted by the Mossad

A few days before Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif travelled to Europe in an attempt to keep the 2015 nuclear treaty alive, this following the withdrawal of the United States from the pact, Belgium counter-terrorism police arrested two people. Intelligence sources say Amir Sadouni, 38 and Nasim Nomeni, 34, a married Belgium couple

of Iranian origin living in Antwerp, had infiltrated a group they had been assigned to attack - the people's Mujahedeen of Iran (MEK or PMOI) an opposition group to the current government in Iran. They were later charged with terrorist offences after investigators stopped the couple in their car in Brussels and discovered explosives (TATP) and a detonation device. A surveillance team had monitored the



**MOIS Vienna Station Chief
Assadollah Assadi**



The MEK is led by Maryam Rajavi, also President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI).
Inset: Logo of the NCRI



operatives earlier that day meeting a 'third party' on the border with Luxembourg and Germany, where they were allegedly given the bomb components. Another man of Iranian origin was detained in France. Belgium Intelligence described those arrested as a "long-term sleeper cell." Another source said Sadouni and Nomeni had secured Belgium citizenship after being persecuted by former members of the MEK - "all a ruse to gain permanent residence in the country."

INSIDE KNOWLEDGE

As European foreign ministers and nuclear officials sat down with Iran's Zarif to negotiate continuing the nuclear treaty, in faraway Israel at a ceremony to mark US Independence Day, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu referenced the Brussels incident. "There is a



NCRI protests against the conference bomb plotters



Iran Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif

meeting this week by the P4 without the United States and the P4 invited Iran's President Rouhani to attend.

"At the same time, in recent days, this same regime dispatched a terrorist cell to carry out a major terrorist action in France. The commander of this terrorism cell was an Iranian diplomat in Austria. This Iranian terror plot was planned on the soil of Europe in the same week that the European leaders are



Israel Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Trump

supposed to meet the president of Iran about circumventing the sanctions on Iran," Netanyahu said. Israel's premier called on European leaders to, "stop financing the terrorist regime that is financing terrorism against you on your soil."

Snippets of information concerning the alleged plot surfaced. Besides the persons arrested in Belgium and France, other participants were mentioned, including the alleged head of the cell - a diplomat based at Iran's Vienna Embassy in Austria. He was detained by German police in Aschaffenburg on an arrest warrant issued by Belgian prosecutors and later named as 47-year-old Assadollah Assadi. As for the target, intelligence sources believe the terrorists had been ordered to detonate the bomb at a major rally on 30 June in Paris organised by a collection of Iranian dissident

MUJAHEDDEEN OF IRAN - MEK

The Mujahedeen of Iran (MEK) was formed in the 1960s. A semi-paramilitary-civilian organisation, the group initially embarked upon



a mission to overthrow the Shah of Iran. However, following his departure in 1979, its followers, unhappy about the country's new rulers and direction continued to operate against Tehran's government. In 1997, it was designated a terrorist organisation by the United States, but following new directives and less confrontational policies, it was delisted by the USA and European Union in 2012.

groups - the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), which includes the MEK/PMOI. The event was attended by thousands of people, including around 30 senior US diplomats and military officials, one of which was Rudy Giuliani, President Trump's legal advisor. Another attendee was Stephen Harper, former Prime Minister of Canada. He, like many of the speakers, advocated change in leadership in Iran. Some intelligence sources believe the US delegates were the real targets.

The raid to intercept the bombers was actioned by intelligence services from various countries, including Belgium, France and Germany. However, it has since transpired that



'PERSONA NON GRATA'



Iran Threatens Retaliation after Holland Expels 'Diplomats'

Iran has criticised Holland after two of its diplomats were designated 'persona non grata' and expelled. Tehran said it would retaliate accordingly against the "unfriendly and destructive move."

A Dutch Intelligence Service spokesperson said that two Iranians had been expelled on 7 June, though details did not emerge until July. Some intelligence watchers have

speculated that the expulsions may be related to the arrests on 30 June and 1 July of members of the Iranian sleeper cell in Belgium, Germany and France.

Shortly after the expulsions, Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs demanded the Dutch ambassador to Iran pass on a "severe protest" over the situation. Bahram Qassemi, spokesperson for Iran's Ministry



Bahram Qassemi, spokesman for Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs

of Foreign Affairs said: "As earlier announced to the ambassador of the Netherlands, the Islamic Republic reserves the right to retaliate." Qassemi further said the move was "illogical and illegitimate" adding the expulsions were "baseless and absurd."

Eye Spy sources believe commentary linking the incident to the conference plot was possible because Qassemi said the Dutch Government should be required to elaborate on "its move to shelter the criminal and terrorist members" of organisations in opposition of the Islamic Republic - specifically the MEK.

CONFERENCE BOMBERS continued

an undercover team from the Mossad had been despatched to surveil and track the attackers as they made their way across

several borders and met with senior Iranian intelligence figures. At one stay location, the Mossad team managed to place listening devices, thus exposing the actual target and method of bomb delivery.

SPY NETWORKS MI6-CIA-MOSSAD-MEK

TEHRAN: Hossein Alaee (right) a former commander in Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), has claimed the MEK, along with MI6, CIA and the Mossad, all have established spy networks operating in Iran. "The Mossad network was established 15-years-ago to monitor the country's nuclear ambitions, missile capabilities and economic status," said Alaee.



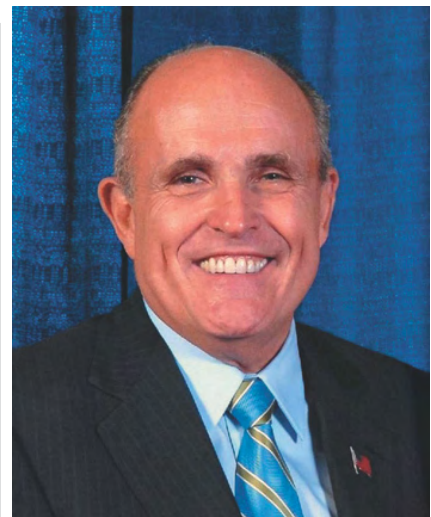
Alaee, who headed the IRGC's naval element and was a senior intelligence figure, accused the MEK of having fostered relations with the three main intelligences services of the UK, USA and Israel.

Middle East intelligence sources do not know if Alaee was commenting on behalf of the Iranian Government.

FALSE FLAG

Iran responded to the arrests claiming it had "nothing to do with the plot." One official said

July 2018. US Secretary of State and former D/CIA Mike Pompeo arrives in Kabul, Afghanistan as part of his tour of the Middle and Far East



Real target? - Rudy Giuliani

it was a "false flag operation staged by people in the NCRI and leading components of exiled Iranians." Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said the plot was orchestrated by the MEK in order to derail the successful outcome of meetings between Europe and Iran. Tehran also alleged Sadouni and Nomeni were in fact operatives of the MEK. Iran's government said it has on "numerous occasions" called on Washington, Paris and Riyadh to halt NCRI activities in their respective countries.



Mossad Director Yossi Cohen

VIENNA - A STATION OF PLANNING

Intelligence agencies in the West agree that Iran's Embassy in Vienna hosts a major coordinating centre for all Iranian intelligence operations performed in Europe. This is certainly the view of the CIA, whose former Director, Mike Pompeo and current Secretary of State on a recent tour of the Middle East, referenced the Paris plot and said Iran's European embassies were being used as "bases to plot terrorist attacks." Of the Paris plot, Pompeo said: "There were Iranians arrested in Europe who were preparing to conduct a terror plot. We have seen this malign behaviour all over Europe."

Eye Spy sources believe Assadollah Assadi was the MOIS (Ministry of Intelligence) Station Chief in the city. The Iranian opposition National Council of Resistance of Iran issued a statement on the arrested official. *'Assadi is one of the MOIS's veteran agents who has been stationed in Vienna since 2014 under the guise of a Third Counselor. His office was at room No 200 on the third floor of the embassy. His main task was espionage and conspiracy against the People's Mojahedin Organisation of Iran (PMOI/MEK), and he has been travelling to various European countries in this regard'.*



Iranian opposition demonstrators

Pompeo Warns of Iran Operations

OIL CORRIDORS, INTELLIGENCE AND THE MAFIA

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, visited the UAE and held talks with His Highness Sheikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. Security and stability issues in the region were discussed.

Pompeo said the US and its Gulf Arab allies want to show Iran that its actions have "a real high cost," stepping up his warnings after Tehran threatened to disrupt Middle East oil supplies. Pompeo referred to recent threats by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani over the Strait of Hormuz, through which a significant supply of all oil traded by sea passes. Rouhani said any disruption to Iran's oil exports would result in the whole region's exports being disrupted. "Iran should know that America is committed to keeping sea lines open, keeping the transit of oil available for the entire world," Pompeo said. "That's the commitment we have had for decades. We continue under that commitment."



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo with UAE Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Back in America, Pompeo described the current Iranian leadership "more like the Mafia," that an international government.

WAR OF WORDS

US President Warns Iran As Tensions Grow

Against a backdrop of heightened tensions, powerful rhetoric and growing hostility between the United States and Iran, President Rouhani warned that any military aggression towards his country would turn into the "mother of all wars."

Rouhani's comments were issued as US sanctions, lifted following the 2015 nuclear treaty, were reimposed, and following a 'tweet' by President Trump that 'Iran would suffer consequences the like of which few



Presidents Rouhani and Putin

throughout history have ever suffered. We are no longer a country that will stand for your demented words of violence and death. Be cautious!'

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

The new clash follows a candid statement made by Gholamhossein Gheybparvar, a senior commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) who said the CIA has "started psychological warfare with Iran." Gheybparvar linked Trump's comments to the alleged CIA move calling it a "broader US strategy."

By withdrawing support for the 2015 pact, some intelligence analysts believe it will weaken Iran's policy of support for various fighting factions in Syria. Trump said the deal was "horrible" and did not restrict Iran's destabilising activities in the region.



IRGC commander Gholamhossein Gheybparvar



Civilian Dies
as MI6 Spy
Attack Claims
Further Victims

CAUSE AND REACTION: Inevitable civilian casualties as Novichok nerve agent assassination case takes a predicable course...

In the second major UK counter-terrorism investigation involving the nerve agent Novichok this year, Dawn Sturgess, 44, and her boyfriend, 45-year-old Charlie Rowley, were found unconscious and in critical condition at a house in Amesbury, Wiltshire, on 30 June. The town is located around ten miles north of Salisbury where MI6 agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Yulia, were poisoned with Novichok in March. Officials said the couple had fallen victim to "the same nerve agent" after handling a contaminated item they had found. Investigators still probing the first incident, believe they were exposed to a much higher dose of the agent than the Skripals. And just like the Russians, they were found "fitting and foaming at the mouth."

Police sources in the town told Eye Spy investigators that New Scotland Yard's Counter Terrorism Command is confident the Novichok was the same as used in the Skripal incident. One informed source said, "whatever the object was that the couple picked up, they must have thought it of some value or use to have taken it home." Sadly Sturgess died in hospital on 8 July.

NSY Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu, said they were unable to say if the incident is linked to events in Salisbury, but it is their "main line of inquiry." Basu added: "Her death has only served to strengthen our resolve to identify and bring to justice the person or persons responsible for what I can only describe as an outrageous, reckless and barbaric act."



Charlie Rowley and Dawn Sturgess

At a public meeting in the town, he advised residents the nerve agent could be active for upto 50 years.

The primary focus of investigators was Rowley's flat. Here chemical weapons specialists conducted lengthy shifts and a number of items were removed. However,

**NSY Assistant
Commissioner
Neil Basu**



“As a precaution we still advise the public not to pick up any strange items such as needles, syringes or unusual containers...”



Professor Paul Cosford, Director of Health and Medical Director for Public Health England (PHE)

The first clue to the delivery item used in the March attack on MI6 spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter and the poisoning of two people in June



investigators were reticent to discuss or reveal just what it was they were seeking. BBC Security Correspondent Gordon Corera was told that following the initial searches of Rowley's residence, the actual object remained elusive. Of significance, the highest levels of Novichok was found on the victims hands - lending support to the theory that they had indeed discovered and handled a discarded item. However, it would take a further six weeks for the truth to emerge.

FINGER REMAINS POINTED AT RUSSIA

UK Prime Minister Theresa May expressed her condolences, saying she was “appalled and shocked.” Connections to Russia again followed and Home Secretary Sajid Javid demanded answers from Moscow, saying he would not accept Britain becoming a “dump-

ing ground for poison.” However, he said there were no plans to impose fresh sanctions on Russia following the latest nerve agent poisoning. “We know back in March that was the Russians... we know it was a barbaric, inhuman act by the Russian state,” he said. “We need to learn more and let the police do their work.”

Security Minister Ben Wallace said: “We have world-leading expertise in this country that will eventually find out who did it and what happened. That may take years, it may take months.” Wallace added that “the best intelligence officers in the world are working on the case,” but admitted he could not guarantee that people in the area were “100 per cent safe,” from further contamination. Senior officials agreed saying they could not rule out the possibility of more people falling ill

or coming into contact with the substance. “Finding other traces is like looking for a needle in a haystack,” said Wallace.

Following the incident, investigators admitted they were unable to locate the source of the contamination. Ironically, the Novichok was sitting right in front of their eyes, as events would prove. At the time the primary theory was that the couple inadvertently



UK Security Minister Ben Wallace

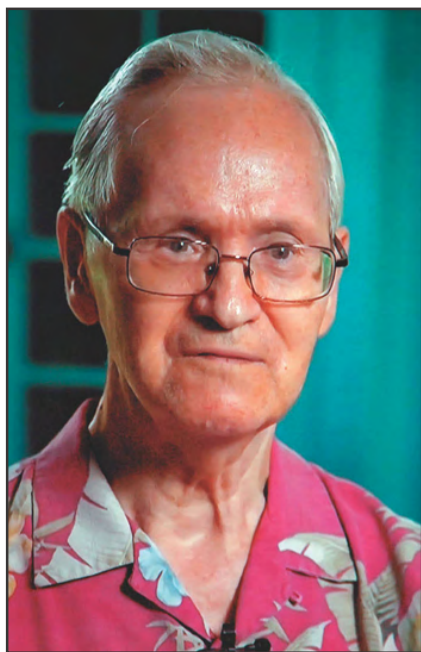
found the container used to transport the nerve agent in the Skripal attack. Mr Rowley, a recovering drug addict, has been described as having “foraged for goods to fix and sell,” and is known to have collected discarded cigarettes - extracting spent tobacco. A former neighbour of Sturgess said she too would pick up “discarded cigarettes to bolster her own tobacco tin.” Police also investigated claims that the couple found a bag and a pair of sunglasses and took them home.

At the time, investigators were confident that wherever the Novichok agent was located, it was not in any place visited by the Skripals - all these had been thoroughly searched and given the ‘all clear’ by investigators.

This overview would be soon tested by a remarkable discovery. ➤



Home Secretary Sajid Javid visits Amesbury



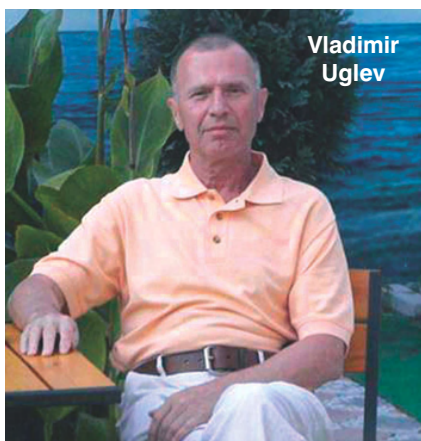
Dr Vil Mirzayanov



Police arrive at the Amesbury crime scene

NOVICHOK LIFESPAN

Some intelligence sources claim MI5 investigators were divided on the likelihood that the couple came across the very same Novichok disposed by whoever used it in March to attack the Skripals. And this analysis would prove correct.



Vladimir Uglev

Dr Vil Mirzayanov who helped manufacture Novichok when he ran the technical counter-intelligence department in Russia's chemical weapons institute, also cast doubt on the same source theory, saying the Novichok used in March would have decomposed in the four months since the Skripal attack. Mirzayanov believes Russia was behind the Skripal poisoning "because Russia is the country that invented it, has the experience, turned it into a weapon and has fully mastered the cycle." But Vladimir Uglev, a scientist who claims he invented the Novichok agent used in the Skripals' poisoning, said this was wrong and the substance is "very stable."

Other experts say the chemicals are "designed to be persistent" and could last for months or years, particularly if they were kept in containers and even more so if the container was sealed and air tight. "They [Novichok nerve agents] don't evaporate, they don't break up in water," said Andrea Sella,

professor of inorganic chemistry at University College London.

One difficulty faced by investigators is that Novichok is less well studied and understood than other [general] nerve agents, and there is no official or 'true' scientific data on how long they last [in different environments, including storage]. While some Novichok agents are liquids, others are thought to exist in solid form. This means they could be dispersed as an ultra-fine powder.

Some of the agents are also reported to be 'binary weapons', meaning the nerve agent is typically stored as two less toxic chemical ingredients that are easier to transport, handle and store. When these are mixed, they react to produce the active toxic agent. "One of the main reasons these agents are developed is because their component parts are not on the banned list," said Professor Gary Stephens, a pharmacology expert at the University of Reading.

Chemical weapons expert Hamish de Bretton-Gordon said it was likely that the Wiltshire couple had somehow ingested Novichok - perhaps by transferring it from skin to the mouth. Novichoks were designed to be more toxic than other chemical weapons, so some versions would begin to take effect rapidly - in the order of 30 seconds to two minutes. The main route of exposure is likely to be through inhalation or ingestion, though they can also be absorbed through the skin.

RUSSIA RESPONDS

State media houses in Russia are deflecting any suggestions of a Russian link to the new poisoning, calling the UK Government's





Military specialists from the RAF assist in the investigation of the poisoning of Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia in Salisbury



Sergei Skripal

“AN MI6 PLOT TO SPOIL RUSSIA’S HOSTING OF THE 2018 FIFA WORLD CUP...”

demands for an explanation “a dirty political game.” Maps showing the proximity of Amesbury to Porton Down - the UK Government’s top secret research laboratory, have appeared in numerous newspapers and on television - some undoubtedly for propaganda purposes. Moscow previously denied any involvement in the Skripals’ poisoning and demanded proof. The Russian Foreign Ministry called on premier Theresa May to end “intrigues and games with chemical agents.”

Kremlin officials continue to insist there has never been any research conducted on Russian soil “that would bear the direct or even codename of Novichok.” Backed by commentary undoubtedly provided by MI6 and specialists at the Ministry of Defence, the UK Foreign Office has said it has information indicating that “within the last decade, Russia has investigated ways of delivering nerve agents likely for assassination.”



The UK dismissed as “absolute nonsense” Moscow’s allegations that it could have produced the toxin at Porton Down, while some news editors said the latest incident was

“provoked by British Intelligence to spoil the 2018 World Cup football championship,” hosted by Russia. Sergei Zheleznyak, a member of Russia’s Foreign Affairs Committee said: “The second case of poisoning with the nerve agent Novichok in southern England is part of a British effort to tarnish the Russia-hosted tournament and fuel tensions ahead of a planned United States - Russian summit.”

Kremlin officials again raised the theory that the source of the nerve agent could easily have come from Sweden, Slovakia or the Czech Republic: all these suggestions have been denied by the respective governments. And Russia’s UN ambassador again reiterated

Home Secretary Sajid Javid launched a vociferous attack on Russia in Parliament



Scientists are divided in their opinion over the exact life-span of the Novichok nerve agent

EMBASSY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO UK - OFFICIAL RESPONSE



**Russian Ambassador to the UK,
Alexander Yakovenko**

All allegations of Russia's involvement in the incidents in Salisbury and Amesbury are merely speculative and are not based on objective data of the investigation. As for cooperation and information sharing, Russia has from the very outset proposed a joint investigation of the attempted murder of two Russian nationals. The proposal remains on the table. Unfortunately, the British investigation remains totally non-transparent. Our numerous questions on this matter remain unanswered.

The UK authorities avoid any contact with the Russian side on this, or any other issues of concern. Moreover, London continues to blatantly violate its international obligations by refusing consular access to the Russian citizens, who remain isolated and are highly likely under duress by secret services. The British side has not contacted us over the Amesbury incident either. We cannot judge if the sample analysis was correct, or if any parallels with the Salisbury poisoning are well-founded.

It is regrettable that UK officials try to link a second poisoning with Russia without having produced any credible results of the investigation of the first one. Instead of genuine cooperation London is doing everything possible to muddy the waters, to confuse and frighten its own citizens. One can only guess what the reasons behind such a line of behaviour are.



Sergei and Yulia Skripal



A vehicle is removed by Army specialists in nearby Swindon following the latest Novichok incident in Amesbury



**Charlie Rowley provided a key clue
to NSY detectives**

that development work on Soviet-era nerve agents stopped in 1992, and that existing stockpiles were destroyed in 2017. Last September, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) confirmed the full destruction of 39,967 metric tonnes of chemical weapons possessed by Russia.

However, Novichoks were never declared to the OPCW, and the chemicals were "not part of any control regime partly because of uncertainty about their chemical structures," said Professor Alastair Hay at the University of Leeds. He also made an interesting comment on the likely container, noting that it was almost certainly made from glass, the suggestion being Novichok would eventually corrode a metal or plastic vessel. His analysis on the container would prove correct.

RUSSIAN INTELLIGENCE LINE

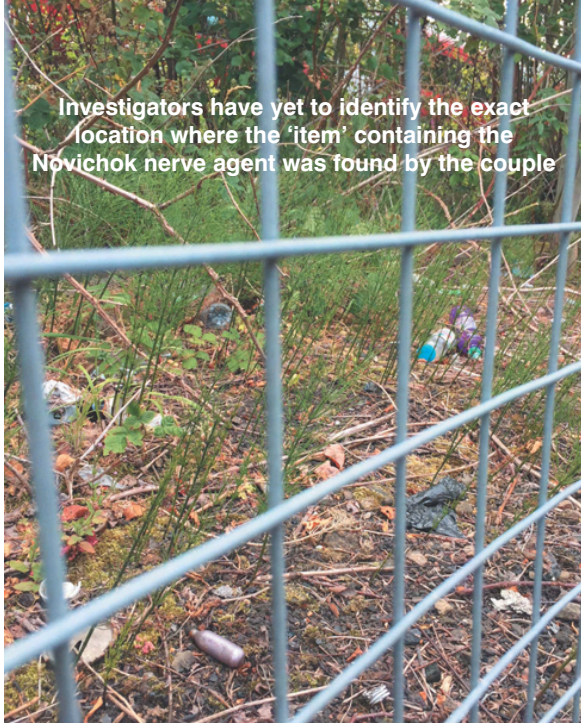
Russian intelligence figures were keen to issue commentary on the latest Novichok incident, and most blame Britain for "security lapses." One such figure was former head of the short-lived FSK (Federal Counterintelligence Service 1990-1995), one of the predecessors to the FSB.

Colonel General Sergei Stepashin has told several new editors that he believes the nerve agent was being stored at Porton Down, and for reasons unknown, a quantity managed to



Colonel General Sergei Stepashin

Investigators have yet to identify the exact location where the 'item' containing the Novichok nerve agent was found by the couple



A statement released by NSY said: 'Due to the unique challenges involved with this operation, police activity is expected to take weeks and months to complete'. As for identifying the culprits, Eye Spy asked a number of informed parties about culpability - all of whom agree on a Russian angle, though most doubt the attackers will ever be identified.

BREAKTHROUGH

Despite the horrific nature of the latest incident, British Intelligence is "100 per cent confident the victims were not targeted," unlike the Skripals. However, some intelligence watchers remain undecided, believing the poisoning was deliberate and part of a wider conspiracy not yet fully understood.

A great deal rested upon the health of Charlie Rowley. He regained consciousness at Salisbury District Hospital, and a few weeks later he was discharged. Detectives conversed

get out of the base. "The British side has problems with securing poisonous substances at the Porton Laboratory," he said. Stepashin, now a politician, insisted British investigators should "focus their work at the facility where deadly chemicals are stored" and "drop the insane theory of Russia's culpability."

The ex-spy chief, who also served as Prime Minister for a time, said, "Britain is incapable of investigating the Salisbury and Amesbury incidents on its own." He told a press gathering that London has rebuffed many offers of assistance from Moscow, adding, "our proposals were not reciprocated."

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said: "This government [Britain] and specifically its leadership will one day have to apologise to Russia and the international community." She urged British police investigators "not to be led by a dirty political game." Zakharova said Britain is leading an "international hate campaign," against Russia. She referred to the "mystery of Salisbury" adding it had a sequel - Amesbury, and reiterated that Britain could well have "lost control of a chemical agent," echoing Stepashin's commentary.

Maria Zakharova



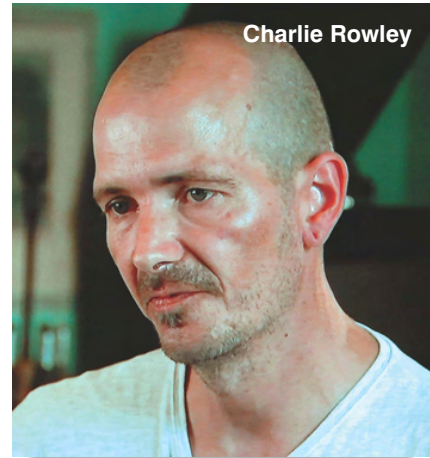
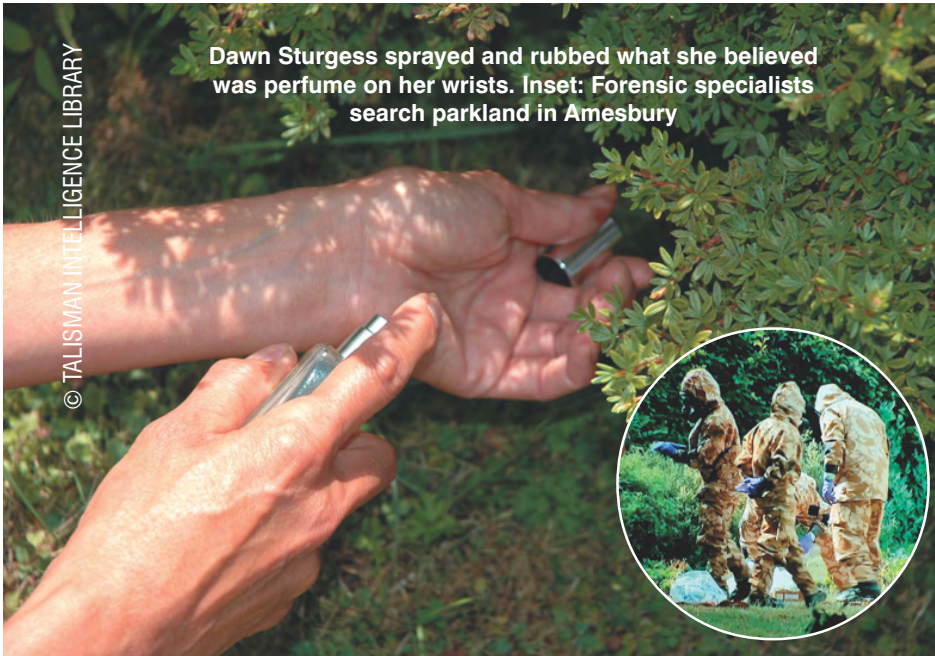
with him on several occasions and the truth regarding contamination began to emerge. Police released a statement saying investigators had recovered a glass container - a perfume spray bottle - from his home which contained the nerve agent. It is now a primary piece of evidence in both the March and June incidents. David Ridley, senior coroner for Wiltshire, confirmed a small glass bottle containing Novichok fluid had been found, and further tests would take place. He also adjourned the inquest, which opened into the

British chemical experts from Porton Down recover items from Mr Rowley's residence



The ambulance used to transport Sturgess and Rowley to hospital is towed away by military specialists

Dawn Sturgess sprayed and rubbed what she believed was perfume on her wrists. Inset: Forensic specialists search parkland in Amesbury



Charlie Rowley

death of Dawn Sturgess on 19 July, until 16 January 2019. Rowley was no longer in a critical condition and soon he would reveal to the media what he told NSY and MI5.

SEVEN SUSPECTS

Before then, newswires citing sources in New York, have referenced seven unnamed individuals (including a female) who have become 'subjects of interest' to investigators assigned to both the original poisoning of Sergei and Yulia Skripal, and the latest incident in Amesbury. The breakthrough was supposedly made by examining over 5,000 hours of CCTV footage secured from cameras in Salisbury in March, and London Heathrow or Gatwick Airport. A communication between the assassins and Moscow was also allegedly intercepted by a UK signals base on Cyprus that read: *'The package has been delivered'*.

Information from passport airport control and flight bookings data (including photographic identification) was then compared to the CCTV

data and used to isolate the individuals. All SOI's (subject of interest) are believed to be Russian nationals and some may well be known to MI5 and MI6. New Scotland Yard declined to comment on the latest reports.



MI5 examined ATM cash withdrawals in parts of London and Salisbury

Eye Spy sources say police and MI5 are still unsure if the alleged 'assassination team' used false identities, though this is obviously a strong possibility. Other points of enquiry (still being examined), are where the suspects stayed and the use of at least one hired or loaned vehicle[s]. Train and bus ticket purchases are also being examined and cross-referenced to visitors entering the Salisbury area. Other investigative leads such as cash withdrawals from ATM's are also being meticulously examined.

Alexander Yakovenko, on learning of the latest development, said: "I want to hear that from Scotland Yard or from the Foreign Office. A lot of versions that we hear in newspapers... they are not supported by the Foreign Office." Yakovenko is correct of course, media speculation is rife, but the latest reports, reflect the ongoing, time consuming and meticulous work being performed by NSY and British Intelligence.

WILD SPECULATION

The media reports of 'seven assassins' and 'breakthroughs' were also played down by UK Security Minister Ben Wallace, who described them as "ill-informed... wild speculation."

Yet the focus of much attention and the primary clue, was of course the discarded perfume bottle. Rowley gave an exclusive interview to ITV News which aired on 24 July. He revealed how he had found a boxed and reportedly unopened bottle of perfume, wrapped in cellophane, though he could not

Continued on page 82



Heathrow Airport, London. CCTV footage from the airport is being examined



HIT AND RUN

Novichok Scientist in Russia Targeted

As the latest incident involving Novichok in Britain unfolded, its creator Vladimir Uglev, 71, revealed he was hospitalised after suffering head wounds and injuries after being catapulted through the windscreen of a car



Uglev said he tried to run from the vehicle as it drove towards him on a pedestrian crossing. "I noticed that the car was going fast, not slowing down ahead of the crossing. I started to run and nearly reached the end of the crossing, when the car got me." To avoid going under the wheels, he "jumped on the bumper" and his head then crashed through the windscreen. Some have theorised the incident was an assassination attempt because of his commentary on the Skripal case and background intelligence revealed on the nerve agent. "If the attack was deliberate, it would not surprise me," one Russian source told Eye Spy. "If they had simply shot him or killed him in another way, this would have been too obvious."

The incident is said to have occurred around 25 April in Anapa, in the Krasnodar Krai region situated on the northern coast of the Black Sea.

SECRET RESEARCH

Uglev first synthesised Novichok in 1975 in a development programme at a secret laboratory complex at Shikhany in the Saratov region. He has been widely quoted since the chemical weapon was used on the Skripals in March.

He said Moscow's denial of culpability does not stand up to scrutiny. He has no doubt that the nerve agent that poisoned the Skripals was manufactured in Russia. "Novichok was designed in Soviet times as part of a programme to make a new generation of chemical weapons," he said.

In comments which may have annoyed the Russian authorities, he said earlier: "From the remains of the chemical agents in the blood, it is possible, with the aid of various types of analyses, to determine where the specific



Dawn Sturgess

dose was produced and by whom. I suspect that modern methods of analysis have even improved on what we had some 30 years ago. The British, just like the Germans, are excellent chemists who can with one hint do what in Moscow is classified as top secret."

Asked about how Novichok is transported, Uglev said: "Agents should be transported in



The Shikhany facility - a 'closed location' first began chemical experiments in 1923

Opening Shikhany



MOSCOW: President Putin has announced that the closed administrative-territorial formation of Shikhany - located around 600 miles southeast of Moscow, will be opened around Christmas 2018.

The presidential decree will see the town of 5,500 residents, return to civilian administrative rule, thus no longer being designated a 'closed city'.

How this will impact on research and development facilities in Shikhany is uncertain, though some intelligence analysts believe the Kremlin-sponsored move is intended to further distance the town from events in Salisbury and Amesbury. Mr Putin called reports Novichok was manufactured in Shikhany "an absurd lie and a hoax."

a container suitable for combat use. It is likely that within this container the chemical agents were put on some kind of carrier - cotton balls, powder, ready-made poisonous elements. All of the container's external surfaces must be covered in a degassing solution and wiped with a solvent. In this way the attacker is protected."

As for identifying those who delivered the poison, he cautioned: "Imagine that you are dealing with a murder and a killer has left his fingerprints all around the place, but they aren't in your data bank. You would only be able to identify him after you catch him."



Uglev had previously raised concerns about the security of Russian nerve agent stocks after the collapse of the Soviet Union. He said he could not exclude that some laboratory workers might have been tempted to sell toxic substances.

He claimed the fact that the Skripals appear to be surviving the attack means they were only poisoned with a "minuscule amount" of the nerve agent. He recalled a terrifying moment when he accidentally dropped a tiny amount of a Novichok-class agent on his hand. "I rinsed my hands with sulphuric acid and then put them under tap water," he said, adding it was the only way to survive.



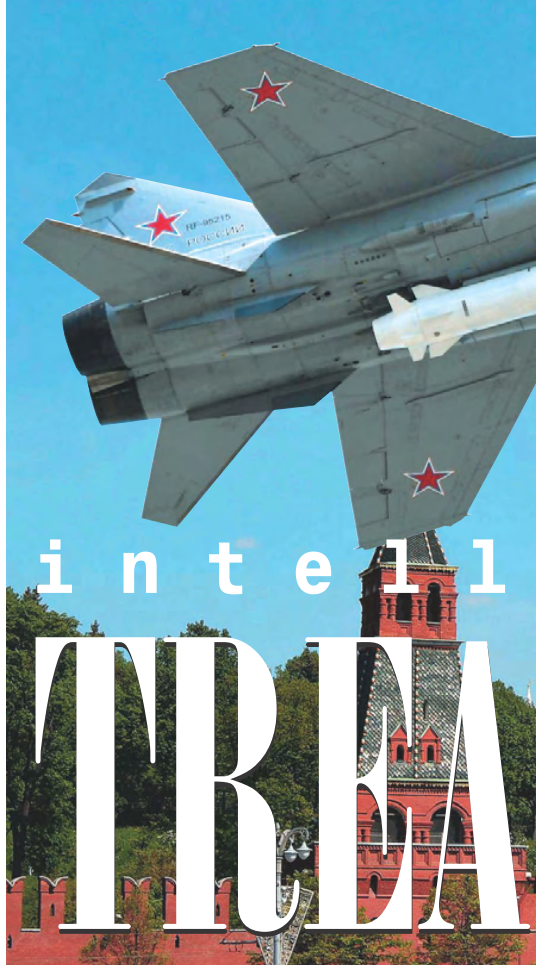
Vladimir Uglev

In 1987, researcher Andrei Zheleznyakov was exposed in a lab accident involving a Novichok-series nerve agent.

Worryingly, for all those caught up in the Wiltshire affair, he died of multiple illnesses five years later.



Specialists from the US Army's Chemical, Biological Incident Response Force train for a natural or manufactured disaster. The incidents in Wiltshire have again highlighted the need for skilled operators in countering such incidents

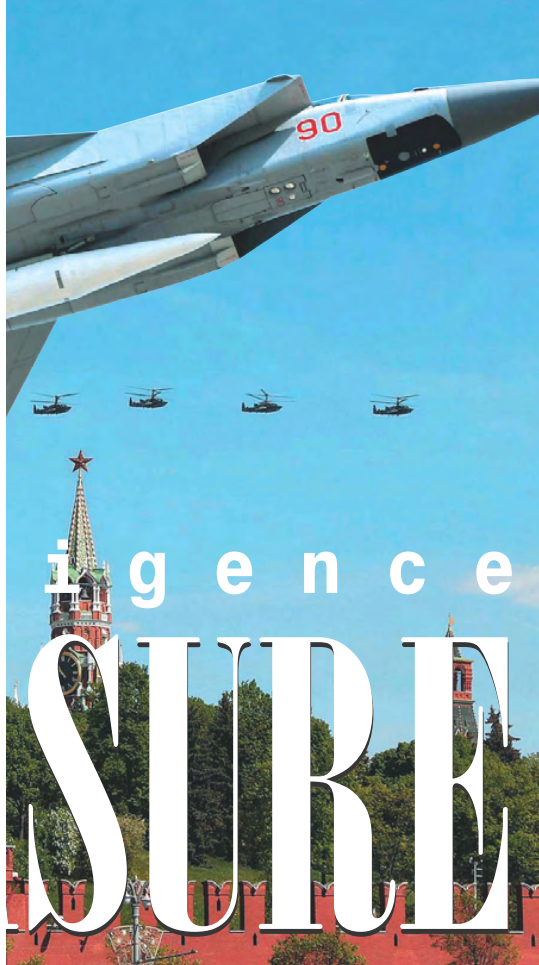


NEW RUSSIAN MISSILE T

FSB launch major counter-espionage operations as nuclear missile secrets are allegedly stolen

On 1 March, at the annual state of the nation address to Russia's Federal Assembly, President Putin announced his military research laboratories had successfully developed and tested two nuclear-capable delivery systems that could "overcome all existing anti-aircraft and anti-missile defence systems," even more advanced [Western] ones that are in the pipeline.





SURE



Film footage showed a hypersonic missile codenamed Kinzhal, which takes its name from a double-edged dagger called the same, hitting a target after being launched from a MiG-31 warplane. According to data released by Russia's Ministry of Defence, the missile has a range of 2,000 kilometres and has the ability to change trajectory in flight using advanced computer technology. Perhaps more worrying to those analysts who were tasked



President Putin addresses Russia's Federal Assembly

Russian Air Force MiG-31 carries the hypersonic missile Kinzhal



with absorbing the data and preparing counter-measures, Kinzhal can travel at more than 10-times the speed of sound. "This makes it less vulnerable to current air defence systems since interceptor missiles are simply not fast enough," said Putin. Analysts familiar with Kinzhal believe the Russian Air Force has flown nearly 400 missions involving the missile, an indication the weapon is almost ready for full service.

Other pieces of advanced hardware that were revealed, included a computer-guided 'robot torpedo' which Russia said could circumnavigate sea defences and "hit US port cities and bases," and a combat laser system codenamed Peresvet, of which little is known. However, some analysts believe the system, already in operation, is intended to disrupt electronic equipment.

The new weapons prompted a response from the Pentagon which released a policy document containing a relevant line: *'Our strategy will ensure Russia understands that any use of nuclear weapons, however limited is unacceptable'*.

US Defense Secretary James Mattis said he saw nothing in the new weapons that concerned him too much: "I saw no change to Russian military capability and each of these



Russian Deputy Defence Minister for Defence and Space Industry Yuri Ivanovich Borisov

systems that he [Putin] is talking about are still years away. I do not see them changing the military balance."

His comments were not entirely shared by General John Hyten, head of US Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM). "We don't have any defence that could deny the employment of such a weapon against us." He went on to say that both Russia and China are "aggressively pursuing hypersonic capabilities." Russia's Deputy Defence Minister for Defence and Space Industry Yuri Ivanovich Borisov said the new technologies "are not a bluff... but reality." He said Kinzhal had been "thoroughly tested and was ready."

SECURING SECRETS

Whilst Mattis' comments may be well intended, an incident has occurred at two top



Iksander-M tactical missile system - one of several new editions to Russia's nuclear arsenal



General John Hyten, head of US Strategic Command - USSTRATCOM (right) and General Joseph Dunford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at Offut AFB



secret test facilities in Moscow, that appears to show at least one of America's leading spy agencies disagrees or has been charged with securing intimate details of the new weaponry. Intelligence sources in Russia claim the FSB has launched an "aggressive operation" to find a key person with "full security clearance" attached to the programmes who has reportedly made contact with the CIA or a sister organisation (presumably MI6) in order to pass secret information about Kinzhal, the torpedo and a little known hypersonic glider project codenamed Avangard or Vanguard (some refer to it as Advance Guard). This is supposedly already in production after being tested extensively at a number of secret facilities, some which are said to be underground and out of sight from overhead spy satellites. Russian specialists say Avangard

will enter service in 2020 and have the capability to defeat any current US missile defence shield. Data secured from military sources in Moscow suggests Avangard was first tested in 2004 and deployed in space by a ballistic missile. It can reportedly fly in the atmosphere at speeds upto Mach 20 and withstand temperatures of over 3,500F (2000C). President Putin said "Avangard strikes like a meteorite... a fireball."

Thomas Karako, Director of the Missile Defense Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) said: "These kinds of boost glide vehicles attack the gaps in our missile defence system... it is unfortunate we have let Russia come this far."

HUNT FOR THE MOLE

Spy investigations were launched in late July at the Central Research Institute of Machine Building (TsNIIMASH) in Korolyov and the United Rocket and Space Corporation (URSC) which are part of the Russian Space Agency Roscosmos, this organisation is involved with the building of the hypersonic missile. At the same time, FSB investigators descended on the office of Dmitry Paisov, the head of research at URSC. Journalists at one state-controlled media house were told: "The leak (loss of intelligence) came from a TsNIIMASH



Armoured Russian Army vehicle reportedly carrying the new Peresvet combat laser system

USSTRATCOM PRIORITIES

- Strategic Deterrence
- Decisive Response
- Combat Ready Force



Overview: 'Employs tailored nuclear, space, cyberspace, global strike, joint electronic warfare, missile defense, and intelligence capabilities that deter aggression, decisively responds if deterrence fails'.



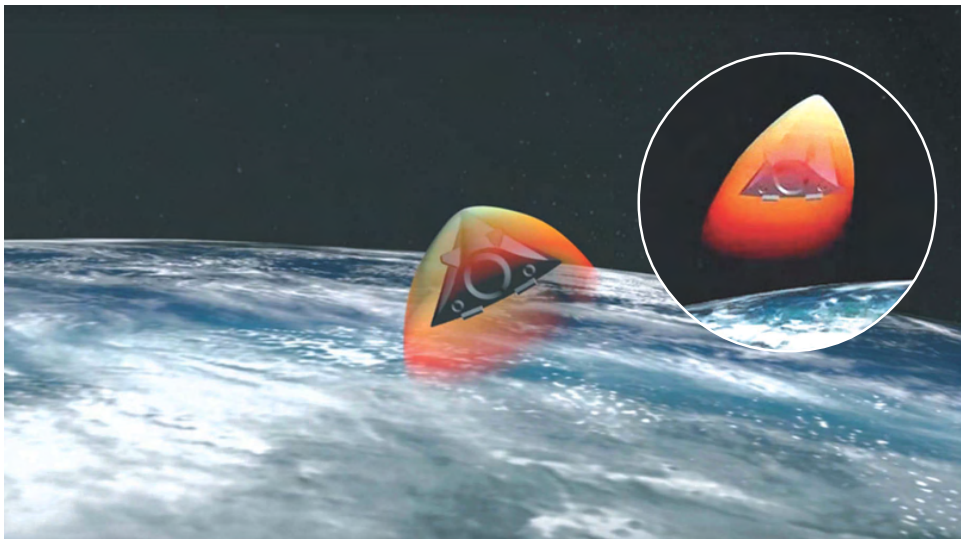
No longer under wraps - Kinzhal

employee who was in touch with Paisov. The FSB will not be soft on the perpetrator... many heads will roll and it won't be limited to people being simply dismissed."

According to prosecutors, "actions have begun involving ten persons" and charges of treason may well be brought. Media house Interfax, however, said Paisov had no personal access to classified information and had not been charged with any crimes. An investigator said he "might have known about the situation." An Interfax agency editor said Viktor Kudryavtsev, 74, a senior researcher at URSC, had been arrested for his "cooperation with Western special services." For that description read... intelligence agencies. Kudryavtsev has dismissed allegations of espionage, according to his family.

In late July, Paisov handed in an application for dismissal - his own resignation. A spokesperson said: "Yes, he will leave his post starting from August."

Similarly, an FSB contact told Eye Spy that Acting Director General of TsNIIMASH, Oleg Gorshkov is not under investigation. In 2013, FSB counter-espionage officials descended on the organisation after claims classified documents had disappeared.



Russian MOD graphic showing Avangard skirting the Earth's atmosphere



Acting Director General of TsNIIMASH - Oleg Gorshkov

Former Russian Ambassador to NATO, Dmitry Rogozin, who now heads Roscosmos and is involved with various top secret defence projects, worked with FSB counter-intelligence specialists to establish where the leaks had

occurred. Rogozin, according to Eye Spy's Russian sources, is held in high regard in Moscow and is a key intelligence figure. He famously clashed with US and British Intelligence agencies during the height of the conflict with Ukraine and was added to a 'person sanction list'. Not that this bothered the tough-talking Russian. (See sidebar)

Some intelligence watchers in Washington believe espionage reports at the plants could be an elaborate ruse in order to elevate America's "perceived interest in the new technologies." However, Eye Spy understands charges will be brought against a number of individuals.

News of the alleged security breaches involving the hypersonic programmes coincided with Russia's announcement that it is set to replace its R-36 M2 Voevoda missile (NATO reporting name SATAN) with the RS-28 (SATAN-2). The latter can carry a warhead anywhere on the planet.



Dmitry Rogozin (far right) with President Putin at Vostochny Cosmodrome

A DANGEROUS JOKER



INTEL INSIDE DMITRY ROGOZIN, 55, former Ambassador to NATO and current Director General of Roscosmos, who is helping "dismantle the Western spy ring," is a most controversial and charismatic figure.

A close associate and friend of President Putin, in 2017 he raised a few eyebrows in the Pentagon, when he supported author Ivan Mironov's view that "Russia had the right to reclaim our lost colonies," referencing the US State of Alaska. Mironov called the sale of Alaska, on 30 March 1867, for just over \$7 million, "a betrayal of Russian power status." Perhaps his views were not entirely surprising, for two years earlier he had been appointed head of Russia's Arctic Commission.

Rogozin himself was one of several people placed under executive sanctions by US President Barack Obama, following the Crimean crisis. This froze his assets in the US and banned him from entering the country. Other nations soon followed suit. Rogozin himself was unconcerned: "Russia's defence sector has many other ways of travelling the world besides tourist visas and tanks don't need visas."

In 2014, after his aircraft was barred from entering Romanian airspace, Rogozin, a prolific user of social media platforms tweeted: 'Next time I will fly on board a Tu-160 bomber'.

On 2 August 2017, he was declared 'persona non grata' by the Government of Moldova - a designation usually adopted by international governments to eject persons suspected of espionage or not welcome. Asked to clarify why it was used, a Moldovan Foreign Ministry official said the decision had been taken because he had made "unfriendly, defaming and offending comments about Moldova and its people." Rogozin duly responded by declaring the country was being run by a Mafia group.



Venezuelan President
Nicolas Maduro

MUAV SKY ASSASSINS

Audacious MUAV Assassination Attempt on Venezuelan President

Two Miniature Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (MUAVs) carrying explosives were used to target Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on 4 August, in an apparent assassination attempt. The attack was witnessed live on television during a military parade in the capital Caracas to mark the 81st anniversary of the country's National Guard.

Video footage of the grandstand showed the president and other leaders shaken by a blast, followed by hundreds of soldiers on parade running for cover. At this point there was no sign of the attack method or what had caused the loud explosion. Controversy then ensued, with some commentators saying the blast was the result of a gas leak. However, footage

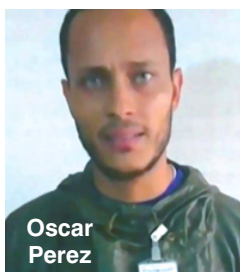


Julio Andre Borges

appeared later showing two MUAVs flying above the parade and one exploding. Security officials said one of the devices struck an apartment block starting a fire - hence suggestions of a gas leak. The second was supposedly brought down after electronic counter-measures were deployed, moving the device away from the president and causing it to explode. Seven people in total were injured. Maduro said he had been protected by a "shield of love... I'm sure I'm sure I will live for many more years."

Following the incident, Interior Minister Nestor Reverol said two "drones carrying a kilogram (2.2lbs) of C4 explosive were used in the attack."

A group calling itself 'Soldiers in T-shirts' claimed responsibility through social media. They are reportedly associated with a former police captain, Oscar Perez who led an opposition paramilitary force. He was shot dead by



Oscar Perez



One of the MUAVs caught on camera seconds before it exploded

government forces in January 2018 - despite trying to surrender to troops.

BLAME GAME

Mr Maduro accused neighbouring Colombia and elements within the United States of instigating "a right-wing plot" to kill him. He claimed that Julio Andre Borges, an exiled opposition leader who he described as a "crazy psychopathic adversary," and a legal executive, Juan Requesens, Deputy of the Venezuelan National Assembly, collaborated with supposed CIA contact men in Florida and Colombia who financed the operation. Borges immediately dismissed the accusation and questioned if the president himself was not behind the incident, this to bolster his standing in the country. "It was a staged farce," said



Juan Requesens



A Venezuelan soldier injured in the MUAV attack in Caracas

© XINHUA NEWS AGENCY



The head of SEBIN, Gustavo Gonzalez Lopez, was one of seven officials to receive targeted sanctions by former US President Barack Obama for alleged human rights' breaches. Other countries have since followed suit, including Canada and Switzerland.

Borges, calling Maduro a "dictator." The Colombian Government also dismissed the allegation, as did US National Security Adviser John Bolton. He



Logo of SEBIN

agreed with Borges saying, "the incident could be a pretext set up by the regime itself." Despite this, Bolton added: "If the government of Venezuela has hard evidence that they want to present to us that would show a potential violation by US criminals, we'll take a serious look at it."

Within hours, officers from Venezuela's Bolivarian Intelligence Service (SEBIN), raided several addresses and arrested six people for their involvement in the attack. Amongst those detained was Requesens and his sister Rafaela. She was later released. All of the individuals detained were described as "terrorists and assassins," by SEBIN officials.

Both Borges and Requesens are members of the opposition Primero Justicia (Justice First) Party. They are amongst many senior opposition figures who believe Maduro, "rigged the election in May winning another six years in office." Shortly before the MUAV incident, Requesens gave a speech in which

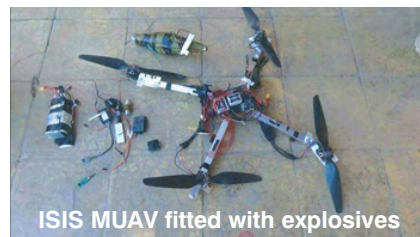


Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro looks skywards



A GROWING MENACE

Eye Spy was informed several years ago that senior intelligence and military officials consider adapted MUAVs a growing menace. Reconfigured to carry explosives, MUAVs have been used by terrorists on a number of occasions in the troubled theatres of Iraq and Syria. Similarly, agencies such as the US Secret Service regularly plan countermeasures in the event of an attack on a dignitary, or even the president himself. They are also a primary concern at large gatherings where leading politicians are set to appear. In the criminal world, some case files exist showing they have been used to deliver drugs, money, cell phones and even small arms. However, developing tools, both physical and electronic to counter weaponised MUAVs is now a priority, and a whole range of products are in service or under development. A former New Scotland Yard security officer told Eye Spy: "Sooner or later one of these drones will find its tar-



ISIS MUAV fitted with explosives

get. They are difficult to see and can be controlled by operators out of sight. This makes them an authentic and problematic weapon if used in such a way."

Oleg Vornik, CEO for security firm DroneShield, a company that supplies countermeasures for unmanned aerial systems said of the Venezuelan incident: "The history of commercial drone incidents involving heads of state goes back to September 2013 when the German Chancellor Angela Merkel's public appearance was disrupted by a drone, which was apparently a publicity stunt by a competing political party.



French President Emmanuel Macron with a Tactical DroneGun

"The apparent drone assassination attempt on Venezuelan President Maduro is the first known drone attack on a head of state. An attempted drone assassination of a sitting sovereign leader demonstrates that, sadly, the era of drone terrorism has well and truly arrived," Vornik said. "Technological progress cannot be reversed, and going forward, the security of any asset whose perimeter is protected two-dimensionally on the ground will need to be also protected in the third dimension - from attacks from the air," Vornik added.

he said: "We are going to get Nicolas Maduro to leave in order to get out of this tragedy." He was referring to the political and economic state of Venezuela. Inflation, for example, has risen a staggering 13,000 per cent this year alone.

In 2017, Western intelligence sources say SEBIN and other security units killed more than 160 anti-government protesters, and imprisoned a further 250. Many more politicians have fled the country fearful of retribution. However, these figures are dwarfed

by the movement of ordinary Venezuelans: an astonishing two million people have emigrated since 2015. A further 600,000 have moved to Colombia, and Brazil has declared a state of emergency because so many Venezuelans have crossed its borders.

Intelligence sources say Maduro is backed by Cuban Intelligence and protected by senior Army generals. "He survived a viable plot in May that SEBIN, assisted by his Cuba protectors, managed to derail," according to Eye Spy sources in Washington.



Big, small, modern and ancient, bridges have an enduring place in spylore and the world of intelligence

Few people in the business of espionage have not heard or come across references to the most famous 'spy bridge' in the world - the Glienicke Bridge which crosses the River Havel - once a dividing point of East and West Germany. It was of course used as an exchange point for spies in the Cold War and has been immortalised in both

books and motion pictures such as *Bridge of Spies* (2015), featuring Tom Hanks.

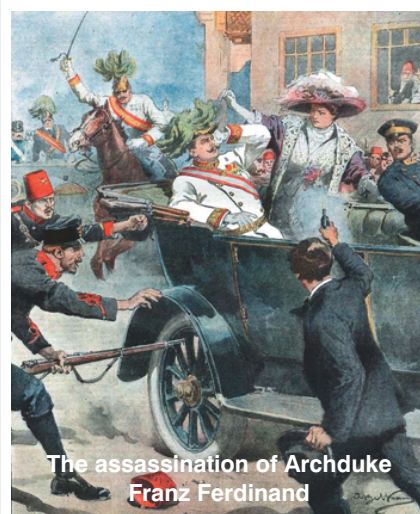
However, other structures, including a few not nearly as splendid as the Glienicke, have found their way into historical writings. Some involve espionage case files, while others have been witness to more sinister and dramatic happenings.

FUSE PAPER

There are numerous reasons expounded by historians regarding how World War One actually began. However, most agree an incident in Sarajevo (former Yugoslavia now Bosnia and Herzegovina) on 28 June 1914, lit the torch paper of the Great War - the assassination of



The Glienicke Bridge flying the flags of West Germany and USSR during filming of *Bridge of Spies*



The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand

Latin Bridge, Sarajevo



Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne.

He was killed by several assassins of a secret society known as the Black Hand who just hours earlier had failed to kill Ferdinand by use of explosives. They were more successful when the Archduke's motorcade passed close to the Latin Bridge which crosses the River Miljacko. One member of the Black Hand, Gavrillo Princip, shot him dead along with his wife at close range. Thereafter Austria and Hungary, backed by Germany, issued an ultimatum to the Kingdom of Serbia (who were supported by Russia), which in the main was rejected. War was declared and led to various conflicts, ultimately leading to the Great War itself.

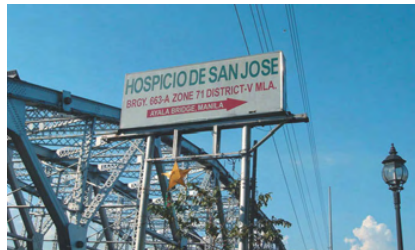
And for the record, the bridge was actually renamed 'Princip' until around 1990 - the beginning of the break-up of Yugoslavia into the states and nations which we see today.

THE MANILA SANCTION

Several prominent bridges can be found in the Philippines capital of Manila. One, according to intelligence sources was used in an audacious assassination plot to kill President Bill Clinton when he visited the country in 1996 to attend an economic trade forum. The attack, claim a number of researchers, had been planned by



President Bill Clinton



none other than an al-Qaida commander in Afghanistan called Osama bin-Laden. However, several communications (telephone calls) between the terrorist plotters were intercepted and alerted US intelligence officials; words such as 'bridge' and 'wedding' were deemed coded speak for target and location - this as the president began making his way to a meeting.

Quickly his motorcade was rerouted and he arrived safely at his destination. Counter-terrorist police did discover explosives under a bridge which Clinton's convoy would have used. Media reports at the time said nothing of the link between the bomb find and Clinton, and most said it was the work of local terrorists. However, years later, the former head of the US Secret Service allegedly revealed the operation and just how close al-Qaida came to killing the President of the United States.

Ayala Bridge, Manila



Bill Clinton and the US Secret Service have neither confirmed or denied the plot. But ironically, just a few years later and prior to 9/11, Clinton had an opportunity to authorise a CIA strike against a well known al-Qaida man who Langley had tracked - that person was of course Osama bin-Laden. Clinton chose not to green light the kill operation.

As for the actual bridge in question, Eye Spy examined his busy itinerary in archive papers held at the Clinton Digital Library and believe to reach his destination in Central Manila from his location, would have meant his motorcade crossing the Ayala Bridge. Other bombs were discovered at two locations, including a former US military base where Clinton was to meet leaders of 17 countries.

ICONIC TARGETS

For thousands of years, and especially in times of conflict, structures crossing water were militarily important, some obviously more vital than others. During numerous wars, bridges have been attacked and defended in equal measure. The 1974 book - *A Bridge Too Far* - which focuses on the WWII operation codenamed Market Garden, encapsulates only too well the strategic importance of bridges in warfare. In this case Allied forces attempted to capture bridges in German-occupied Holland, including Nijmegen Bridge (below).





Brooklyn Bridge, New York City

Hence few were surprised when terrorists recognised their national, monetary and psychological value - none more so than those aligned to al-Qaida.

Following 9/11, all manner of operations targeting famous bridges were discussed by al-Qaida's hierarchy in Afghanistan, including those bridges which resonate splendour and importance. In 2003, CIA undercover agents secured various documents, including a training manual containing a diagram of what appeared to be the Forth Bridge in Scotland. It wasn't long before US and British intelligence analysts focussed on communications by the terror group discussing other bridge targets, and one in particular was mentioned on several occasions - the iconic Brooklyn Bridge in New York.

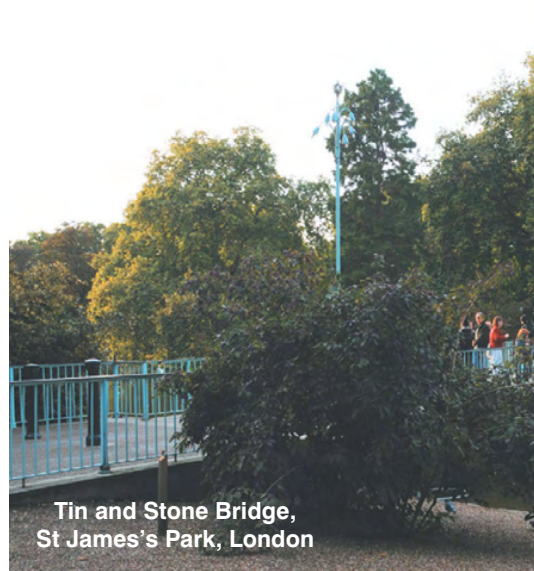
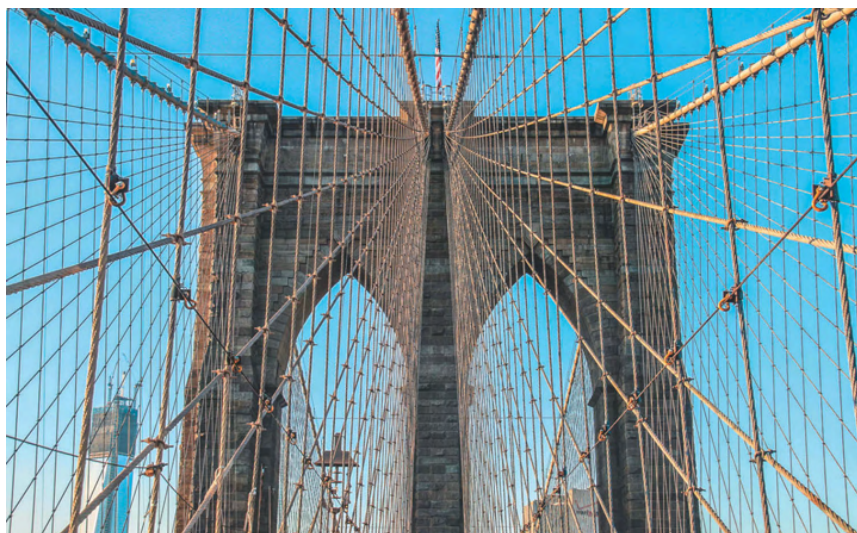
Arrests of US-based al-Qaida terrorists followed, and various scenarios of how to bring down the bridge were imparted. A plot to use a truck bomb was discussed, but it was only after the arrest of senior al-Qaida

commander Khalid Shaikh Mohammed in Rawalpindi, did a more audacious attack line emerge. He told his interrogators that one option was to sever support cables on the bridge - in the belief that this would weaken the structure causing other components to fail.

Since then, many bridge attacks have been planned by ISIS. In 2017, ISIS operative Sayfullo Saipov, 29, told the FBI he intended to use a vehicle to kill people on Halloween using the Brooklyn Bridge's popular public walk and bikeway. In the end, he rented a truck and killed eight people in Lower Manhattan.



Sayfullo Saipov



Tin and Stone Bridge,
St James's Park, London

BRIDGE OF SPIRES

Few bridges or water walkways can rival the remarkable number of spies who have passed over its frame as that of the Tin and Stone Bridge in St James's Park, London. With views of the impressive spires and towers of government buildings in Whitehall and Buckingham Palace, for years trainee officers in Britain's intelligence services were taken here and 'schooled' and 'educated' on the importance of becoming a spy for the government... and of course 'defence of the realm'.

The location was also an important and convenient meeting point for case officers and agents. With numerous paths and benches, the wide open areas were seen as ideal for communicating and discussing projects without the fear of listeners or compromise. Similarly, the location could be surveilled by counter-surveillance officers, if suspected adversaries were present. Many famous spy authors and former intelligence officers have referenced the location, including Peter Wright of *Spycatcher* fame.

And for the record, Eye Spy was reliably informed the bridge is still visited and used by those in the 'trade' - for all of the same reasons as their predecessors.



Eye Spy Editor Mark Birdsall
discusses the history of the Tin and
Stone Bridge with BBC Security
Correspondent Gordon Corera



TWO EXITS

In the world of intelligence and surveillance, a bridge, alley or any route dictated by just an entry and exit point is regarded as vulnerable. For assassins, however, such features, including natural ones, are ideal in that they provide little opportunities of escape for the chosen target.

Perhaps the most famous case involving a bridge, assassin and target, happened in 1978; the murder of Bulgarian dissident and MI6 contact man Georgi Markov. As he waited for a bus on Waterloo Bridge in London to take him to his place of work at the BBC, a suited attacker prodded him with an umbrella which released a ricin-tipped pellet into his leg. Markov died shortly thereafter. His KGB-contracted assassin codenamed Picadilly, who was named by the *London Times* as 'prime suspect Francesco Gullino' - was never caught or charged.

In more recent times, the most infamous incident involving a bridge assassin took place



Waterloo Bridge, London.
Inset: Georgi Markov



Monument to Georgi Markov
in Sofia, Bulgaria

on the Bolshoy Moskvoretsky Bridge, Moscow, 27 February 2015. Here outspoken Kremlin critic and political Putin opponent Boris Nemtsov was shot several times in the back as he neared Red Square. Five Chechen nationals are being held for his murder, and at least one, according to intelligence sources, has links to Russian Intelligence.



Boris Nemtsov

It was also on this bridge, that GRU Colonel Oleg Penkovsky, after numerous unsuccessful attempts to offer his services to the United States, "threw himself into the arms of two American tourists" in August 1960.

On his person were all sorts of Soviet intelligence files, these he hoped would be sufficient to prove he could become a useful asset. It was to no avail, thus he tried to make



Bolshoy Moskvoretsky
Bridge, Moscow

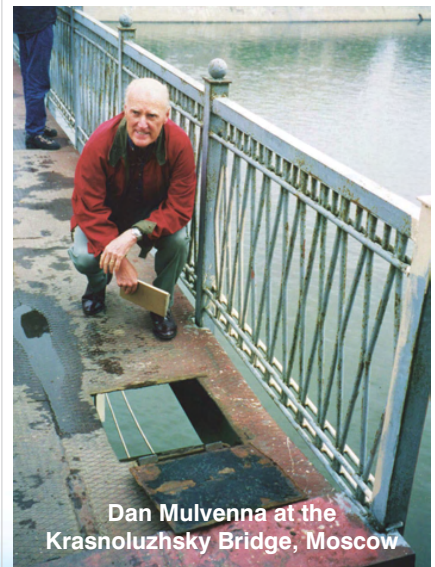


GRU Colonel and CIA spy
Oleg Penkovsky

contact with British and American delegations, but he was to be initially disappointed. Of course, the CIA and MI6 eventually recognised his value, but he was outed as a spy and executed in Russia in 1963.

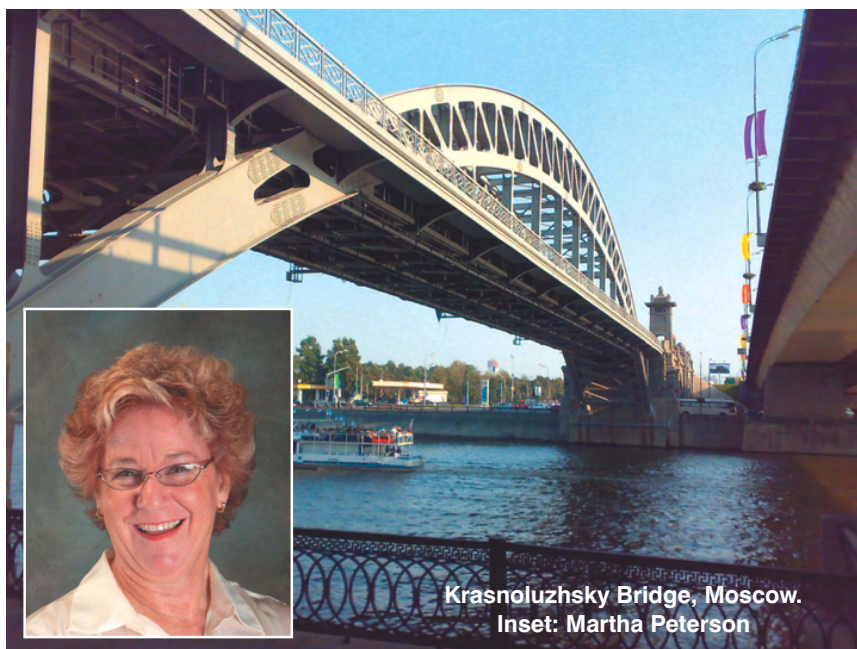
DEAD DROPS

In Eye Spy 103, retired counter-espionage officer of the Security Service of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and intelligence historian, Dan Mulvenna, wrote a fascinating feature about the extraordinary use of a dead drop by CIA operatives on the Krasnoluzhsky Bridge which crosses Moscow River in the



Dan Mulvenna at the
Krasnoluzhsky Bridge, Moscow

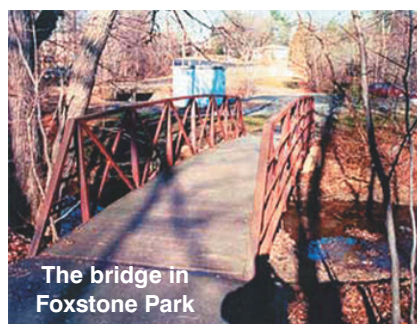
© DAN MULVENNA



Krasnoluzhsky Bridge, Moscow.
Inset: Martha Peterson

centre of the city. The daring operation, which involved all manner of spy tradecraft led to the detention of CIA officer Martha Peterson in July 1977.

And whilst busy streets and lighted areas seem to pose no problems for those engaging in the spy industry, most agents still choose to use secluded and quite areas for exchanging materials. One such spy was FBI counter-intelligence agent Robert Hanssen, codename

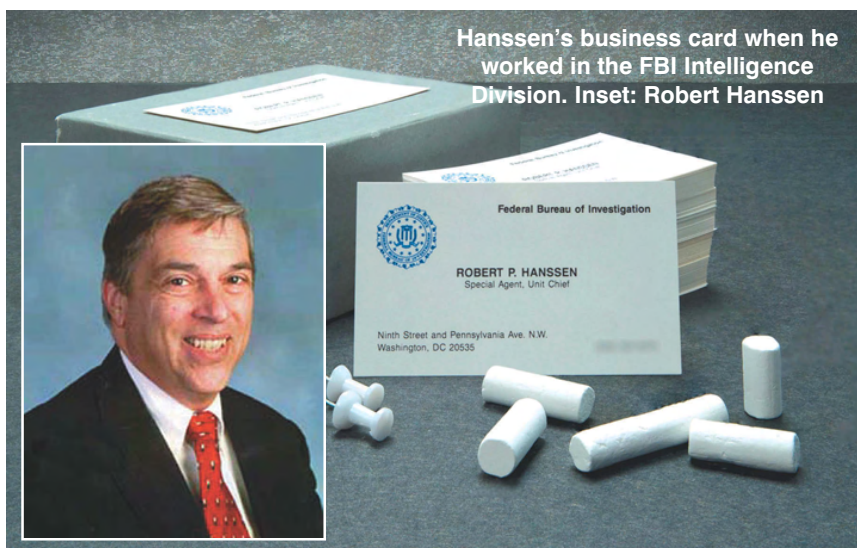


The bridge in
Foxstone Park

Ramon, who passed all manner of secrets to his Russian SVR handlers for the best part of two decades between 1979 until his arrest in 2001.

Hanssen's treachery has been well documented, so too the areas where he operated, especially Foxstone Park, Virginia, near his Vienna home. He regularly crossed the small wooden bridge in the park which along with other nearby sites, he used as dead drops to

Hanssen's business card when he worked in the FBI Intelligence Division. Inset: Robert Hanssen



leave materials, pick up instructions and cash. Ironically, his last ever Russia-bound package was attached to the underside of the bridge in February 2001, (a dead drop site codenamed Ellis) and remained uncollected. This would be his last act.

On 18 February Hanssen drove to the park and as usual, affixed a white strip of tape onto the Foxstone Park sign. This was the signal which he and his handler used to confirm an item was ready to be picked up. Watching FBI agents, who had become increasingly suspicious of their colleague's behaviour, decided it was time to act. When arrested, Hanssen reportedly asked, "what took you so long?"

Today, the little bridge is a popular location visited by spy aficionados and intelligence people alike.

PETROV'S BRIDGE

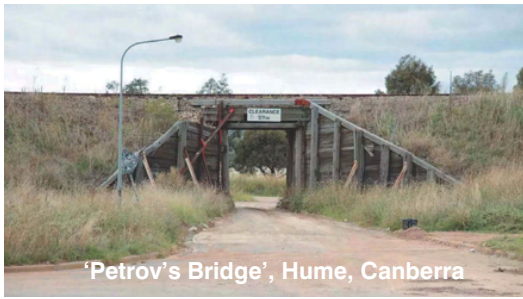
A wooden railway bridge forever linked with Australian Intelligence and its spy wars with the KGB was sadly demolished earlier this year. In Hume, Canberra, an underpass used by KGB double-agent Vladimir Petrov to pass Soviet secrets to the West, was deemed "structurally insecure" by council officials, oblivious it seems to the historical importance of the location.

In the early 1950s, Petrov, who worked at the Soviet Embassy in the city, often drove to the remote spot to meet his ASIO (Australian Secret Intelligence Organisation) handler. On other occasions he would leave secret documents behind its wooden panelling.

As a child, one local in the person of Anne Forest recalled: "We would occasionally see a dark-coloured car with tinted windows parked under the bridge and my father would say 'don't look.'" She believes the vehicle belonged to either Petrov or his ASIO contact.



Vladimir and Evdokia Petrov following his defection



'Petrov's Bridge', Hume, Canberra

In 1954 Petrov defected and together with his wife became Australian citizens. He also provided information on the whereabouts of two British traitors - Guy Burgess and Donald McLean.

As for the bridge, many local and spy aficionados referred to it as 'Petrov's Bridge'.

GOD'S BANKER

Early on the morning of 17 June 1982, a London postman discovered the body of a man hanging from scaffolding under Blackfriars Bridge in London. He was soon identified as Roberto Calvi, a 62-year-old man and chairman of Banco Ambrosiano - in which the Vatican held a significant stake. Dubbed 'God's Banker' by the media, his death was immediately treated as suspicious and MI5 joined the investigation.

Calvi was a well known figure in intelligence circles, and had connections to all manner of shadowy outfits, including a masonic lodge



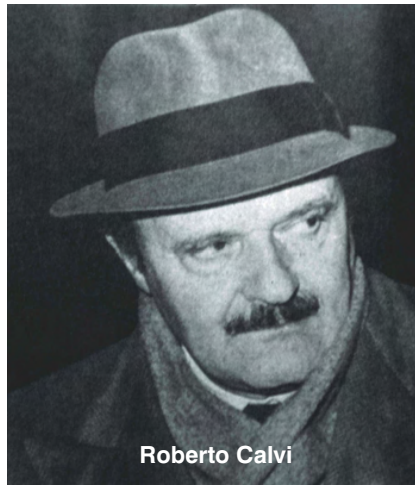
Blackfriars Bridge, London



Calvi was found hanging from a support strut

known as P2 or Propaganda Due. When his bank started to run into trouble, this concerned the Mafia, which like the Vatican had huge sums of monies invested in the the company. In 1981 he was given a four-year prison term in Italy for illegal foreign currency deals. However, with an appeal pending, Calvi fled Italy on 10 June 1982 and using a disguise and a bogus passport, he flew into Gatwick Airport, London, on a private aeroplane.

At the time, Britain was in military and political dispute with Argentina over the Falkland Islands. MI5 and MI6 both were watching



Roberto Calvi

carefully various arms and front companies attached to Buenos Aires. One was the Argentine Purchasing Commission and a contract involving ten warships destined for the Argentine Navy.

Calvi's bank was involved in part with financing the deal, and with an arrangement to purchase Exocet missiles from neighbouring France via third parties. British Intelligence and Ministry of Defence officials warned the Exocet represented the biggest threat to UK forces in and around the Falklands, especially warships.

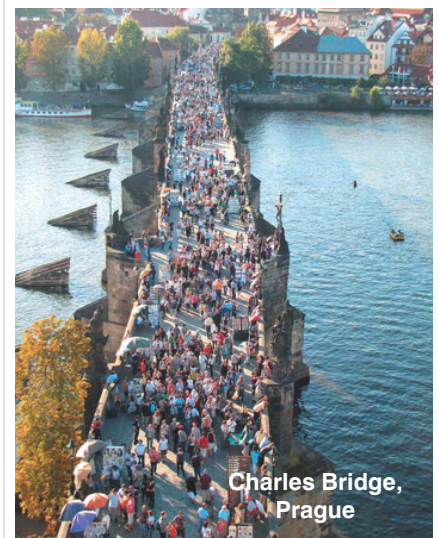
As for his death, investigators discovered Calvi was killed 300 yards away and his body carefully positioned to make his demise look like suicide. "A very professional job," one security officer said.

The reasons why he could have been targeted by multiple opponents are numerous, but the culprits have never been brought to book.

TRADECRAFT CROSSING

Bridges without vehicles attract people, and this is particularly true if the structure is impressive and historically important. And as history has proven, they are useful areas where all manner of tradecraft can be performed. During the later years of the Cold War, the Charles Bridge in Prague was one such location where American, British and other NATO aligned countries used agents under diplomatic cover to meet with intelligence contacts 'friends' and spies.

By the end of the 1970s, all traffic had been stopped from crossing the bridge and a serene 2000ft long walkway became a popular



Charles Bridge, Prague

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Charles Bridge,
Prague

attraction used by thousands of people every day. This was ideal cover for agent contact - discussing operations and missions - all the while enjoying the splendid views. Or, a simple signal could be given. Similarly, the bridge, according to former intelligence people and writers, was also ideal for performing another tradecraft skill - a split-second 'brush-pass' where an item could be covertly received or delivered.

Another person who allegedly crossed the bridge in the early months of 2001, was an infamous character who would engage in an act that killed almost 3,000 people - 9/11 al-Qaida cell hijacker Mohammed Atta. Following the attack on the eastern seaboard of the United States, intelligence analysts embarked on an operation to identify all the operatives, their supporters, financiers and controllers. There was also an effort to find a state sponsor. Iraq and Saddam Hussein became prime suspects.

Czech Intelligence had reportedly submitted a report to the CIA that Atta had been in the city and met with Iraqi diplomats. Known in spylore as the 'Prague Connection', intelligence watchers suspect the story is flawed. However, according to Eye Spy sources in the



Mohammed Atta



United States, an eye witness account of Atta crossing the bridge are contained in highly classified papers.

BRIDGE MENACE

In London, especially in the heart of Westminster, several famous bridges span the River Thames. And in the past century many can boast spy encounters and links to the buildings closeby which support intelligence and government offices. This, sadly, has not gone unnoticed by those intent on terrorist activities. On 3 June last year, three ISIS supporters used a vehicle to run over pedestrians on London Bridge. They then carried out other killings in the Borough Market district. In total eight people died.

The attack followed a similar attempt at mass murder by another ISIS follower three months earlier on Westminster Bridge. In this case, the terrorist struck 50 people with his vehicle killing five. Since these attacks, New Scotland Yard Counter Terrorism Command has introduced new security measures on London's prominent bridges.



Westminster Bridge, London



Whirlpool Rapids Bridge - on the US-Canada border



ISIS still showing four of its followers in front of the Golden Gate Bridge

Bridges in North America remain a magnet for terrorists. In 2013, al-Qaida supporters plotted to detonate explosives on the famous Whirlpool Rapids Bridge which carries trains from the Canada-US border area north of New York. The primary objective was to derail a train as it passed over the bridge - causing it to fall into the Niagara River. The plan, thwarted by Canadian and US security agencies, was deemed viable.



In faraway California, the impressive Golden Gate Bridge has for the last two decades attracted the attention of the terrorist community. Singled out as an early target for al-Qaida, the bridge has been referenced on a number of occasions by followers of ISIS. One recent video clip, created by a supporter using a cell phone, has been posted on-line. A still photograph of the bridge was used as a backdrop showing four armed ISIS operatives. In the movie clip, a supposed terrorist calling himself Abu Ismail al-Amriki asks that the bridge be attacked. He also references the Orlando shooting.

IS US PRESIDENT CREATING
A PRECEDENT?

INTELLIGENCE GAMES

SECURITY CLEARANCE CONUNDRUM



HAYDEN TS/SCI



CLAPPER TS/SCI



BRENNAN TS/SCI



RICE TS/SCI



COMEY TS/SCI



MCCABE TS/SCI



"The president is exploring the mechanisms to remove security clearances because they've publicised and, in some cases, monetised their public service..."

**White House Press Secretary
Sarah Huckabee Sanders**

The fall out between former senior intelligence chiefs and the White House shows no sign of abating. Now President Trump has revoked the security clearance (SC) of John Brennan (CIA). Also in his sights are several other high-profile figures who worked in the higher echelons of American Intelligence, including, James Comey (FBI), Michael Hayden (NSA/CIA), James Clapper (ODNI), Susan Rice (National Security Advisor) and Andrew McCabe (FBI).

White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders had warned all could be stripped of this important intelligence decree, which allows ongoing access to classified briefings and materials. Similarly, it's not unusual for serving intelligence officials to request input, guidance and advice from such experienced individuals. And also, having such a quality 'signature' allows individuals to seek posts at major contracting companies etc. If SC is revoked, this will undoubtedly impact on an individual's ability to seek work, though in the case of the people referenced by Sanders, this seems highly unlikely.

Sanders said officials believe they have "politicised their public service," by signing contracts and agreements with media houses, and agreeing to literary deals. "The president is exploring the mechanisms to remove security clearances because they've publicised and, in some cases, monetised their public service."

Interestingly, Eye Spy was informed that McCabe, who was dismissed in March 2018,

**High Stakes in Washington:
White House Takes Former
Intelligence People to Task**



2011. Vice President Joe Biden. To his right, former Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) James Clapper, and Deputy National Security Advisor John Brennan, who would become Director CIA in 2013. Both Clapper and Brennan have been caught up in the ongoing war of words with the White House

and Comey, reportedly no longer hold SC, a fact which Sanders seemed oblivious to.

THE RUSSIAN THREAD

The move is definitely linked to continued criticism of Trump and the Russia liaison saga by departed intelligence people. Former D/CIA Brennan, who called the move "an attempt to suppress freedom of speech and punish critics," now acts as senior national security

and intelligence analyst for US media houses NBC News and MSNBC. He had earlier called the president's actions and comments, "treasonous." And his former colleague, Acting D/CIA John McLaughlin has now joined the debate claiming the "president had sided with the enemy." It April 2018, Comey's book *A Higher Loyalty: Truth, Lies and Leadership* (Macmillan Publishing) contained details of his relationship with Trump, and his sacking in May 2017. Comey, a long-time supporter of

RED SCARE AND SUSPICION WHEN FEAR CAUSES A REACTION



Jeffrey H. Smith, (left) former General Counsel for the CIA, said the move "is intended to punish and intimidate his critics [Trump's] and is shameful." Smith

drew comparisons of today's SC affair to the 1950s 'Red Scare', when the US Government acted with some force against the threat of Communism.

Smith referenced one person who got caught up in the saga - J. Robert Oppenheimer (right) who helped develop the atomic bomb. He had his security clearance withdrawn because intelligence figures believed he was "too close" to some Communists.



the Republican Party of which Trump leads, recently declared himself non-aligned and said that people should vote for the opposition party (Democrats). And more recently, James Clapper's book - *Facts and Fears: Hard Truth From a Life in Intelligence* and Michael Hayden's *The Assault on Intelligence: American National Security in an Age of Lies*, have hit the book stores. These events, comments and much more, were probably the trigger for the recent security clearance move.

Sanders insisted that the comments from the individuals were "baseless," especially those criticising the president for "improper contact and collusion with Russian officials." President Trump does have some support; ➤

Revoking a government worker's security clearance, be they in the armed forces, intelligence services or general government office, would impact on that individual's ability to find work in some external theatres



TOP SECRET

SECURITY CLEARANCE

TS/SCI

A GENERAL OVERVIEW

SELLING OF SECRETS A CONSIDERATION

Some SC certificates allow access to SCI (Sensitive Compartmented Information) and TS (Top Secret) materials. Eligibility is often determined by a Single Scope Background Investigation (SSBI). This involves in-depth and various background checks and also interviews with associates, former employers and even spouses could be investigated or questioned. Once a TS/SCI is agreed, an individual is asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement document. SC can be re-examined at any stage of a career posting or job and an application raised to withdraw the standing.

The Government can revoke Security Clearance from a serving or former employee for various reasons. Most common are personal conduct (which seems the platform for White House moves against the named intelligence people); lying about past employment or a criminal record, and in respect of the intelligence and security industry, being vulnerable to foreign influence. All could be affected by financial status.

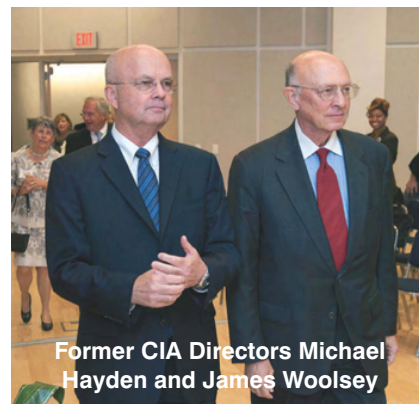
Money is therefore a key consideration when issuing security clearance, and it is

not unusual for an employer to analyse a person's financial status. Similarly, most applicants or employees working in sensitive areas will undergo a Personal Security Investigation (PSI). In 2015, the US Department of Defense used 'financial consideration' to reject the application for security clearance from hundreds of people.

STATEMENT OF REASON

In the intelligence, security and government contracting industries, officials are always fearful individuals with debt could opt to sell secrets to a third party (espionage) or attempt to secure monies in other illegal ways, turning to crime, for example.

Work methodology and a penchant for discussing classified material (conversation) with external third parties and a general lack of willingness to conform to security methods are other reasons why SC might be withdrawn. When the US Government applies to remove security clearance from an individual, a document called a Statement of Reason (SOR) is issued. A person who receives such a notice can appeal.



Former CIA Directors Michael Hayden and James Woolsey

several intelligence officials believe that political commentary and security happenings should not be discussed by former intelligence officers.

However, if SC is stripped, it is unlikely to stop any of the aforementioned speaking out. Brennan has already warned he won't "relent," and added: "My principles are worth far more than clearances." Former NSA and CIA Director Michael Hayden, who holds an honorary doctorate from the Institute of World Politics in Washington DC, on learning of the move, said: "I don't go back for classified meetings. And it won't have any effect on what I say or write."

However, intelligence analysts note that in general, all the major US intelligence services believe Russia did interfere with American politics, in particular the 2016 US General Election. And it is this topic which has inflamed the situation, resulting in the government-sponsored probe led by Robert Mueller, the former Director of the FBI who is acting as special counsel.

Eye Spy sources say removing SC from so many senior intelligence people in a collective manner would be unprecedented and damage further the trust between the White House and serving personnel in the US Intelligence Community.

REPORTS & PUBLICATIONS

WASHINGTON: Recently released data from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), reveals that around 4.1 million Americans have Security Clearances, of which 1.3 million hold Top Secret Clearances. It's not known how many holders work in government offices or external civilian contracting companies. In 2016, an ODNI report revealed that security clearance eligibility fell by 4%.



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THAT I WILL SUPPORT AND DEFEND
THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES
AGAINST ALL ENEMIES

SPIES & DECEPTION

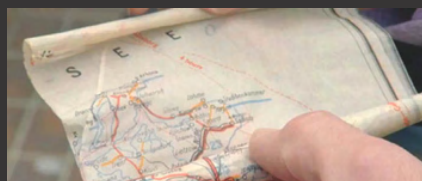
CAMERAS, PENCILS, VEHICLES AND ESPIONAGE

Eye Spy examines some interesting 'spy' artefacts making international news headlines and lots of money...

CHARLES FRASER-SMITH

A very rare spy pencil created by legendary MI6 gadgetry man Charles Fraser-Smith in 1942, was brought to the attention of experts on the BBC Antiques Roadshow programme. The pencil was made by the Cumberland Pencil Factory for RAF Lancaster Bomber pilots in their efforts to help prisoners-of-war escape German camps and valued at £400. Dawn Walker, manager of the Derwent Pencil Museum, was shocked to see the object on the television. "We knew how special these pencils were, but we never expected to see one of them on the Antiques Roadshow. It's not known how many are left in the world, due to the fact they were carried in one of the UK's most recognisable aircraft during World War Two. I'm actually thrilled that there is another pencil in circulation."

The Derwent Pencil Museum has four 1942 originals donated by surviving relatives of



Fraser-Smith on show, including one containing a 70-year-old map of Germany.



Historical books and some intelligence watchers state Charles Fraser-Smith worked at the direction of MI6 in Minimax House. However, this hardly tells the whole story, nor

Former MI6 headquarters at Broadway - home to the short-lived front company - Minimax



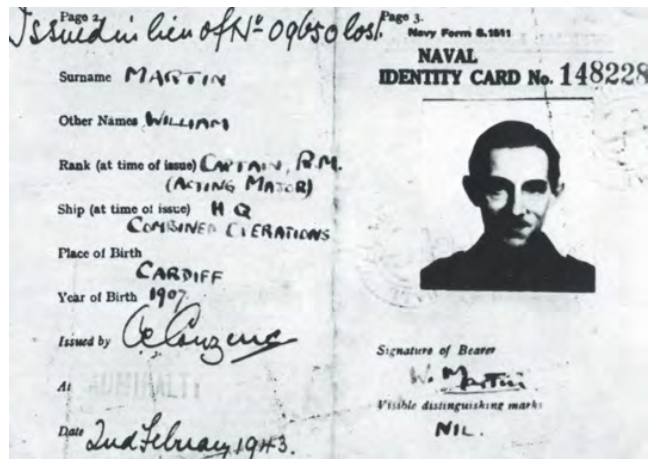
Charles Fraser-Smith

is it entirely accurate. In 1926, MI6 relocated its headquarters to Broadway Buildings, 54 Broadway close to St James's Park Tube Station. In an attempt to conceal its activities, MI6 Chief Hugh Sinclair approved the mounting of a plaque on the main front entrance which read: 'Minimax Fire Extinguisher Company'. London cab drivers, initially puzzled by the activity at the impressive building, were far from convinced this was all due to business at a fire extinguisher company; they soon learned the truth. One morning Sinclair looked out of his office onto the street to see a large chalked message left by the drivers - 'This way to the British Secret Service Office'. The Chief immediately gave instructions that the Minimax sign be removed!

Fraser-Smith's association with the intelligence world began in 1939, when he gave a sermon at the Open Brethren Evangelical Church in Leeds. Amongst the congregation were two officials from the Ministry of Supply. Impressed by his stories of creative invention and tales of adventure as a missionary in North Africa, they offered him a "funny job in London." He duly accepted and soon began



Intelligence officials and those attached to Mincemeat met in this London building to discuss the type of corpse needed for the operation



Major Martin's bogus, but utterly convincing identity card recovered by the Nazis

ROYAL NAVY
The Board of Admiralty regrets to announce the following casualties which have been sustained in meeting the general hazards of war. Next-of-kin have been notified:—

OFFICERS
KILLED
A/Capt. Sir T. L. Bevor, Bt., R.N.; T/Lt. D. A. Burgess, R.N.V.R.; Lt. J. L. Fraser, R.N.V.R.; Lt. P. S. Gould, D.S.C., R.N.; T/Sub-Lt. (A) J. H. Hodson, R.N.V.R.; T/Sub-Lt. (A) K. R. Jell, R.N.V.R.; Rear-Admiral P. J. Mack, D.S.O.; T/Lt. (A) G. Munroe, R.N.V.R.; T/Lt. (A) G. Raynor, R.N.V.R.; T/Sub-Lt. J. N. Wishart, R.N.V.R.
ROYAL MARINES—T/Capt. (A/Major) W. Martin.

DIED FROM WOUNDS OR INJURIES
T/Sub-Lt. (A) J. Hall, R.N.V.R.; T/Lt. A. G. D. Heyburne, R.N.V.R.



Ewan Montagu

The London Times announce Major Martin's death - 4 June 1943

working on all manner of secret designs which would be used by field agents and escapees alike. These included miniature cameras concealed in cigarette lighters; shaving brushes containing camera film; a hair brush with a secret compartment that contained maps and cutting objects; pens with tiny compasses inside and other items used to carry documents etc. One rather fearsome invention was a pair of steel shoelaces, which could be used as garottes.



Glyndwr Michael's corpse is readied for Operation Mincemeat

OPERATION MINCEMEAT

The inventor also played a pivotal role in the famous 1943 WWII Operation Mincemeat. Headed by Ewen Montagu, this was intended to mislead Germany in respect of where Allied forces would invade southern Europe. Berlin believed the force would attack Sicily, but the deception, using a civilian corpse dressed as a dead trooper and carrying 'invasion plans' worked brilliantly.

Contained in an air-tight trunk, the body was deposited off the Spanish coast by the submarine HMS Seraph. Inside a briefcase attached to his hand were the false invasion plans from the Admiralty. Also on his person - all manner of convincing papers, personal receipts and even a love letter. The fictitious Acting Major William Martin (real name Glyndwr Michael - a homeless street man) was duly found on a Spanish beach and the papers recovered by German Intelligence, indicated the target was Greece and Sardinia - not Sicily. This confused the Nazis resulting in thousands of troops being relocated.

It was Fraser-Smith who had been tasked with designing the trunk (6ft long and 3ft wide), to carry the corpse and deadweight of 200lb that would be preserved in dry ice. When the dry ice evaporated, it filled the canister with

carbon dioxide and drove out any oxygen, thus preserving the body without refrigeration. Operation Mincemeat was the basis of the book and film *The Man Who Never Was*.

Fraser-Smith, who died in 1992 aged 88, called his inventions 'Q gadgets', after Q ships



Grave of Glyndwr Michael in Huelva, Spain. Note inscription: 'Served as Major William Martin'

- warships disguised as freighters, which were deployed in WWI. Some spy aficionados believe the phrase was the basis of Ian Fleming's use of 'Q' referring to the spy chief in charge of James Bond's gadgetry.

As for the spy pencils, their existence was kept secret until 1975. Two years ago replicas were produced to celebrate Derwent Pencil Museum's heritage and its role in the war effort. These are available from the Derwent Pencil Museum.

Derwent Pencil Museum



1943. Senior officers of HMS Seraph which deployed the corpse

SPYCRAFT AND KGB COVERT CAMERAS

Several covert KGB cameras disguised in everyday objects such as briefcases, bags, jackets and even an umbrella, recently sold for £78,000 at Aston's Auctioneers in Dudley, West Midlands, UK. One camera, concealed in a packet of John Player cigarettes, had an auction estimate of between £80 and £100; it sold for a record £29,000. The camera itself was a sub-miniature KIEV-30. As for the cigarettes - still in place - they were of Russian manufacture.

All manner of disguised cameras were auctioned, including one hidden in an umbrella which sold for £3,350. Another lot included a button camera (amongst a set of buttons) - complete with an authentic issuing slip (document) from the KGB.

The unknown seller collected the cameras whilst visiting the Soviet Union in the 1970s and 1980s. Aston's camera specialist Tim Goldsmith said it was "the biggest collection of covert cameras he had ever seen."

KGB Camera concealed in a cigarette case sold for £29,000



© ASTON'S AUCTIONEERS



Buttonhole camera



Camera concealed in umbrella



SPYSCAPE MUSEUM BUYS 007'S VEHICLE

The 1965 Aston Martin DB5 driven by actor Pierce Brosnan as James Bond in the 1995 007 movie *GoldenEye*, sold at auction for £1.9 million. It was bought by New York's new espionage museum - Spyscape. It had been estimated to sell between £1.2 - £1.6 million but surpassed that price. When the car last sold at auction in 2001, it became the most valuable piece of Bond memorabilia ever sold.



Pierce Brosnan

This particular vehicle was one of three used for the filming of *GoldenEye*. One was used for close-ups and two as stunt cars, also used in the filming of *Skyfall* as well as *Tomorrow Never Dies* and *Spectre*.



Spyscape, an education and entertainment company and museum focused on the world of espionage and secret intelligence, duly launched a competition giving a lucky winner the chance to drive the car.

Bonham auction house motor car department director Sholto Gilbertson said: "It is the ultimate Bond car. Every fan remembers Pierce Brosnan tearing through the hills in this car, and it must be up there as one of the most thrilling Bond car chases in history. This Aston Martin is something very special indeed."

HELSINKI CONTROVERSY

INTEL ANALYSIS



US INTELLIGENCE UNDER PRESSURE

US President in Summit controversy as 12 GRU intelligence officers indicted for cyber attacks and hacking prior to 2016 General Election

The enduring bitterness between US intelligence figures and the White House was again played out in public following the recent summit between President Trump and his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin in Helsinki, Finland. Whilst most officials in agencies such as the CIA and FBI believe Moscow did interfere in the 2016 US General Election, Mr Trump contradicted this overview and appeared to defend Russia.

The Helsinki comment which caused a furore and did little to heal the fractious relations between the US Intelligence Community (USIC) and the White House, came as a reporter asked the president, "did he believe his own intelligence agencies or Mr Putin?" Putin has consistently denied any meddling in the election. "President Putin said it's not Russia... and I don't see any reason why it would be," said Mr Trump; the remark did not go down well in Langley and other agencies. However, perhaps advised by his editorial

team, the president soon 'tweeted': *'I have great confidence in my intelligence people. However, I also recognise that in order to build a brighter future, we cannot exclusively focus on the past - as the world's two largest nuclear powers, we must get along'*.

Nevertheless, it was an extraordinary public admission, one which he retracted 24-hours later following a political and intelligence 'firestorm'. The president said he had "mis-spoken" and that he had meant to say "I don't see a reason why it wouldn't be Russia that





Dan Coats, Director of National Intelligence (ODNI)

meddled.” He continued: “I accept our intelligence community’s conclusion that Russian meddling in the election took place,” adding a caveat - “could be other people also... a lot of people out there.” Either way, by now the damage had been done.

His initial comments attracted immediate criticism from his own senior intelligence people, including Dan Coats, Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), who shortly after the summit said: “Russia is responsible for ongoing, pervasive attempts to undermine US democracy.” The ODNI also posted a response on its website. Others, including military and intelligence officials joined the debate and references to Russian military actions and cyber interference in Ukraine, Crimea, eastern Europe, Balkans, Australia and the Baltics were made.

US INTELLIGENCE CONFIDENCE

All of this of course stems from a Russian Intelligence attempt using the Internet to influence American voters and coerce senior US figures. There was also a parallel overt propaganda programme. One US intelligence official, who did not want to be identified said: “Russia helped Mr Trump by using state media houses and social media, there can be no doubt of this. False stories were planted and all manner of cyber operations were enacted.” Such views are still held by two recently departed spy chiefs - James Comey (FBI) and John Brennan (CIA). Their ‘war of words’ with the president continues.

Despite the diplomatic language, the fact that Mr Trump appeared to side with those who believe no Russian interference took place, did



Since his departure from the FBI, former Director James Comey has engaged in a ‘war of words’ with President Trump

little for intelligence staffers confidence. Indeed, the most senior politician in his own party, House Speaker Paul Ryan, said: “Mr Trump must see that Russia is not our ally. There is no moral equivalence between the

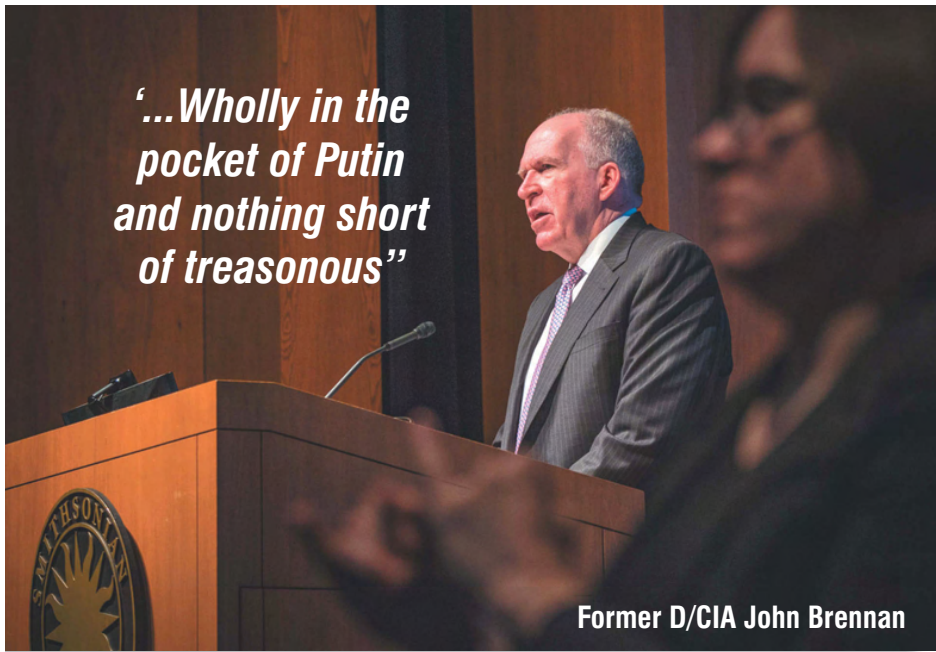


President Trump; behind him House Speaker Paul Ryan

The Presidential Palace in Helsinki hosted the 2018 Summit



Presidents Trump and Putin discussed an array of subjects, but allegations of election interference and hacking were rarely mentioned



United States and Russia, which remains hostile to our most basic values.” His opposite number in the Democratic Party, Chuck Schumer also warned of damaging the confidence of US Intelligence. “For the president of the United States to side with President Putin against American law enforcement, American defence officials and American intelligence agencies is thoughtless, dangerous and weak,” he said.

Perhaps the toughest rebuke came from ex-D/CIA John Brennan. Speaking of the meeting, Brennan said the president is “wholly in the pocket of Putin and nothing short of treasonous.” This was an astonishing comment for a retired CIA Director to make about the President of the United States.

Former Speaker of the House and Trump supportive politician Newt Gingrich, also defended the USIC. “President Trump must clarify his statements in Helsinki on our intelligence system and Putin,” he said, adding the “commentary was the biggest mistake of his presidency.” Remarks such as this, and guidance from his intelligence and political



advisors undoubtedly convinced the president to change his wording.

Nevertheless, records will forever show that before his retraction, the US President dismissed accusations of covert Russian support stating the summit was a success

and laid the foundation for better relations, a view generally shared by Putin.

There were lighter moments of course, including candid commentary from the many press people at the event. When a FIFA World Cup 2018 football was exchanged between



On his tour of Europe, the President spent time in the UK and met with various leaders



INFILTRATION AND PERSUASION



Russian Charged With Spying in the United States

Maria Butina, 29, was arrested by FBI counter-intelligence agents on 16 July and charged with ‘*Conspiracy to act as an unregistered agent of the Russian government*’. She is accused of developing ties with American citizens and infiltrating political groups, including the National Rifle Association (NRA).

The FBI alleges that Butina came to the United States under the direction of an unnamed Russian official, who appears to be her longtime mentor, Alexander Torshin. A former member of the Russian Parliament, Torshin is one of President Vladimir Putin’s closest allies and is now Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation.

Butina, the co-founder of a Russian gun-rights group Right to Bear Arms, ‘*took steps to develop relationships with American politicians in order to establish private*’, or as she called them, ‘*back channel lines of communication*’, according to an affidavit attached to a criminal complaint filed in the US District Court in Washington. The affidavit read: ‘*These lines could be used by the Russian Federation to penetrate the US national decision-making apparatus to advance the agenda of the Russian Federation*’, using Russia’s official country name.

Torshin is a lifetime member of the NRA and - until this past April, when he was included in a round of US sanctions against Russian oligarchs, a frequent attendee of both NRA events and the annual National Prayer Breakfast in Washington.

The affidavit quotes from several private message exchanges secured from electronic devices recovered from her home including one in 2015, describing what she called: “The central place and influence the NRA enjoys in an unnamed political party as the largest sponsor of the elections to the US Congress, as well as a sponsor of The CPAC conference and other events.”

In 2016, an email from one of her unnamed US contacts to an acquaintance read: ‘*I’ve been involved in securing a VERY private line of communication between the Kremlin and leaders of an unnamed political party through an unnamed gun rights organisation*’. Shortly after, Butina exchanged messages with the Russian official on Twitter, in which they discussed strategy and impressed upon each other the importance of their work.

The case against Butina was not brought by Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s team, and it is not known whether it has any connection to the broader investigation into alleged Russian meddling in the presidential campaign. Some sources believe it is undoubtedly connected.



Retired USAF
Colonel Lindsey
Graham

Putin and Trump, one reporter shouted “be careful... there may be a bug in the ball.” US politician and retired USAF Colonel Lindsey Graham tweeted: ‘*If it were me, I’d check the soccer ball for listening devices and never allow it in the White House*’.

As for the state-run media in Russia, they all reported a ‘*Putin Victory*’ and how ‘*strong their president had been*’. Russian editors and media also noted that the US accusations of election interference were hardly referenced and discussed.

HACKING CHARGES

The summit took place just 72-hours after the US Justice Department charged 12 Russian intelligence officers with hacking political parties and key election figures in the run-up to the 2016 US General Election. This follows a lengthy investigation headed by former ➤



Maria Butina



Former FBI Director Robert Mueller is leading the investigation into suspected Russian interference in the 2016 US General Election

FBI Director Robert Mueller. US Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein said the accused officers had used spear phishing emails and malicious software and also stole data on as many 500,000 voters from a state election board website. He described the attack as a “sustained effort to hack Democrat’s emails and computer networks.”

The cyber attacks allegedly began in March 2016 and focussed on computers (email accounts) used by staff working for presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. Thereafter,

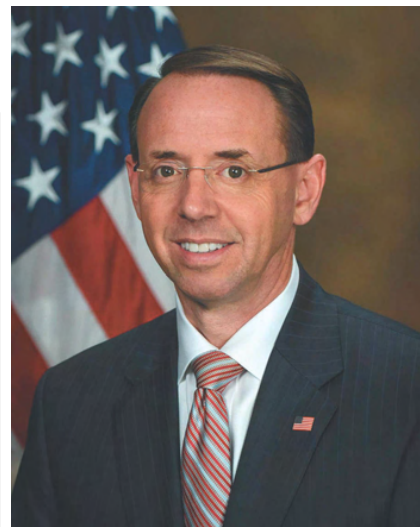
materials (some compromising) began to be leaked by the intelligence officers who used bogus identities and personas, including ‘DCLeaks’ and ‘Guccifer 2.0’. Rosenstein insisted the objective of the hackers was to “impact on the election.” All the intelligence officers are believed to work for Russia’s GRU (military intelligence).

In response to the findings, President Trump said: “The stories you heard about the 12 Russians took place during the Obama administration. Why didn’t they do something about it, especially when it was reported that President Obama was informed by the FBI in September... before the election?” Deputy White House Press Secretary Lindsay Walters said there was “no evidence tying the Trump campaign to the hacking attempts.”

The president also revealed Putin had proposed sending an experienced investigative team to Washington to assist US investigators in respect of the 12 GRU officers. “I think that’s an incredible offer,” he said.

RUSSIAN ANALYSIS

Intelligence officials in Moscow, whilst denying any interference in American politics, have continued to use state media to deliver their views and deflect attention away from President Putin. Some features have addressed several Western intelligence efforts to



Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein

use propaganda, underworld tactics and covert persuasion to influence people in order to achieve regime change. “This was particularly true in places like Eastern Europe, Cuba and Vietnam and even Russia,” said one unnamed former KGB officer.

And Russia’s media are not alone with its assessment. In 2016, at the beginning of the US investigation into election interference, the *Washington Post* reported that from 1947 through 1989, the United States attempted to change other nations’ governments on no fewer than 72 occasions. The data included 66 covert operations (led by the CIA) and six overt ones.

PRESS PACKS

SINGAPORE SUMMIT GIFTS CAUSE CONCERN

Nearly 3,000 news reporters from all over the world attended the recent meeting between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un on Singapore’s Sentosa Island. And just like at other keynote events, upon arriving, journalists were given a

free promotional packet that included novelty items such as pens, notepads, a guide book, water bottle, and a hand-held USB fan. All the items were stamped ‘Made in China’.

Following accusations that Russia’s FSB reportedly spied on the leaders of the G20 summit in



President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un





2018 Singapore Summit



Herman Van Rompuy

2013, with 'Trojan horse' pen drives, journalists were cautioned not to plug in the USB mini fan they received in Singapore into their electronic media. The fans, which consisted of blades connected to a miniature electric motor, which in turn was connected to a USB cable, could allegedly be used to hack into computers once plugged into the USB feature. Malware, it was reported, would then be able to steal computer files and turn a laptop's built-in camera and microphone into remotely-controlled eavesdropping device.

In 2013, suspicions were first raised about the Russian spying campaign by Herman Van Rompuy, the President of the European Council. He ordered USB pen drives and other devices received by the delegates in St Petersburg to be analysed by intelligence experts in Brussels and Germany's secret services. A memorandum was then sent out to G20 members, reporting that the USB pen drives and the recharging cables were able to covertly capture computer and mobile phone data.

Singapore's Ministry of Communications and Information, S. Iswaran, strongly rejected the

USB mini fan given to the press corps at the summit



reports and said that the USB fans had been a gift of the Sentosa Development Corporation, a Singapore Government body tasked with promoting tourism in Sentosa Island and had been produced long before the summit.

Whether the USB mini fans were actually aids in hacking information from journalists, remains to be seen. Nevertheless, MI6 and other agencies have in the past decade issued warnings to Foreign Office staff and leading business organisations about the dangers of 'promotional gifts' when travelling abroad and attending conferences.



S. Iswaran

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A WARNING FROM HISTORY



Little known outside Germany, a far-right movement called 'Reichsbuerger' or 'Citizens of the Reich', is now being monitored with much more intensity by the country's domestic intelligence service - BfV. The group, which has been in existence since the 1980s, has previously been dismissed as an assembly of "malcontents and crackpots," but today has an estimated 20,000 members - all of whom swear allegiance to the Deutsches Reich that existed between 1933 and 1945 under Nazi Germany. The BfV believes some members, who refuse to recognise the current government of Germany and state institutions, are seeking to secure weaponry.

Within the Reichsbuerger are several groups who have declared their own mini-states, calling themselves the 'Exile Government of the German Reich' and 'Free State of Prussia'. The BfV states members have created their own flags and even issued unique, but



Sixty-five SEK officers have been killed participating in operations since 1945



'Citizens of the Reich' ID card

worthless identity papers, currencies and even postage stamps.

BfV chief Hans-Georg Maassen said he is worried about the movement's "considerable propensity for violence and increased aggressiveness." He has also instructed his officials to investigate claims some members are actually serving police officers.

In October 2016, a member of the group shot dead an officer serving with the Spezialeinsatzkommandos (Special Deployment Commando - SEK) and wounded three others during a raid to confiscate his hunting weapons in the town of Georgensgmünd, Bavaria. Last year security services raided 12 locations and arrested a number of people, allegedly "planning to attack police officers, asylum seekers and members of the Jewish community with explosives and weapons."



Reichsbuerger 'passports'



BfV Director
Hans-Georg
Maassen



- Since 2001, the BfV has operated a supportive 'drop out' programme to help individuals leave right-wing extremist groups. Above: BfV emblem for the 'drop out' programme

GERMANY ARRESTS JORDANIAN GID INTELLIGENCE AGENT

On 8 August, German intelligence officials announced that they had arrested a German national "working on behalf of a Jordanian intelligence agency," presumably the - General Intelligence Department (GID).

A 33-year-old, identified only as 'Alexander B', is accused of having infiltrated a Sunni mosque in the central German city of Hildesheim, and according to the BfV, was tasked with surveilling mosque goers who expressed support for the ideology of the ISIS, and others who were considering or had travelled to the Middle East to join the group.

In 2017, authorities in Germany closed down the Hildesheim mosque and arrested its imam, Ahmad Abdulaziz Abdullah A. The Iraqi-born imam was charged with supporting a foreign terrorist organisation by actively recruiting young Muslims on behalf of ISIS. The mosque has remained closed, because authorities believed that it had become a "centre of fundamentalist activity." The BfV claim Alexander B. was "spying" on members of the Hildesheim mosque.

Jordan is one of the Middle East's most liberal states and has been targeted repeatedly by ISIS, which views its leadership as pro-Western. The government of Jordan has not commented on the arrest of its alleged agent.

SECRET HISTORY

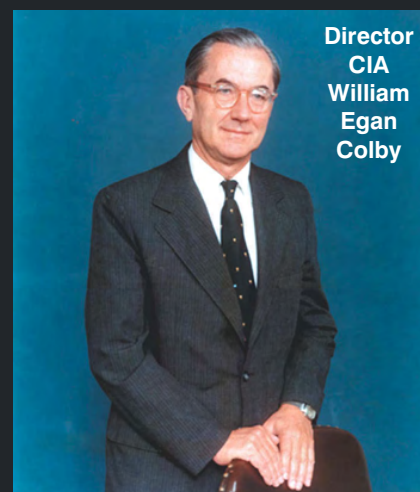
THE DEATH OF SPYMASTER WILLIAM EGAN COLBY

THE SPY NOBODY KNEW

D. Anne Kohl examines the strange demise of one of the CIA's most powerful leaders and an enduring mystery which continues to this day...

William Egan Colby, who died in 1996 at the age of 76, served as the 10th Director of the Central Intelligence Agency between 1973 and 1976. A former special operator of the wartime Office of Strategic Services (OSS), he actively participated in several dangerous operations

in Europe. After the war he briefly tried his hand at law work, before joining the newly created CIA. Thereafter a great many postings followed and Colby worked in numerous theatres and directorates in both the United States and abroad. In 1959 he was appointed Station Chief in Saigon, Vietnam, and a decade later, had risen through the ranks to become Deputy Director. By now, he was one



Director
CIA
William
Egan
Colby



President Richard Nixon announces release of the infamous Watergate tapes

of the most experienced officers in Langley, and it came as no surprise when he reached the summit in 1973 under the presidency of Richard Nixon.

History books and archives are packed with illuminating and controversial stories surrounding the spy: from his ventures in Europe with the OSS, his handling of Far East operations to his covert dealings with Moscow, much has been written about the media-friendly Colby. However, there are at least two enduring mysteries surrounding the former D/CIA which fascinate spy aficionados. One has been recently solved, but the second, regarding the circumstances of his death, continues to cause speculation to this day. ➤



William Colby's portrait in the CIA Directors Gallery - note the two pencils

THE PENCILS MYSTERY

In 1972, William Colby, then Executive Director of the CIA, suggested the creation of an Agency museum. He directed the CIA's components and its Fine Arts Commission to identify items of historical significance to create "a very selective accumulation of truly unique items." In addition to these special artifacts, portraits of all the directors were commissioned and hang in the Directors Gallery at the George Bush Center for Intelligence at Langley.

One of the imposing paintings is of course of Colby himself, painted by famous artist Lloyd



Directors Gallery at the George Bush Center for Intelligence

Bowers Embry in 1974. Embry had been commissioned by the government to paint a number of works, including an Arctic scene of the important Thule Air Force Base. The Colby portrait was one of Embry's last and shows him holding two pencils in his

right hand in a 'V' formation. Colby left no explanation for why he posed this way and when he passed away, many believed he had taken the secret with him.

In 2012, CIA Museum Staff decided to solve the mystery and contacted the Colby family who surprisingly, had never been interviewed about the painting. Colby had told his family that he wanted the pencils to represent the two pillars of the CIA: technology and Human Intelligence (HUMINT). His children recalled that Colby always talked about the importance of technology and wanted technical innovation to be as highly regarded at CIA as Human Intelligence.

The symbolism in the painting may have been solved, but the man, who his own son Carl described as "the man nobody knew," left an enduring mystery when he died. On 27 April 1996, Colby vanished from his weekend home in Rock Point, Maryland on a solo canoe trip in rough waters late at night. His death triggered conspiracy theories immediately - from foul play to suicide.

THEORIES

Theories concerning foul play are based on the circumstances surrounding his death, which for many qualified investigators still do not make sense. His canoe was found the following day on a sandbar in the Wicomico River, a tributary of the Potomac, approximately a quarter mile from his home (40 miles south of Washington DC). Nine days later, Colby's body was found in a marshy riverbank



William Colby (far right) with Vice President Nelson Rockefeller (left) and Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant for National Security Affairs





lying facedown not far from where his canoe had been discovered. When police entered his country home, they found both his radio and computer switched on. "Investigators found dinner dishes on a table and clam shells in the kitchen sink," said an intelligence associate. Friends said this was unusual for Colby, a meticulously tidy man.

The canoe was found waterlogged near the waterfront part of his home. Considering the swift current of the Wicomico River, that made sense only if he died very close to the shoreline near his property. Yet investigators using scuba diving teams and sophisticated radar couldn't find his body there. Kevin Akers lived near Rock Point close to Colby's home.

He discovered Colby's canoe on its side. Akers said it was filled with sand which took him and his wife an hour to "dump everything out," before he could tow it to the marina. "A canoe is an extremely seaworthy boat," said Akers. So how did it become lodged and waterlogged on the riverbank? Had Colby been stricken by a heart attack and fallen into the water, as has been speculated; the canoe should have completely capsized or safely righted itself, not become waterlogged and moved by the current to the Colby waterfront. For the record, his family and friends said he was a "very strong swimmer."

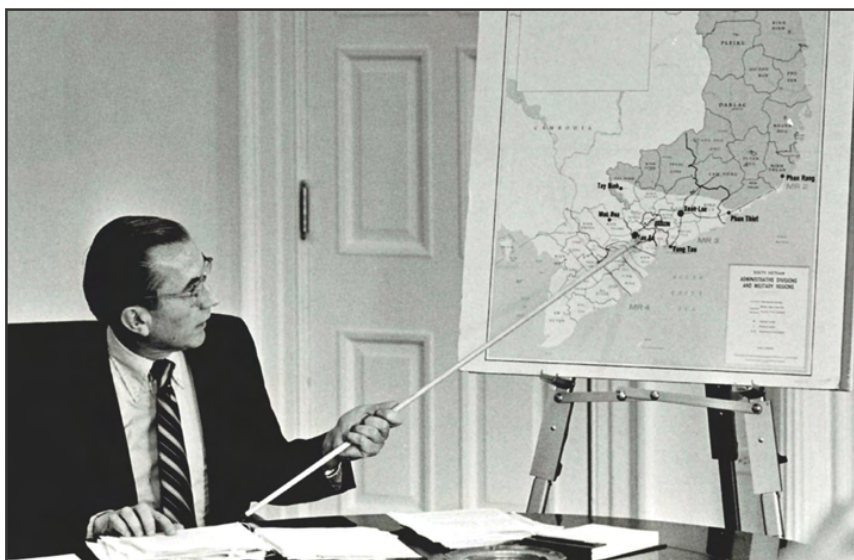
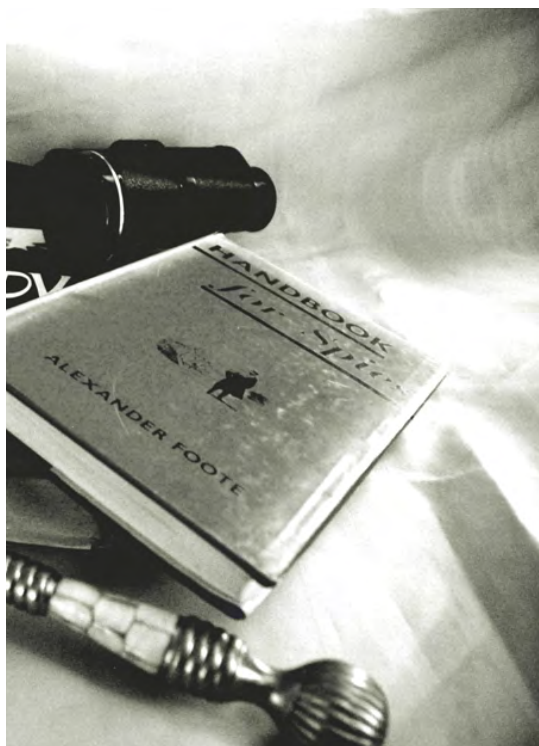
Then there were other telling problems. Colby was found with no lifejacket. He was regimented in his routine and always wore one when on the water according to his family. The scrupulous search for him should have turned up the floating life jacket or the buoyant paddle. Neither item was ever found.



April 1975. D/CIA William Colby briefs President Gerald Ford and senior advisors on the deteriorating situation in Vietnam

An autopsy on 6 May 1996, performed by David R. Fowler, Assistant Medical Examiner for Maryland and John Smialek, Maryland's Chief Medical Examiner, declared "death by heart attack and drowning." The official cause of death is listed as '*Drowning and hypothermia associated with arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease*', meaning that either a stroke or a heart attack debilitated Colby and caused him to fall out of the canoe into the freezing water, where he subsequently drowned.

However, investigators said that Colby's body was found fully clothed. He wore socks, but his shoes were missing. Colby always wore footwear when canoeing, and his family and friends insisted this would have been particularly true on that blustery April day. The story of Colby's death also interested the press, who by now were taking a great interest in the actual circumstances. During his many decades at Langley, Colby had fostered relations with a number of senior editors recognising the importance of the media - especially those who could and did fall into the Fourth Estate category. Questions were



1975. D/CIA Colby points to a map of the war theatre in Vietnam



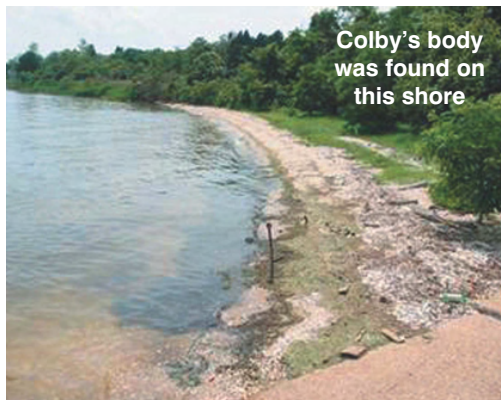
November 1973. US Intelligence Board meeting on the Vietnam War chaired by D/CIA William Colby (third from left). In attendance numerous military chiefs and intelligence officials

now being raised by the media: "How did his shoes come off in the middle of a heart attack or stroke?" Another quizzed... "He began untying his shoes after his canoe capsized?" Many surmised no shoes suggested he was kicking in the water.

TIMELINE

A timeline of Colby's activities that day provided by eye witnesses and his wife, who was in Texas at the time, and who had spoken with her husband on the telephone, determined that Colby probably sat down to eat around 8.30pm - well after dark. This prompted one newspaper investigator to sarcastically say: "So when all of a sudden he decided to get up to go canoeing."

Colby had routed his Cobb Island telephone to his Washington residence enabling all billing occur there and to limit visitors from running up costly long distance calls. Only the Colbys knew the dial out code. Should there be calls on the line after the suspected time of disappearance of 8.30pm, some investigators suggested this would indicate foul play.



It was reported at the time that Mrs Colby (Sally Shelton-Colby) refused to cooperate with investigators in providing that evidence - information which had been suggested as early as 1996 as being a key in understanding the cause of Colby's death.

ENEMIES

So why do the theorists say Colby was purportedly murdered? A CIA chief can make a lot of enemies which Colby, according to Langley associates and intelligence watchers, managed to do. He was known as the man who gave away the CIA's 'Family Jewels' - details about many of its covert operations between the 1950s and 1970s, including sensitive happenings in Vietnam, this, despite being ordered to do so by the Senate. He was also responsible for a great many internal Agency changes and restructuring, and of course, he had threads to Richard Nixon and all the 'baggage' and suspicion which Watergate had created.

Some of Langley's 'Family Jewels' were of course extremely secret and sensitive. Colby sent a note to Secretary of State Henry Kissinger summarising the information. Documents clearly showed the Agency had spied on the American anti-Vietnam war movement, wiretapped journalists, intercepted and opened mail and perhaps more damaging, had acted in an illegal manner.

Kissinger, according to the *New York Times*, opted not to put the 'worst revelations into writing'. Nevertheless, an overview reached the White House and President Ford fired Colby in November 1975. Two years later the ex-intelligence man started a law firm in Washington.



Colby's canoe following its recovery



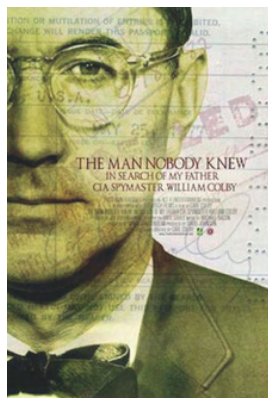
Colby's waterfront home at Rock Point, Maryland



His knowledge of the 'great game' was of course indispensable, and he maintained intelligence links to his very last days. Interestingly, in 1996, the year of his death, Colby along with former KGB General and CIA agent Oleg Kalugin, "lent his expertise" to an inter-active CD-Rom game by Activision titled *Spycraft: The Great Game*. With a budget exceeding \$3 million, the play-action game detailed the assassination of the US President and attempts made by both CIA and Russian SVR agents to thwart the plot. Both Kalugin and Colby appear briefly in the game. Other sideshow conspiracies were injected into his demise; references to him belonging to the National Coalition to Ban Handguns, being but one. Another was that after twenty years out of the shadows, Colby was scheduled to speak before Congress again.



August 1974. President Ford hosts a meeting of the National Security Council in the White House. D/CIA Colby is seated far left



The Man Nobody Knew: In Search of My Father, CIA Spymaster William Colby.
Above: Carl Colby



1967: Vietnam War. A US trooper prepares to enter a Viet Cong tunnel.
Right: CIA evacuation plans for Saigon

SUICIDE, ACCIDENT, HEART ATTACK OR...

Colby's son Carl, a filmmaker, has said his father's death was suicide. In 2011, he directed a documentary called: *The Man Nobody Knew*. He said his father had a "tortured soul" after helping create the counter-intelligence tactic in the Vietnam War called 'The Phoenix Programme' described as "a set of programmes that sought to attack and destroy the political infrastructure of the Viet Cong."

A lifetime of espionage meant Colby had enemies from Boston to Bangladesh, and conspiracy theories about his death still circulate between Georgetown mansions and

CIA headquarters in Langley today, despite an official ruling of accidental death.

Distinguished Professor of History Randall B. Woods, who in 2013 wrote a biography of Colby, *Shadow Warrior: William Egan Colby and the CIA*, rejects the theory of suicide, saying it was "inconsistent with his character." Other family members side with Woods' overview.

A memorial service was held for Colby on 14 May 1996 in Washington, attended by serving and former members of the Clandestine

Service at the CIA. They were divided in their opinion of how Colby died.

No doubt, like the assassination of John F. Kennedy and other famous people inextricably linked to the world of intelligence, the Colby mystery will endure for a considerable time to come...



Famous Quotes Attributed to William Colby

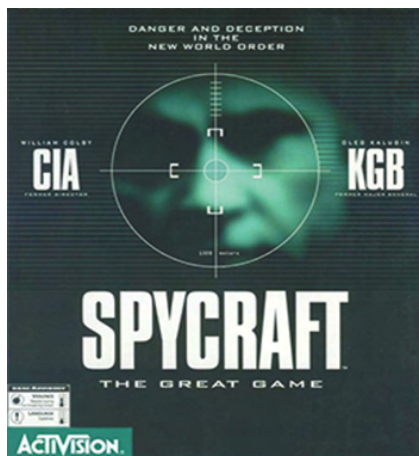


"The more we know about each other the safer we all are."
Colby to Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev

Following the end of the Cold War, and walking alone without KGB surveillance through Red Square, Moscow in 1989, Colby said: "That was my victory parade..."



Anti-war protesters. The CIA monitored such activities and was criticised by lawmakers



SOCIAL MEDIA

New UK Measures to Counter the Misuse of Social Media Announced

PROTOCOL M

Embers from past attempts to influence people through disinformation, fake news, propaganda and fear still glow

Senior British officials have warned that the country's voters face being influenced by "pernicious views" following an investigation by the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Committee into fake news and disinformation. This of course all stems from deep suspicion and "hard evidence" supplied by British Intelligence, which has long warned over the dangers of coercion by external forces and the growing use by the public of electronic social media platforms.

One proposal of the committee, is to create barriers to stop 'third parties' interfering in

elections, as has been seen in the 2016 US General Election. The authors of the report note the 'relentless targeting of hyper-partisan views, which play to the fear and prejudices of people, in order to influence their voting plans'. Facebook is one media giant criticised in the report, but it is not alone.

References to hacking, disinformation and voter suppression are also made, and the committee has urged the National Crime Agency (NCA) to investigate such actions. Another recommendation is that information providers establish 'clear legal liability for tech companies to act against harmful and illegal content on their platforms'. Another consider-

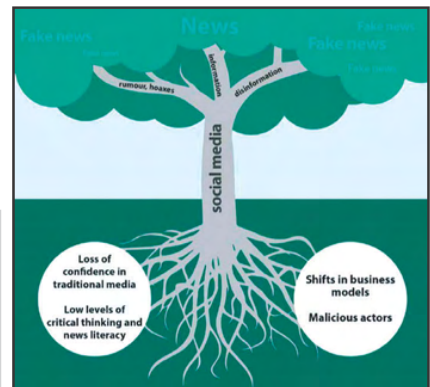


Illustration 'the roots of fake news' from UNESCO's World Trends Report

ation is that 'social media sites be held responsible for interference in elections by malicious actors'. And of course, substantial fines could result in cases where fake news is not removed.

THE FOURTH PILLAR

Critics of the report, many from the intelligence community itself, believe users of such sites, including Twitter, are all too easily fooled into accepting any posting as authentic. In part, the report agrees noting 'digital literacy should be the fourth pillar of education, alongside reading, writing and maths'.

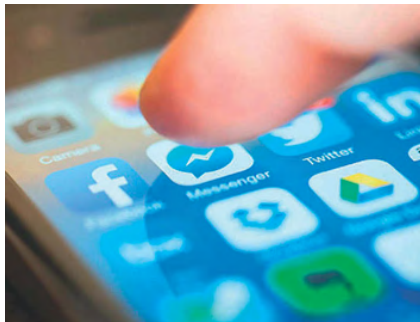
Tom Baldwin, author of *Ctrl Alt Delete: How Politics and the Media Crushed Our Democracy*, a book on relations between the political world and media, believes much more should be done. He said: "The social media adverts that were used by Donald Trump and the leave campaign (UK - Brexit) are the most lethal weapons ever invented." His use of the phrase



The UK is concerned fake news could be used to influence voters



FOOL THE WORLD: Ukrainian journalist Arkady Babchenko, worked with the country's intelligence service - SBU - to fake his own death and expose an alleged Russian assassin. Within hours, nearly every respected and established media house in the world reported on his assassination. A short time later, he turned up alive and well at a news conference. The incident was evidence if ever needed, that even the mainstream media can be fooled and manipulated. Babchenko (far right) is pictured discussing the elaborate ruse with L-R, SBU chief Vasyl Grytsak, Prosecutor General Yuri Lutsenko and President Petro Poroshenko



'lethal weapon' is representative of the opinion of many watching intelligence analysts tasked to monitor the impact of the written or said word.

AN OPERATION WHICH BACK-FIRED

In part, the authors of the report seem oblivious to the fact that countless propaganda houses and directorates still exist. And



Poster created to support the Marshal Plan

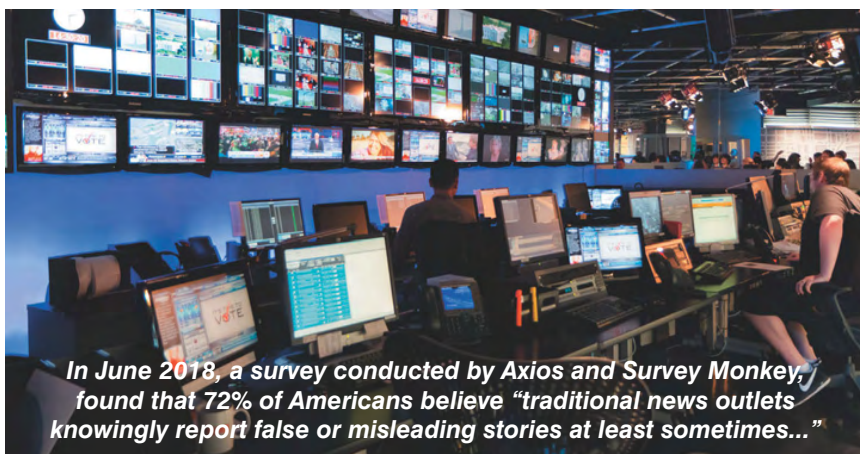
though not nearly as many as once operated, several are run by government departments and contained within the intelligence world.

History shows that careful placement of false media stories, or manipulation of news, have long had an impact and can be used to

THE MARSHAL PLAN



General of the US Army George C. Marshal, would be appointed as US Secretary of State and create the Marshal Plan, officially called the European Recovery Programme (ERP). The US gave a staggering \$12 billion in assistance to war-torn countries - in today's money that equates to over \$100 billion.



In June 2018, a survey conducted by Axios and Survey Monkey, found that 72% of Americans believe "traditional news outlets knowingly report false or misleading stories at least sometimes..."



JOURNALISM IN THE UK

The Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Committee has launched an independent review into the future of high-quality journalism in the UK. Chaired by Dame Frances Cairncross, the committee has released some startling statistics, many undoubtedly affected by the changing ways in which news is received and read by the public. Much focus will be on the role and impact of digital search engines and social media platforms.

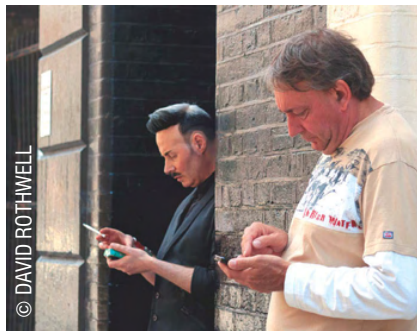
- A quarter (300) of all regional and local newspapers have closed in the past decade
- Over the same time period, the number of frontline print journalists has dropped by over 25% - from around 23,000 in 2007 to 17,000 in 2017
- Young people in particular are much less likely to get their news from printed newspapers

influence people and even topple governments. For example, at the height of the Cold War the KGB's Department A (First Chief Directorate) operated solely outside the USSR. Its single most important brief was disinformation and campaigns to influence foreign publics and governments. Its secondary brief was to promote the USSR in good light and darken the image of the West. An example of Department A's success or failure was an operation launched in the West codenamed Protocol M.



No one questioned the media when news of the death of Osama bin-Laden was announced. Today, more and more people are concerned about the accuracy of information

Information is moved globally in seconds from a multitude of platforms - and sadly many people simply do not check the accuracy of the written word



In the late 1940s and early 1950s, intelligence emerged of a Kremlin-sponsored plan that would impact on the US-brokered Marshal Plan to inject millions of dollars into helping European nations such as Germany and Italy (former axis partners), rebuild and avoid falling under the rule of Communism. Protocol M, was allegedly engaged to create chaos in Europe by agitation, inducing workers to strike and cripple nations, thus damaging the Marshal Plan. For its part, the UK Foreign Office, to counter the operation, distributed large numbers of copies of Protocol M in their zones of occupied Germany, warning the document "has been compiled from authoritative Communist sources, and this is corroborated by information already in our possession." The distribution action was to create fear - a move intended to influence ordinary Germans that Russia was a danger to freedom.

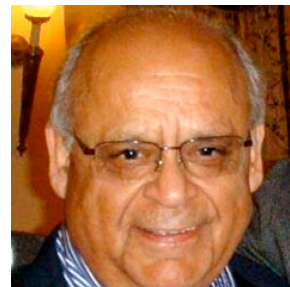
However, it would later transpire that Protocol M had nothing to do with Department A, and was almost certainly a joint Western intelligence ruse - disinformation - which one intelligence source described as "fake."

Ironical also, that at this time, the KGB almost certainly had full knowledge of the covert action.

In 1947, one of its most famous British spies, Guy Burgess (MI6), of the infamous Cambridge spy ring, was posted to the newly formed intelligence house - the Information Research Department (IRD) which had been established to counter Soviet news propaganda in all its forms.

TASS OF INDIA

Another much later KGB operation targeted the news hungry people of India and surrounding nations. Former Indian foreign intelligence (Research and Intelligence Wing - RAW) chief, Vikram Sood, who has just published a book about espionage*, references KGB and CIA operations intended to influence the public in India and gather support. One method was using friendly news editors, indeed, so successful were the KGB that a CIA Estimate of the Situation from 1985 (released 2011), states that Moscow managed to 'plant overtly and covertly, more than



Former RAW Director Vikram Sood

1.5 million pieces of news' in Third World publications. Sood recalls that the KGB's access to the Press Trust of India, earned the media agency the unwanted title of 'Press TASS of India', after Russia's own state-owned media house. Besides targeting newspapers, Sood said the Soviets secretly financed the publication of books, magazines and pamphlets, all containing Russian propaganda and intended to tarnish the image of the West.

As for the DCMS, few intelligence people envy the task undertaken by the committee, and even less believe it will be successful.

* *The Unending Game: A Former R&AW Chief's Insights into Espionage* (Penguin Random House)

MI5 FOIL

THE OXFORD STREET PLOT

ISIS FOLLOWER ADMITS PLANNING TO KILL 100 PEOPLE IN CENTRAL LONDON

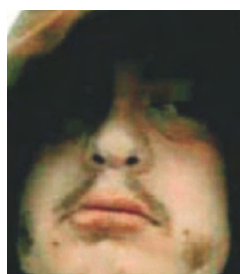
Lewis Ludlow, 26, from Rochester, Kent, has pleaded guilty to conspiring to kill over 100 people on Oxford Street, London, in an ISIS inspired attack. The former neo-nazi converted to Islam aged 16 and called himself Ali Hussain. He used the names 'Eagle' and 'Ghost' on social media.

His plan involved hiring a van and targeting pedestrians on Oxford Street in a TAV (Terrorist Attack by Vehicle), replicating ISIS actions on London's Westminster Bridge and other European cities. Over 500,000 people visit this popular area of the city every day.

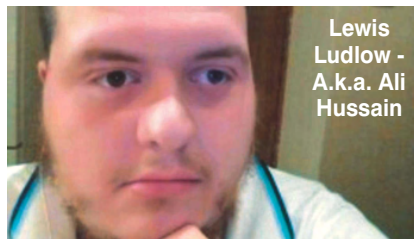
Ludlow surveilled various locations in the city, and took pictures of Oxford Circus Tube Station, Madame Tussaud's, St Paul's Cathedral, the Shia Temple and a Disney store. All popular with visitors and locals alike.

MI5 became aware of Ludlow in 2010 when he attended a demonstration led by radical preacher Anjem Choudary and his banned Al-Muhajiroun group. He was arrested in 2015 for possessing ISIS material on electronic devices, but no action was taken at that time, however, he was by now a 'Subject of Interest' (SOI) and placed under 24-hour surveillance.

In January, Ludlow attempted to travel to the Philippines purportedly as a 'sex tourist', but



was stopped and his passport seized. MI5 discovered he had been in contact with ISIS followers in the country. In March, he set up a bogus Facebook account and

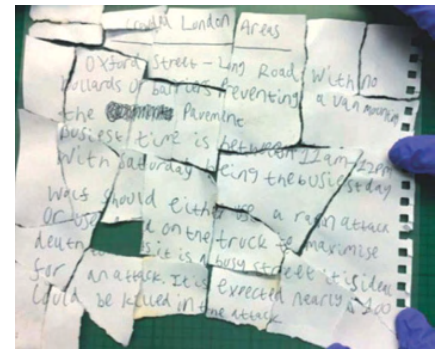


Lewis
Ludlow -
A.k.a. Ali
Hussain

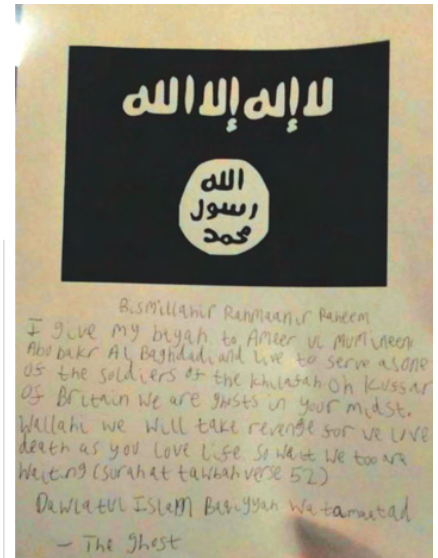
channelled money via PayPal to his associates in the Philippines. Following a search of his home, New Scotland Yard Counter Terrorism Command (CTC) investigators then found evidence of his plans to commit an attack. Investigators discovered notes written by Ludlow detailing when his targets on Oxford Street were the busiest. One document read: 'Madame Tussads. Oxford street busiest between 11 - 12 particularly Fridays... Further locations scouted for the Kill'. [Sic] Another noted: 'Crowded London areas, Oxford Street



St Paul's
Cathedral



A torn note written by Ludlow describing how busy his target areas are at certain times



Ludlow's 'pledge of allegiance' to ISIS

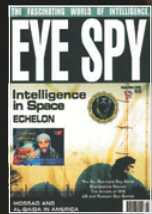
- long road with no bollards or barriers preventing a van mounting the pavement. Busiest time is between 11am - 12pm with Saturday being the busiest. It is a busy street it is ideal for an attack. It is expected nearly 100 could be killed in the attack'. [Sic]

MI5 also discovered Ludlow was associated with other ISIS terrorists including Junaid Hussain from the UK. Hussain was the main propagandist for ISIS in the Middle East: he was killed after a CIA-controlled UAV fired a missile at his vehicle in Raqqa, Syria in 2016. Ludlow may also have known Michael Adebawale, one of the two ISIS killers of trooper Lee Rigby in 2013.



ISIS propaganda and recruiting man Junaid Hussain

Ludlow will be back in court on 2 November, where he is expected to receive a lengthy prison sentence.



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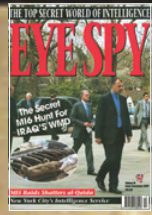
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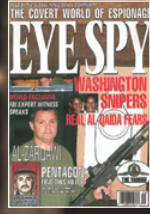
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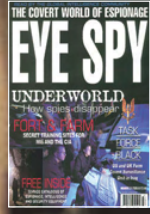
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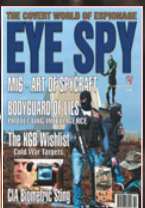

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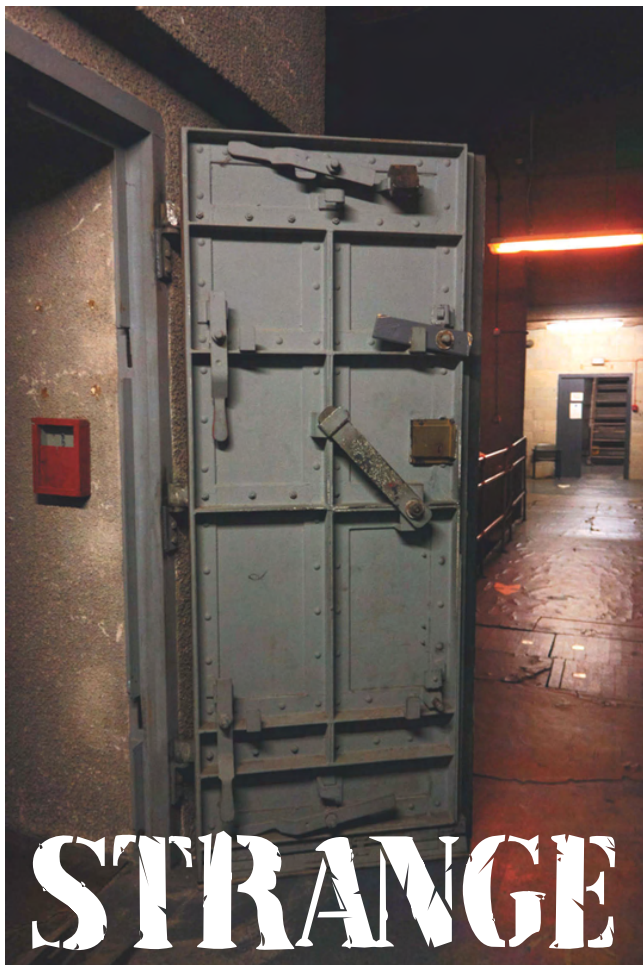
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COLD WAR



STRANGE BUT TRUE



The Cold War-era was a truly frightening time for the world. It lasted from the end of World War II until the collapse of Communism and the Soviet Union in 1991. Today, those who work in the secretive chambers of spy agencies across the globe have increasingly started to discuss a 'Cold War II'. Indeed, when President Trump recently engaged with leaders of NATO, there were continuous references to events historical and others on the horizon.

Eye Spy Editorial journeys back in time to seek out unusual and lesser known facts of the original Cold War...



Russian specialists could identify if a passport was authentic by examining the quality of the staples

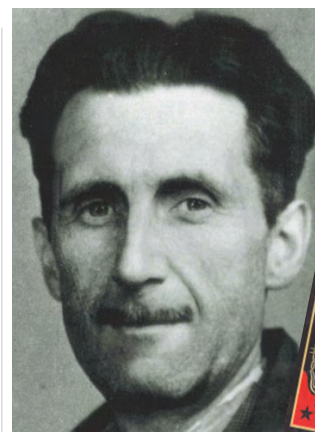
DEEP COVER

An authentic and convincing replica Russian passport used by those in the espionage game was no guarantee of protection for Western operators in the USSR. During the Cold War, the KGB's counter-intelligence directorate was able to tell if a Soviet passport was forged and bogus, not by investigating the passport number, stamps, photograph, written word, ink, signatures, paper or indeed, the individual concerned.

Some passports manufactured by gadgetry factories attached to agencies such as MI6 and the CIA, were identified because staples used in real Russian issued passports would corrode due to the poor quality of metal - unlike their Western replicas.

COLD WAR

The term 'Cold War' was first used by George Orwell (Eric Arthur Bell), British author of the book satirising Stalinism - *Animal Farm*. Orwell, who had connections to various intelligence and propaganda houses in WWII Britain, wrote an essay 'You and the Atomic Bomb', published in *The Tribune* 19 October 1945, in which he described East-West tensions as the 'Cold War'. Thereafter it was written into spylore and adopted by intelligence agencies in numerous countries.



George Orwell and his book - *Animal Farm*



PRIMARY TARGET

Many buildings were identified as primary targets by war planners in Moscow and the West. High on the list of those engaged in such analysis in Russia, was of course the Pentagon. During the Cold War, the USSR thought that a heavily trafficked building in the centre courtyard of the structure was a top-secret meeting room and chose to target its coordinates with several nuclear weapons.

It later transpired that the popular location for staffers was in fact a hot dog stand.





The hot dog stand in the Pentagon courtyard

THE USSR MAP MEN

Russia secretly created maps so detailed and accurate of the Canadian Arctic region that even today, some organisations still prefer to use their contents over official maps - including Western navies. The area remains one of the most important to both Russia and the West, and in recent times has become somewhat of a 'battle-

ground' between NATO and Russia, with both claiming rights to large swathes of the Arctic.

SPACE LIAISON

In the early 1960s, the USSR and the USA engaged in secretive talks to venture into space together, this despite the fractious nature of relations and the Cold War. The USSR almost accepted Washington's invitation but the plan fell apart when President Kennedy was



Cold War Russia-America space collaboration

assassinated. The KGB simply did not trust Vice President Johnson.

BURY AMERICA

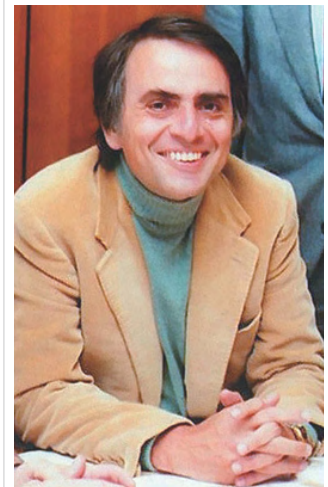
Three days after meeting Fidel Castro for the first time, Russian leader Nikita Khrushchev visited the United Nations on 23 September 1960. He insisted Communism was the future and that America needed to be contained.

In his address to the United Nations General Assembly, Khrushchev threatened, "Russia will bury America." The commentary was remembered a few years later by intelligence chiefs in the

United States when Moscow decided to send a flotilla of ships carrying nuclear missiles to Cuba. Henceforth the world came perilously close to World War III.

MOON EXPLOSION

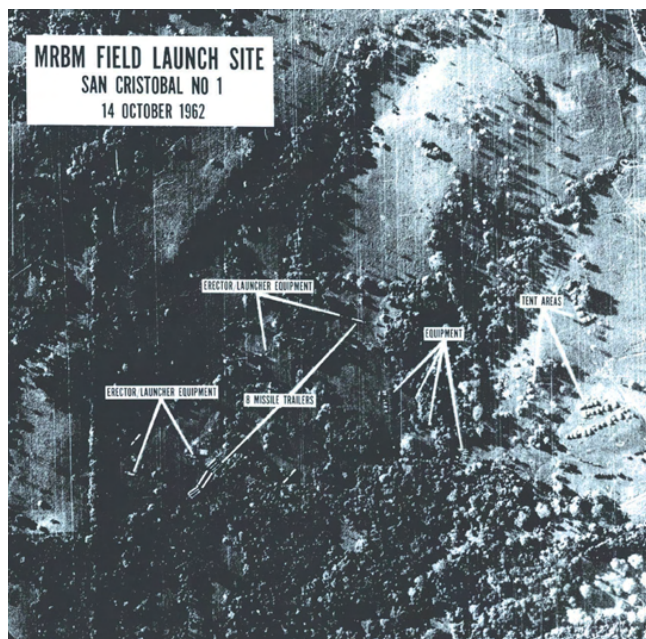
The US Air Force developed a top-secret plan to detonate a nuclear bomb on the moon as a display of military might at the height of the Cold War. The mathematical modelling for the explosion was performed by astronomer Carl Sagan (below).



Nikita Khrushchev

Left: Russia Cold War map of the Arctic. Below: 2018. The USS Connecticut breaks through the Arctic ice





FOOTBALL AND CUBA

When a CIA analyst noticed football fields along the coast of Cuba in September 1962, he became concerned because “Cubans play baseball... the Russians play soccer.” This led President Kennedy to seek hard evidence. Thereafter a CIA spyflight subsequently secured aerial photographs convincing Pentagon chiefs Russia was indeed moving its own nuclear missiles to Cuba.

THE WISE DEER

According to new research, deer in the Czech Republic don’t cross into Germany, following the example of their parents who learned to avoid electrified fences during the Cold War. One investigator said the “deer are not ideological, they are just conservative in their old habits.” The project involved

attaching GPS collars to 300 Czech and German deer.

Nearly 500 people died attempting to cross the electrified fences separating the countries in the Cold War.

AUDIBLE TRICKERY

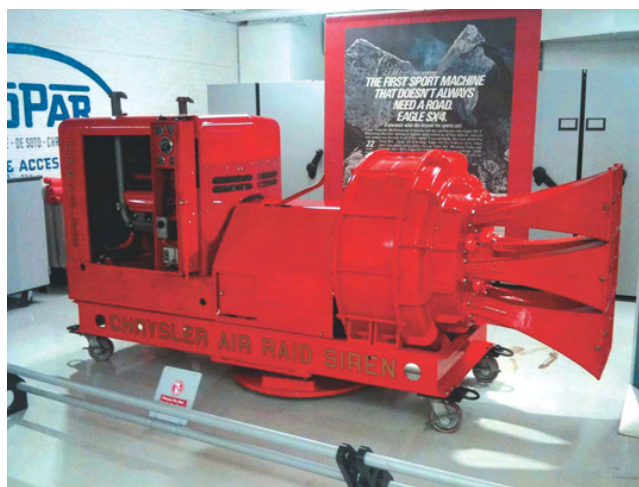
The most powerful air raid siren ever built during the Cold War was powered by a 180 horse power Chrysler V-8 engine. Measuring nearly 12ft in length, some operators of the device started a rumour that it was so powerful it could “start fires and turn fog into rain.”

MINUTEMAN & PIZZA

The entrance of a US Minuteman missile-launch centre in South Dakota was protected by a fortified door; painted on the



Czech deer with GPS collar



The Cold War siren - so powerful it could turn ‘fog into rain’... allegedly!

door a Domino’s Pizza logo which read ‘Worldwide delivery in 30 minutes or less, or your next one is free’.

TORPEDO JAMMING

At the beginning of WWII, actress and inventor Hedy Lammar, together with George Antheil, invented new technology aimed at stopping Germany from jamming US Navy torpedoes. However, navy chiefs rejected her work until the idea was implemented during the Cold War in



Hedy Lammar

1962. Lammar’s frequency ‘hopping’ research provided the basis for today’s modern



Bluetooth technology. Both Lammar and Antheil were inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2014.

SQUEEZING BERLIN

During the Cold War, Russian leader Nikita Khrushchev once said to Chinese Chairman Mao Zedong, "Berlin is the testicles of the West... every time I want to make the West scream, I squeeze on Berlin."



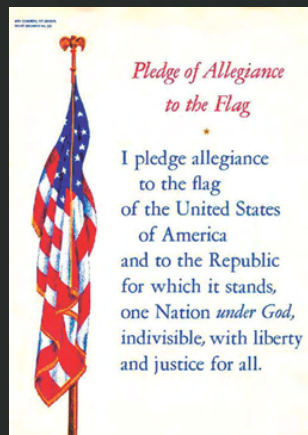
Mao Zedong and Nikita Khrushchev

UNDER GOD

The US Congress added the phrase 'Under God', adopted formally by the United States in 1942, to the US Pledge of Allegiance in 1954 on Flag Day. This effectively symbolised the resistance to Communists, who were thought to be mainly atheists.

"If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under."

—RONALD REAGAN



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MAPS OF INFLUENCE

Analysts and map makers in Washington were asked by their military and intelligence superiors to create distorted map projections to make the USSR and Vietnam seem larger, closer and of course... far more menacing. These were influential in discussions to secure political and monetary support for operations and wider Washington policy.



GERMAN TECHNOLOGY

Until the early 1980s, the telephone exchange that serviced the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Soviet Union on Staraya Square, was German - used by Hitler's Reichskanzlei (Reich Chancellery) between 1942-1945.



KAL Boeing shot down by the Russian Air Force. Below: K-8 missile used in the attack

FLIGHT 007 AND GPS

On 1 September 1983, the Soviet Union shot down Korean Air Lines Flight 007, enroute from New York to Seoul that unknowingly had entered its airspace.

Moscow believed the aircraft was a US spyplane and authorised the strike using air-to-air missiles. All 269 passengers on the Boeing 747 perished. Unbeknown to many, this incident prompted the USA to make GPS technology available for civilian use.



A collection of victims' shoes recovered after the shootdown

BIBLES

The United States once despatched 20,000 Bibles to Romania. These were not distributed as planned to the people, but subsequently turned into toilet paper because the country had a shortage.



OUT OF SERVICE?

The second oldest ship in US Navy commission is the USS Pueblo. However, though it is still commissioned it sits in Pyongyang, North Korea. The taking of Pueblo and the abuse and torture of her crew during the subsequent 11-month prisoner drama became a major Cold War incident. Since early 2013, the

**The USS Pueblo in
Pyongyang, North Korea**



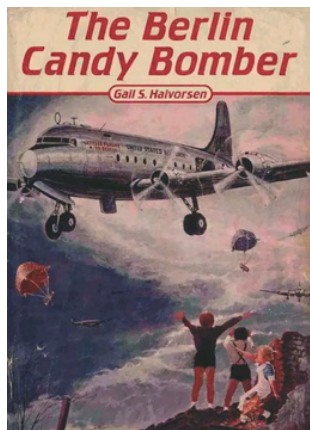
ship has been moored along the Potong River in Pyongyang, and hosts the Pyongyang Victorious War Museum.

THE CANDY BOMBER

The rail, canal and road blockade imposed by the Soviets on West Berlin in 1948, sparked the first major international crisis of the Cold War. The West began flying supplies into the city using a variety of aircraft. One US pilot, Gail Halvorsen, handed excited and grateful children his last two sticks of chewing gum, promising he would bring more the next time. One child asked, "how will we know it's you?" "I'll wiggle my wings," said Halvorsen.



Gail Halvorsen



The next day he returned and dropped chocolate attached to a handkerchief parachute. And thereafter the number of children waiting for his special treats increased, so too the many nicknames given to the pilot by the youngsters - 'Uncle Wiggly Wings', 'The Chocolate Uncle' and 'The Chocolate Flier'. News of the endeavour soon reached his superiors, and after some initial concern, they decided to expand the venture giving it the codename Operation Little Vittles.

More pilots joined the scheme and before long children across



West Berlin youngsters watch a supply aeroplane land



America started donating their own treats. In total, 23 tonnes of sweets were dropped and the operation proved a major propaganda success for the West. The aircraft which participated in this part of the airlift were called "raisin bombers" by German children. As for Halvorsen, he went on to write the engaging book - *The Berlin Candy Bomber*.

SHOELACES

Langley's spy training division used all manner of trickery to help officers and agents communicate secretly. Much has been written about the tradecraft, but a little known act involved the manner in which a shoelace was tied. A certain pattern usually related to a phrase - known only by the participants - such as 'the investigation is ending', or 'get out now'. The trick was often customised by individual officers. This specific ruse was discovered in declassified CIA papers, and intelligence aficionados believe it continues to this day!

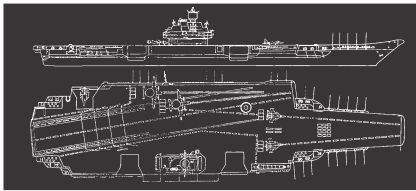
PAPER SHIPS

In Eye Spy 116 (Language of Spies) we examined the role of a secretive position at MI6 and CIA usually occupied by a senior official. To secure additional funding for secret projects and operations, the services engage a person called the 'Accountant', or 'Wallet' (CIA). Their role is to liaise with government treasury departments often using overt and covert methods to achieve their goal. In the early days of the Cold War, and long before it was officially recognised, the NSA obviously required funding, which was not listed in any budget. Thus spy chiefs opted to create a bogus company known as the Bureau of Ships!



A good example of securing and moving money for secret operations, was uncovered in archive materials in Washington, this too involved the maritime industry. The CIA needed additional funding to build its new Langley headquarters in Virginia, thus the 'Wallet' and associates opted to build - on paper - a fake aircraft carrier which required





millions of dollars. The money, once delivered, was of course re-routed to help finance construction of the HQ.

THE THIRD WORLD

Strange but true, during the Cold War the term 'Third World Country' did not refer to an impoverished nation as it does today, but a country which was not aligned to either America (First World) or Soviet Russia (Second World).



COLD WAR HERO

A Soviet Navy officer in the person of Vasili Arkhipov, is credited for making a momentous decision which almost certainly prevented the Cold War from turning 'hot'.

In 1961, as second-in-command aboard the submarine B-59, his commander, Captain Savitsky and senior political officer Ivan Maslennikov, authorised that a nuclear missile be launched against the United States. It was a decision requiring the agreement

Vasili Arkhipov



of all three men. Arkhipov refused, and thus probably prevented WWII.

SPACE INVASION

During negotiations between US President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, all manner of topics were discussed. These were primarily centred upon military affairs and a multitude of political subjects, all of which had to be initiated before talks on a lasting peace and the ending of the Cold War could commence.

Both men agreed that whilst the mechanism for ending the global tensions was being readied by advisors and officials, the 'frosty' relations, at least publicly, would endure. However, secretly these two men, who are largely credited with establishing the 'building blocks' of peace, thus ending the Cold War, agreed to pause and halt all conflict - if Earth was ever invaded by... an alien force from outer space. Reagan asked: "What would happen if aliens decided to invade the Earth?" Gorbachev agreed and the rest is history.



US President Reagan and Soviet leader Gorbachev, sign the INF (Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces) Treaty

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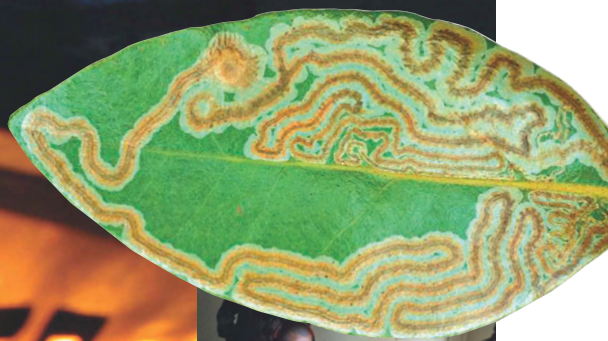


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IRAN'S

'LEAFMINERS'



Cyber attack group identified as Tehran boasts of its burgeoning 'Cyber Army'

America's Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), has released a damning report in which it says 'economic cyber espionage will only get worse'. The report highlights the activities of three capable and active players - Iran, China and Russia. Much of the espionage is focussed on US technology secrets and could be augmented by activities of foreign students and nationals at US learning institutions and defence contract companies. Other programmes seem to be pre-emptive tools enabling hackers to attack important defence and infrastructure areas. ODNI Director Dan Coats, who has long been suspicious of Iran's covert activities, described Tehran's leadership as the "foremost state sponsor of terrorism."

Retired Air Force Brigadier General and former Chief Information Security Officer, Greg Touhill, a highly respected cyber authority, said all three countries were quick off the mark noting intelligence and secrets could be secured electronically, and not just through conventional and traditional spycraft. "They recognised very early on the capabilities that leveraging cyber tools and tradecraft could yield," he said. "This is not an overnight thing, it's part of a long-term strategy."

The report, titled 'Foreign Economic Espionage in Cyberspace', published by the National Counterintelligence and Security

Center, an element of the ODNI, warns that new systems, quantum computing and Artificial Intelligence (AI), will create more opportunities for hackers. The authors concluded: 'While next generation technologies will introduce a range of qualitative advances in data storage, analytics, and computational capacity, they also present potential vulnerabilities for which the cybersecurity community remains largely unprepared'.

One chapter is solely dedicated to Iran, in which the authors identify Tehran as 'an increasing cyber threat'. Indeed, the ODNI

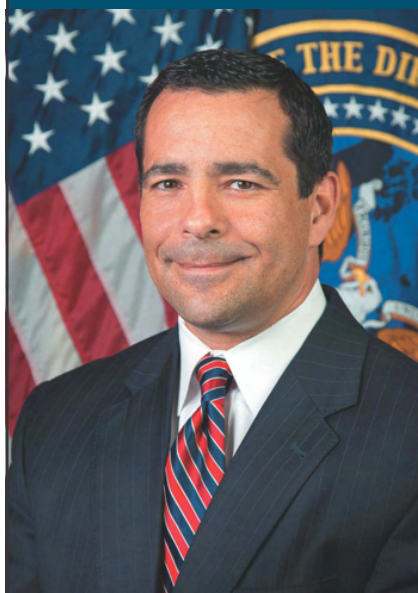


Retired Air Force Brigadier General Greg Touhill

warning follows the indictment of nine Iranian cyber specialists in March 2018, all of whom are accused of attempting to steal over \$4



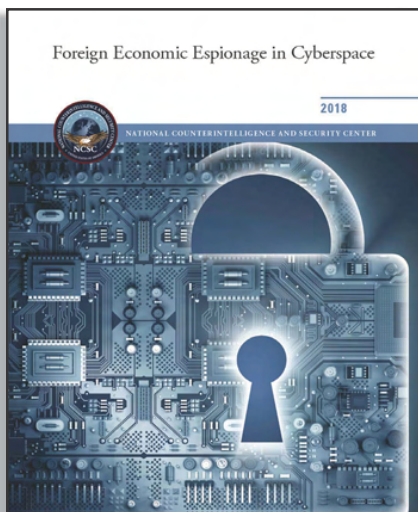
March 2017. Dan Coats is sworn in as Director of National Intelligence by Vice President Mike Pence



billion in research data and intellectual property.

THE LEAFMINERS

Relevant to recent worldwide warnings concerning rogue nations sponsoring such attacks, US-based cyber security firm Symantec, have identified a highly active Iran-based hacking organisation which it has called the 'Leafminers'. Officials have acknowledged



General Mohammad Sepehr

they do not yet have evidence the group is controlled by an Iranian government body, however, Vikram Thakur, Symantec's technical chief said, "it is possible the group is operating on behalf of a nation state."

Sources say the Iranians are using a well known hacking tool developed by the NSA - Eternal Blue, which found its way into the civilian arena via the Russia-based cyber outfit known as the Shadow Brokers.

Symantec said the Leafminers are breaking into government bodies across the Middle and Far East, and named Israel, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Egypt and Kuwait amongst countries targeted. Another specific target was the Intelligence Service of Lebanon. Thakur is of the opinion the hackers will expand operations further afield.

Intelligence specialists at GCHQ and NSA recognise that Iran controls one of the most active cyber hacking organisations in the world. Dubbed the 'Cyber Army', it has pledged its allegiance to the Supreme Leader of Iran. It is widely believed the group is operated by Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and has been blamed for cyber attacks around the world, including a campaign to secure secrets from the headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In 2013, an IRG General said his country was the

"fourth biggest cyber power among the world's cyber armies." The comments were attributed to General Mohammad Sepehr, the Supreme Leader's representative in the IRGC, who said that despite all the sanctions, "Iran had managed to access state-of-the-art technology, and is fully surveilling US and Israeli interests..."

The commentary regarding Iran being the "fourth cyber super power," was, in the main, backed by the Israeli Institute for National Security.

**The ODNI report is available from:
LINKS: www.dni.gov**

LEAF MINER LARVA A CAREFULLY SELECTED NAME

Symantec's use of the term 'Leafminer' to describe the Iranian cyber hacking group is based on the activities of insect larva - leaf miners - that bore through layers of leaf tissue slowly and eating layers that have little cellulose. Evidence of such activity can be seen by the trails they leave. In the case of the hackers, they too have the ability to dismantle layers of security, before securing data - and just like leaf miners - their trail can be evidenced by lost secrets.



Leaf miner damage on a tomato leaf

SEEING IS BELIEVING

PART 14

The Deceptive Factor

IN THE INTELLIGENCE CYCLE

MIKE FINN investigates imagery manipulation and visual propaganda - powerful intelligence tools used over centuries to coerce, influence, deceive, attract and deflect attention

No country is without propaganda strategies in place especially in today's world. And terrorist groups too recognise the power of people manipulation. ISIS for example distributes leaflets, uses billboards and screens at media points in places such as Raqqa, this is apart from its ongoing engagement with followers on the Internet.

For many years North Korea has been developing propaganda subterfuge. In 2013, disparity was thrown on a photograph of several 'high-tech' military hovercrafts landing on a shoreline in the north east of the country as being Photoshopped. New advancements in both blue screen and Photoshop type technologies make the realities of visual deception very easy and convincing.

This article deals with the visual side of propaganda; even Stalin and Lenin were noted for having people who had fallen out of favour,

Photograph of several military North Korean Army hovercrafts landing commando forces on a beach during an exercise. Released by NK state media, most imagery experts believe the picture has been photoshopped - increasing the number of hovercrafts



© CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY

Face value analysis is no longer a viable method of accurately evaluating news

removed from photos. Hitler removed Goebbels, Mao Tse-tung had his one-time political friend Po Ku (Ch'in Pang-hsien) removed after the men fell out; General Ulysses Grant was pasted onto a horse with his troops in the background, and the list goes on. People are more inclined to believe a photograph than they are to accept deceptions within the written word. In the media world photos are doctored to enhance a product or

object, or make a person more attractive. This is not the same as manipulating imagery for political and propaganda means.

IMPACT IMAGERY

Optimal effectiveness in this domain relates to the deceptive factor. It is best if the target(s) have little or no access to contrary points of view, it should be from a trusted source, the



1902. An impressive photograph of **General Ulysses Grant** who sits proudly on his horse with troops amassed behind him at City Point, Virginia. However, the image is a montage of three photographs: **1.** Grant's head is taken from a photo of him at his Cold Harbour headquarters in Virginia. **2.** The horse and body belong to Major General Alexander McCook. **3.** The background shows captured Confederate prisoners following the Battle of Fisher's Hill, Virginia. The US Library of Congress holds all three negatives



April 2018. ISIS graphic showing Donald Trump and Israeli premier Benjamin Netanyahu

content should stimulate an emotional empathy with the recipient(s), the photo or footage should be as perfect as possible. In

contrast, because most modern pictures are digital; shadows, reflections, solid outline and so forth can be an indicator of tampering. The digital photo is made up of pixels, and high magnification will show the viewer clues of tampering. Some propaganda photographs are intended to trick the viewer into believing they are real, while others, such as the recent ISIS photo showing Donald Trump and Israeli premier Benjamin Netanyahu as 'execution victims' are purely for emotional effect.

One reason why the public is so gullible in respect of doctored photos is that it's an inherent part of our daily lives. Advertising, films, television programmes, the press, and other media sources use such devices all the time. It's considered ethical, but at the same time, conditions the public into accepting such technologies, rather than making realistic evaluations. You may hear comments such as "it must be true, I saw a photo of the event myself," or perhaps "the film footage bears witness to the truth of the incident." It would take a massive campaign to restore informed evaluation, founded on facts and comparative

TRUNG-TƯỚNG TRẦN-ĐỘ
SỐNG TẠI MIỀN BẮC

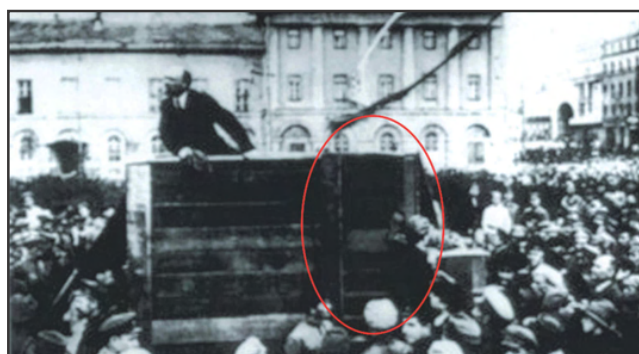



VIETNAM WAR: A US propaganda leaflet dropped on Vietnam forces showing the demise of Lt. General Tran Do (Trung Turong). In fact, he was still alive - the image showing Do dead was that of another Viet Cong fighter

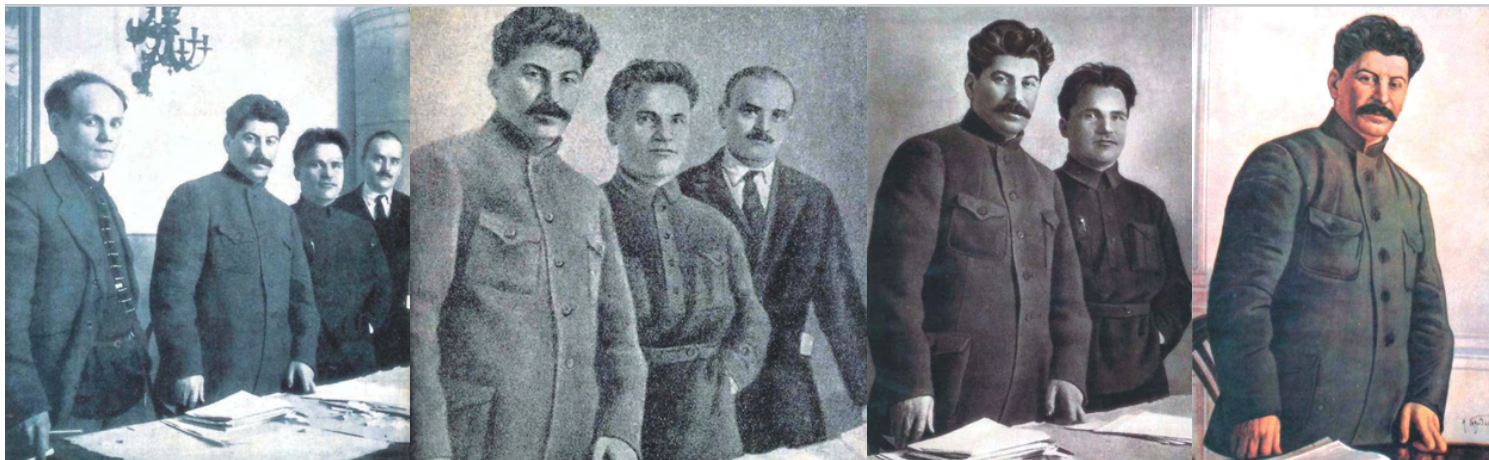
appraisal. This is one aspect to be taken into account when considering the effective use of doctored visual media.

PLAUSIBLE MISREPRESENTATION

Doctored photos is an art that involves much more than taking someone (or something) out of a picture, or adding something in. (A) In one scenario a photo can be taken from a specific angle or direction to create an illusion of events. (B) By fogging or blurring, the eye



1919. Lenin delivers a speech to huge crowds in Moscow. Years later Stalin ordered the image to be doctored - removing two key figures in the persons of Leon Trotsky and Lev Kamenev

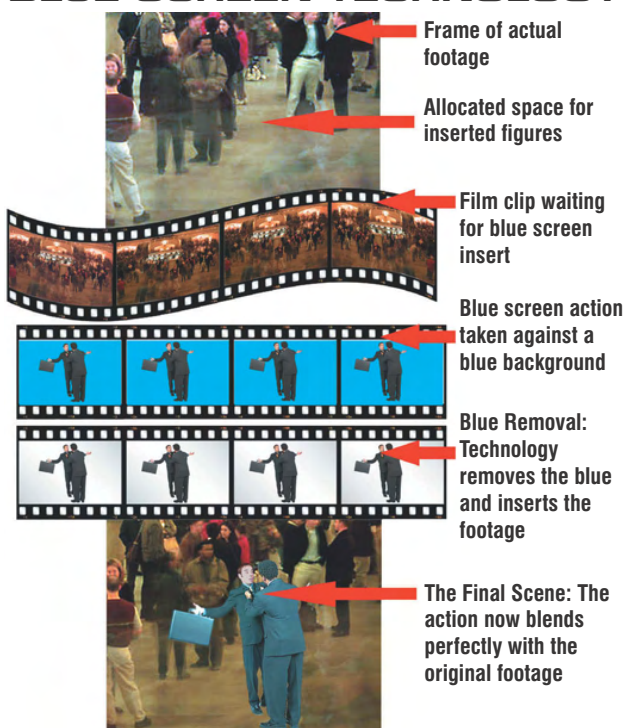


ERASING HISTORY: This classic sequence shows how Soviet leader Joseph Stalin removed key allies each time the men fell out. The original shows Nikolai Antipov, former People's Commissar for Posts and Telegraphs, Joseph Stalin, Sergei Kirov, a prominent Bolshevik leader and Nikolai Shvernik, another key political Communist ally. The final image has 'morphed' into a splendid painting of Stalin

can be drawn away from a specific point on the picture, by sharpening an image the eye can also be drawn to that area. (C) Items can be taken from other photos or sources then added in a montage. (D) Photos can be re-touched by hand or airbrush. (E) A false caption can be added to an image to enhance the viewer's perception of events. There are many ways in which the final result can be a plausible misrepresentation.

Even more insidious is the manipulation of visual media such as film and television footage. Green and blue screen technology allows the seamless insertion of almost anything into visual media. The action is taken in front of a blue (green) screen; this is then superimposed over the original footage, whilst the coloured screen is removed with appropriate technology. If there is a demonstration, larger crowds can be added, items can be inserted that may create a misleading impression. Any person can be

BLUE SCREEN TECHNOLOGY



inserted; you may have seen adverts where it realistically appears the promoter is talking to

the famous actor Humphrey Bogart. Today, what you see is not necessarily what you get.

In the 1980s I completed a television interview for a news event. After the show I was invited to the sound room, where the technician had just put some footage together for in-house fun. UK premier Edward Heath had given an interview and this footage was lip synced with different statements. I won't elucidate what he reputedly said about his party, but the fact is, that even forty-years-ago technology was in place that appeared so perfect you would have sworn it was Heath making the comments.

When a viewer sees film footage of an event, a continuous length is more difficult to doctor than short inter-linked segments of the incident that was filmed. The viewer usually sees the event as independent pockets of filming that have been sown together. Each pocket can make a subliminal statement and influence the perception of the viewer. Please remember the difference between legitimate and propaganda use.



Former NKVD spy chief Nikolai Yezhov 'disappears' from Stalin's side - this after he was arrested in 1939 and executed a year later. He, like others close to Stalin, fell out with the Soviet leader and were 'removed from history'



All manner of conspiracy theories surround this photograph of John F. Kennedy assassin Lee Harvey Oswald. The picture, taken in 1963, shows Oswald holding a gun and three Marxist newspapers. During subsequent hearings following the shooting, the image became a contentious issue, with some saying it proves he had

"more than a few connections to Moscow." Despite numerous tests being performed on the photograph, most supporting its authenticity, some sceptics still maintain it was a ruse by the CIA to "implicate the KGB..."

There are many seamless ways to doctor or manipulate film, but CGI (computer generated images) can create whole worlds that are as plausible as the real thing.

In 2012 under the leadership of Kim-Jong-un, propaganda footage was released, concerning North Korea's nuclear programme. In today's world this has a strong association with present events and liaison between Donald Trump and Kim-Jong-un. Visual propaganda is a powerful tool, because most people believe what they see, even more than what they read.

In respect of both public and intelligence use of the above described methods of deception, one has to wonder to what extent our perception of world affairs are coloured. The reputable domestic use of such methods conditions us, and this conditioning reinforces the propaganda use. Face value analysis is no longer a viable method of accurately evaluating news, either through television, periodicals, or the press. In today's world we must adapt a far more analytic approach to evaluate the real picture of world affairs.



1940s. Pre-digital era tools for photographic manipulation

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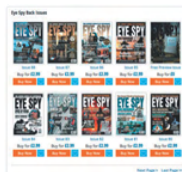
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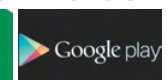
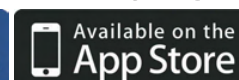
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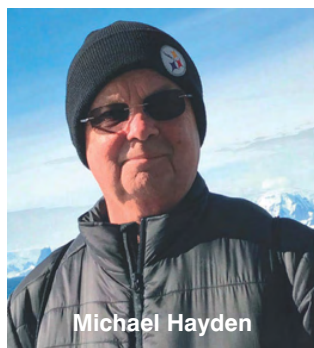
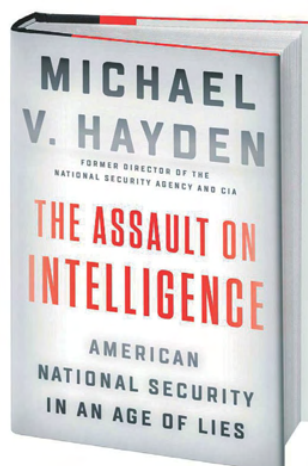
Book Releases

THE ASSAULT ON INTELLIGENCE: American National Security in an Age of Lies

Michael V. Hayden
Penguin Press

A blistering critique of the forces threatening the United States Intelligence Community (USIC), beginning with the President of the United States himself, in a time when that community's work has never been harder or more important.

The world order is teetering on the brink. North Korea is on the verge of having a nuclear weapon that could reach all of the United States, Russians have mastered a new form of information warfare that undermines democracy, and the role of China in the global community remains unclear. There will always be value to experience and expertise, devotion to facts, humility in the face of complexity, and a respect for ideas, but in this moment they seem more important,



Michael Hayden

and more endangered, than they've ever been.

It is a sobering vision. The US Intelligence Community (USIC) is more at risk than is commonly understood, for every good reason. Civil war or societal collapse is not necessarily imminent or inevitable, but Hayden argues American democracy's core structures, processes, and attitudes are under great stress. Hayden believes America has a President in office who responds to overwhelming evidence from the intelligence community that the Russians are, by all acceptable standards of cyber conflict, in a state of outright war against the USA, not by leading a strong response, but by shooting the messenger - the USIC.

There are fundamental changes afoot in the world and in the USA. *The Assault on Intelligence* shows us what they are and points toward a series of effective responses. Hayden says "when we lose our intelligence, literally and figuratively, democracy dies." Hardback 304pp

Available from Eye Spy Ref: ES/1723
UK £23.00 USA \$35.00 ROW £25.00

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE: The First One Hundred Years

John Buckley, Paul Beaver
Oxford University Press, Oxford

In 1918, the Royal Air Force became the first major independent air force in the world. Formed to serve a strategic need in the most intensive war that Britain had then fought, the RAF continued in the inter-war era to play a key role in the political and diplomatic world, and in defending the Empire.

During the Second World War, the RAF was pivotal in defending Britain from invasion in the Battle of Britain, and then in leading the assault on the Axis powers, most notably through the contentious bomber offensive against Germany.

In the post-war world, the RAF adapted and developed into a force to meet the needs of the United Kingdom during the Cold War, the retreat from Empire, and most recently in the move to coalition



warfare against low intensity threats, all against a backdrop of diminishing resources and shifting priorities.

This is the story of the RAF over the first century of its existence: how it has confronted the many challenges and threats it has faced - from the Luftwaffe in 1940, through the spectre of nuclear holocaust in the Cold War, to the fight against terrorism in the 21st century - and how it has contributed to the defence of the United Kingdom throughout that period. Hardback 288pp

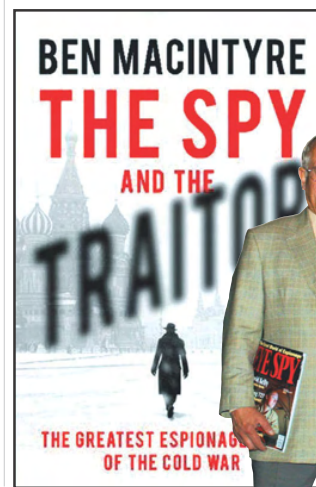
Available from Eye Spy Ref: ES/1724
UK £22.50 USA \$34.00 ROW £24.00

THE SPY AND THE TRAITOR: The Greatest Espionage Story of Cold War

Ben MacIntyre
Viking Press

On a warm July evening in 1985, a middle-aged man stood on the pavement of a busy avenue in the heart of Moscow, holding a plastic carrier bag. In his grey suit and tie, he looked like any other Soviet citizen. The bag alone was mildly conspicuous, printed with the red logo of the Safeway supermarket.

The man was a spy for MI6. A senior KGB officer in the person of Oleg Gordievsky (below). For more than a decade he had supplied his British spymasters with a stream of priceless secrets from deep within the Soviet intelligence machine. No spy had done more to damage the KGB. The Safeway bag was a signal: to activate his escape plan to be smuggled out of Soviet Russia.





Ben MacIntyre

So began one of the boldest and most extraordinary episodes in the history of espionage. In *The Spy and the Traitor* Ben MacIntyre reveals a tale of betrayal, duplicity and raw courage that changed the course of the Cold War forever. Hardback 384pp

Available from Eye Spy Ref: ES/1725
UK £27.50 USA \$45.00 ROW £30.00

GUARDIANS OF CHURCHILL'S SECRET ARMY: Men of the Intelligence Corps in the SOE

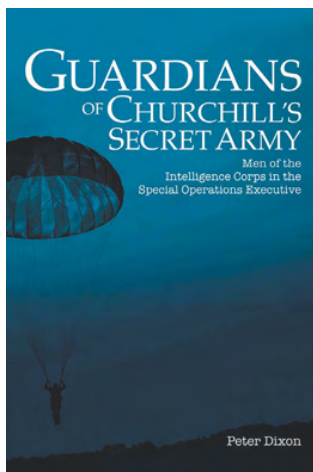
Peter Dixon
Cloudhill Press

How can the fight be taken to the enemy? New Prime Minister Winston Churchill forms the Special Operations Executive (SOE), telling its leader to "set Europe ablaze" through subversion and sabotage. But how can this most secret of agencies be kept secure? This book tells the mostly unknown human stories of the men who were brought into SOE, straight from Intelligence Corps training, to do just that. They were junior in rank, but far from ordinary people. They were Australian, Anglo-French, Canadian,

SOE HQ, London



© CLASSIFIED: 500 SPY SITES OF LONDON



Scandinavian, East European and British. They had been schoolteachers, journalists, artists, ship brokers and racehorse trainers. Each spoke several languages.

The subjects of this book stood alongside courageous agents in training: encouraged them, assessed their character, and tried to teach them the caution and suspicion that might just keep them alive, deep in enemy territory. But they did much more. Many became agents themselves and displayed great bravery. All played a crucial role in the global effort to undermine the enemy.

We find them not only in the Baker Street Headquarters of SOE, but also in night parachute drops, in paramilitary training in the remotest depths of Scotland and in undercover agent training in isolated English country houses. We follow them to occupied France, to Malaya and Thailand under threat of Japanese invasion, to Italy and Germany as they play their part in the collapse of the Axis regimes. As we do so, we find a world of heroism and personal commitment so different from our own experience that it is scarcely believable. Softback 232pp

Available from Eye Spy Ref: ES/1726
UK £12.50 USA \$20.00 ROW £14.00

DAY OF THE RANGERS: The Battle of Mogadishu 25 Years On

Leigh Neville
Osprey Publishing

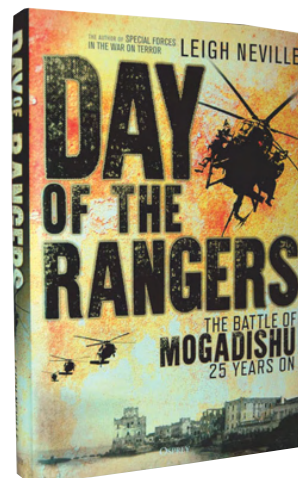
On 3 October 1993, Task Force Ranger was dispatched to seize two high-profile lieutenants of a Somali warlord. Special Forces troops were



transported by ground vehicles and helicopters, and the mission was meant to be over within the hour. They quickly found themselves under heavy fire, and two Black Hawk helicopters were shot down. With a hastily organised relief column many hours away, the American troops faced a desperate battle for survival.

Focusing on the stories of the soldiers on the ground, and in the air, *Day of the Rangers* reveals the experiences and recollections of the Special Forces units, including the Rangers, Delta operators and Nightstalker crews who fought in the battle of Mogadishu.

Published to mark the battle's 25th anniversary and using recently declassified documents and new interviews with many of the participants, the book is a fascinating and revealing new history of a battle that would influence American Special Forces for decades to come. Hardback 352pp

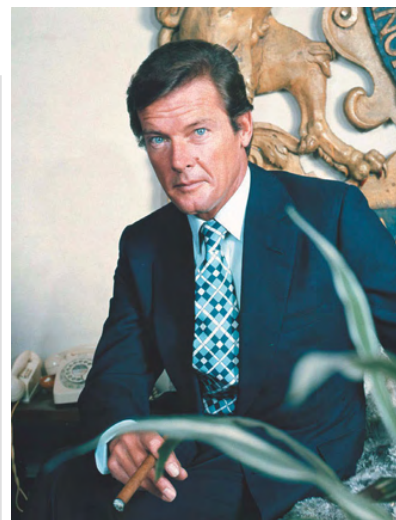


Available from Eye Spy Ref: ES/1727
UK £23.00 USA \$35.00 ROW £25.00

THE 007 DIARIES: Filming Live and Let Die

Sir Roger Moore
The History Press

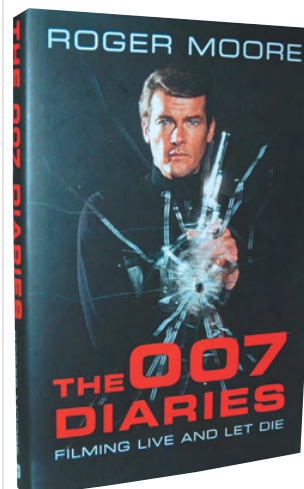
Out of print for over forty years, *The 007 Diaries* introduces Roger Moore's 'James Bond Diary' to a new generation of fans.



Roger Moore pictured in 1973

To tie in with the release of his first James Bond film, *Live and Let Die*, Roger Moore agreed to keep a day-by-day diary throughout the film's production, which would be published just ahead of the premiere in July 1973.

From his unveiling as the new 007 in 1972 through to his first scenes on location in New Orleans and his final shot in New York, Moore describes his whirlwind journey as cinema's most famous secret agent. Taking in the sights of Jamaica before returning to Pinewood Studios, Moore's razor wit and unique brand of humour is ever present. With tales from every location, including his encounters with his co-stars and key crew members, Moore offers the reader an unusually candid, amusing and hugely insightful behind-the-scenes look into the world's most successful film franchise. Hardback 224pp



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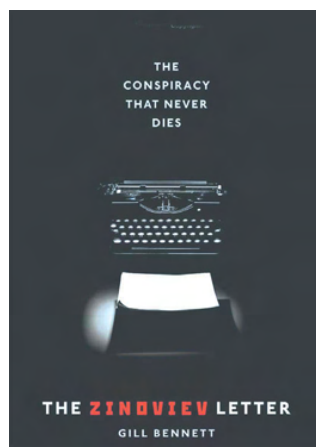
THE ZINOVIEV LETTER: The Conspiracy That Never Dies

Gill Bennett
Oxford University Press

This is the story of one of the most enduring conspiracy theories in British politics, an intrigue that still has resonance nearly a century after it was written: the Zinoviev Letter of 1924.

Almost certainly a forgery, the Letter, encouraging the British proletariat to greater revolutionary fervour, was apparently sent by Grigori Zinoviev, head of the Bolshevik propaganda organisation, to the British Communist Party in September 1924. Sent to London through British Secret Intelligence Service channels, it arrived during the general election campaign and was leaked to the press.

The Zinoviev Letter has long been a symbol of political dirty tricks and what we would now call fake news.



But it is also a gripping historical detective story of spies and secrets, fraud and forgery, international subversion and the nascent global conflict between Communism and Capitalism. Hardback 340pp

Available from Eye Spy Ref: ES/1729
UK £27.50 USA \$38.00 ROW £30.00

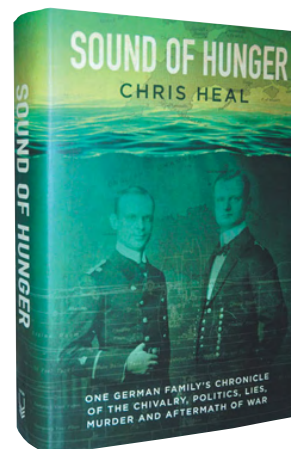
SOUND OF HUNGER: One German Family's Chronicle of the Chivalry, Politics, Lies, Murder and Aftermath of War

Chris Heal
Unicorn Publishing Group

A true story that centres on two German brothers, Erich and Georg Gerth, U-boat commanders, and the First World War and its aftermath. The Gerths' lives and careers as navy officers are set against the military, political and social environment of their times. This is not conventional history, but a personal view of the events that were integral to the Gerth brothers, to see how they were changed by what they heard, were taught and experienced.

Their careers were exciting, extracted from German archives: spying in South America, bombardment of the English coast, sea battles, torpedoed and mined ships, and desperate survivals.

The story does not end well. The family's Jewish connections are disclosed: it is a time of forged passports, concentration camps,



attempted flight to South America; and children hidden in Roman convents. The Gestapo steps in. One brother dies in poignant and lurid circumstances, the other becomes a recluse after watching the ruins of his family home and business, flattened by British carpet bombing of a militarised town. Hardback 768pp

Available from Eye Spy Ref: ES/1730
UK £39.00 USA \$50.00 ROW £40.00

FACTS AND FEARS: Hard Truth from a Life in Intelligence

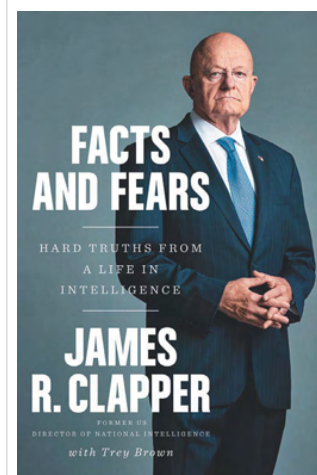
James Clapper, Trey Brown
Viking Press USA

Former Director of Intelligence in the United States, James Clapper, traces his career through five decades of national intelligence operations, the growing threat of cyberattacks, his relationships with Presidents and Congress, and the truth about Russia's role in the 2016 General Election.

Clapper considers such controversial questions as: Is intelligence ethical? Is it moral to intercept communications or to photograph closed societies from orbit? What are the limits of what we should be allowed to do? What protections should we give to the private citizens of the world, not to mention our fellow Americans? Are there times when intelligence officers can lose credibility as unbiased reporters of hard truths by inserting themselves into policy decisions?

Clapper describes, in the wake of Snowden and WikiLeaks, his efforts to make intelligence more transparent and to push back against the suspicion that Americans private lives are subject to surveillance. Hardback 320pp

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SECTOR 4

LONG ARM OF THE MOSSAD?



Pro-Assad Media Blames Israel's Mossad for Assassination of Chemical Weapons and Missile Technology Chief

A number of Syrian state-run newspapers, including daily newspaper *al-Watan*, owned by President Bashar Assad's cousin Rami Makhlof, have accused the Mossad of assassinating Dr Aziz Asber, a key senior Syrian chemical weapons and missile scientist who allegedly had ties to Iran.

Asber was killed in a car bomb attack on 4 August along with his personal security driver. The scientist headed a top secret scientific programme or facility known as Sector 4 in the western city of Masyaf, believed to be responsible for manufacturing the sarin gas used to target civilians and anti-Assad fighters in 2017. United Nations investigators confirmed sarin was the likely cause of numerous deaths, including many children.



Soldiers of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)



Dr Aziz Asber

Dr Asber was in charge of the Scientific Studies and Research Centre (SSRC)* established 50 years ago. This facility is the primary research centre for nuclear, biological, chemical and ballistic missile testing.

He had close relations with senior Assad associates in both the political and military world. Western intelligence officials believe Asber's facility regularly supplied weapons to the Syrian Army, Lebanon-based Hezbollah, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and other fighting factions supportive of Assad. However, more recently he was reportedly engaged with Iranian scientists working on a range of new missile delivery systems and an underground complex. And it is this thread, which some analysts believe, Mossad feared was connected to Iran's nuclear ambitions, which may have been the trigger for the assassination. A Syrian

intelligence source said this made his "termination more imperative for Israel."

RESPONSIBILITY

The attack on Asber was initially claimed by a Syrian rebel group affiliated to Tahrir al-Sham. This outfit also includes fighters from the Nusra Front, an al-Qaida affiliate. Other opposition groups also said they were responsible, including the Abu Amara Brigades. It posted a



President Bashar Assad



The Abu Amara Brigades claimed responsibility with this posting

media release on the Internet saying 'We planted several devices'. However, observers report only one explosion occurred.

A number of Syrian opposition figures claim it was Assad himself who ordered the assassination, because "Asber was very familiar with Syria's chemical weapons deployment and its use against civilians." One intelligence source said "removing Asber means that in future months when all atrocities are investigated, he will not be able to give evidence against the regime."

Despite claims of responsibility from a variety of groups in the region, most intelligence watchers have linked the incident to Israel's foreign intelligence service - the Mossad. In July, the Masyaf centre was struck twice by Israeli Air Force fighters. Sources say the strike was organised to coincide with the visit of several Iranian scientists who are engaged in the development of short-range surface-to-surface missiles. The Mossad were convinced Asber was a key scientist who worked with Iran's Quds Force commander Qasem Soleimani on a programme to "retrofit the Syrian SM600 Tishreen missile and turn it into a precision guided missile," according to one commentator.

The activities of Syrian government chemical and weapons sites have not gone unnoticed by Western intelligence services. In April



Iran's Quds Force commander Qasem Soleimani. Inset: Pictured in Syria



Dr Aziz Asber died instantly

2018, RAF, USAF and French Air Force warplanes bombed another chemical manufacturing plant in Damascus, Syria's capital.

A HISTORY OF SANCTIONS

Israel's Mossad has a long history of removing key weapons engineers and scientists. At least two scientists opposed to the existence of Israel have been assassinated this year. Intelligence watchers have also

attributed the deaths of at least six Iranian scientists attached to Tehran's nuclear weapons programme to Mossad assassins.

Other historical case examples include the poisoning of Iraqi nuclear scientists and removal of an Egyptian weapons expert in the 1970s. Iran General Hassan Tehrani Moghaddam, commander of the IRGC and regarded as the 'father of Iran's missile programme', died along with 16 associates in November 2011, when a suspected bomb exploded in their place of work 25 miles west of Tehran. A number of other Syrian scientists have also perished, including a nuclear weapons specialist who died in 2008.

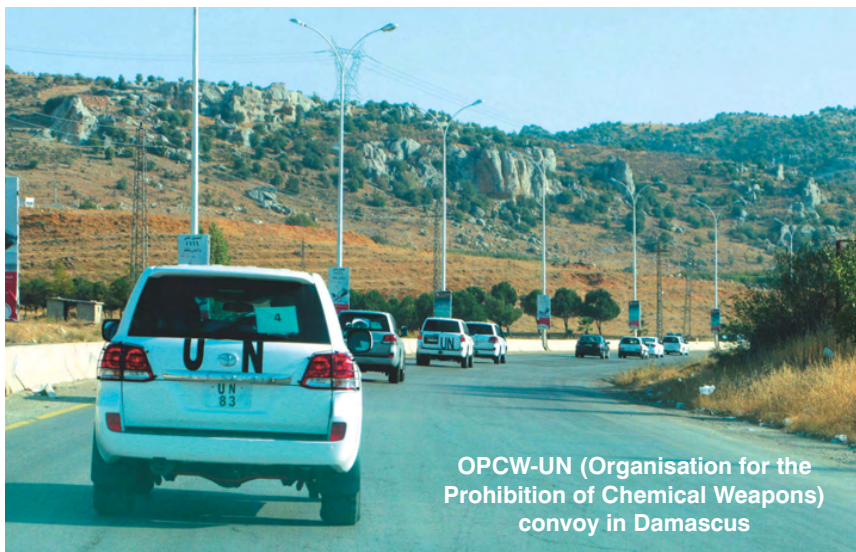
TOOTHPASTE OR CHOCOLATE?



Operations performed by the Mossad can be elaborate, simple and even bizarre in their execution.

In 1972 an instruction was given to the organisation to eliminate Wadie Haddad, a leading figure in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Israeli investigative journalist Aaron Klein claims the Mossad sent Haddad a box of Belgian chocolates which had been carefully coated with a lethal poison. This took effect slowly and he died a few months later.

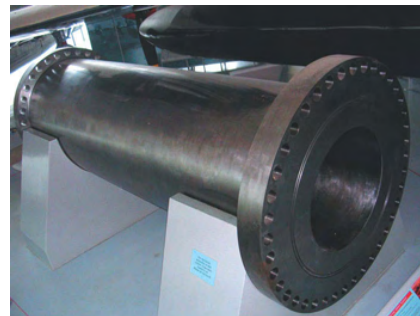
Another version of Haddad's death surfaced in 2018. Mossad specialist Ronen Bergman said the organisation had recruited a person close to Haddad - giving him the title 'Agent Sadness'. Thereafter, he switched his toothpaste with an identical brand that had



OPCW-UN (Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons) convoy in Damascus



Iraq's super gun. Inset: Gerald Bull



A section of Iraq's super gun (Project Babylon) on display at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, UK



Ronen Bergman

been laced with a deadly toxin, reportedly manufactured by a secret facility in Israel. Week by week his health began to fail and eventually the toxin killed him.

NOT QUITE A MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE

Often real life spy incidents are copied by film producers, script writers, authors etc. and used in their respective productions. However, the Mossad opted to draw a theme from the famous movie - *The Manchurian Candidate* and use it as the basis for an assassination.

The target was Palestinian leader Yasar Arafat; and the method involved using similar 'brainwashing' and hypnotising techniques as played out in the movie on a Palestinian prisoner known as Fatkhi, who was told time after time "Arafat bad..."



1970. Arafat pictured with his 'trademark' sunglasses at a press conference in Jordan

In late 1968, Mossad's 'Manchurian Candidate' was instructed to kill Arafat, but things didn't go to plan. The would-be assassin walked into a police station and revealed his recruitment, training and objective to officers.

SIMPLE METHODS ARE BEST

Perhaps the most infamous 'weapons specialist' assassination attributed to the Mossad, was that of Canadian-born engineer Gerald Bull in 1990, outside his apartment in Brussels, Belgium. He was the designer of a 'super gun' - a long-range artillery gun which the Mossad believed posed a direct threat to Israel. Saddam Hussein was an interested party in Bull's work and launched an operation to assist the designer and secure his technology (Project Babylon). The evidence was presented to then Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who according to intelligence sources, sanctioned the Brussels assassination. Three agents waited for Bull at his apartment, and duly shot him dead.

Such killings, according to Israeli intelligence specialists, can only be sanctioned by the Prime Minister. As for Asfer, Defence Minister of Israel, Avigdor Lieberman was dismissive



Israeli Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman

of any Israeli connection. He said "every time this happens, suspicion falls on Israel. We won't be taking this too seriously."

* Also known as CERS (French - Centre D'Etudes et de Recherches Scientifiques)



Super gun designer Gerald Bull was shot by assassins in Brussels



MH370

THE FINAL REPORT?

FRANCE TO REOPEN MH370 PROBE Security Chiefs Unimpressed by Malaysian Report

According to the Editorial of French newspaper *Le Parisien*, France's Gendarmerie of Air Transport (GTA) has been instructed to re-examine the circumstances of the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 on 8 March 2014. Much attention will be given to technical data supplied by Immarsat, operator of a global satellite network.

This follows publication of the final 449-page report into the incident by Malaysian investigators, who failed to reach a conclusion. Four French nationals were on board the flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. A GTA official reportedly called the report "imprecise and ambiguous."

The nineteen person investigative team, which included experts from the USA, Australia and

China - who authored the report - state they still cannot rule out the possibility the aircraft was hijacked. Nor do they know what happened in the seven hours following its last communication and known location. That was made by Captain Zaharie Shah as the aircraft departed Malaysian airspace. He signed off by communicating with an air traffic controller: "Good night, Malaysian three seven zero."

Other primary causes were investigated, including 'sabotage' and 'psychological issues', presumably surrounding the mental state and well being of Captain Shah.

The report does however reveal a number of air traffic communication failings, which led to



Captain Zaharie Shah



Azharuddin Abdul Rahman

the resignation of Azharuddin Abdul Rahman, Director General of the country's Civil Aviation Authority. Rahman said the report found Air Traffic Control (ATC) did "not comply with standard operating procedures."

The disappearance of MH370 started the largest ever search operation in aviation history which covered nearly 50,000 square miles. Though a few fragments of the aircraft have been discovered in waters and shorelines of several countries, the main assembly and bodies of the 239 people, mostly Chinese nationals on board the Boeing 777, remain elusive - so too the cause of how the aircraft simply vanished.

Lead Malaysian investigator Kok Soo Chon said the aircraft deviated from its path, probably under manual control, and that some evidence "points irresistibly to unlawful interference." Further than



Kok Soo Chon



US Navy airman deploys a marine location marker from a P-8A Poseidon aircraft during the search for MH370



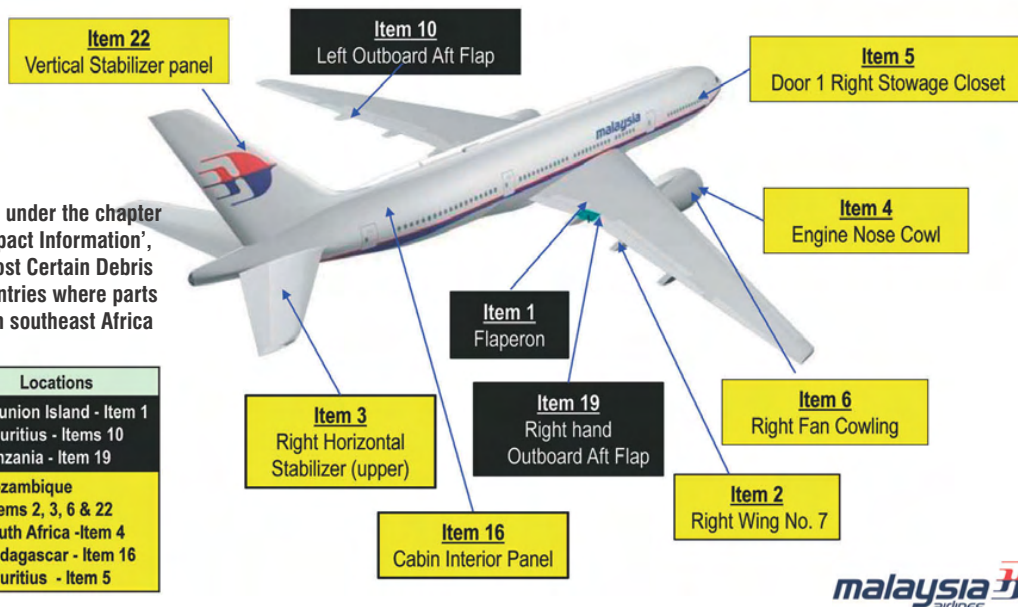
Flaperon on a Boeing 777. Inset: Flaperon from the missing MH370 discovered on the island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean in 2015





A plate from the final report, under the chapter heading 'Wreckage and Impact Information', shows 'Confirmed and Almost Certain Debris Identification'. Note the countries where parts were recovered - most from southeast Africa

Status	Total	Locations
Confirmed	3	1) Reunion Island - Item 1 2) Mauritius - Items 10 3) Tanzania - Item 19
Almost Certain	7	4) Mozambique - Items 2, 3, 6 & 22 5) South Africa - Item 4 6) Madagascar - Item 16 7) Mauritius - Item 5



malaysia airlines



US Navy airman aboard a P-8A Poseidon aircraft scans waters in the Southern Indian Ocean

that, investigators remain uncertain what happened, undoubtedly because vital data from the aircraft's electronic systems was not located (flight data recorders) and physical evidence from the aircraft itself, including forensics from persons on board MH370.

Much speculation still surrounds Shah, 53, an experienced pilot with over 18,000 hours flying time. Some analysts believe he disabled the aircraft in a suicide bid because of personal problems, a claim disputed by his family. Indeed, the report states: 'There is no evidence that either the pilot-in-command or the first officer had experienced recent changes or difficulties in personal relationships or that there were any conflicts or problems between them'.

At a news conference held during release of the report, Kok Chon seemed to exonerate the crew: "We are not of the opinion that it could



Australian ADV Ocean Shield conducted the seafloor sonar survey. It is seen here deploying a Bluefin-21 autonomous underwater vehicle

be an event committed by the pilot." He also said that his team had examined "over 60 allegations [theories] and removed them one-by-one."

Senior aviation officials using a plethora of data, including 'pings' secured by orbiting satellites, remain convinced MH370 crashed in the southern Indian Ocean off Western Australia, after exhausting its fuel supply. Interestingly, the largest piece of debris

recovered thus far, was a barnacle encrusted wing section (flaperon), found on the French-owned island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean in 2015 (see photograph opposite).

At time of publication, the French Government has neither confirmed or rejected reports it has authorised a further investigation into what many air historians are calling, "the world's great aviation mystery."



A Chinese People's Liberation Army Air Force Ilyushin Il-76 aircraft lands at Perth Airport, Australia, during the massive international effort to find MH370

NOVICHOK THE SEQUEL



Continued from Page 22

remember if this was in Salisbury or Amesbury. He then gifted it to Dawn Sturgess who sprayed and rubbed the 'perfume' (an oily substance) on her hands and lower arms, a reason why the strongest concentration was found on this area of her body. Fifteen minutes later he discovered her clothed in the bath and in severe distress. He also admitted that he dropped some of the fluid on his hands, which he immediately washed off - an act which almost certainly saved his life. Nevertheless, he too fell ill.

Rowley told investigators the bottle was sealed and had to be assembled. If this is true, it casts doubt on the 'same delivery container' theory in respect of the Skripals. No doubt chemical and forensic specialists will investigate this further.

To recall, in the attack on the Skripals, significant traces of the Novichok nerve agent was found on the door handle of Sergei Skripal's home, and perhaps his vehicle. Investigators believe this too was delivered using a spray - hence the importance of the discovery of a perfume bottle... but perhaps not the same one used in the Salisbury attack, which opens the door to further speculation.

MORE UNITED STATES SANCTIONS

The White House said it "strongly condemned Russia's use of chemical weapons against Britain," and imposed new sanctions on 22 August. Intelligence sources say these are related to rocket and electronic technology.

Other tougher sanctions could follow, including revoking Russian airline carrier Aeroflot landing rights.

The Kremlin, in response, said if the sanctions are introduced, Russia will action countermeasures by banning exports of the important RD-180 rocket engines to the United States.

President Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov said, "these are absolutely unlawful and don't conform to international law." He went on to describe the situation as a "theatre of the absurd."

Following the first Novichok attack in Salisbury in March, the US ejected 60 senior intelligence

and diplomatic personnel from the Russia Embassy and consulate in Washington.

Britain's Foreign Office welcomed the US action stating it sent a "strong international message." A spokesperson added: "The response to the use of a chemical weapon on the streets of Salisbury sends an unequivocal message to Russia that its provocative, reckless behaviour will not go unchallenged."

Both MI6 and the CIA are confident persons controlled or serving with Russia's GRU intelligence agency, were behind the incidents.

LAST WORD

LONDON: Perhaps not coincidentally, shortly after America's new declaration of support for the UK in respect of the Novichok incidents, US Ambassador to Britain, Woody Johnson, asked London to reverse its decision over Iran's nuclear programme. Washington recently pulled out of the 2015 Iran nuclear treaty - JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) - and reimposed sanctions on Tehran. However, Britain, together with France and Germany opted to stay in the pact.

"We are asking global Britain to use its considerable diplomatic power and influence and join us as we lead a concerted global effort towards a genuinely comprehensive agreement," said Johnson. "It's time to move on from the flawed deal."



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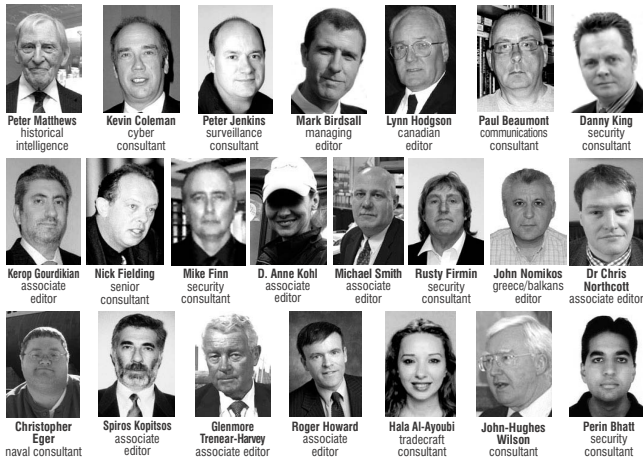
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