THE COVERT WORLD OF ESPIONAGE

EYE SPY

INTELLIGENCE MAGAZINE

GRU

BLACK OPS
A Dark Tradecraft

INTEL FOCUS

SPIES AND ASSASSINS

ARCTIC SPY GAMES

A-Z THE LANGUAGE OF SPIES

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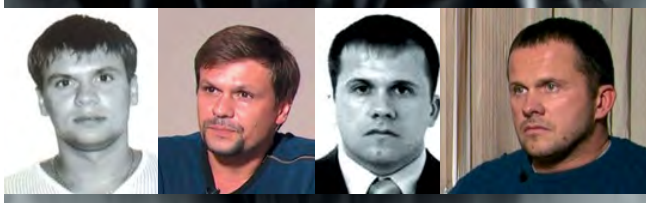
Two GRU assassins despatched to kill MI6 agent are Heroes of the Russian Federation



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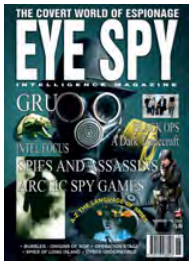
ARCTIC SPY GAMES

EYE SPY 118

"Soviet espionage has never stopped... it's deeply embedded in Russia's DNA to use its capabilities to disrupt other nations

FORMER MI6 CHIEF SIR RICHARD DEARLOVE



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MAJOR CONTENT GUIDE

GRU OPERATIONS EXPOSED AS SPIES IDENTIFIED

British Intelligence working with their Dutch counterparts and other agencies, have assembled a convincing array of evidence to identify who was responsible for the operation targeting former MI6 agent Sergei Skripal in March this year. Few doubt Russia's GRU was the agency that despatched a team to assassinate Skripal and elevate its own standing as the premier intelligence body in Russia. Unfortunately for those who planned and authorised the operation, it ended in failure. Far more damaging was its exposure. And to compound matters, secondary operations in the Hague and Switzerland targeting a WMD monitoring body assisting the investigation were identified by MI6. This resulted in four GRU cyber operatives being detained and deported before they could engage with computer systems to discover just how much evidence had been secured.

The ripples of events generated by the Skripal affair reached the United States. I am reliably informed this led to a whole range of new measures being introduced to protect former Russian intelligence people who have defected; from creating new identities to relocation and additional security. The UK too has reviewed its protection of a number of individuals who might be at risk.

There are tales aplenty circulating that President Putin is most unhappy with the GRU and especially its head - Igor Korobov. However, despite his organisation being blamed for the intelligence debacle, Korobov remains the GRU chief for now. Mr Putin is a great friend of Korobov, and just this summer both men enjoyed a hunting trip together. Rumours of an intelligence rift are just that... rumours.

MARK BIRDSALL, MANAGING EDITOR

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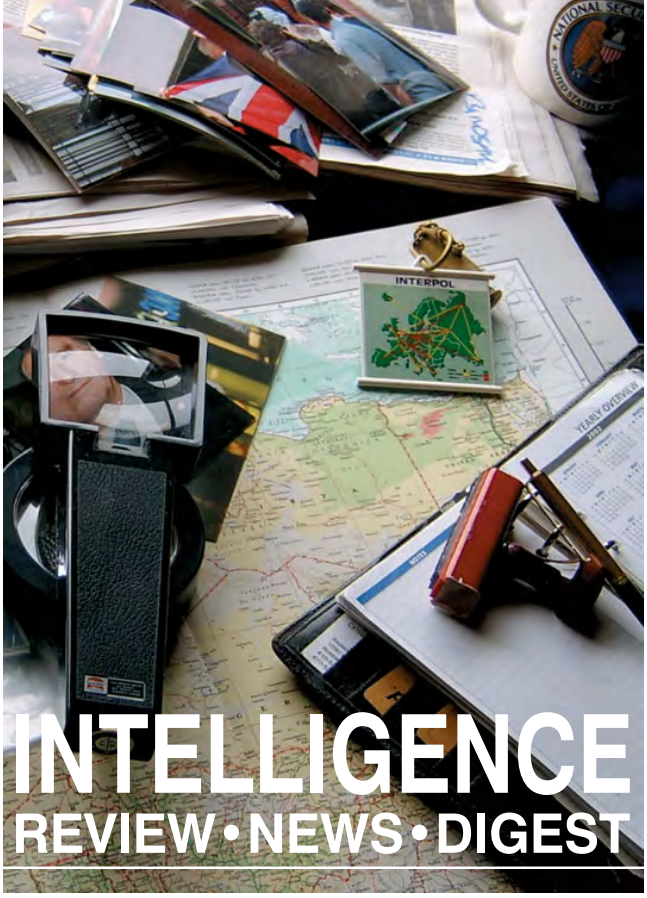
INTELLIGENCE CHOICE

MIVD-MI6 OPERATION THWARTS GRU CYBER TEAM

The Hague in Holland is home to many important international bodies, one of which is the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). Following the attempted assassination of former Russian intelligence officer Sergei Skripal in Salisbury, England, using the Russian-manufactured Novichok nerve agent, samples were sent to the OPCW for analysis. This was public knowledge.

To understand just what had been submitted by Britain, the GRU sent a specialist cyber team to Holland to access computers and retrieve vital data. Unbeknown to the GRU, MI6 soon discovered the plot and alerted colleagues at Holland's MIVD military intelligence service. Its agents surveilled the GRU team and detained four officers outside the OPCW HQ. The MIVD-MI6 counter-intelligence operation is examined in full.

•64 THE GRU CLEANERS



INTELLIGENCE
REVIEW • NEWS • DIGEST

WESTMINSTER BRIDGE TERRORIST 'KILLED LAWFULLY'

Westminster ISIS terrorist Khalid Masood, who killed four pedestrians and Police Constable Keith Palmer on 22 March last year, was "killed lawfully" an inquest jury at the Old Bailey Court has found.

Over the course of several weeks, those gathered in the courtroom heard how Masood, 52, used his vehicle to kill American tourist Kurt Cochran, 54, retired window cleaner Leslie Rhodes, 75, mother-of-two Aysha Frade, 44, and Romanian designer Andreea Cristea, 31. A further 29 people were injured.

Masood was shot dead by a ministerial bodyguard identified only as SA74. "After shouting at

PC Keith Palmer

him to drop the knives and receiving no change in his demeanour, I fired my pistol," said SA74, who believed Masood was going to kill him.

Chief Coroner Mark Lucraft QC said "it was possible that Palmer's

MH17: NEW KREMLIN CLAIMS

INVESTIGATORS AWAIT 'CONVINCING' NEW RUSSIAN EVIDENCE

Dutch air accident investigators are still waiting to receive additional information on the shooting down of MH17 over eastern Ukraine in 2014, from Russia's Defence Ministry. This follows new claims made by Kremlin officials that "Moscow has proof the missile that struck the aircraft was in Ukrainian hands."

Since the fatal incident, which resulted in the deaths of 298 people, Moscow said an international team of investigators "used faked video to create the view the missile had come from Russia." In a strange development, Kremlin officials insist the JIT (Joint Investigation Team) used video of an authentic Buk missile system, but "added the tow truck carrying the missile at a later date."

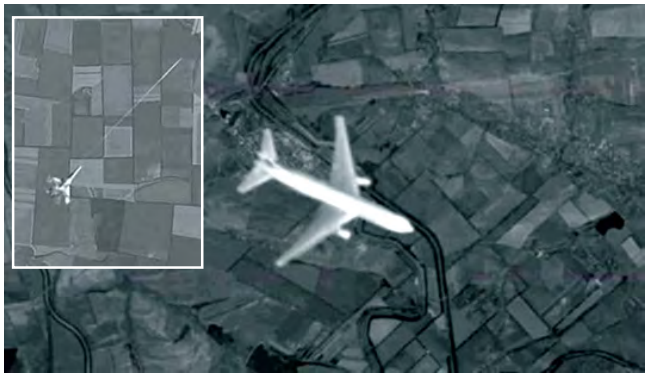
Despite debris carrying manufacturing details which reveal it was made in Dolgoprudny near Moscow in 1986, Russia insists it was in the hands of Ukraine at the time of the incident. This follows the release of a purchase document which allegedly shows the missile was delivered by rail to a Ukrainian military site in the Ternopol area of the country in the same year.

Another piece of evidence allegedly in the hands of Moscow is a purported audio recording of Ukraine troops in 2016, saying they would "bring down another Malaysian Boeing."

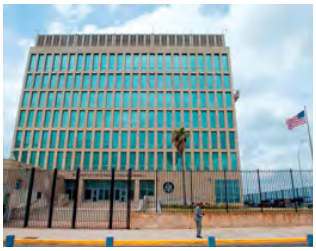
All manner of evidence is being used by Moscow to cloud the true facts of the event. Perhaps the oddest is a satellite photograph purporting to show the exact moment of the attack by a Ukraine

1986 delivery order?

Air Force Mig-29 fighter. In this case the launching of an air-to-air missile. Western Intelligence and photographic experts agree it is almost certainly bogus.



CIA IDENTIFY SOURCE OF SONIC WEAPONS



WASHINGTON: Intelligence sources in the United States believe the CIA has identified the source of the 'sonic' noise or electromagnetic weapons which have affected more than 20 US diplomatic staff on Cuba.

Langley reportedly believe the noise was generated by a Russian team to test its impact. However, few details in respect of the exact nature of the equipment have been released.

Those who were taken ill reported various symptoms, including headaches, tinnitus and vertigo. Several people were treated in hospital and returned to the USA.

Officials report the Pentagon is testing countermeasures at Kirtland AFB in New Mexico.

death could have been avoided," if armed officers had been at the Carriage Gates at the Palace of Westminster when Masood struck. Lucraft highlighted "shortcomings" in the security system at New Palace Yard, including the supervision of armed officers. Palmer's widow, Michelle, said the security lapses were "hard to believe."

Khalid Masood

BRITON ACCUSED OF SPYING

UAE Security Services Charge Academic

British national, Matthew Hedges, from Exeter, will stand trial in the United Arab Emirates following his arrest in Dubai on espionage charges. The 31-year-old is suspected of attempting to procure sensitive information during a trip there earlier this year. UAE Attorney General Dr Hamad Al Shamsi said that while posing as an "academic researcher Mr Hedges spied on behalf of or for a foreign state."

The UAE said Hedges actions jeopardised the military, economy and political security of the UAE.

Matthew Hedges

Dr Al Shamsi said that during questioning, Hedges admitted to the claims against him, which were supported by evidence and information retrieved from various electronic devices. Dr Anwar Gargash, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said that the case had been "extensively discussed with UK colleagues," over the past five months. He also wrote on Twitter: *'Unusual and embarrassing revelations about friends and allies had come to light'.*

A court statement read: *'...predicated on evidence secured from Mr Hedges' electronic devices; surveillance and intelligence gathering by UAE intelligence and security agencies; and corroborating evidence provided by Mr Hedges himself'.*

Prosecutors said they believe his "study trip was cover for his spying."

Dr Al Shamsi said Mr Hedges was accompanied by British Embassy officials for his court appearance and had been given an "accredited legal translator."

US CYBER COMMAND

SEPARATION FROM NSA STALLS

As reported in Eye Spy 117, NSA Director General Paul Nakasone wants to keep US Cyber Command (USCC) under the authority of his agency (for the foreseeable future). Intelligence sources had reported US Defense Secretary James Mattis green-lighted the separation, with US Cyber Command becoming a stand-alone intelligence organisation. Chris Inglis, 63, an experienced intelligence man was favourite to become its new Director, but now two intelligence officials speaking on condition of anonymity, have disclosed that because of Nakasone's concerns the cyber element is not ready to "stand on its own," Mattis has stalled in making a final decision.

NSA Director General Paul Nakasone

Inglis, who served as NSA Deputy Director from 2006-2014, has worked at the NSA for 28 years. "He would be my number one choice," said Michael Hayden, former NSA and CIA Director. Widely respected in the US Intelligence Community, Inglis refused to comment on the NSA-US Cyber Command issue, nor rumours he has already been selected as head of the USCC should it separate.

Chris Inglis

A Pentagon spokeswoman said: "No decision has been made. When it is, it will be reflective of the department's commitment to pre-empt, defeat and deter malicious cyber activity."

Shortly before he departed the White House, President Obama said: "Cybercom has since matured to the point where it needs to stand on its own."

Established as a pro-active intelligence element of the NSA in 2009, US Cyber Command has around 6,000 dedicated personnel.

NSA HQ Fort Meade. US Navy personnel engage in a cyber operation at US Cyber Command

BIG EARS

France Alleges Russian Satellite Engaged in 'Space Eavesdropping'

Athena-Fidus - French-Italian military communications satellite

A Russian satellite made close contact with an orbiting French satellite in 2017, in an apparent effort to eavesdrop on secure military communications. France's Defense Minister Florence Parly said the operation involved a Russian satellite called Louch-Olymp.

Parly said it approached the Athena-Fidus, a French-Italian satellite launched in 2014 used for secure military communications and the planning of operations. "Trying to listen to one's neighbour is not only unfriendly... it's an act of espionage," she said. "It got close. A bit too close. So close that one really could believe that it was trying to capture our communications."

Parly added: "This little 'star wars' didn't happen a long time ago in a galaxy far away. It happened a year ago, 36,000 kilometres above our heads. The Russian satellite has 'big ears' and is well-known but a bit indiscreet."

Without giving details, Parly said France had taken "necessary measures" and is still watching the satellite attentively.

Parly was speaking at the Toulouse-based French space agency that developed the Athena-Fidus satellite jointly with the Italian space agency ASI.

LANGLEY'S TOP TIER

NEW INTELLIGENCE HEADS ANNOUNCED

Director CIA Gina Haspel continues to assemble Langley's new 'top floor'. After appointing Vaughn Bishop as Deputy Director, Haspel welcomed Andrew Makridis as Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Sonya Holt, who will serve as Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer (CDIO). Makridis will be responsible for managing the CIA on a day-to-day basis.

CDIO Holt takes the helm after a 34-year Agency career. All assumed their new positions in late August.

Vaughn Bishop is sworn-in as Deputy Director CIA

Haspel said this of the intelligence officers: "Vaughn is an incredible intelligence officer, highly respected in the analytic cadre and by our allies. Andy brings a wealth of expertise from his 32-year CIA career and has a deep understanding of how the Agency works. He is the ultimate team player.

"To succeed against the intelligence challenges facing us today, we must have officers who bring a variety of life experiences and viewpoints to the job. Under the seasoned leadership of Sonya, we will continue to promote a diverse and inclusive workforce that is so vital to our mission."

BfV Intelligence Chief Departs

New Position Follows Internal Differences

BERLIN: Germany's domestic intelligence chief is being replaced following controversial comments in response to far-right activity in Chemnitz which brought accusations that he was not taking the problem seriously - a claim he vigorously rejected. Hans-Georg Maassen will leave the BfV agency, the government says, to become a senior official at the Interior Ministry. The move follows a row that has exposed divisions in Chancellor Merkel's administration.

However, critics point out that it actually amounts to a promotion for Maassen, who will reportedly be on a higher pay grade. The decision was reported as a compromise between Merkel and her right-wing coalition partners. Maassen was appointed BfV Director in 2012 after joining the Interior Ministry in 1991.

Iranian Intelligence Assets Seized

France Deals New Blow to Iran Nuclear Deal After Intelligence Operatives Charged

Supporters of the Iranian nuclear deal were hoping that France might lead the way in salvaging the 2015 agreement between Iran and the P5+1 world powers after the US pulled out. Those hopes have diminished following an announcement in October that Paris has concluded Iranian Intelligence (MOIS) was behind a foiled bombing attack. Senior intelligence figures said that Tehran "targeted the annual conference of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI)," organised by Iranian opposition MeK (The People's Mujahedin Organisation of Iran) near Paris in June. (See Eye Spy 117)

Assadollah Assadi

targeted and proportionate preventative measures in the form of adopting national measures to freeze the assets of Mr Assadollah Assadi and Saeid Hashemi Moghadam [senior MOIS intelligence men], Iranian nationals, as well as the Internal Security Directorate of the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence." Two other persons connected to the bomb plot were also detained.

President Trump and French President Macron. The US wants France to re-evaluate its position over Iran's nuclear programme

A joint statement from France's Interior, Economic and Foreign Affairs ministries, said: "A planned bomb attack was foiled at Villepinte on 30 June. This extremely serious attack that was to take place on our territory cannot go without a response.

"Without prejudicing the results of criminal proceedings taken against the initiators, the perpetrators and the accomplices of this planned attack, France has taken

Jean-Yves Le Drian, the French Foreign Affairs Minister, said the foiling of the bomb plot "confirms the need for a tough approach in our relations with Iran."

Assadi has been identified by the Mossad as the MOIS Vienna Station Chief and controller of operations throughout Europe. TATP explosives and a detonator were recovered during the counter-terrorism operation which involved a number of countries.

30 June 2018. Rudy Giuliani presents NCRI President-elect Maryam Rajavi with a statement signed by 33 US dignitaries and former officials at the conference targeted by MOIS operatives

Iran has denied the allegations made against it and said the incident was the result of a conspiracy to "sabotage Iran's ancient and long-standing relations with France and other significant European countries." Bahram Qasami, Iran's Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman said: "We deny the accusations and forcefully condemn the Iranian diplomat's arrest and call for his immediate release."

The failed bombing impacts on France's support of Iran in the 2015 nuclear deal, according to intelligence sources. France's DGSE and DGSI have already submitted reports which in part support the view that Iran is engaged in a covert programme to attack its opponents on European soil.

Jean-Yves Le Drian

MOIS EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE CONTROLLER

Extradiction Approved by German Court

BERLIN: Following France's conclusion of Iranian Intelligence involvement in the bomb plot, a German court has approved the extradition of Assadollah Assadi. He was arrested whilst on holiday near the German city of Aschaffenburg on an arrest warrant.

Iranian Ambassador to Vienna Dr Ebadollah Molaei, was summoned by Austria's Foreign Ministry to explain Assadi's role and that of others based in the embassy. This followed intelligence communications from various agencies, including the CIA, that the building was used as a support and coordination centre of all of MOIS' European operations.

Dr Ebadollah Molaei

ISIS A WORLDWIDE THREAT

UK WARNS THAT TERROR GROUP ARE FAR FROM FINISHED

Speaking at the United Nations in New York, as President of the Security Council for August, British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt warned that ISIS is far from defeated and remains a worldwide threat. He said that despite losing its capacity as an organised fighting force, it has evolved into a "covert terrorist network with tentacles around the world."

Referencing UN statistics, Hunt said whilst the terrorist group has lost much control in Syria and Iraq, some 20,000-30,000 of its followers remain in the theatres. Citing intelligence reports, many of the operatives are from foreign lands and are therefore a global danger. Hunt said of 900 terrorists with threads to the UK, 40% are known to have returned to Britain, whilst 180 others have been killed.

Hunt told delegates: "The point I wish to emphasise today is Daesh has not been vanquished and the root causes of its emergence have yet to be resolved. Britain shares the assessment of the Secretary-General's report that Daesh is responding to the loss of territory by evolving into a covert terrorist network, with branches as far apart as Afghanistan, Libya and Yemen."

Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt addresses UN Security Council


USAF air strike targeting ISIS terrorists during the Mosul offensive in 2017

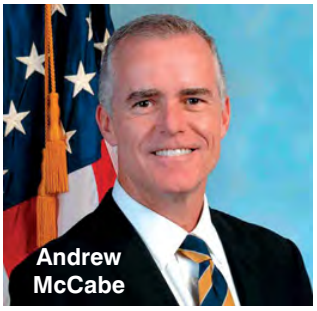

ISIS leader Abu Bakr al -Baghdadi

Urging nations to continue confronting ISIS militarily, he said that more should be done to counter its activities on the Internet in respect of propaganda and recruitment. He also said it was important to root out the causes of why people join the group and adopt plans to counter extremism. Interestingly, he referenced the UK endeavour Prevent, in which "500 people had been turned away from terrorism."

WAR OF WORDS

NEW 'TELL-ALL' BOOK DELAYED

Former FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe, has suggested the release of his book - *The Threat: How the FBI Protects America in the Age of Terror and Trump,* has been delayed because of his previous disputes with President Trump, underhand politics and the on-going disagreements between the US Intelligence Community and the White House. When in office, McCabe, was criticised by Donald Trump for allegedly siding with Hillary Clinton's election campaign people. The book, which was scheduled for release in early December, will not reach the bookstands until February, at the very earliest.


Andrew McCabe

"I am disappointed that we have had to substantially delay the publication date for my book, because the FBI review has taken far longer than they led me to believe," McCabe said. "Having been singled out for irregular unfair treatment over the past year, I am concerned it could be happening again."

McCabe said he wrote the book because the "president's attack on me symbolise his destructive effect on the country as a whole."

All intelligence-related manu-scripts written by former senior US intelligence officers are sent for pre-publication review.

BAGS OF THE CHEKA

LATVIAN KGB FILES

RIGA: The Constitution Protection Bureau (counterintelligence agency of Latvia) sent a letter to the Parliamentary Commission on Human Rights and Public Affairs and warned that the publication of former KGB files of the Latvian SSR (LSSR KGB) - referred to in the country as the 'Bags of the Cheka,' is an act that "meets the interests of the countries that are unfriendly to Latvia."

Earlier, the Latvian Ministry of Justice developed a project of new rules that will allow Latvian residents to access and research the archives of the LSSR KGB. Hundreds of sensitive case files and the identity of intelligence officers and Moscow-friendly individuals will be made available to researchers and the public alike via the National Archive and on the Internet.

CLASSIFIED ADS

DRIVING THE A4 WATCHERS

Security Service Driving Instructors

A driving instructors' advert posted by Britain's MI5 has attracted over 1,000 applications. The instructors' primary role will be to conduct driving assessments for MI5 staff, including surveillance officers operating within its famous A4 department known for over half-a-century as the Watchers.

The advert reads: *'All assessments follow a stringent reporting process, you will be required to assess a member of staff's driving ability and be asked for your professional guidance relating to staff meeting the relevant criteria'.* Other duties could include running training courses lasting up to five days for personnel who are already qualified drivers but who are required to *'upgrade their skill level'.*

As is mandatory in all British Intelligence adverts, MI5 caution potential applicants: *'MI5 is responsible for protecting the UK against threats to national security'.* Those interested in the position are cautioned: *'You should not discuss your application, other than with your partner or a close family member'.*

Once qualified within the role, opportunities exist to develop *'driver capability and upskill in various areas',* according to the advert. Successful applicants can expect to be paid between £33,783 and £36,103 plus benefits.

BACK OFFICE INTELLIGENCE

MI5, MI6 and GCHQ to Merge Key Back-Office Positions

Another UK Government advert that attracted the interest of intelligence watchers concerns the likely merging of a number of essential intelligence administration offices. The Whitehall advert references a new post - 'Director of MI5/MI6 Estates' and asks for applicants with *'proven experience leading and embedding large-scale transformative change'.*

A joint Finance Director advert read: *'We are in the process of creating a new Shared Corporate Services organisation to deliver a range of services including HR, Finance, Security, Commercial and Estates. This organisation will sit at the heart of the Agencies' strategies and mission and will allow us to deliver more whilst keeping our staff safe and secure'.*

An official said: "It will be the first time some of the administrative or other services have been shared in such a way. This is designed to increase efficiency but it certainly doesn't signal a desire for the three agencies to dilute their own organisation's identity or to merge buildings."

The Shared Corporate Services organisation will be based in Thames House, MI5's London headquarters (left).

A RESIDENCE OF SECRETS

For Sale: Former MI6 Chief's Office, Residence and Corridor

UK Real estate firm Knight Frank has listed 21 Queen Anne's Gate in Westminster for offers in excess of £11.5. In the early 1920s, MI6 Chief Rear Admiral Hugh 'Quex' Sinclair used the building as his residence and office. He actually built a small corridor which connected his apartment to the nearby Broadway Buildings - headquarters of MI6. Queen Anne's Gate also supported numerous other intelligence elements.

21 Queen Anne's Gate

CHINA SPY GAMES

United States Detains Alleged Chinese Spy Accused of Attempting to Secure Aviation and Technology Secrets

The FBI has arrested a senior Chinese intelligence official for allegedly attempting to steal trade secrets from GE Aviation and other major US aerospace companies after luring the suspect to Belgium, in what the US Justice Department called "an unprecedented extradition."

Xu Yanjun, who also uses the names Qu Hui and Zhang Hui, is described in court documents as *'An official of China's Ministry of State Security (MSS), responsible for foreign intelligence and political security'*. Xu was extradited to the US with assistance from Belgium Intelligence for seeking "to steal trade secrets and other sensitive information from an American company that leads the way in aerospace," Assistant Attorney General for National Security John C. Demers said in a Justice Department announcement.

"Beginning in at least December 2013 and continuing until his arrest, Xu targeted certain companies inside and outside the United States that are recognised as leaders in the aviation field," Demers said. "He identified experts who worked for these companies and recruited them to travel to China, often initially under the guise of asking them to deliver a university presentation."

The extradition of Xu was a joint effort between the FBI's Cincinnati Division, with "substantial support" provided by the FBI Legal Attache's Office in Brussels as well as Belgian law enforcement officials, who "provided significant assistance in securing the arrest and facilitating the surrender of Xu from Belgium," according to a Justice Department official.

FBI Director Christopher Wray

Xu faces two counts each of conspiring and attempting to commit economic espionage and theft of trade secrets, and could be given a prison sentence of up to 25-years in addition to fines if charged and convicted.

Xu's case is linked to the arrest of Ji Chaoqun, 27, a Chinese citizen living in Chicago in September, according to sources. Ji was accused of passing information on eight Americans to Chinese intelligence officers for possible recruitment.

Ji Chaoqun

Ji targeted individuals in science and technology industries, seven of whom worked for or recently retired from US defence contractors. All were naturalised US citizens born either in mainland China or the self-governed island of Taiwan.

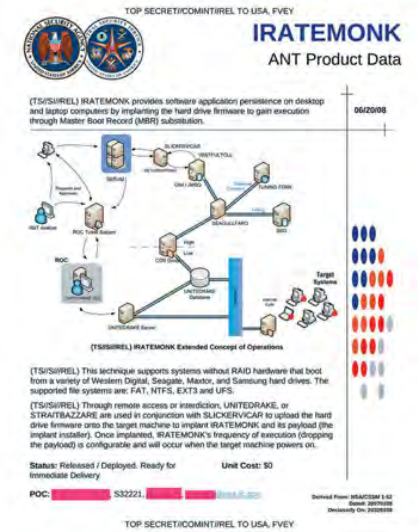
MSS agent Xu Yanjun targeted GE Aviation (amongst others) which has supplied engines to companies such as Boeing and Airbus

According to a criminal complaint, Ji began communicating with Chinese intelligence officers in late 2013. He travelled to and from China three times between 2013 and 2015.

FBI Director Christopher Wray believes China represents a bigger threat to US interests than Russia, while Vice President Mike Pence accused Beijing of trying to undermine American interests, both "economically and militarily."

THE INADVERTENT SPY

NSA Staffer Receives Prison Sentence



Details of the Equation Group and other NSA operations were leaked by NSA/ CIA contractor Edward Snowden. Thousands of secret documents then found their way onto the Internet via entities such as WikiLeaks

Former NSA employee Nghia Hoang Pho, 64, a naturalised US citizen originally from Vietnam has received a prison sentence of up to 66 months for "wilful retention of classified national defense information." The US Department of Justice (DOJ), said Pho removed "massive troves" of highly classified national defence information without authorisation and kept it at his home. Pho said he took home classified hacking software tools and documents to train "in order to get a better performance review."


Nghia Hoang Pho

Former NSA and US Cyber Command Director Admiral Mike Rogers, said that the removed materials "had significant negative impacts on the NSA mission, the NSA workforce, and the Intelligence Community as a whole."

Rogers said: "Some of NSA's most sophisticated, hard-to-achieve, and important techniques of collecting [signals intelligence] from sophisticated targets of the NSA, including collection that is crucial to decision makers when answering some of the nation's highest-priority questions. Techniques of the kind Mr Pho was entrusted to protect, yet removed from secure space, are force multipliers, allowing for intelligence collection in a multitude of environments around the globe and spanning a wide range of security topics. Compromise of one technique can place many opportunities for intelligence collection and national security insight at risk."

The intelligence man also revealed that due to Pho's actions, the NSA "was left with no choice but to abandon certain important initiatives, at great economic and operational costs."

Just as important, and information not contained in court documents, Pho, probably inadvertently, provided secret NSA code to Russian cyber security firm, Kaspersky Lab, which some intelligence commentators claim, employs a number of former Russian intelligence people. Kaspersky routinely scans its clients' computers for viruses. In Pho's case, the company allegedly detected the NSA code and sent it to Kaspersky's servers in Moscow for analysis. That analysis matched the new code with code Kaspersky had previously connected to what it has nick-named the Equation Group - widely believed to be NSA's elite Tailored Access Operations division where Pho worked.

This may have relevance to Rogers statement regarding the Agency having to end certain operations. Pho is not alleged to have given up the files knowingly. Kaspersky claims it destroyed the NSA hacking tools when it realised what they were.


Admiral Mike Rogers

US WEAPONS SYSTEMS VULNERABLE

WASHINGTON: The latest spy cases involving the NSA coincided with the release of a new report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO). Following a lengthy investigation, officials revealed that "nearly all" the weapons systems developed by the US military from 2012 to 2017 are vulnerable to cyber attack. The US watchdog said that during some tests, "operatives hacked into complex weapons systems and took control over them using relatively simple tools and techniques."

Officials said a primary reason why the weapons systems are so vulnerable to cyber attack is because of their "connectivity to other systems," something the Pentagon views as an advantage. However, the GAO said that by engaging with other systems, potential hackers need only penetrate one of the connected systems to potentially gain access to others.

THE IRANIAN SURVEILLA

Two Charged Under Espionage Laws in the United States

Two Iranian nationals have been arrested and charged with spying offences for allegedly surveilling political targets on behalf of the Iranian government. Ahmadreza Mohammadi-Doostdar, 38, who holds duel US-Iran citizenship and Majid Ghorbani, 59, who has lived in California since the mid-1990s, were detained following an FBI operation in which the suspects conducted extensive surveillance on Jewish centres and political gatherings. One target the suspects allegedly photographed was the Rohr Chabad House in Chicago, a Jewish institution serving the University of Chicago and Hyde Park. Here they monitored visitors as well as taking photographs of specific security features on the building.

The Justice Department said Doostdar had travelled to the United States in July 2017, with specific instructions to gather intelligence on the centres and Iranian opposition party Mujahdeen-e Khalq (MEK) members. In September 2017, Ghorbani attended an MEK event in New York City in which he reportedly photographed leading officials and senior

Under surveillance - Rohr Chabad House, Chicago

participants. The FBI believe the information was then delivered to Doostdar in late 2017 in return of a $2,000 payment.

In December 2017, Doostdar was stopped at a US airport as he tried to make his way back to Iran. The FBI discovered handwritten notes on 28 photographs of MEK members and a concealed receipt for the $2,000 payment. One of the photographs seized by the FBI was that of Alireza Jafarzadeh (below), Deputy Director of National Council of Resistance of Iran (USA), a well known author and analyst. In 2002, Jafarzadeh, an active Iranian dissident, revealed a great many secrets about Tehran's secret nuclear facilities. Now a political commentator, he wrote the informative book *The Iran Threat: President Ahmadinejad and the Coming Nuclear Crisis.*

On learning of the men's arrest, Jafarzadeh said: "The Iranian regime has been operating here under different covers, under different ways for the past years... decades. They got away with pretty much everything."

Logo of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI)

ARREST

Now under surveillance, Ghorbani attended an MEK-affiliated Iran Freedom Convention for Human Rights in Washington, on 5 May 2018. He was observed taking more photographs of the speakers and audience. Thereafter he met Doostdar again to discuss securing safe passage of the intelligence back to Iran and how it would prove useful to the country. Eye Spy understands this particular liaison was recorded, and along with the surveillance intelligence, led to the FBI arresting the operatives in August.

"This alleged activity demonstrates a continued interest in targeting the United States, as well as potential opposition groups located in the United States," namely the Mujahideen-e Khalq (MEK) or People's Mujahedin of Iran, said Michael McGarrity (above), acting executive assistant director of the FBI's Counterterrorism Division in Washington DC.

The incident follows the arrest of an Iranian Intelligence (MOIS) controlled cell in Europe. In this case the operatives sought to detonate a bomb targeting MEK members attending a conference in Paris (See Eye Spy 117).

THE NOVICHOK INCIDENT

GRU officers named by British Intelligence in the attempted assassination of MI6 agent Sergei Skripal and murder of civilian Dawn Sturgess, as GRU 'Cleaners' fail to remove evidence of Kremlin involvement

The Salisbury Tales

ASSASSINS IDENTIFIED?

Sergei Skripal

Following extensive cross-referencing of 11,000 hours of CCTV footage in London, Salisbury and other locations in southern England, British Intelligence has identified two prime suspects in the attempted assassination of MI6 agent Sergei Skripal on 4 March 2018. The alleged Kremlin-sanctioned operation involving the deadly Novichok nerve agent also affected the health of Skripal's daughter Yulia. On 30 June, civilians Charlie Rowley and his partner Dawn Sturgess fell ill after they sprayed what they believed was perfume on their arms. Rowley had found the bottle in a rubbish bin in Salisbury. Sturgess died on 8 July from Novichok poisoning.

Other additional information collected from travel documents, places the suspects visited and stayed, plus unspecified documentation which Eye Spy understands was supplied by a 'third party' (foreign intelligence service), led to the naming of Russian nationals 'Alexander Petrov' and 'Ruslan Boshirov'. British Intelligence and New Scotland Yard Counter Terrorism Command believe the names are pseudonyms, assigned to the men by Russia's GRU (military intelligence).

A JIGSAW PUZZLE

Investigative group Bellingcat (an assembly of private investigators and news collectors founded in 2014) traced military imagery of an individual pictured in a group photo of graduates in Chechnya. Some commentators suggest it is Boshirov.

2009 photo of GRU Colonel Anatoliy Chepiga

Ruslan Boshirov

Alexander Petrov

UK Secretary of Defence Gavin William with US Secretary of Defence James Mattis at NATO headquarters. The US supports Britain's stance on Russia's involvement in the incident

Bellingcat lead investigator on the Salisbury case - Christo Grozen

However, the reference to the person is Colonel Anatoliy Chepiga. Literature described him as an intelligence officer who served in the 14th Spetsnaz Brigade in various theatres and was declared a 'Hero of the Russian Federation' in 2014. For accurate reporting it should be recorded that on Bellingcat.com a caption read: *'Bellingcat does not claim that the person in the photograph is Chepiga'.* What is known of the officer is that Chepiga was born on 5 April 1978 and he trained at one of Russia's most revered facilities - the Far Eastern Military Command Academy. His name also features on a memorial wall celebrating elite officers.

Seemingly supportive of reports Boshirov is Chepiga, UK Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson tweeted: *'The true identity of one of the Salisbury suspects has been revealed to be a Russian Colonel. I want to thank all the people who are working so tirelessly on this case'.* Interestingly, the tweet has since been deleted.

Also in reference to the story, former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson tweeted: *'Utterly predictable news that the GRU is behind Skripal atrocity'.* His tweet remains active.

CONFIRMATION?

In late September, a BBC investigative team travelled to the village of Beryozovka, 5,000 miles east of Moscow and close to the Chinese border. It was here where Chepiga was reportedly raised. A woman in the village was shown the photograph secured by Bellingcat and other images and immediately recognised him. She acknowledged that the

A BBC investigate team travelled to the village of Beryozovka where Chepiga once lived. At least one resident recognised him

GRU chief Igor Korobov (right) and Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu

Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov caught on CCTV at Gatwick Airport 2 March

image released by New Scotland Yard was also the same man, "only older." Speaking on the condition of anonymity, the woman said: "It's him in the photos, of course."

Of the allegations Boshirov and Chepiga are one and the same man, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the imagery proves nothing. "We don't know to what extent we can make any formal conclusions about who looks like whom, are they alike, where they lived, where they grew up. On Red Square there are still 10 Stalins and 15 Lenins running around, and they look remarkably like the originals." Peskov was referring to people who look like Stalin and Lenin and pose for tourists.

THE GRU DOCTOR

On 9 October Bellingcat and The Insider released a statement and imagery on the alleged true identity of Alexander Petrov. He was named as Dr Alexander Mishkin, 39 who is also a Hero of the Russian Federation. According to researchers at Bellingcat, Mishkin assumed his new identity in 2010.

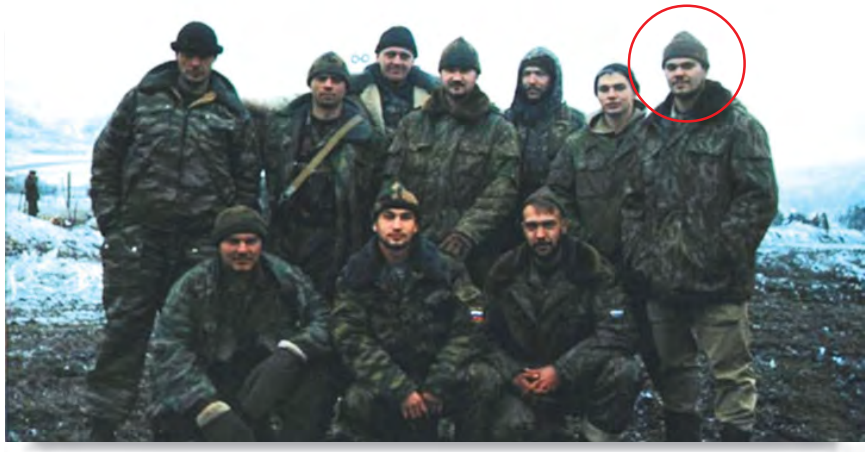
Eye Spy was informed that much of the painstaking investigative research into discovering the true identities of the GRU men was conducted by The Insider's founder, Roman Dobrokhotov and journalist Sergei Kanev.

UK Security Minister Ben Wallace

Eye Spy was informed initial identification was made by MI5 and MI6 just weeks after the March incident, but details withheld as the investigation widened. However, this would explain why Britain was so quick to point the finger of blame at Moscow. Of additional note, the two suspects had used the pseudonyms for at least two years in several European countries (including the UK), to "strengthen the validity of their identification papers," according to MI6 sources.

COVER AND LEGEND

The release of photographs of Petrov and Boshirov showing the men in various locations



VIA BELLINGCAT.COM

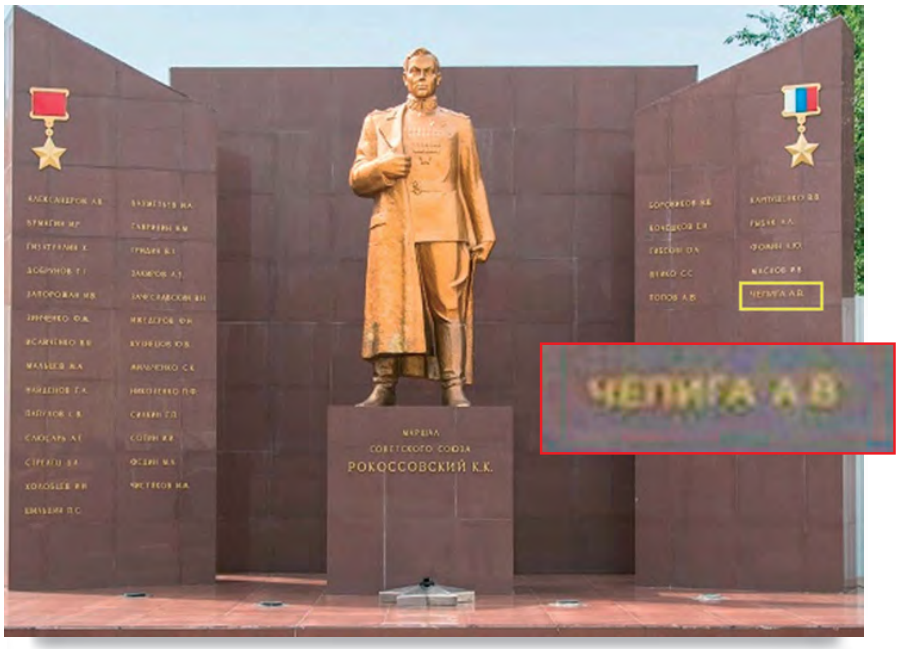
The photo which allegedly shows GRU Colonel Anatoliy Chepiga (far right)

TRADING PLACES

Photo of GRU Colonel Anatoliy Chepiga (above) and a still from the RT interview showing Ruslan Boshirov. It is alleged Boshirov is Anatoliy Chepiga

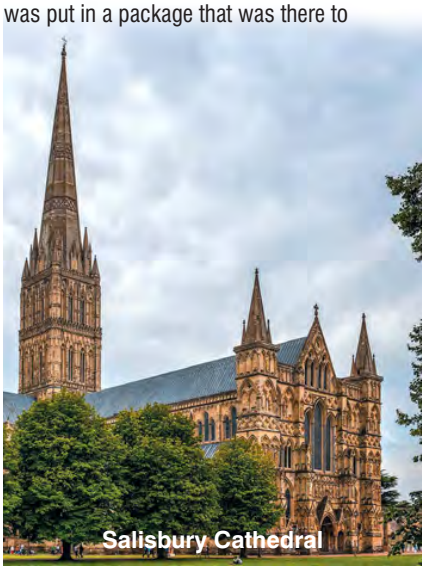
Below: Photographs secured by Bellingcat of Dr Alexander Mishkin - A.k.a. Alexander Petrov

in London and Salisbury accompanied by a detailed timeline of their movements, generated a plethora of stories and commentary from leading British officials and intelligence people alike. Downing Street said the assassins were both experienced GRU intelligence officers who had used "flawless documentation" to enter the UK and complete their mission - "to kill Sergei Skripal." British Security Minister Ben Wallace, said President Putin was "ultimately responsible" for the "pathetic GRU operation" and said the operatives were "calamitous state assassins." Wallace continued: "The [Russian] state clearly decided to sit behind this action and lend its logistics. The men were given genuine passports, provided with aliases that survived a certain level of test and visas used by many law-abiding Russians to visit Britain for holidays or business.



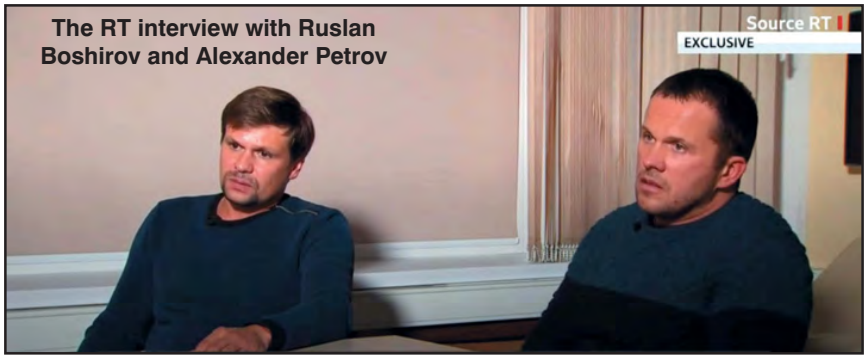
Memorial of the Far Eastern Military Command School. Colonel Chepiga is the last name that features on the wall (far right - boxed)

"The Russian state, which we know had invented Novichok, must have made sure it was put in a package that was there to disguise it. If you let them [the operatives] into your system, airside in Russia, it becomes a harder thing to detect."



Salisbury Cathedral

In response, President Putin again insisted the Russians were simply civilians - "tourists who had embarked on a trip to visit special areas," including Salisbury Cathedral. Putin's comments followed an RT television interview broadcast in Russian, in which both men admitted being in Salisbury and may well have passed Skripal's house, but denied spraying the nerve agent on his house door which the unfortunate spy and his daughter touched.



The RT interview with Ruslan Boshirov and Alexander Petrov

© RT

Tourists or assassins? Suspected GRU officers Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov pictured in Fisherton Road, Salisbury, England, close to the home of former MI6 agent Sergei Skripal on 4 March - the day of the attack

COURTESY: NEW SCOTLAND YARD

4 March - 11.58am: Boshirov and Petrov in Wilton Road, Salisbury. Skripal's house is just a few minutes walk away

Mishkin's passport

Interestingly, while Putin supported the notion the suspects are simply civilians, intelligence watchers note that it is usually the president himself who awards the Hero of the Russian Federation medal - meaning he almost certainly handed it Colonel Anatoliy Chepiga and Dr Mishkin, who many now agree are Boshirov and Petrov. Though Boshirov is known to have travelled widely in Europe for the last two years, Eye Spy sources in Moscow believe he was given a new cover and legend almost a decade ago, making him the "perfect international traveller for overseas operations and tasks."

72 HOURS

Following collaboration between various security services and authorities, MI5 and New Scotland Yard developed a precise timeline of the suspects movements, which intelligence commentators believe negates the men's story of a "tourist trip."

FRIDAY 2 MARCH: Petrov and Boshirov fly into the UK from Moscow arriving at Gatwick Airport shortly before 3.00pm where CCTV shows them entering the country. They are also captured on several cameras at Waterloo and Victoria Stations. For the next 24-hours or so they remain in London after checking in at the City Stay Hotel in the east of the capital.

SATURDAY 3 MARCH: The men book day return train tickets from London to Salisbury, where they are again captured in CCTV in the town. This trip was described as a "reconnaissance mission" by intelligence analysts. After a few hours they returned to London.

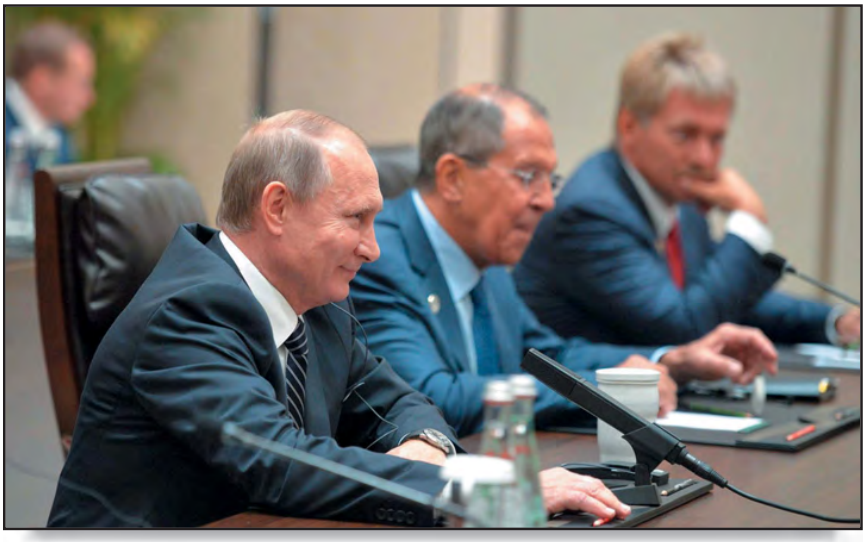
SUNDAY 4 MARCH: In the morning the Russians again travel to Salisbury where they are caught on a number of CCTV cameras in the town. One image taken at 11.58am shows the men on Fisherton Street, quite close to Skripal's residence. According to police sources, the imagery was captured shortly before they had sprayed Novichok on the front door handle of Skripal's house. By 4.45pm, the men had returned to London

At around 4.10pm, both Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia are found unconscious on a park bench in Salisbury - both were "foaming at the mouth," according to eye witnesses.

Petrov and Boshirov collect their sparse belongings at their hotel and journey to Heathrow Airport. At around 10.30pm they depart the UK and a few hours later arrive back in Moscow.

Missing from the released timeline, but undoubtedly secured by MI5, is information most sensitive. This concerns a field supportive group which, according to a number of informed correspondents, assisted Petrov and Boshirov in the operation and was probably controlled by other senior GRU people both in London and Moscow. According to the sources, Skripal was surveilled for weeks, perhaps months prior to the attack and his routine carefully noted. Similarly, on the day

The charges against Petrov and Boshirov include the attempted murder of police officer Nick Bailey who was exposed to Novichok and hospitalised



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA

President Putin has insisted the suspects are not GRU intelligence officers

Karen Pierce UK Ambassador to the UN, delivers a scathing report to officials of the assassination attempt

British newspapers generally agreed that Ruslan Boshirov is in fact GRU Colonel Anatoliy Chepiga

City Stay Hotel

the Novichok was sprayed on his front door handle (in broad daylight), both suspects must have acted without fear of being seen at his home, or, as some surveillance authorities suggest, the operatives used a less-than conspicuous third party to 'deliver' the poison - an act which would have taken seconds. Crucially, traces of Novichok were also discovered in the room the men had booked in the City Stay Hotel in London.

SUMMONED

Following release of the timeline and other information, Britain summoned a senior diplomat at the Russian Embassy to confirm charges had been brought against the two Russians. The official served to replace Ambassador Alexander Yakovenko who was not in the UK at the time. A government spokesmen said: "He [the Russian diplomat] was informed of the charges we have brought against the two Russian citizens, the fact that they were GRU officers and of our determination that they should be brought to justice.

Dawn Sturgess sprayed the substance on herself and succumbed to the poison

"We also made clear that the UK expects the Russian state to account for the reckless and outrageous actions of the GRU and that the UK expects that Russia provide a full account of its chemical weapons programmes to the OPCW (Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons)."

The UK charges include conspiracy to murder Skripal by poisoning and UK police officer Nick Bailey, plus the use and possession of Novichok contrary to the Chemical Weapons Act.

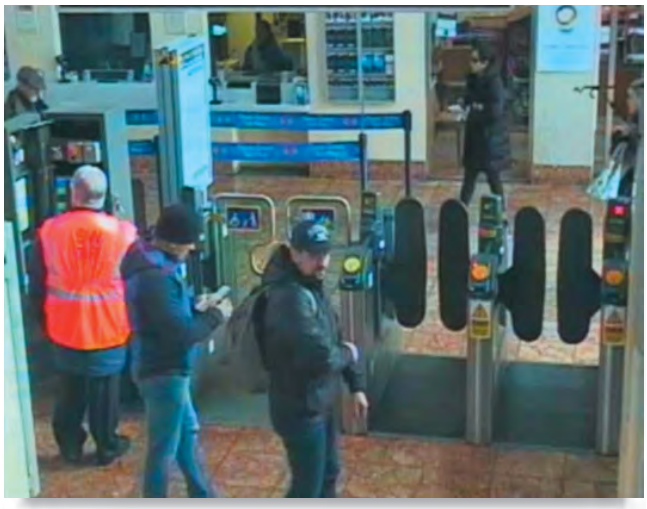
EVIDENCE AND ARRESTS WARRANTS

European-wide arrest warrants (Red Notices) have duly been issued by Interpol. However, Russia has an 'embedded law' that it does not extradite its own nationals, regardless of the nature of the alleged crime or incident; the pair therefore are unlikely to return to the UK, though this does not mean New Scotland Yard will simply end its pursuit of the GRU operatives.

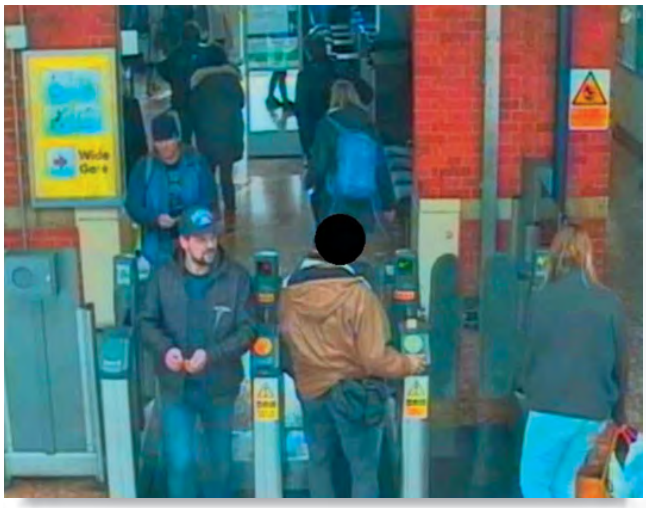
Besides an array of convincing imagery and supporting evidence, much of which remains secret, NSY also provided further details relating to the delivery method of nerve agent. The poison was contained in a bottle (boxed) labelled *Premier Jour* by Nina Ricci. On inspection, the label and container were found to be "convincing counterfeits."

Forensic specialists also confirmed the bottle had been adapted to support a tube which allowed the operatives to spray or drip the poison on the door handle without risk of contamination. And sadly it was this bottle and plastic tube that civilian Charlie Rowley, 43, discovered and handled in June. His partner Dawn Sturgess, 44, died after spraying the substance on her person.

Complimentary information released by NSY also revealed Rowley had found the items in a rubbish bin in Salisbury, not in a park as previously reported. NSY described the concealment method of the Novichok as a "perfect cover for smuggling the weapon into the country and a perfect delivery method." However, they still have not ascertained if other items (contaminated) were used in the attack.



4 March - 11.40am: Boshirov and Petrov arrive at Salisbury Train Station



4 March - 1.50pm: Boshirov and Petrov are again caught on CCTV cameras at Salisbury Train Station

Analysts also said the amount of Novichok contained in the bottle could have killed as many as 4,000 people - a figure which has further infuriated the British Government.

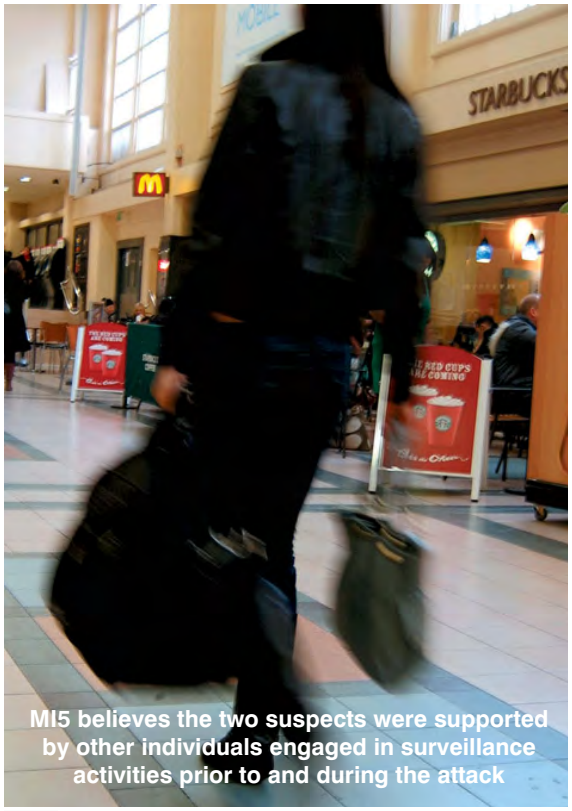
The entire case file of evidence has since been presented to the UN Security Council, which may result in further sanctions against Moscow.

UNCOMFORTABLE QUESTIONS

Despite the weight of evidence secured by numerous investigative and intelligence bodies, Russia continues to blame the UK for the "loss of a toxic poison," and have dismissed suggestions the operation was conducted by the GRU and supported by the Kremlin. However, the interview given by Petrov and Boshirov to RT, was described by one Russian commentator as "uncomfortable watching."

The men, supposedly in the "sports nutrition business," told their RT interviewer they were in the UK to visit the "famous Salisbury cathedral and its 123-metre tall spire," as well as the Stonehenge monument. However, the snowy and chilly weather conditions were not conducive to a lengthier stay and they opted to return to London quickly.

They have denied bringing Novichok into the country and are now "fearful of their own lives." Boshirov said: "We are afraid to go out... we fear for ourselves and the lives of our loved ones. Our lives have been turned upside down." The men insisted they want an apology from the UK authorities and want the real perpetrators to be caught and convicted.



MI5 believes the two suspects were supported by other individuals engaged in surveillance activities prior to and during the attack

Asked directly if they work for the GRU, Boshirov quickly injected, "I don't," while Petrov said, "And I don't... yes this is probably the scariest part of the UK charges and allegations."

A body language specialist told Eye Spy, the men appeared nervous and uncomfortable: "They were motionless, and though attempting to display a calm exterior it appears they were briefed. At times they injected improbable comments, such as a specific reference to the cathedral's 123-metre spire; there is tension and an obvious instruction to deliver their responses with little or no emotion." Downing Street called the RT interview "deeply offensive to the victims."

As for Bellingcat's information, there has been no reference to the GRU or the re-publishing of imagery in any notable Russian media house which convincingly shows two people who look remarkably like Boshirov and Petrov. MI5 and NSY have not disputed or commented on the investigative group's material.

THE SWISS LABORATORY

Another case file which could be connected to the Salisbury incident emerged in Holland and Switzerland. Two alleged Russian 'spies' were detained and later expelled from Holland earlier this year as they planned an operation against the OPCW-designated Swiss Spiez Laboratory which was examining samples of the Novichok nerve agent used in the attack. This incident seems inextricably linked or is part of the Dutch Intelligence investigation into the alleged GRU operation to hack into the computer main frame of the OPCW at the organisation's headquarters in the Hague. (See page 64).

The OPCW-designated Swiss Spiez Laboratory

4 March: The suspects pass through a security point at Heathrow Airport as they depart the UK for Moscow

According to the *Tages-Anzeiger* newspaper (a Zurich-based Swiss-German publication) the suspects were carrying 'specialist equipment' that could be used to engage with the computer systems used at the Swiss facility.

Guy Parmelin FIS Director

Besides speculation that the men were attempting to glean information on the Salisbury case, the laboratory was also investigating data on a poison gas attack in Syria. Switzerland's Foreign Ministry summoned Russia's ambassador and protested "against the attempted attack," and said "Russia should immediately cease spying in the country."

There was speculation the two men expelled by Holland were the Salisbury suspects, but this is most unlikely, despite the men admitting they had visited Switzerland on a least one occasion in the last 12 months.

Continued on Page 78

Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt

A NOTE OF CAUTION

DR YURI FELSHTINSKY

INTEL INSIDE

Dr Yuri Felshtinsky authored the important book *Blowing Up Russia* with former FSB officer and MI6 agent Alexander Litvinenko. In 2014 he gave an exclusive interview to Eye Spy featured in issue 90. Here he provides insight on two important aspects of the Salisbury investigation

GRU MINDSET

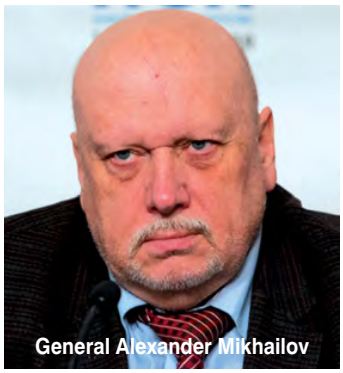
Even though they botched their covert attack on Sergei Skripal and are now publicly named, President Putin will praise the two members of the GRU and reward them in ways that will advance their career, promoting them as heroes now that their cover is blown. GRU attacks, moreover, have a broader brief than the lethal precision attacks organised by the FSB. In the case of the GRU, the death of innocent bystanders is seen as an accepted risk as was the case with the first use of Novichok against Ivan Kivelidi in 1995, when not only he but also his secretary died in Moscow from the poison placed on the receiver of his office phone.

For the GRU, a campaign in Britain is no different from the military campaign in Syria where civilians get killed.

BELLINGCAT DATA

Bellingcat.com's evidence that Dawn Sturgess's killer Boshirov is in fact GRU Colonel Chepiga seems plausible. However, caution needs to be exercised to avoid a situation where Moscow parades the war hero on TV together with Boshirov to show how Western media fakes news.

Two facts give pause for thought at the moment: the fact that retired FSB PR General Alexander Mikhailov has denounced the identification. Only on Vladimir Putin's instruction would he get involved in a campaign of disinformation to make the West look unreliable as the creator of fake news about the killer of Dawn Sturgess. Secondly, Chepiga has a high-profile as a war hero, which must mean limited usefulness as a GRU secret agent if secrecy was the objective. In any case, while Boshirov and Chepiga may be the same or may be different people, one fact remains that Moscow cannot 'cloud' - Dawn Sturgess was definitely killed by Ruslan Boshirov.



General Alexander Mikhailov

MISSING

From a Nuclear Warhead to a Cyber Specialist

Eye Spy examines a number of recent unexplained events that have attracted the attention of the intelligence world

RUSSIA

BUREVESTNIK MISSILE

Russia has quietly engaged in an extensive search for a nuclear-powered missile that went missing during a firing test several months ago, according to American intelligence sources. It is believed that the missile crashed in the Barents Sea, a vast expanse of water located off the northern coasts of Russia and Norway. The nuclear core failed to activate mid-flight.

The search is being linked to the testing of four Russia Burevestnik (Storm Petral) missiles between November 2017 and February 2018. President Vladimir Putin said the prototypes could "attack any target at any range" and even referenced Florida in the United States. Intelligence sources said all four tests failed, with the best attempt lasting just two minutes and covering a distance of only 22 miles. Intelligence watchers report the Pentagon may have authorised a secret operation to locate the lost missile. This follows sightings of USAF WC-135 Constant Phoenix aircraft over the Barents and Baltic Seas from March to August 2018. The aircraft have sensitive equipment onboard to detect airborne samples from the atmosphere following a nuclear explosion.

WC-135 Constant Phoenix

The Russian search mission, which has no definite timeline, consists of various vessels, including a nuclear-powered Delta-IV submarine and at least one ship which is specially equipped to handle radioactive material from the missing missile's nuclear core - should it ever be located.

Moscow has not commented on the allegation that "one of its missiles is missing."

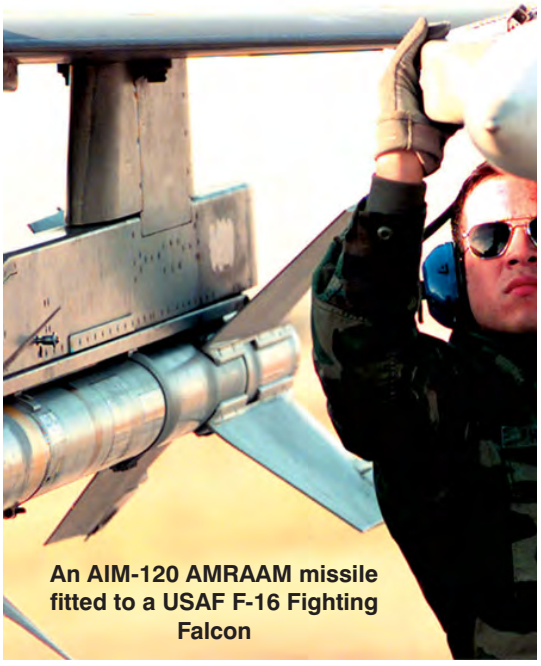
Russian Navy Delta-IV

ESTONIA

THE TRIGGER MISSILE

While on a routine patrol, a NATO fighter warplane (Spanish Eurofighter 2000) accidentally fired an air-to-air missile near the Russian-Estonian border which has yet to be retrieved. The aircraft was part of a group of Spanish Eurofighter Typhoon 2000 jets and French Mirage 2000 jets. According to Estonian Defense Forces, AMRAAM missiles are equipped with a self-destruction mode that should self-activate in such situations. However, it has not been confirmed whether the procedure was triggered and thus there remains the possibility that the missile is somewhere on the ground.

Confirmation of the incident came as the Defense Forces of Estonia issued an alert, warning the public an unexploded missile or

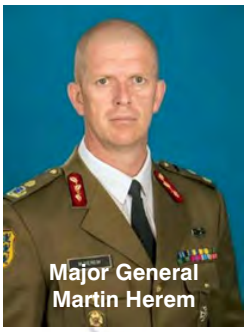


An AIM-120 AMRAAM missile fitted to a USAF F-16 Fighting Falcon

Spanish Air Force Eurofighter 2000

parts of it could be on the ground. Officials advised that should a citizen discover the debris, they should immediately contact the authorities. A search operation was launched to identify where the missile is.

Estonia's Prime Minister said the incident was "extremely regrettable." Chief of the Staff of the Estonian Defence Forces (EDF) Major General Martin Herem said: "In all likelihood the missile exploded in mid-air."



Major General Martin Herem

Military analysts warn that the firing of a NATO missile so close to the Russia border could have "triggered a military response from Moscow."

MALAYSIA

DIRTY BOMB SCENARIO

A highly radioactive device used by an energy company has gone missing in Malaysia, sparking a nationwide emergency for fear that it might have been stolen by a terrorist group. According to Malaysia's *New Straits Times* newspaper, a radioactive dispersal device (RDD), which is used for the industrial radiography of oil and gas supplies, disappeared during transit in August.

The device, which weighs approximately 50 pounds, or 23 kilogrammes, disappeared from the back of a company truck in the early hours of the morning while it was being transported by two technicians. They were reportedly transporting the RDD from Kuala Lumpur to Seremban, an industrial town with a population of approximately 600,000, located 40 miles south of the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur.

A major question regarding the missing device concerns the amount of iridium contained within. Iridium is a radioactive substance that is used for the non-destructive testing (known as industrial radiography) of oil and gas supplies. Some experts have expressed concerns that the radioactive substance inside the missing RDD could be combined with conventional explosives and be used as a 'dirty bomb' in order to contaminate a highly populated area with radiation.

Journalists quoted an unnamed official at Malaysia's Atomic Energy Licensing Board as saying that "under no circumstances can the RDD fall into the wrong hands, as the consequences could be deadly."

SYRIA

AERIAL SURVEILLANCE

Confusion and controversy still surrounds the fate of a Russian Air Force IL-20 surveillance aircraft (NATO reporting name Coot) which disappeared over north-west Syria on 18 September. Moscow said the aircraft was carrying 15 specialist crew. Some intelligence commentators believe Syrian air defense forces may have accidentally shot down the aircraft during an attempt to respond to Israeli air strikes against targets in Syria's coastal Latakia region.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have not commented on its alleged Syrian operations or the incident involving the IL-20. This reportedly involved F-16 fighters firing stand-off weapons, possibly from Lebanese airspace, into Latakia at a Syrian Organisation for Technological Industries facility. This agency is linked to Syria's chemical weapons and advanced missile programmes.

Some Russian intelligence sources believe that the Israeli warplanes used in the attack on the plant, flew perilously close to the surveillance aircraft. A Russian MOD spokesman said: "The IL-20 was given less than a minute warning to depart the area. The Israeli planes

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu

Radioactive dispersal device (RDD)


Russian Air Force IL-20

deliberately created a dangerous situation for surface ships and aircraft in the area." He went on to accuse the IDF of "using the Russian aeroplane as cover putting it in line of fire coming from Syrian air defence systems." Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu told his Israeli counterpart that the "blame rests firmly with Israel."

As for the aircraft, it remains missing.

NORWAY
THE CYBER MAN

While much media attention has been afforded on the reported disappearance of *Washington Post* journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Turkey on 2 October, intelligence watchers continue to investigate the strange case of Arjen Kamphuis, a leading Dutch cyber security expert. He reportedly disappeared from the small northern town of Bodo, Norway, in late August and hasn't been seen since. He told friends he was taking a train to Trondheim, a journey which would have taken 10 hours, but he reportedly never boarded the train, nor did he catch a scheduled return flight back to Amsterdam, Holland.

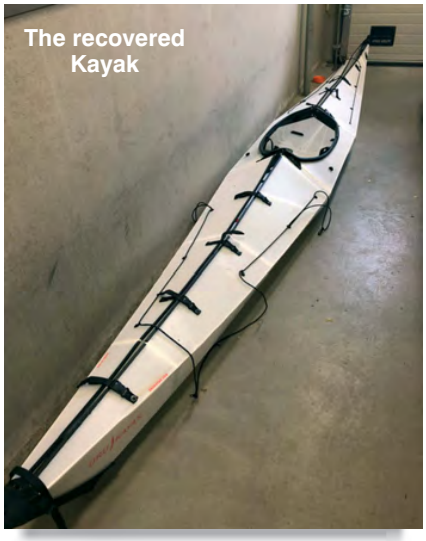
A white foldable kayak believed to belong to Kamphuis, was pulled from the sea along with an ID card around 30 miles east of Bodo. But mobile phone records show that 10 days after Kamphuis was seen leaving his hotel, both his work and personal mobile phones were briefly switched on - with German SIM cards inserted - more than 1,000 miles from Bodo near Stavanger.


Arjen Kamphuis


Police Inspector Trond Lakselvhaug

Kamphuis is known to have helped WikiLeaks members with advice on avoiding cybersnooping and government surveillance, the subject of a book he co-wrote with Silkie Carlo, but it is unclear how often or regularly he worked with the site. WikiLeaks, who called the disappearance "strange" speculated that he may have gone undercover on a secret mission for Julian Assange, the group's founder, who has been living in the Ecuador Embassy in London since June 2012.

However, one of Khampuis's friends, Ancilla van de Leest said his connections to WikiLeaks had been "strongly overblown by the press."


The recovered Kayak

Police have denied any connection between Kamphuis's disappearance and the fact that Bodo houses a Norwegian military airbase, and that buried deep inside a nearby mountain is a major part of the Scandinavian country's secret cyber defence operation.

Police Inspector Trond Lakselvhaug, who is leading the investigation, said they were "holding all possibilities open in respect to what might have happened to Kamphuis" and pursuing three distinct lines of inquiry: Voluntary disappearance (including a possible suicide); an accident or foul play.

CHINA
INTERPOL INTRIGUE

Meng Hongwei, Chinese head of Interpol, and vice minister in the Chinese Ministry of Public Security, was reported missing in late September after travelling from Interpol HQ in France to China. On the day he went missing, his wife said he had sent her a social media message telling her to *'wait for my call',* before sending a knife emoji, signifying danger.

Meng Hongwei

After Meng's disappearance was made public, speculation mounted that he had been taken into custody. A number of senior Chinese Government officials, billionaires and even an 'A-list' celebrity have vanished in recent months.

On 7 October, Beijing announced that the missing president of Interpol, was under investigation on "suspicion of violating the law" and "under the supervision of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection." A few hours later Meng resigned from Interpol.

Julian Ku, a professor at Hofstra University's Maurice A. Deane School of Law, who has studied China's relationship with international law, said while China may have had its eye on placing its citizens in other top posts at prominent global organisations, "the fact that Meng 'disappeared' without any notice to Interpol will undermine China's global outreach effort."

Tensions Grow in South China Seas

Near-Collision Between US Warship and 'Aggressive' Chinese Destroyer Caught on Camera

USS Decatur fires a SM-3 missile

Leaked US Navy images have captured the moment Chinese and American warships almost collided as the US destroyer conducted a 'freedom of navigation' patrol in the South China Seas. The incident is said to have occurred in late September or early October.

A series of pictures show the USS Decatur (DDG-73) within yards of a People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) destroyer. Eye Spy was informed the Chinese vessel was the destroyer Lanzhou (PRC 170).

The Pentagon accused the Chinese ship of conducting an "unsafe and unprofessional manoeuvre" near USS Decatur as it sailed close to Gaven Reefs, which are claimed by Beijing. "A Luyang destroyer approached USS Decatur in an unsafe and unprofessional manoeuvre in the vicinity of Gaven Reef in the South China Sea," said Captain Charles Brown, a spokesman for US Pacific Fleet, in a statement. Brown said the Chinese warship, "conducted a series of increasingly aggressive manoeuvres accompanied by warnings for the Decatur to depart the area." For its part, China has accused the US and its allies in the region of "provocation." A Chinese defence spokesman said: "The US has sent warships into waters near China's islands and reefs in South China Sea time and time again, which is a grave threat to China's sovereignty and security. We resolutely oppose such actions."

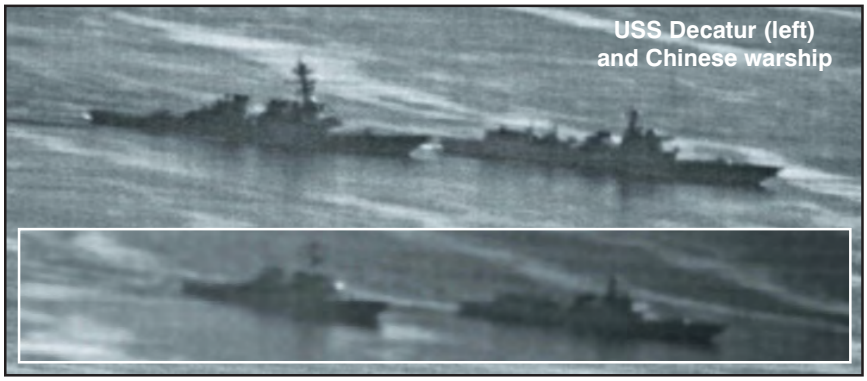
Bob Bowen - USS Decatur Commanding Officer was interviewed by US Navy intelligence officers

Retired Royal Australian Navy Commodore Richard Menhinick said the photos appear to show the Chinese were not acting in accordance with the International Law of the Sea. "My guess is that the Chinese vessel positioned itself ahead of the American Ship and then slowed down," Mr Menhinick said. "It's certainly uncomfortable, it's certainly not what's supposed to happen under the Law of the Sea... which is designed to have a 'give way' vessel and another vessel, and not to end up in situations like that."

Australian Defence Minister Christopher Pyne (right) described the reports as "concerning," and added: "We would view any use of intimidation or aggressive tactics as destabilising and potentially dangerous. Australia has consistently expressed concern over ongoing militarisation of the South China Sea and we continue to urge all claimants to refrain from unilateral actions that would increase tension in the region."

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Australia would strive to provide a calming influence in the region. "Australia will continue to conduct itself around these issues in a very modest, and very constructive way - in a way that would seek to de-escalate any issues, rather than escalate," he told reporters in Perth.

The incident comes at a time when the CIA has secured much evidence that China has established a major military and intelligence collection site in the area, as well as claiming a huge area of water as Chinese territory, something which several nations dispute, including the United States, hence its continued naval activity.



USS Decatur (left) and Chinese warship

'SPY' EXCHANGE GATEWAY

Plans to exchange a Russian arrested on suspicion of spying in return for Norwegian 'intelligence courier' fall through

Russian national Mikhail Botsjkarev, 51, an information technology advisor, who was arrested on suspicion of spying at a two-day seminar held for administrative employees of 34 European parliaments, has been released. The event, held in Norway's Parliament building in Oslo, featured no sensitive information, but Norway's police intelligence service - PST, feared Botsjkarev may have planted electronic surveillance equipment. The PST wanted to extend his detention, but an Oslo court rejected the request.

Botsjkarev presented himself at the seminar as an information technology adviser to the Russian government and has spoken on computer security to foreign colleagues. Marianne Andreassen, Director of the Norwegian Parliament, said the security service was called after attendees noted Botsjkarev's "strange behaviour." What this involved has not been reported. PST officers detained the Russian as he was about to depart the country on 28 September. The next day he was formally charged with "illegal intelligence activity against state secrets."

Botsjkarev in an Oslo courtroom

Ane Lunde, Norway's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman

Botsjkarev's solicitor said it was all a "misunderstanding." At the time, Russia's Ambassador in Norway Teimuraz Ramishvili criticised the detention, calling it "ridiculous." In Moscow, Norway's Ambassador was summoned to explain the action. Ane Lunde, Norway's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said: "I cannot comment on the contents of the conversation. This is an ongoing police matter that PST is handling, not the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs."

ESPIONAGE HYSTERIA

A Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson said: "It looks as though the wave of espionage hysteria in the campaign against Russia, which also comes from the outside, takes disgusting shape in Norway. Such actions will naturally not occur without consequences."

At the Norwegian Parliament building, technical experts joined PST investigators to search for incriminating evidence. Several printers and telephones were ordered not to be used, for fear they may be tapped. Photos emerged of one printer with a sign taped over it which read *'Must not be used'.* Other rooms in the building were also searched. "We're trying to find out what Botsjkarev has done at the Parliament building," PST spokesman Marting Bernsen said.

Frode Berg - "did not know what he was carrying..."

Russia's Ambassador to Norway Teimuraz Ramishvili

Russia-Norway border gate at Skafferhullet- as seen from Norway

"The PST's intelligence arm believe Botsjkarev did not act alone and had accomplices..."

Norway's Parliament building

Marianne Andreassen

PST Director Marie Bjornland

PST headquarters, Oslo

A SPY EXCHANGE WAS RAISED

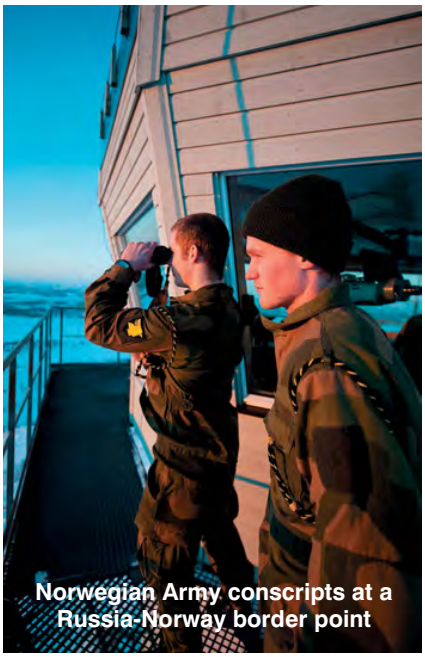
In December 2017, a Norwegian national was arrested in Russia suspected of espionage. Frode Berg, 62, remains in detention in Moscow pending his trial. Berg had travelled to Moscow via the country's 120-miles Arctic border with Russia. He has reportedly admitted helping Norwegian Intelligence by acting as a courier on several occasions. He maintains he didn't know what he was delivering. Berg had served as a border checkpoint officer for more than 20 years.

Intelligence watchers believe if the spy charges against Botsjkarev had been upheld, Oslo could have moved to exchange him for Berg. Before Botsjkarev's release, speaking in Moscow, Berg's solicitor Ilya Novikov said: "The exchange is quite possible."

Eye Spy understands that the Norwegian took possession of an envelope containing classified Russian naval documents, from a Russian national identified in papers as Alexy Zhinyuk, who faces charges of high treason. Berg was carrying around 3,000 euros in cash, money the FSB say was to obtain intelligence of Russia's far north nuclear submarine fleet. The incident was surveilled by FSB counter-espionage officers. Other FSB court papers state he was mailing cash and *'spying instructions to a woman called Natalia in Moscow',* again for naval intelligence secrets.

"The FSB is certainly using Berg's arrest to undermine Norwegian Intelligence," said Lt. Colonel Geir Karlsen, Director of Strategic Communication and Psychological Operations at the country's Defence University College. Former intelligence officer Lt. Colonel Tormod Heier, said Berg's arrest was made because of "sloppy tradecraft."

The incidents come as Moscow warns that tensions between NATO and Russia are intensifying in the Norwegian Arctic region. In October 2018, Berg was again remanded in custody until December.



Norwegian Army conscripts at a Russia-Norway border point

Russian submarine Tomsk returns to its base at the Kamchatka Peninsula in north-east Russia

© SERGEY KONOVALOV

MOVES TO ENHANCE INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION ON RUSSIA'S ARCTIC AMBITIONS

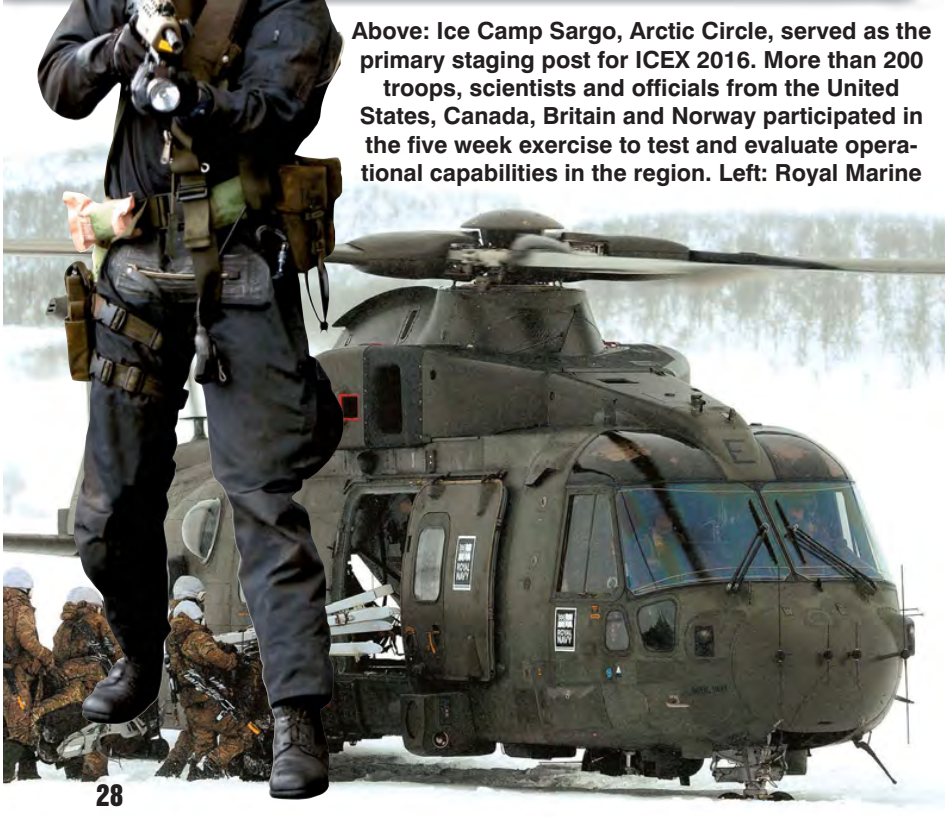
ARCTIC GOLD

Russia's Northern Fleet hold anti-submarine drill in Arctic waters ahead of NATO's annual Trident Juncture exercise in Norway

Nuclear-powered submarines from two of Russia's Northern Fleet's flotillas have conducted anti-submarine exercises in the Barents Sea. Moscow said as part of the exercise, "submarines searched and tracked 'enemy' vessels, before initiating a hunt and torpedo launches." The Northern Fleet reportedly has over ten multi-purpose nuclear-powered submarines based along the Barents Sea coast of the Kola Peninsula.

Perhaps not coincidental, the exercise took take place shortly before NATO launched its large-scale Trident Juncture 2018 exercise. Involving around 45,000 troops from 30 countries, the near two-week NATO exercise was held 1,000km from the Russian border.

Royal Marines participate in a training exercise in Harstad, Norway



Above: Ice Camp Sargo, Arctic Circle, served as the primary staging post for ICEX 2016. More than 200 troops, scientists and officials from the United States, Canada, Britain and Norway participated in the five week exercise to test and evaluate operational capabilities in the region. Left: Royal Marine

The largest ever held in Norway, it examined various scenarios including communication and control of expanded multi-nation forces. Russian military observers were invited by NATO to observe the exercise.

UK ARCTIC DEFENCE STRATEGY

UK Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson said a new defence strategy will enhance the Ministry of Defence's focus on the Arctic: "This is underlined by our current commitments in the region and future deployments. As the ice melts and new shipping routes emerge, the significance of the High North and Arctic region increases. Russia, with more submarines operating under the ice and ambitions to build over 100 facilities in the Arctic, are staking a claim and militarising the region. We must be ready to deal with all

Admiral James G. Foggo III, Commander of NATO Joint Force Command Naples, oversaw Operation Trident Juncture 18

Head of the Russian Navy Admiral Vladimir Korolyov

Main: A USAF E-3B Sentry aircraft waits to take off as a US Navy P-8A Poseidon lands at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma. Inset: UK and Norwegian officials at RAF Lossiemouth pictured with a US Navy P-8A Poseidon aircraft

threats as they emerge. We will not let the Kremlin rewrite the outcome of the Cold War." He compared Russian submarine activity with that not seen since the Cold War.

NEW UK AERIAL SURVEILLANCE AIRCRAFT

Britain's Royal Marines conduct cold weather training in Norway on an annual basis. In 2019, around 800 marines are due to deploy at an unspecified facility. As part of the MOD's contribution to the new NATO Defence Arctic Strategy, the troops will join with NATO forces on a long-term basis and be integrated into Norway's long-term defence plan.

Also scheduled to begin operations next year are four RAF Typhoons which will patrol Icelandic skies. The move follows an increase in Russian Air Force overflights in waters surrounding Greenland, Iceland and the UK.

The MOD has also announced that in 2020 it will increase operational commitments in the Arctic regions and North Atlantic area with the introduction of eight Boeing P-8A Poseidon aircraft. Based at RAF Lossiemouth, Scotland, the surveillance and submarine-hunters will help combat a range of intensifying threats, not least increasing Russian nuclear submarine operations in the Arctic. "The submarine activity poses a new threat and is something the Royal Navy is ready to combat," a defence spokesman said. Norway too has enhanced its intelligence collection capabilities with the purchase of five such aircraft.

In 2018, a Royal Navy submarine took part in Operation ICE X (Ice Exercise) with the US Navy for the first time in ten years as part of the new NATO Arctic initiative.

RECKLESS SABRE-RATTLING

KREMLIN WARNS WEST OF BREAKING COLD WAR RULES

Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova responded to recent NATO operations and the bolstering of its forces in Norway and the wider Arctic region: "The escalation of NATO's military and political activity in the Arctic region, namely, in the immediate vicinity of Russia on the territory of northern Norway, hasn't gone unnoticed."

The Kremlin accused Oslo of violating a Cold War understanding "not to provide bases on Norwegian territory for armed forces of foreign powers unless Norway is under attack or under threat of attack."

Zakharova referenced Trident Juncture 2018. "We have to state that such irresponsible actions will inevitably destabilise the military and political situation in the north, increase tensions and undermine the fabric of Russian-Norwegian relations. All these NATO preparations cannot be ignored, and the Russian Federation will take the necessary tit-for-tat measures to ensure its own security.

"Reckless sabre-rattling in this previously calm region can have far-reaching consequences, and not through any fault of ours," Zakharova concluded.

The Russian Embassy in London has also objected to Britain's plans to boost its military presence in the Arctic: "We call on British authorities, who have recently been actively promoting the concept of Global Britain, to pursue their ambitions in other fields," the embassy's press secretary said. "The unjustified British plans to build up its military presence in close proximity to Russia's borders will only result in creating unnecessary tensions. Russia and other Arctic countries consider this region to be a space for constructive cooperation. There is no potential for conflict, nor should there be."

Akula-class Russian submarine - Vepr (Wild Boar)

Russia continues to increase its naval presence in the Arctic region

THE SPIES OF LONG ISLAND

D. Anne Kohl

Eye Spy examines an area of the United States with an enduring and long association with the world of espionage, intelligence and intrigue

The 118 miles of Long Island technically includes the New York boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens on the west edge, but for most of its locals, Long Island begins where the city ends, and features windswept dunes, pine trees, popular summer resorts, fresh farms and wineries, and whaling and fishing ports established in the 17th century.

Few would associate the quiet tree-lined villages of the region with espionage, but it has been home to spies since the time of George Washington and more recently when one of two Russian compounds were closed following confirmation of the hacking of the 2016 General Election by cyber groups operated by Russia's GRU military spy service.

1772. Colonel George Washington

SPY WARS AGAINST BRITAIN

Early in the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783) the island was captured by the British from General George Washington in the Battle of Long Island, a decisive clash after which Washington narrowly evacuated his troops from Brooklyn Heights using the cover of a dense fog. After the British victory many Patriots fled, leaving mostly Loyalists behind. The island remained a British stronghold until the end of the war.

General Washington became convinced that well-organised intelligence was a necessity after several intelligence failures, including the capture and execution of soldier-spy Nathan Hale.

Washington chose to base his espionage activities on Long Island, due to the western part of the island's proximity to the British military headquarters in New York City. The now legendary Culper Spy Ring included agents operating between Setauket and Manhattan and was led by Colonel Benjamin Tallmadge. This clandestine group alerted Washington to valuable British secrets, including the treason of Benedict Arnold and a plan to use counterfeiting to induce economic sabotage.

The operatives were tasked with sending messages to General Washington about the activities of the British Army in New York City. The members of the ring operated mostly in the city, Long Island, and Connecticut. Their covert operations started in late October 1778 and continued through the British evacuation of New York in 1783, but its heyday was between 1778 and 1781.

There are numerous locations connected to the spy wars involving Britain and American Patriots which can be visited. One of the most infamous is Execution Rocks near Sand's

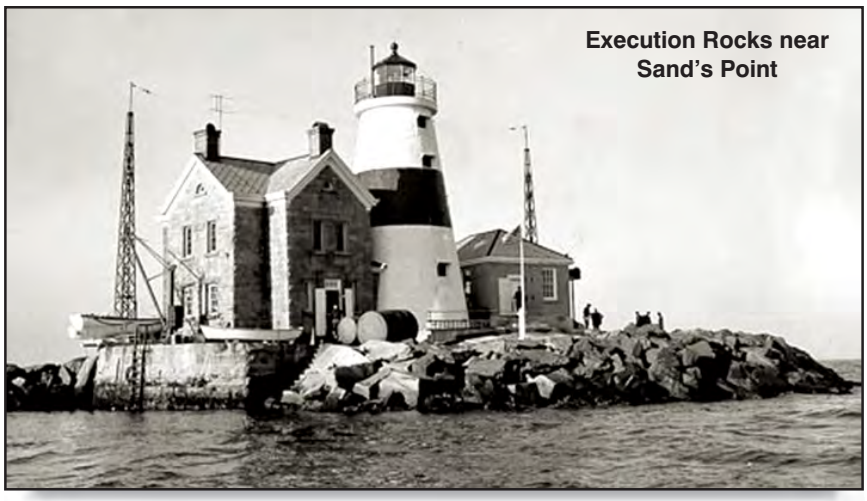
Culper spy ring chief Colonel Benjamin Tallmadge

Two paintings depicting the Battle of Long Island 1776. Lord Stirling's attack on British troops was intended to buy time for hundreds of retreating American Patriots. Stirling lost the battle and was captured, but his actions saved many American lives. He was later freed in a prisoner exchange

1776. The British hang Nathan Hale in New York City

Codes used by the Culper spy ring

Raynham Hall in Oyster Bay was listed on the American National Register of Historic Places in 2008



Execution Rocks near Sand's Point

The only image remaining of Culper spy ring member Robert Townsend - drawn in the early 1800s

Point. Here captured rebels were held down by chains until drowned. Another building that still exists is Raynham Hall in Oyster Bay - once the home of Robert Townsend, perhaps the most important spy in the Culper ring.

July 1942. The Military Commission opens to try eight captured Nazis from Operation Pastorius in the Department of Justice building in Washington DC

WORLD WAR II

More recent espionage activities began in 1942 with Operation Pastorius, a failed German intelligence plan for sabotage inside the United States during World War II. In addition to sabotage of American economic targets, the German agents were also instructed to spread a wave of terror by planting explosives on bridges, railroad stations, water facilities and in public places.

On the night of 12 June, two U-boats landed at Amagansett, New York, some 115 miles east of New York City, on Long Island, today known as Atlantic Avenue beach.

The operation was betrayed by two of the spies, George John Dasch and Ernst Peter Burger, who reported the plan to the FBI. Eight men were subsequently arrested, tried, found guilty and sentenced to death. President Roosevelt commuted the sentence to life for the two men who had turned themselves in - the others were executed on 8 August 1942 in the electric chair on the third floor of the District of Columbia jail and buried in a potter's field in Washington DC. In 1948 President Harry Truman granted executive clemency to Dasch and Burger on the condition that they be deported to the American Zone of occupied Germany. They were not welcomed back in Germany, as they were regarded as traitors who had caused the death of their comrades. Although they had been promised pardons by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover in exchange for their cooperation, both men died without ever receiving them.

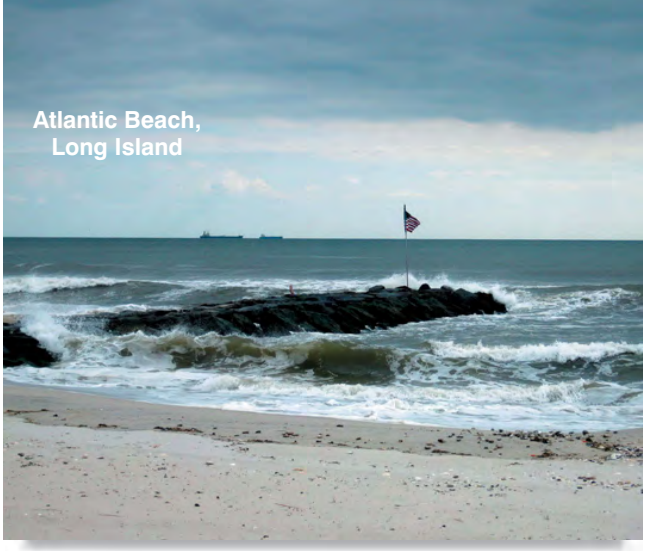
COLD WAR

In 1947 Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), located in Upton on Long Island, was formally established at the site of Camp Upton, a former US Army base. BNL specialised in nuclear and high energy physics research, energy science and technology, environmental and bioscience, nanoscience and national security. Many of the physicists who worked on the Manhattan Project - the secret US atomic bomb programme, also

President Harry Truman

Ernst Peter Burger and George John Dasch

Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) built on the former site at Camp Upton, Long Island



worked at BNL. Less than year after it was established, then CIA Director William J 'Bill' Casey moved to nearby Roslyn Harbor to Mayknoll, a mansion and secretive compound set in 8.2 acres.

Casey went on to run Ronald Reagan's victorious 1980 presidential campaign, and later served as Director CIA from 1981-1987 under the 40th president.

Mayknoll was at the epi-centre of the most momentous years of the Reagan administration as Casey helped his commander-in-chief as they moved the geopolitical chess pieces into place, executing a strategy that ultimately triggered the demise of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s.

Mayknoll and D/CIA William Casey

The mansion, still occupied by Casey's daughter, contains traces of the estate's famous occupant, including the Casey Cold War library, formerly an enclosed porch. Casey was such a voracious reader his security detail got in the habit of carrying an extra, empty duffel bag to carry all the books he would purchase during his trips. The library, once used by Casey's CIA security guards, is home to a collection of 10,000 books on history and espionage tradecraft.

"George Washington was his own intelligencer," said, a 72-year-old former member of the CIA and a specialist in library and information sciences. "He was the guy who masterminded the intelligence system that we had then. But it wasn't until Franklin Roosevelt and Bill Donovan during World War II that the United States really got interested in a formal intelligence network." Casey was sent by Donovan, a former Roosevelt aide in Albany, to England to start an intelligence office in London.

President Ronald Reagan and D/CIA William Casey

The Soviets purchased Killenworth, an historic mansion in Glen Cove. It was a "hive of espionage activities," according to US intelligence officials

1963. Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev pictured at Killenworth mansion in Glen Cove

In 1951, Casey found he had new neighbours - the Soviets. Killenworth, an historic mansion in Glen Cove, was purchased by the Soviet Union in to become the country retreat of the Soviet, and later Russian, delegation to the United Nations. Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev even visited the site in 1963.

ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES

In the 1980s the property was subject to allegations it was being used for espionage, and there was a long-standing conflict with the City of Glen Cove over its tax status. In 1982 the city council voted to revoke the Russians' ability to secure permits for city beach, golf, and tennis facilities. The Soviet Union retaliated by denying use of a Moscow beach to members of the American Embassy in Moscow. Defector Arkady Shevchenko stated that Killenworth's top floors were occupied by equipment for signals intelligence to spy on Long Island's technological and nuclear industry in the 1980s. Tensions remained as protesters often gathered outside forcing Glen Cove to increase its police presence at the mansion.

Friendly relations with the Soviet United Nations Mission personnel living at Killenworth were restored later in 1984 when the City Council approved by a 5 to 2 vote, those living on the Glen Cove compound to once again have access to the City's recreational facilities. As relations improved, a painting of the Killenworth mansion by a Russian artist was presented to Mayor Suozzi at a luncheon held on the estate. The painting now hangs in the Glen Cove Public Library. The Mayor also accepted a gift of a replica of Sputnik, the world's first artificial satellite, donated to the Nassau County Cradle of Aviation Museum by Soviet Ambassador Yuri Dubinin, despite objections of some political figures.

KGB EYES

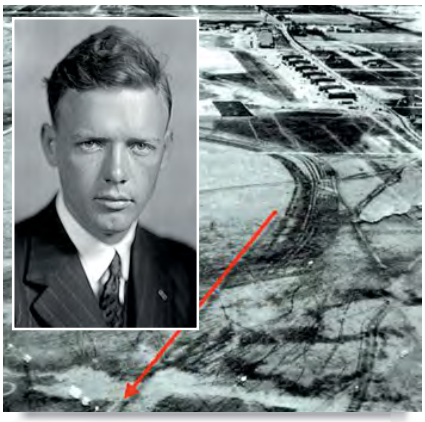
Another property, Elmcroft, also called the Norwich House, in Upper Brookville, was purchased by the Soviets in 1952 for $80,000 - less than seven miles from Casey's Mayknoll. It too was reportedly bought as a place for diplomats at the United Nations, located 40 minutes away in New York City.

One local resident, Judith Berkheimer, who rented the cottage across the street from Elmcroft, confirmed that before she stayed on the top floor, the FBI rented it and had devices set up to listen and see into the compound. The US Government was reportedly aware of the Russian presence and monitored the property throughout the Cold War and after. NBC News described the estate as a place where diplomats held secret meetings.

Russian access to the site was commuted in the wake of the alleged Russian involvement in the 2016 United States Presidential Election as

1984. Presentation of a model Sputnik by Soviet Ambassador Yuri Dubinin at Nassau County Cradle of Aviation Museum (below)

Elmcroft in Upper Brookville. Purchased by the Soviets in 1952

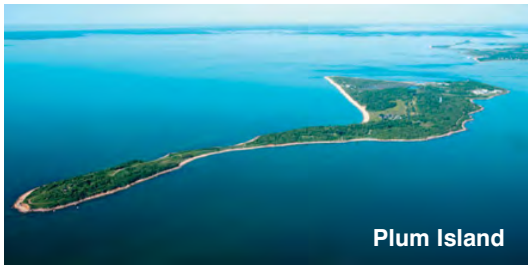


20 May 1927. Lindbergh's take-off route at Mitchel AFB

1937. Mitchel AFB, Long Island. Many of the original buildings remain and have been placed on the US National Register of Historic Places

part of a number of sanctions taken by the United States government against Russian diplomatic personnel.

It is not hard to see why Long Island would be considered a prime target for espionage. It was the site of Mitchel Air Force Base and a major centre of military aircraft production by companies such as Grumman and Fairchild Aircraft during World War II and for some decades afterward. The air base was also the starting point for Charles Lindbergh's historic first solo trans-Atlantic flight from the USA to France in 1927. Decommissioned in 1961, just this year the remaining buildings on the site were recognised as an historic district and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Plum Island

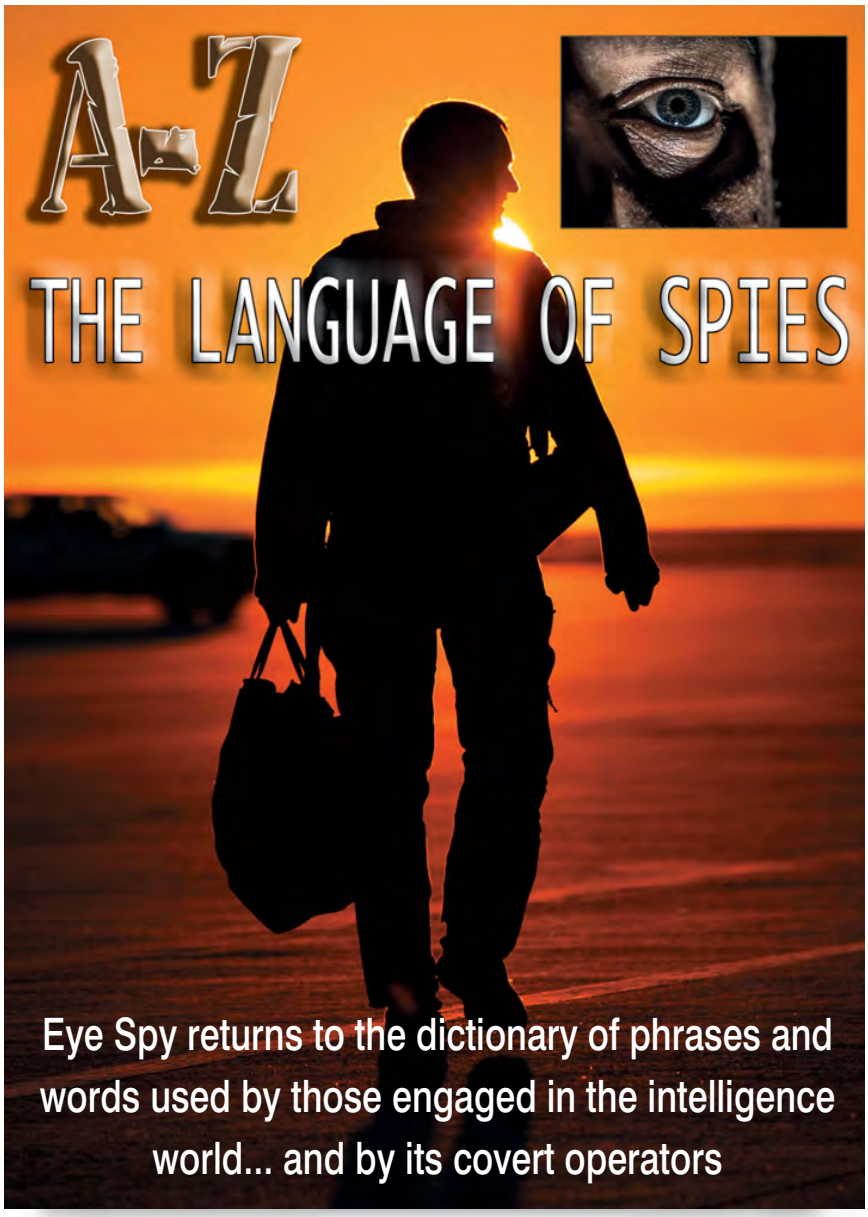
Aircraft production on Long Island extended all the way into the 'Space Age' - Grumman was one of the major contractors that helped to build the early lunar flight and space shuttle vehicles.

Plum Island, in proximity to Long Island and often grouped with it, is home to the Plum Island Animal Disease Center, a biological weapons research facility. Long Island has long played a prominent role in scientific research and in engineering. Along with BNL, it is also home to the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and major computer companies. From around 1930 to 1990, Long Island was considered one of the aerospace manufacturing centres of the United States, with companies such as Grumman Aircraft, Republic, Fairchild, and Curtiss having had their headquarters and factories on Long Island.

Brookhaven National Laboratory - Center for Functional Nanomaterials

It is also home to some of the wealthiest communities in the United States. In 2016, according to *Business Insider,* the 11962 zip code encompassing Sagaponack, within Southampton, was listed as the most expensive in the United States, with a median home sale price of $8.5 million.

Bill Casey's home Mayknoll, has recently been put up for sale - a perfect opportunity to set up a base to enjoy an area rich in spylore and the many spy stories associated with this part of the United States.



BIG EARS

Spy bases, or to give them a more formal designation, communications and listening posts, all receive and forward electronic signals by use of satellites, advanced systems and microwave repeater stations. And it is the latter, which in the intelligence world, the phrase 'Big Ears' is used to describe such facilities. One important and non-descript station lays way beyond the boundaries of its primary user, and is located in Yorkshire. And it is here from whence the term big ears originated by NSA staffers at the world's biggest communication base - RAF Menwith Hill, or Menwith Hill Station. In the 1960s it was known as Field Station 8613, but other numbers have been applied. It is also famously associated with the defunct Echelon programme. Today the base has the capability to intercept over 300 million emails and telephone calls in any given 24-hour-period. Structures such as big ears in Yorkshire can be found throughout the world.


RAF Menwith Hill, North Yorkshire - the NSA's biggest overseas station


'Big Ears' - Microwave repeater station

BRIDGE AGENT

Those engaged in intelligence collection often find themselves using a plethora of methods to secure information. Naturally the first option is to utilise trusted operators affording some security to the task, but this is not always possible. In the event intelligence is beyond the reach of a service using 'regular' collection methods, sources, or via recruited agents, occasionally a controlling officer may turn to unconventional measures. One such action, which is usually only authorised by senior intelligence officials, is to use a third party who has access to the target information. He is known as a 'Bridge Agent' or 'Fixer'.

A well known example of the alleged use of a bridge agent was popularised in Stephen King's motion picture *Munich.* In this case the

The building in Munich which housed the Israeli athletes who were killed by terrorists at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games

Eric Bana played the lead Mossad agent Yuval Aviv in the motion picture *Munich*

names and whereabouts of the PLO terrorists involved in the 1972 Munich Olympic Games massacre of 11 Israeli athletes, was imparted to Mossad (for money). The civilian intelligence source had access to information beyond that immediately available to those engaged in Operation Wrath of God - the codename for the Mossad operation to eliminate the controllers and perpetrators of the attack in Germany.

COOKING

A dated phrase still in use today that signifies an operation is being planned and that all the 'ingredients' (elements and individuals) are being assembled for 'Cooking'.

Eye Spy discovered references to cooking and assembling ingredients in early books covering the exploits of British adventurers in the late 19th century, many of whom were attached to departments and individuals working for the War Office or other government departments.

FAIR GAME

The recent verbal war which has broken out between serving, 'removed' and retired intelligence officers and the White House, has only served to resurrect the old spy term 'Fair Game' in many media houses. Editors believe that even senior figures caught up in recent happenings are now fair game for investigation.

The phrase stems from descriptions applied to persons-of-interest or others associated with individuals who have crossed paths with an intelligence agency, or seen as a legitimate target for further investigation. However, it took on a different meaning in 2003 following

President Trump is regarded as 'Fair Game' by some media commentators and especially his opponents

events surrounding CIA case officer Valerie Plame, when she was outed by Washington diplomat - Lewis 'Scooter' Libby. This followed events when her husband, former US diplomat Joseph Wilson, was assigned to secure information on Saddam Hussein's attempts to obtain yellowcake uranium from Niger to help build a nuclear bomb. Wilson provided negative feedback and upset some in Washington's Establishment. As a result, and a clear negative action intended to punish the couple, Plame's role as an international operative was disclosed. The incident was the story line of the emotive motion picture *Fair Game* based on Plame's memoir: *'Fair Game: My Life as a Spy, My Betrayal by the White House.*

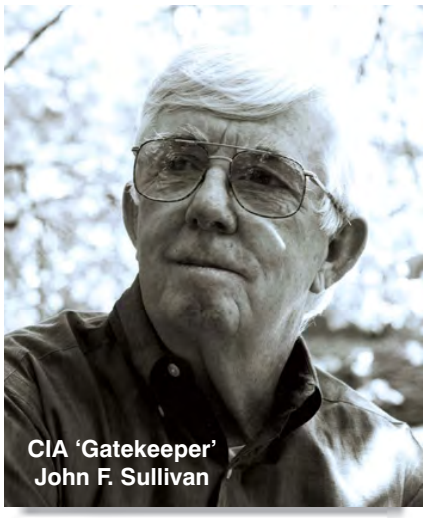
In respect of the recent Russian cyber interference in the 2016 US General Election, and claims some of Donald Trump's team met with Russian intelligence and political people, anyone today caught up in the affair, is being deemed fair game, including the president himself.

As an ironic twist to the Plame affair, Libby, a solicitor, had his licence to practice law reinstated in 2016, and was fully pardoned by President Trump in April 2018.

Former CIA officer Valerie Plame

GATEKEEPER

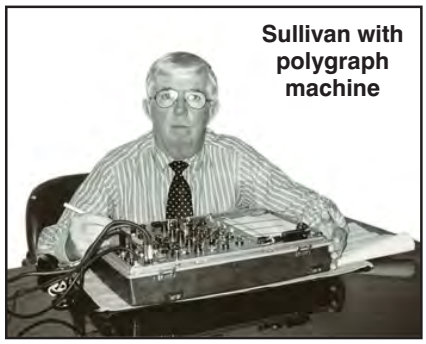
A CIA term usually applied to officers assigned to counterintelligence, or protectors of vital intelligence. A 'Gatekeeper' can be anyone holding a position of security whereby the primary role is to protect a nation's secret from external or internal threats: if it is necessary to examine the validity of a would-be defector, for example, or in today's modern world, ensuring computer systems and therefore data, is beyond the grasp of unauthorised personnel or hackers.



CIA 'Gatekeeper' John F. Sullivan

In 2007, Eye Spy interviewed John F. Sullivan, a former senior polygraph examiner with the CIA. Sullivan, who performed more than 5,000 tests in over 40 countries on persons from both inside and outside Langley, was himself known as the Gatekeeper at Langley.

Gatekeeper can also be applied to less than reputable figures operating in other fields,



Sullivan with polygraph machine

including terrorism and organised crime. The term was assigned by the CIA to Hassan Ghul (Mustafa Mohammad Khan), a leading al-Qaida figure who revealed details of Osama bin-Laden's courier network eventually enabling Langley to locate the terror chief's whereabouts. Intelligence in-hand, Operation Neptune Spear followed and the world's most wanted terrorist killed.

GLITTER

When an intelligence officer comes across or is offered information that he or she believes is of importance, yet cannot be secured or fully understood without further investigation, the material is dubbed 'Glitter'. Case examples in spylore exist whereby a

simple word or seemingly mundane incident or action, attracts the attention of the intelligence world. If the agency controller believes it would be worthwhile to explore, then the officer may be afforded assistance to investigate further. However, they are warned, "that not all that glitters is gold or treasure."

LADDER MAN

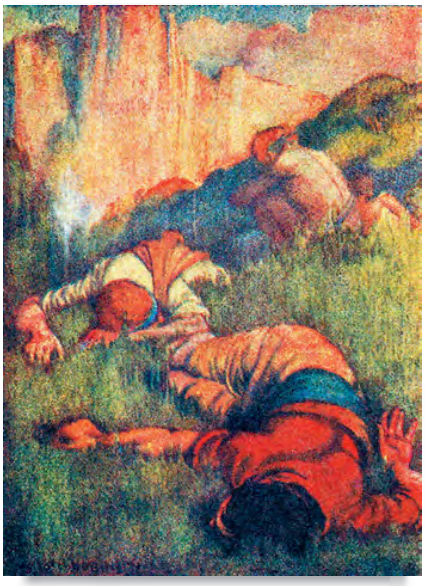
An internal and derogatory term applied to intelligence people by colleagues who believe he or she will use any means to climb the intelligence ladder, including blighting the reputation of associates or giving the impression that they are of a superior frame. Securing leads and acquiring good information, whilst downplaying the role of colleagues is an everyday occurrence.

In most cases those who engage in such actions are usually identified by line managers and can find themselves isolated and with little prospect of promotion. However, historical case examples of disputes and internal mischief are numerous, and some of the 'greatest' intelligence chiefs have been issued with the unwanted term 'Ladder Man' by colleagues.

President Obama and senior security officials watch the end game of Operation Neptune Spear from the Situation Room in the White House

LOTUS EATER

In Greek mythology a 'Lotus Eater' was a race of people who lived on an island where lotus plants were plentiful. They were the primary food stuff, but unbeknown to the residents they contained a



Men of the legendary Greek king Odysseus lay in a state of unconsciousness after eating lotus fruits

narcotic, which once consumed caused them to sleep in extended apathy - essentially rendering them useless or incapable of performing even the most rudimentary of tasks.

This rare intelligence description is given to spies and operators who are believed to be dead, or have since departed the intelligence game and are no longer regarded as a threat or asset. The description was recently applied by one Moscow intelligence source to Sergei Skripal, the former MI6 agent poisoned by the Novichok nerve agent in Salisbury, England.

PAPER HOUSE

When an intelligence target is put under surveillance or the end game of an operation to arrest the person or persons nears, one of the primary tasks is to ensure all is known about their base of operation, residence and visitors. For example, entry or exit points, locks, window security, access for vehicles, fire escapes etc. Just as important, if the building contains any harmful items, including in a counter-terrorism case, firearms, explosives and chemicals. If the location is deemed assessable without too much difficulty and there are no obvious threats it is deemed a 'Paper House'. However, organisations such as MI5 and the FBI, prefer if the actual detention of the subject can be made in what are deemed safe zones, and public safety is always a priority.

The term is also used to describe vulnerable or exposed residences housing agents engaged in foreign operations - where controllers are fearful of security and the well-being of their operatives.

REGISTRY QUEEN

In Cold War Britain, MI5's Registry contained the names of an estimated two million people, and was the beating heart of the Service. It was regarded as the most vital component of initiating operations or as a research reference to source vital intelligence on 'persons-of-interest'. Unlike today's Registry, which is contained on secure internal computers and overseen and protected by experienced cyber controllers, it was all on managed index cards which were distributed to its various branches and offices by trolleys which ran quickly on miniature tracks.

Most of the 100 staffers who managed the system in the 1950s and 1960s, analysing, sorting, delivering and writing the cards were female. This swelled to more than 300 - still mostly women - by 1970. According to former officers, most were recruited from the aristocracy or from the families of senior and trusted male officers. New Registry staffers were generally of a younger age and this led to many internal relationships and marriage. Within MI5 itself, they were known as 'Registry Queens' and led to an internal joke that their average career expectancy was just nine months - the time it took the girls to get pregnant.

Such derogatory language would not be tolerated today.

SCOUTS

The Komitet Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosti better known as the KGB (Committee for State Security) was a most formidable spy agency. Established in 1952, it ran a global network of agents until its break-up in 1991 following the collapse of Communism. Throughout its operation, the KGB's senior management always referred to its overseas operators, not as agents, intelligence officers or spies, but as 'Scouts'.

1977. Former KGB agent Aleksei Myagkov

WHITE NOISE

Scientifically, 'White Noise' is a processed signal and has many applications in various fields. In the game of espionage white noise is commonly used to mask a conversation or forwarded signals and defeat those intent on recording, intercepting or understanding

Running water can be used to 'create' white noise in order to mask conversations

the spoken or electronic word. Examples of how to mask a conversation in locations such as a bugged hotel room have appeared in Eye Spy tradecraft features in the past. Two of the most common counter-measures are using a hotel fan or speaking in the bathroom with water running or the shower turned on.

However, the term white noise also has another meaning in the language of spies. When analysts are invited to examine intelligence secured from an adversary, or even passed on by friendly associates, they must determine if the data is authentic, or has been 'masked' by 'white noise' in order to conceal aspects of the information. Similarly, the intention may be to elevate its significance from the ordinary using material that is neither relevant or true. Propaganda and disinformation are also associated with its secondary intelligence meaning.

X-FILES

Undoubtedly the most famous FBI screen agents are Scully and Mulder, the inquisitive officers who investigated the strange, bizarre and supernatural. These were unusual incidents and case files which couldn't really be classified in conventional terms, and beyond the filing system of the Bureau. The series, produced by Chris Carter, ran for nine years and over 200 episodes were made securing a worldwide following. This all conspired to

David Duchovny played agent 'Fox Mulder' and Gillian Anderson agent 'Dana Scully'. Pictured is Mulder's screen-set office. Note his poster - *'I want to Believe'* - the real FBI does not... but still investigates

create a much loved rumour that the FBI does indeed categorise some case investigations as 'X-Files'. The truth, as the Bureau is keen to point out, is a little more mundane.

However, it does acknowledge that in its records are investigations of UFOs, such as the famous Roswell incident of 1947, and cattle mutilations supposedly conducted by 'folks from outer space'. Another case concerns a supposedly secret grouping of leading US military and intelligence officials attached to Operation Majestic Twelve. These men, including CIA Directors, were named in a number of documents which circulated in the mid-1980s, and were linked to a programme of 'alien contact'. The Bureau looked at the papers, which seemed convincing, but were in fact a carefully orchestrated hoax. Eye Spy supports that view, indeed, we actually know the identity of the cunning perpetrator.

Beyond this, the FBI does investigate cases which Scully and Mulder would gratefully have accepted, however, they are engaged because in many cases a potential violation of the law has been reported. And whilst at its headquarters in Washington there is no cabinet labelled X-Files, some agents do refer to odd investigations as X-Files, though with a slight smirk and humorous glance.

Y-FILES

Whilst the FBI's X-Files may be legendary in popular spy culture, they do not officially exist. Yet this cannot be said of the 'Y-Files' managed by their counterparts in British Intelligence - MI5. This Cold War term concerned the most important person-of-interest operation contained within the legendary MI5 Registry. Various boxes were in operation; the main card index listing holding names ranging from suspected subversives to members of the Communist Party of Great Britain. But there was one highly regarded and most secret storage system called the Y-Box. All sensitive identity case files ended up here, including defectors and suspected and known spies. Access to the Y-Files was strictly regulated and in most cases prohibited. Even MI5's most trusted personnel and spycatchers could only obtain the files by authorisation from the very top - the Director-General himself. Today's computerised Registry holds an estimated two-and-a-half million names.

COMMITTEE SENSITIVE

United States Senate

August 1, 2018

Mr. Julian Assange
c/o Embassy of Ecuador
Flat 3B, Hans Crescent
Knightsbridge, London SW1X 0LS
United Kingdom

Re: Russian Interference in the 2016 U.S. Elections

Dear Mr. Assange:

As you are aware, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is conducting a bipartisan inquiry into Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. elections. As part of that inquiry, the Committee requests that you make yourself available for a closed interview with bipartisan Committee staff at a mutually agreeable time and location.

Please respond in writing upon receipt of this letter. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Committee counsel at 202-224-1700.

Sincerely,

Richard Burr
Chairman

Mark R. Warner
Vice Chairman

Above: Letter allegedly signed by Mark Warner, Vice Chairman of the US Senate Intelligence Committee, requesting Assange testifies

MAN OF SECRETS

GATEWAY TO FREEDOM FOR WIKILEAKS RECLUSE?

Intelligence people want to question former head of WikiLeaks for his insights into US election interference by Russian cyber hackers

The whistle-blowing website WikiLeaks, has published an alleged memo by Mark Warner, Vice Chairman of the US Senate Intelligence Committee, requesting that its former leader Julian Assange, testify about interference in the 2016 US General Election. In a tweet, WikiLeaks announced: *'US Senate Intelligence Committee calls editor@JulianAssange to testify. Letter delivered via US Embassy in London. WikiLeaks legal team say they are 'considering the offer' but testimony must conform to a high ethical standard'.*

WikiLeaks solicitor Jennifer Robinson responded to the development by saying: "We are seriously considering the offer but must ensure Mr Assange's protection is guaranteed.

It's not known what information Assange could provide, but he still retains numerous links with users sourcing information from the Internet, and who may have deep insight into the hacking of US computer systems by Russian operators. Indeed, some intelligence sources believe the US investigative unit headed by former FBI Director Robert Mueller, believes WikiLeaks and Assange were "conduits of Russian hacking into the election." WikiLeaks published in

Mark Warner

Left: Assange supporters outside the Embassy of Ecuador in London on learning of the new development which could provide a gateway to freedom for Assange

Julian Assange

Former FBI Director Robert Mueller and Special Counsel lead investigator into alleged Russian interference in the 2016 US General Election

excess of 20,000 emails from Democratic supporters and networks leading up to the election. Most are thought to have been sourced and delivered by Russian cyber hackers. A great many were internal party discussions, giving support to Hillary Clinton over her Democratic opponent Bernie Sanders. This action caused much embarrassment and debate. And though Mueller has referenced an Internet web site as a "prime player" in his investigations, he did not name WikiLeaks.

Jennifer Robinson

Assange, who is no longer wanted for questioning about a number of sexual-related incidents in Sweden, has been a virtual recluse for over five years - staying at the Ecuadorian embassy in London. Though police in Sweden have dropped their request for extradition, there remains an outstanding warrant for his arrest issued by Britain for *'failing to surrender in court'*. He believes if he exits the building, he will be detained and eventually flown to the United States where he will be questioned by the security services for information breaches, primarily by WikiLeaks.

News of the development follows reports that both the Ecuadorian Government and Assange himself believe the 'status quo' situation in the embassy is becoming untenable, and that he might be forced to leave. Though he was granted citizenship of Ecuador earlier in the year, this in an attempt to resolve the situation, tensions are rising. In March, Ecuador President Lenin Moreno ordered that Assange's connection to the Internet and social media, be disconnected. Moreno confirmed that his country and Britain were "holding talks to try and end his stay at the embassy."

Eye Spy sources say Assange is seeking guarantees about his safety if he agrees to testify. Other intelligence watchers believe he could be asked to give evidence from the embassy via an Internet conference link. The new developments in Washington come at a time when doctors looking after Assange said his "continued confinement is dangerous to his physical and mental health."

In respect of the authenticity of the document requesting a meeting, a spokesperson for the US Senate Intelligence Committee declined to comment, but most intelligence sources believe it is genuine.

NEW HOUSE RULES

ASSANGE TOLD TO CLEAN UP OR GET OUT

Julian Assange has been issued with a stern warning from his 'landlords' to either comply with new house rules or the diplomatic asylum granted by the Ecuadorian state will be terminated.

A leaked memo issued by the embassy to Assange states that top of the list he is expressly banned from activities which could be *'considered as political or interfering with the internal affairs of other states'.*

Assange's Internet access was suspended in March, because he had breached a written commitment made to Ecuador at the end of 2017 not to issue messages that might interfere with other states. While the ban on weekend Internet access has been partially lifted, the WikiLeaks founder will only be allowed to use the embassy WiFi for his personal computer and phone.

In addition, he and his guests are explicitly prohibited from using or installing unauthorised equipment. According to the memo, the embassy *'reserved the right to authorise security personnel to seize equipment'* or

ask the British authorities to enter the embassy and do so.

Any attempt to bring such equipment into the embassy would be viewed as a 'security breach and reported to the competent British authorities'.

According to embassy insiders, the Ecuadorians are "disgusted" with his personal hygiene and the treatment of his cat. Assange was told to take charge of the "well-being, food, hygiene and proper care" of his pet cat, or it would be given to someone else or handed in to an animal refuge. They also "implored" Assange and his guests to keep the bathroom clean and stated the diplomatic mission would not pay towards his food, laundry, quarterly medical check-ups or any other costs related to his stay from 1 December 2018 onwards.

LEGAL ACTION LAUNCHED

Assange responded by launching legal action against Ecuador, for violating his "fundamental rights and freedoms." Baltasar Garzon, a solicitor for WikiLeaks arrived in London to begin proceedings.

QATAR CYBER GAMES

LEGAL CHALLENGE AFTER BREACHES

A legal case has been filed by Elliott Broidy who served on the Homeland Security Advisory Council (Future of Terrorism Task Force) from 2006 to 2009, against the State of Qatar and several individuals. The complaint states Qatar conspired in a cyberattack against him and numerous others, and states the computers of more than 1,200 US nationals, including associates and friends of President Donald Trump, European counter-terrorism officials, Arab leaders and other high profile individuals, were hacked.

Broidy is being represented by former US Ambassador and solicitor Lee Wolosky who served in significant national security positions under the last three US presidents. Wolosky, said: "Ongoing litigation in the United States sought to hold Qatar and its agents in the US accountable. As we have alleged in our court filings, Qatar and its agents tried to silence Elliott Broidy, targeting him because of his outspoken advocacy against Qatar's support for terrorism, its alliance with Iran, and its support of extremist groups across the Middle East."


Lee Wolosky


UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash

Broidy said that at least 19 UAE-based officials were targeted in the cyber attack, including Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash and the ambassadors to the UK and France. Lawyers in the case say that the four-year operation was aimed at those who threaten a multi-million dollar public relation campaign to clean up the reputation of Qatar.

Congressional Advisor on Middle East Policy Aaron Keyak said that he believes President Trump, National Security Advisor John Bolton, and the Department of State should send a strong message to Qatar to halt its espionage activities. "The cyberattack showed another level of how ruthless Qatar was willing to play with the international community," said Keyak. "It's one thing to hire lobbyists to push an agenda or make a convincing argument... but it's another thing entirely to engage in cyber espionage on US citizens."

WMD THREAT INCREASING

SECURITY MINISTER ISSUES WARNING

UK Security Minister Ben Wallace has delivered an ominous evaluation of the terrorist threat facing the UK. "Britain must face up to the possibility of a chemical or biological attack as terrorists relentlessly pursue new methods to commit murder," Mr Wallace said. In a stark assessment he said he saw plots where "the only limits to the ambition of our adversaries is their imagination."

Speaking at a security gathering in London, Wallace said whilst the likelihood of such an attack is "very unlikely," the attack threat level in the UK remains at Severe.

Mr Wallace warned: "As I speak, terrorists continue to explore new ways to kill us on our streets. Chemical and biological weapons are marching in closer. They have developed and worked on a better arsenal, and we have to be prepared that might come to our streets here.


NSY Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu

"Be under no doubt the threat is real. Our open, liberal and free societies are easy prey to those that fear little and care even less."

New Scotland Yard Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu, Britain's most senior counter-terrorism officer echoed Mr Wallace's warning that the threat must be taken seriously. "We are operating at a pace not seen since the very height of the Troubles."

LONDON: A judge has ruled that the British government has the right to withhold information relating to alleged links between British spy agencies and exiled Russian, Aleksandr Perepilichny, a wealthy and influential investment banker, who died in 2012 with traces of gelsemium in his stomach. The plant is a "known weapon of assassination [used] by Chinese and Russian contract killers."

The judge, Nicholas Hilliard QC, has security clearance and was therefore able to review the relevant evidence behind closed doors, during a secret session. He then ruled that "publicly releasing intelligence information [relating to Perepilichny] would pose a real risk of serious harm to national security."

NSA INTELLIGENCE LEAKS

SPECIAL CONTRACTOR JAILED FOR TOP SECRET DOCUMENTS ABUSE


Reality Winner

Former NSA contractor and USAF translator Reality Winner, 26, has been sentenced to five-years in prison for leaking Top Secret classified documents to a media house in 2017. Winner, who worked at an NSA facility in Augusta, Georgia, admitted printing classified papers and removing the material from the building. The documents were notes and commentary about a Russian GRU cyber attack on the facility and concerned a supplier of US election voting software.

Following an internal audit which revealed the papers had been wrongfully duplicated or copied, investigators identified six persons who had access to the material, eventually leading to Winner.

Whilst some commentators believe the sentence was harsh, including journalists who received the papers, she could have received a 10-year prison term and $250,000 fine. "She's a good person who didn't understand the magnitude of what she was doing," said her solicitor John Bell. In court, Winner, who once called President Trump an "orange fascist," said: "I had no intention of harming national security." She also called her actions a "severe crime against the government."

John Demers, US Assistant Attorney General for National Security, praised the prosecution and decision: "I hope their success will deter others from similar unlawful action in the future."

THE REGRETFUL SPY

PUTIN'S MI6-KGB GATEWAY


Sir Richard Dearlove

COURTESY: SKY NEWS


Prime Minister Tony Blair and Vladimir Putin in 2000

Britain's former MI6 Chief (1999-2004), Sir Richard Dearlove, says he now regrets helping Vladimir Putin in his quest to become President in 2000. Speaking at a literary festival, Sir Richard revealed he was approached by a KGB officer who asked if MI6 would help establish ties between the would-be president and Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The plan involved Blair attending the premiere of War and Peace in St Petersburg at the Mariinsky Theatre, here a liaison would be forged. Sir Richard said: "We had a long discussion in London whether Tony Blair should accept the invitation or not, and we decided on balance that this was an unusual and unique opening and we accepted the invitation."

Asked today if he has any regrets over his well-intended actions, the intelligence man said, "sure there is significant regret."

The ex-spy chief also commented on Russian interference in the 2016 US General Election. He accepted that whilst it may have been possible to use technology to influence public opinion, he did not think the "impact was such as to change the result."

APT38 COVERT CYBER CRIMINALS

North Korea 'Bank Robbers' Secure $100 million

WASHINGTON: North Korean hackers with a known history of conducting online bank heists, have successfully breached at least 16 victims in 11 countries in the last four years, making millions of dollars for Kim Jong-un's regime in spite of international sanctions, a US cyber security report revealed.

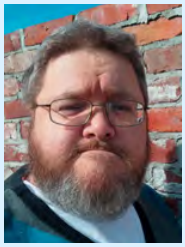
An investigation into criminal activity attributed to the North Korean Government assessed that a particular hacking group called APT38, began breaking into foreign banks to raise funds in the wake of the United Nations' imposing financial penalties in response to Pyongyang's nuclear programme.

The hackers are responsible for stealing millions of dollars earlier this year from banks in Mexico and Chile and remain *'active and dangerous to financial institutions worldwide',* the report said. Conservative estimates place APT38's total haul over one hundred million dollars.

OPERATION STAGE

INVASION COUNTERMEASURES

Eye Spy Navy Consultant Christopher Eger delves into an FBI project which was initiated to train a select number of hardy Alaskans to act as the 'eyes and ears' of American Intelligence, should the Soviets invade the northern most state in the USA. Utilising the content of more than 2,100 pages of recently declassified intelligence documents relating to OPERATION STAGE, the author provides a unique and engaging overview of this little known endeavour...



Just a half-decade after the end of WWII, it was thought that the Soviets could soon make a push to reclaim their lost North American colony - Alaska - purchased by the United States in 1867 for around $7 million. The US Government turned to the FBI and J. Edgar Hoover's 'G-men' to establish a plan to continue to generate clandestine intelligence from "somewhere in occupied Alaska" in the event of a Russian invasion.

The programme started in January 1950, when US Navy Captain Minor Heine, who held the position of Director of Intelligence for the service's Alaskan Command, called the FBI Special Agent in Charge, John H. Williams in Anchorage - the State's largest city, which supported about a third of Alaska's 135,000 population. Heine wanted to see how the Bureau could fit into the intel game in the event of a Soviet invasion or occupation. By the end of the month, Williams was meeting with Heine, Colonel Wallis Perry, the US Army's top intelligence officer in Alaska; Lt. Colonel Donald Springer, Perry's corresponding representative with in US Air Force; and other top military intelligence officers in the state.

GENESIS OF STAGE

The subject of the meeting, which had been cleared by Heine with General Nathan Farragut Twining - one of top commanders of the USAF and just a few years later appointed by President Eisenhower as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff- was to enlist the FBI in establishing a network of sleeper agents. The operatives would be chosen from amongst local Alaskans, trained and placed in stasis during peacetime, then activated in the event of a potential future occupation. Their role would be two-fold: to spy on the Soviets, sending back information of tactical and strategic importance to US forces; and provide a system of safe houses for shot down US and friendly aircrews or other military personnel behind the lines.

General Nathan Twining

The Secret Alaska FBI Sleeper Agent Plan

There was genuine fear in Washington that Russia would order its troops to 'retake' Alaska

HANDS OFF CIA

The local FBI went for the idea, then contacted Washington's military Inter-departmental Intelligence Conference Committee at the Pentagon - where the Bureau had a seat on the table due to their traditional role in counter-intelligence hashed out some behind the scenes details over the next several months, the minutia of which are still classified. This small and very select chamber predated the efforts of today's Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), which was only formed in 1961. The recently established CIA was deliberately kept out of the loop in discussions, with one FBI memo on the subject openly stating: *'The principal advantage to the FBI's assuming joint responsibility in these two programmes is that it will preclude any other intelligence agency, such as the CIA, getting into the intelligence field in Alaska at this time'.*

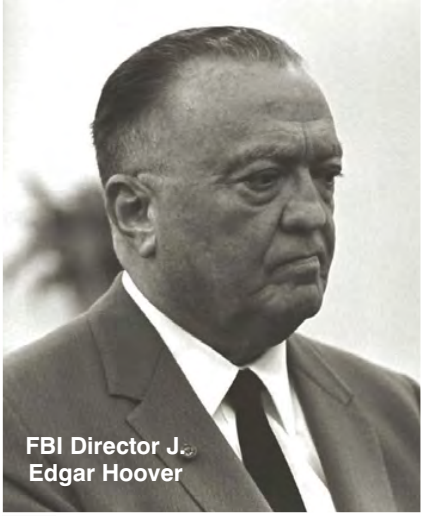
By May 1950, Washington, with the blessing of infamous FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, decided to greenlight the effort in Alaska, which was to be headed by the Anchorage FBI office, using local contacts who had already been vetted by the Bureau - confidential informants and local sources who the FBI was already using to surveil and monitor possible Communist agitators in dockworkers unions, movie theatre operators who showed Russian-language films, and the like. This latter suggestion was rebuffed by the agents on the ground in Alaska, who cabled back via coded radiogram in June: *'Anchorage informants presently prevailing not believed to be the type suitable for this project, although office has contacts who possibly could function in such a programme'.*

SELECTING STAY BEHINDS

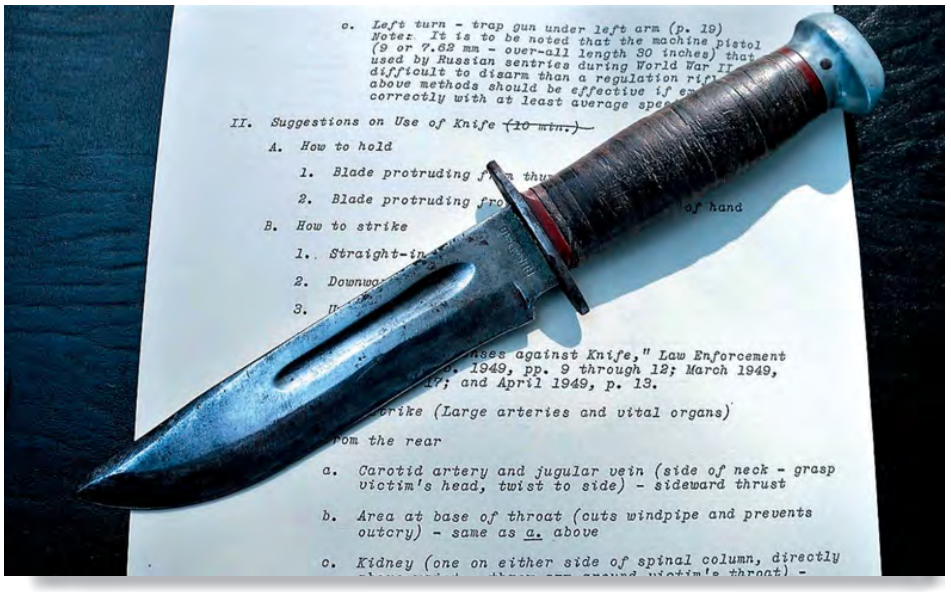
Among the best people Hoover officials thought would work as stay behind operatives, were the sort of hard, frontier men who had proven themselves in this unforgiving region and had established ties that would keep them there in the event of a foreign invasion. In fact, most of the proposed stay-behinds had previously weathered WWII in the territory, a conflict that saw Japanese troops occupy several islands in the Western part of the state.

One of the proposed operatives was a 45-year-old hunting guide in Anchorage. Another was a native-born Alaskan who was a medical doctor and avid outdoorsman that had helped local FBI agents in cases from time to time. A third was a 69-year-old Italian immigrant who had come to Alaska during the Klondike Gold Rush as a teenager and was considered something of a local legend. Another immigrant, a Croatian who the FBI noted was rumoured to have been a bootlegger during the Prohibition-era, owned an area bar and hotel. In all, the youngest considered was 29-years of age, while the bulk were over 35. A third were big game hunters and guides, with the famous Holger Larsen, the bush-pilot head of the US Fish & Wildlife Service in the state, instrumental in helping the Bureau with its recruiting efforts.

Many of the men owned boats or small airplanes and were skilled in their use in the poorly-mapped state. Others had dog teams. About a third already had experience using



FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover



Right: FBI document discussing how the agents were to be trained in close-quarter fighting. Above: British agent trainer William Fairbairn at the secret agent training Camp-X in Canada using knives in hand-to-hand combat

radios. All were known to the Bureau as dependable and had - mostly - clean records. The majority also had occupations and pursuits that had required them to travel across broad swathes of Alaska and knew the vast and rugged territory like the back of their hand after a lifetime of adventures. Some were employed by local and state government in survey, conservation and road work. Their collective skillset was unlike any that could be taught.

LEARNING TRADECRAFT

What had to be explained to the planned 75-100 operatives across the state to be recruited, was a crash course in being a hidden agent. Initially each man - there were no women - was to be given about two weeks of intense training in the Washington DC area. This was performed by FBI 'subject matter experts' in aircraft and ship recognition, Russian language, firearms, first aid, bacteriological and nuclear warfare and, most importantly, sending and receiving coded messages via hidden radios.

When it came to codes and ciphers, each was trained in the use of pocket-sized DIANA Cryptosystem one-time pads, double meaning words to signal distress, and issued a common paperback novel- for example the 25-cent *Trouble on the Border* by Gordon Young - as an emergency key. This would later be expanded to include the use of secret writing to include 'damp pressure' and 'aniline pencil' methods. They were also prepped in techniques known to be used by the Soviets in the past to ferret out espionage agents. Finally, each trainee was given courses in selecting and training sub-agents and informants, defensive tactics such as disarming assailants and the close-in use of knives. Due to the backgrounds of each of the selected stay-behinds, the training in the latter was likely to be an easy task.

The stay behind agents were to receive training on the use of field radios by FBI instructors, and how to communicate in code

Although each candidate was approached quietly by the FBI to gauge their willingness to participate in the programme - which was voluntary - they were to be paid for training ($150 per week plus $11 per diem for expenses) and, naturally, in the event of their activation in standby periods and full-scale invasion. To hide the fact from local bankers who may talk in small communities and blow the operative's cover, each had a bank account established at a stateside bank to which their payments were made. Each operative was vetted locally before they were recruited, then given a more extensive background check prior to their travel to Washington. A cursory medical exam by an Army doctor at Fort Richardson for 'deformity' was also part of the 'onboarding' process.

By the end of June 1951, three operatives had been trained and another 75 were in the recruiting pipeline. Four dedicated FBI agents in Anchorage were detailed to run the top-secret programme, which by now had been codenamed Operation STAGE.

COVER AND LEGEND

Earnest efforts were made to maintain the secrecy of the sleepers' identity. All the stay-behinds were given a cover name. At no time during the recruitment or training process did any operative learn about the identity of others in the programme. Candidates were never told about other stay-behinds, always met with controlling agents on a one-on-one basis, and travelled to training alone. Classes, staggered to begin every three days, were attended

THE SPOKEN WORD

AGENT TABLE OF EXCHANGE WORDS

PLAIN	COVER
What are my instructions	Idea
Adopt Plan A	Easy
Adopt Plan B	Fox
Adopt Plan C	How
I am controlled	Sugar
Do not contact me until further notice	Uncle
I need medicine	Cloud
I need men	Rabbits
I need food	Fish
I need medicine/men/ food urgently	(Repeat above cover word)
Forced to move	Walk

The double meaning terms are as follows:

Plain	Cover
What are my instructions	Idea
Adopt Plan A	Easy
Adopt Plan B	Fox
Adopt Plan C	How
I am controlled	Sugar
Do not contact me until further notice	Uncle
I need medicine	Cloud
I need men	Rabbits
I need food	Fish
I need medicine / men / food urgently	(Repeat above cover word)
Forced to move	Walk

SUFFOLK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, USA

by only a single student and their instructors. Stay-behinds were forbidden to talk about the programme or their new job to anyone other than their handler, including family members. Operatives were coached to provide cover stories about their travel, for which the FBI would help supply receipts and items such as postcards and fake documents to support the ruse.

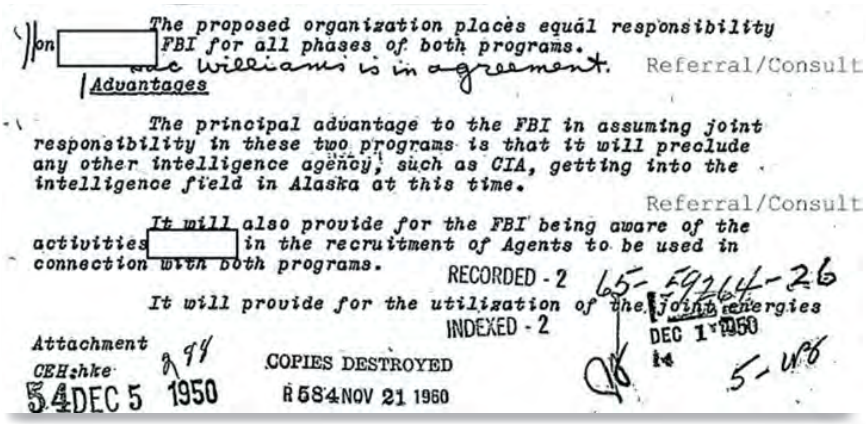
COMMUNICATIONS

Correspondence for the programme was directed to a secure Post Office Box at the Anchorage Post Office in the name of Alfred Burr. The programme was handled from Room #1533 in the Anchorage FBI office on a strict 'need-to-know' compartmentalised basis. If invasion threatened and the 'balloon went up', the six personnel at the office familiar with STAGE were to be evacuated, but only after destroying files, with a backup set of files maintained in Washington.

Once the stay-behinds returned to Alaska from training, they were encouraged to become civilian ham radio operators to provide cover for their regular practice of sending and receiving coded transmissions from an FBI agent in the Anchorage office. They were given 45-hours of radio training in Washington for that purpose. In the event of activation, pre-planned radio call signs, protocols and frequencies were established.

The programme moved along, and by late July 1951, the first dedicated escape and evasion stay behinds, with orders to help shepherd downed aircrew to 'Free America or Canada', were sent off for training.

'... it will preclude any other intelligence agency, such as the CIA, getting into the intelligence field in Alaska at this time'



The proposed organization places equal responsibility on [redacted] FBI for all phases of both programs. Mr. Williams is in agreement. Referral/Consult

Advantages

The principal advantage to the FBI in assuming joint responsibility in these two programs is that it will preclude any other intelligence agency, such as CIA, getting into the intelligence field in Alaska at this time.

Referral/Consult

It will also provide for the FBI being aware of the activities [redacted] in the recruitment of Agents to be used in connection with both programs.

It will provide for the utilization of the joint energies

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At times, typical Washington bureaucracy reared its head in bizarre and illogical ways. One memo, ordering 504 pencils for the use of the stay-behinds, specified that the writing instruments should not be stamped *'Property of the US Government'* and *'We do not want all the pencils to look alike'*. Another round of memos debated the value of planned parachute training for operatives, with the main issue being increased per diem costs to the country at a time of tight budgets. Still another urgent radiogram requested a cash increase of $1,000 to the Anchorage office as two trainees were scheduled to come and get $500 advances and the office was low on funds. Further, to protect the carefully manicured persona of the suit-wearing college-degreed FBI special agents that Hoover had spent decades nurturing, it was specifically ordered that the stay-behinds, characteristically flannel and wool-clad backwoodsmen, should never be termed 'agents', and instead be referred to only as 'contacts or informants'. Similarly, use of the word 'spy' was forbidden.

AGENT SURVIVAL BASES

It was thought that Soviet secret police, moving in with the occupation forces, would soon liquidate or remove local population centres to Siberian gulags, which meant the sleepers had to be ready to relocate to more survivable locations early in the invasion. By August 1951, an effort was made to scout out hidden cache locations for the stay-behinds at remote abandoned mines, cabins and ghost towns, each to include a full year's worth of food, survival gear, radios, generators, and

Selecting locals who were familiar and used to the harsh landscape of Alaska was a major consideration for FBI recruiters

Today's protectors: An F-22 USAF Raptor takes off from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska

other supplies sealed in weatherproof packaging along with shelter for the operative and a guest.

The list of recommended supplies was immense for each location, to include as much as 5,000 gallons of petrol, a tractor, three tons of fuel oil for heating, 150 pounds of canned meats, 400 pounds of dried fruits and vegetables, extensive fishing kits and lockers full of clothes. It was estimated that each location would take a team of six men a period of 10-days to install and cost some $2,800 to outfit and complete. When you multiply this by 75-100 planned stay-behinds, it was a small fortune. This figure drew fire from FBI Director Hoover himself, who penciled on one memo on the cache proposal: *'What about this? Are we left holding the bag with no assistance?'*.

Then, on 17 September 1951, the 'rug was pulled' out from under the feet of the STAGE programme with Hoover personally firing off an order to shut the operation down and for agents in Anchorage to tell stay-behinds that the FBI was pulling out of the operation. However, redacted intelligence documents infer that other unnamed agencies or services had expressed interest in stepping into the Bureau's now-vacated spot.

By November, the programme had been wound down as far as the FBI was concerned, although the Anchorage office would continue to process background checks on stay-behinds for several additional months, possibly in support of the unnamed agency or services who expressed interest in Operation Stage. In all, just 20 stay-behinds completed the FBI training programme of the 78 selected and cleared persons. Some 140 individuals were considered. And, according to meticulous records, the FBI spent $10,260.62 on the programme.

As for Alaska, the invasion never came.

US Navy Special Warfare Center detachment train in Kodiak, Alaska, watched by former Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addresses the United Nations General Assembly

The Maher Alley Secret

Mossad Secures More Iranian Nuclear Weapons Intelligence

Following the audacious Mossad operation in Iran which resulted in the capture of thousands of sensitive documents pertaining to Iran's nuclear weapons programme, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu revealed new intelligence on previously unknown and secret nuclear storage sites

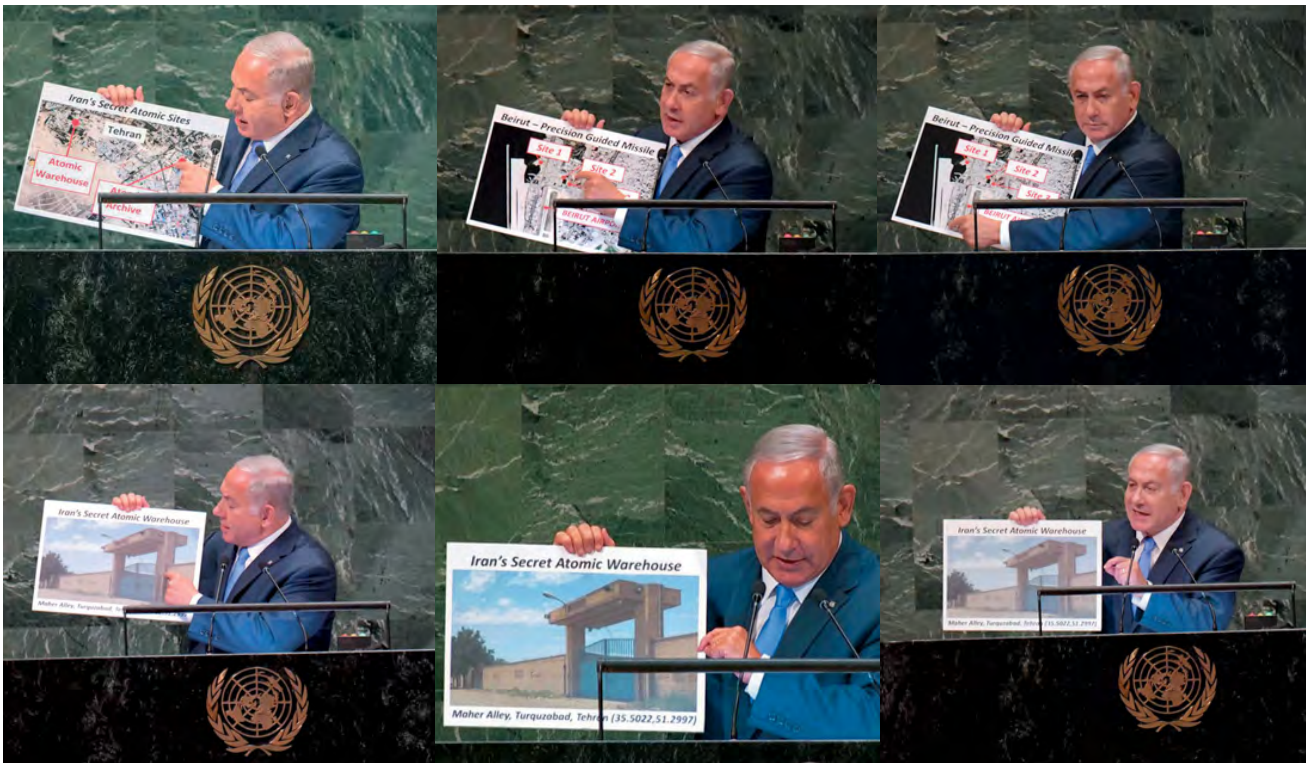
Presenting more evidence of Tehran's nuclear ambitions and regional aggression at the United Nations General Assembly, Netanyahu said: "What I'm about to say has not been shared publicly before," holding up what looked like satellite images of alleged nuclear-related storage warehouses. Titled 'Iran's Secret Atomic Sites', he supplied visual aids, a posterboard map, then a posterboard photo, then another map and naming its location - The Maher Alley in Tehran's Turquzabad district.

Without sharing how his premier spy agency secured the intelligence, he described a non-descript warehouse as an "innocent-looking compound" next to a rug-cleaning business. He mocked: "I hear they do a fantastic job cleaning rugs... but by now they may be radioactive rugs."

Within the warehouse - "300 tonnes of nuclear-related equipment and materiel" in 15 metal shipping containers. Netanyahu demanded an international inspection "right here, right now." He also accused the Iranians of "scurrying" to clean up the warehouse and "spreading 15 kilograms of radioactive material around Tehran," this in an effort to hide the evidence.

Netanyahu said the nuclear facility is under the supervision of a secret Iranian Defense Ministry department headed by physicist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh. He was previously named as head of Iran's nuclear programme by Netanyahu in his April presentation at the UN, following Mossad's seizure of Iran's nuclear archive. He called on the United Nation's Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to investigate the Mossad's findings, revealing thus far it "has not taken any action." He said Israel shared the information with the IAEA and urged the organisation to inspect the site. The IAEA had no immediate comment.

April 2018. Benjamin Netanyahu holds aloft a card display at the UN to show Iran's progress in securing a nuclear weapon



27 September 2018. Benjamin Netanyahu uses card displays showing the site of another concealed nuclear weapons warehouse in Tehran, which he said the IAEA has yet to investigate. Iran has rejected the allegations

THE SECRET SITE

Netanyahu told delegates at the UN General Assembly meeting held in late September: "It [the IAEA] has not posed a single question to Iran. It has not demanded to inspect a single new site discovered in that secret archive. So I decided to reveal something else today that we revealed to the IAEA and to other intelligence agencies."

Mr Netanyahu accused Britain, France and Germany of appeasing Iran by continuing to uphold the 2015 nuclear agreement. "While the United States is confronting Iran with new sanctions, Europe and others are appeasing Iran by trying to help it bypass those new sanctions," he said. "Have these European leaders learned nothing from history? Will they ever wake up? You have to ask yourself a question: 'Why did Iran keep a secret atomic archive and a secret atomic warehouse?'" He then issued a warning about the prowess and capabilities of Israeli Intelligence "What Iran hides, Israel will find."

Headquarters of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. The IAEA, according to some commentators, seems unconvinced by the Mossad intelligence

THE DIMONA PLANT

Mordechai Vanunu

Iran and its allies have long accused Israel of double standards by opposing nuclear weapons in other countries in the Middle East, while having its own nuclear arsenal. For over half-a-century Israel has never confirmed or denied reports that it possesses nuclear weapons.

Details of Israel's primary nuclear plant near the southern city of Dimona were exposed in 1986, by technician Mordechai Vanunu, an act which resulted in a lengthy prison sentence - and one he will never be forgiven for. Israel has refused international inspections at its nuclear site, though it is not required to do so because it has not signed the NPT Act (Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons). It is believed Israel maintains an arsenal of around 200 nuclear warheads.

Mr Netanyahu named Dr Mohsen Fakhrizadeh as lead Iranian nuclear scientist

HUNDREDS OF BOMBS

Netanyahu attacked the 2015 nuclear deal, saying Iran "immediately" used monies released following the accord to bolster its defence forces - a "40 percent increase," he said. "The essence of the nuclear deal was that, in return for not enriching uranium for a single bomb, Iran in a few years will get the right to enrich for hundreds of bombs. Iran has already announced that it will produce 200,000 centrifuges, some of them 20-times faster than the current generation." Netanyahu said Iran had been exposed "as deceiving and cheating the international community."

He concluded by issuing a chilling warning to the international gathering - that Iran was aiming to break out a nuclear arsenal when it deemed the time was right and intelligence eyes were distracted. "There will be a crisis somewhere... to break out its nuclear arsenal... that's the Iranian plan."

A THIRD SITE

Intelligence sources in Tel Aviv said Netanyahu had intended to reveal more intelligence on a third secret Iranian nuclear facility. However, the Mossad and senior Israel Defence Forces officials asked for restraint. This site was also described as a "secret atomic warehouse" in Tehran. Intelligence watchers believe whilst the Mossad has "reasonable proof of the warehouse, it is still gathering intelligence."

IRAN RESPONDS

Iran duly used its right of reply at the General Assembly to refute Netanyahu's accusations.

"His fallacies and his statement confirm his pathological tendency to tell monstrous lies and distort reality," said a representative of the Iranian delegation. "Exhibiting some photo-graphs of Google Street View? Today the Israeli showman claimed that he discovered new nuclear facilities in Iran. This is yet another false story."

In Iran, state media said the comments and information were "ridiculous." The country's IRNA news agency said "Netanyahu annually launches a ridiculous show at the UN General Assembly." An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said: "the world will laugh loudly at these types of theatrics and false and uncalculated statements."

Netanyahu exits the UN General Assembly protected by his security delegation after his scathing attack on Iran

PRIMARY IRANIAN NUCLEAR SITES AND MAJOR POWER FACILITIES

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCH SERVICE

Location of the 'atomic archive' raided by Mossad spies earlier this year and the new 'atomic warehouse' referenced by Netanyahu at the United Nations

In a Tweet just hours after Netanyahu's UN presentation, Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif wrote: *'No arts & craft show will ever obfuscate that Israel is* [the] *only regime in our region with a secret and undeclared nuclear weapons programme - including an actual atomic arsenal. Time for Israel to fess up and open its illegal nuclear weapons programme to international inspectors'.*

THE WAREHOUSE

In an action perhaps orchestrated by Iran's MOIS (Ministry of Intelligence of Security) spy agency, Iranians published 'selfies' on social

An Iranian stands outside the 'atomic warehouse' site mentioned by Netanyahu

TRILLION DOLLAR WATERWAY
WASHINGTON-TEHRAN TENSIONS

media taken outside the facility referenced by Netanyahu. A senior Israeli official responded: "The fact that you have young Iranians taking selfies there is unbelievable."

IRAN - A REGIONAL AGGRESSOR

Netanyahu also blamed Iran for sponsoring Houthis forces in Yemen, threatening to close the Persian Gulf, attacking Kurds in Iraq, several incidents in Syria, and backing groups opposed to Israel.

Regarding Hezbollah, Netanyahu held up satellite photos of the international airport in Beirut, Lebanon. "The Shia militia is upgrading its missiles for better accuracy," he said, and has placed three secret conversion sites near the airport, using civilians as human shields. "We will act against you in Syria, we will act against you in Lebanon, we will act against you in Iraq, we will act against you in wherever and whenever, Netanyahu warned.

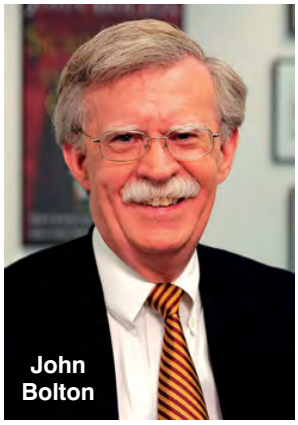
Beirut – Precision Guided Missile

NEW YORK: At the UN General Assembly meeting, US National Security Adviser, John Bolton, warned Iran there would be "Hell to pay" if it crosses the United States.

Tensions are growing between the two nations following President Donald Trump's re-instatement of economic sanctions on Tehran following the US withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal. Iran responded by threatening to block the crucial Strait of Hormuz waterway where over one-fifth of all the world's oil passes.

The US Navy has already repositioned a number of warships and surveillance vessels to the region in the event Iran attempts to disrupt shipping. Aerial and ground intelligence collection has also been stepped-up, including the relocation of several spy satellites to monitor Iranian military activity.

In September, the CIA blamed Iran-backed paramilitary forces for several incidents in Basra, Iraq, where a number of people were killed in clashes. The US duly announced it will close its consulate in the southern Iraqi city. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said all but emergency staff would be relocated to Baghdad, and warned that the US would hold Iran responsible for any harm to its citizens or facilities.



TREATY OF AMITY

President Trump is terminating the little-known friendship Treaty of Amity between the United States and Iran, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced 3 October. The treaty was used as the basis for Iran taking the US to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) after Washington imposed fresh sanctions after withdrawing from the nuclear deal. Iran said the treaty allowed for sanctions relief.

"This is a decision frankly that is 39 years overdue," Pompeo said. President Trump's team rejected the court's authority over the matter under any circumstances; the theory of Iran's case relied on the existence of a decades-old friendship pact that Pompeo emphasised is obsolete. "The Iranians have been ignoring it for an awfully long time," he said. "We ought to have pulled out of it decades ago."

The ICJ is the main judicial body of the UN and used to settle disputes between member states.

July 2018. Watchful US Navy officers aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS *The Sullivans,* monitor shipping on the Strait of Hormuz

FALLING DOWN

Karapetyan handled the Russian probe into the circumstances of MI6 agent Alexander Litvinenko's assassination in 2006

DEATH OF SENIOR KREMLIN FIGURE INVESTIGATED

Russia's Deputy Prosecutor General Saak Albertovich Karapetyan, 58, was killed in a helicopter crash on 3 October near the village of Vonyshevo in the Kostroma region. The incident generated a plethora of rumours and conspiracy theories, with some commentators speculating he was assassinated because of his deep knowledge of various sensitive and secret investigative files, many connected to the world of intelligence.

Karapetyan had intimate knowledge of Kremlin activities. He was lead official in charge of several high-profile Russian criminal probes, including three major incidents in the UK. These include the recent poisoning of MI6 agent Sergei Skripal in March; the unexplained death of businessman Boris Berezovsky (left) in 2013, and the assassination of former FSB officer and MI6 agent Alexander Litvinenko in London in 2006.

Karapetyan is also said to have directed the foreign operations of Natalia Veselnitskaya, another Kremlin operative who engaged with senior Trump campaign officials at the notorious 9 June 2016 Trump Tower meeting.

THE CRASH

Three other people perished in the crash, Areg Arutyunyan, 47, pilot Stanislav Mikhnov, 54, and passenger Viktor Kopteev also 54. Air crash investigators said the aircraft - a Eurocopter AS350 - was overloaded and clipped tree tops as it took off in bad weather conditions. The men were about to embark on a hunting trip. Some Russia media houses reported the flight was 'unauthorised'.

Russian journalist Sergey Dorenko accused investigating authorities of concealing evidence of gun shots and suggested the prosecutor was assassinated. Dorenko said authorities hid details of two bullet wounds to the highly experienced pilot as well as gun shot damage to the helicopter's rotor blade. However, others speculate that because the men were on a hunting trip, there is a possibility that ammunition could have discharged on impact. Authorities in Moscow

Sergey Dorenko

Deputy Prosecutor General Saak Albertovich Karapetyan

Eurocopter AS350 operated by the Australian Navy Fleet Air Arm

dispute the claims and said there was no evidence of gunshots whatsoever. From where the gunshot story came is unclear, but Dorenko is highly respected in the media. With a superior insight into Russian intelligence and political affairs, in 2007 Dorenko famously provided journalists with a video tape of an interview with FSB officer Alexander Litvinenko and colleagues in 1998. In the recording, Litvinenko and colleagues hint they had been ordered by their FSB superiors to "kill, kidnap or frame various leading Russian politicians and business people."

Anonymous Kremlin blogger 'Nezygar Telegram' claimed "Karapetyan's death will resolve a number of very painful issues and stop leaks of highly confidential information to the West and prevent attacks on Putin's security council chief Nikolai Patrushev."

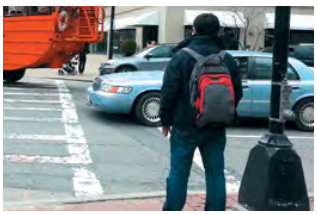
ASSASSINATION CULTURE

In July 2018 at Portcullis House opposite the UK Parliament building, an event was held by the Henry Jackson Society titled: *'Russia's Assassinations Abroad'.* Delegates heard details of several case studies involving recent deaths, a number of those were contained within the so-called *'Russian List'* revealed by Eye Spy. Amongst the speakers, Giles Udy, a historian who studied Soviet Communism. He said: "There is a long-standing culture in Russia to target enemies. Like in the Soviet Union, political murder has been institutionalised."

Former MI6 Chief Sir Richard Dearlove recently entered the assassination debate: "The attack in the UK [Sergei Skripal)] fits a historical pattern, Russia historically has always used assassination as weapon, it's part of the Russian political DNA, it's a rather terrible thing to say but it's a violent country and they tend to kill each other."

Intelligence sources say whilst it may never be possible to establish the exact circumstances of Karapetyan's death, it has been added to a growing list of suspicious deaths.

RECENT CASE FILES



8 NOVEMBER 2016: SERGEI KRIVOV. An alleged Russian counter-espionage officer who died after falling from the roof of the Russian Consulate in New York. Moscow said he died of a heart attack. NYPD said foul play wasn't suspected.

21 DECEMBER 2016: YVES CHANDELON. Chief NATO Auditor General responsible for investigating Russian money laundering is found shot dead in his car in the Belgian town of Andenne. Investigators speculate the shooting could have been made to resemble suicide.

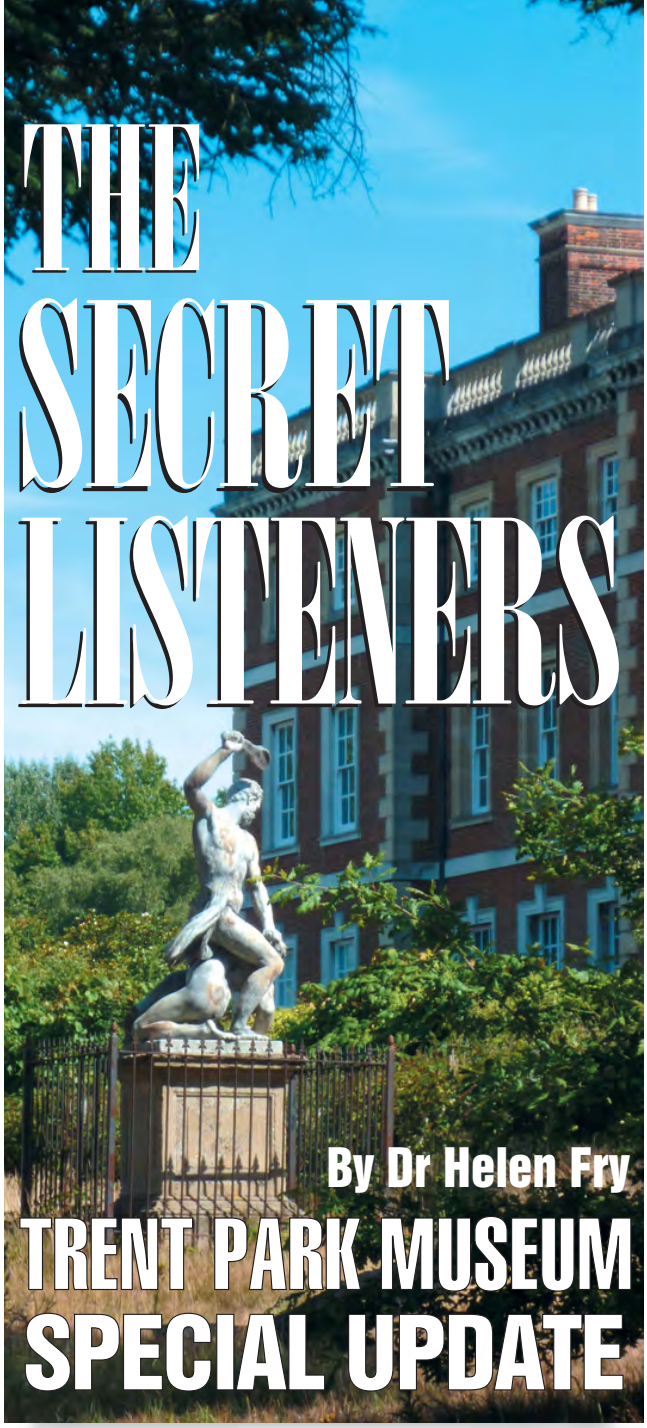
26 DECEMBER 2016: OLEG EROVINKIN. Former FSB spy linked to information in the so-called *'Steele Dossier'* which contained all manner of disparaging information on Donald Trump. He was found dead in the back seat of his chauffeur-driven Lexus car in Moscow.

20 FEBRUARY 2017: VITALY CHURKIN. Russia's United Nations Ambassador with threads to Russian Intelligence died suddenly in a New York hospital after falling ill. Some US media houses speculate he was murdered by poisoning.

2 MARCH 2017: ALEX ORONOV. A naturalised US citizen, Oronov died in mysterious circumstances in his native Ukraine, according to some media houses. He allegedly helped set-up a meeting involving Trump lawyer Michael Cohen regarding a back channel Ukraine peace plan. The assassination allegation is dismissed by his family.

21 MARCH 2017: NIKOLAI GOROKHOV. A lawyer for the Magnitsky family and key witness for the US Government in a money laundering suit against a Russian holding company, falls or is thrown from the 4th floor of his Moscow apartment. He is seriously injured but survives. Sergei Magnitsky was of course a tax accountant who specialised in anti-corruption cases. He was found dead in a Russian police cell in 2009 sparking all manner of assassination rumours.

23 MARCH 2017: DENIS VORONOKOV. A former Russian military colonel, Voronokov was shot dead in Kiev, Ukraine, allegedly by an FSB unit despatched to find him. He was due to testify about various controversial happenings in the Kremlin.



THE SECRET LISTENERS

TRENT PARK MUSEUM SPECIAL UPDATE

By Dr Helen Fry

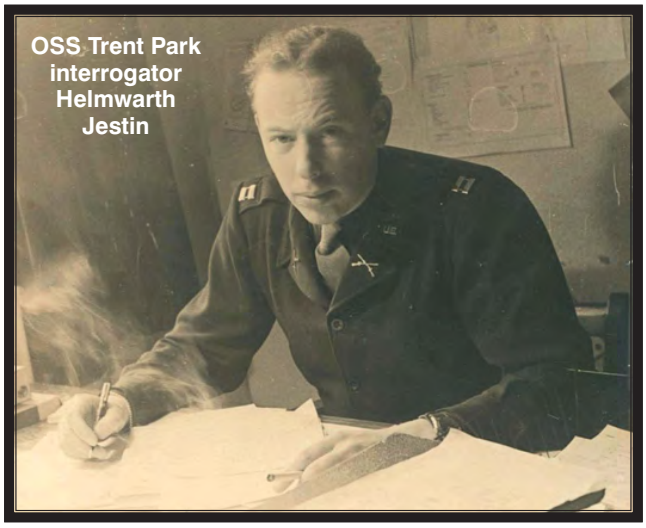
Latest developments of the campaign to create a unique museum at Trent Park in North London - the location of a crucial WWII clandestine spying operation

During the Second World War, Trent Park (once the home of Sir Philip Sassoon - a decorated military veteran) took on a top-secret role that would not be revealed for nearly 70 years. At the heart of this very secret war were the teams of 'Secret Listeners' - the German refugees (the majority of them Jewish) - who had themselves escaped Nazi persecution and were now working for British Intelligence. From the oft claustrophobic and atmospheric basement of the mansion house, they secretly listened into the conversations of Hitler's captured generals living in relative luxury above them. The information the secret listeners uncovered included details of Hitler's deadly weapons programme and evidence of war crimes and the concentration camps.

Sir Philip Sassoon

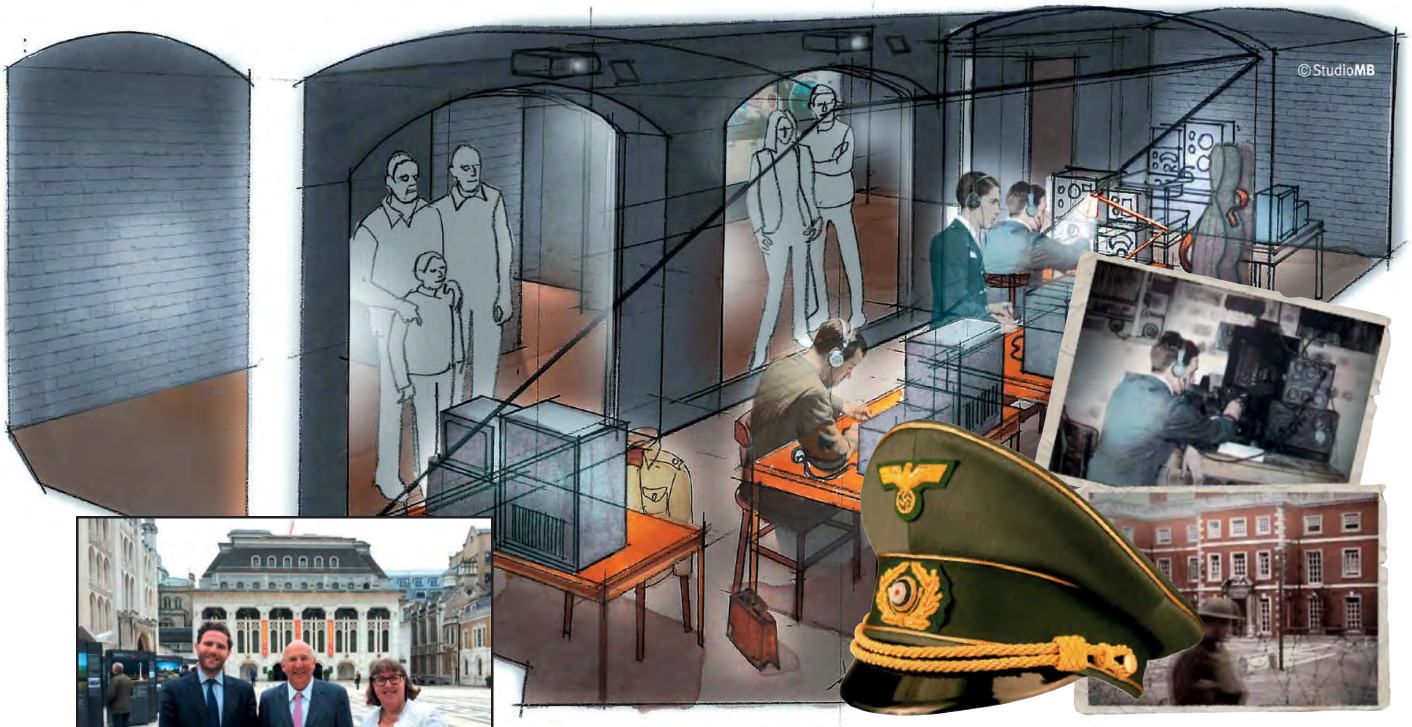
Within two weeks of the bombing of Pearl harbour, American intelligence officers arrived at Trent Park. They were soon part of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS later CIA), and went on to make a valuable contribution as interrogators and intelligence officers here. Trent Park, alongside Bletchley Park, is a prime example of the close Anglo-American intelligence cooperation that was cemented in WWII and which continues today.

The clever handling of Hitler's generals by British and American Intelligence continues to captivate the public imagination. Giving 59 German generals and nearly 40 senior German officers a life of relative luxury in the mansion house at Trent Park arguably led to one of the greatest intelligence coups of the war. From their bugged conversations, the intelligence services gained the first concrete proof of Hitler's secret weapon programme at Peenemünde on the Baltic coast - V-1, V-2 and V-3.



OSS Trent Park interrogator Helmwarth Jestin

Relaxed and talkative - German officers at Trent Park



Above: A vision of one of the display rooms. Left: Trent Park Museum campaign directors Councillor Jason Charalambous, Dr Helen Fry and campaign advisor Sir Michael Bear, former Lord Mayor of London

OPERATION CROSSBOW

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill soon ordered reconnaissance flights over Peenemünde; the subsequent aerial photographs were analysed at RAF Medmenham in Buckinghamshire. As a result, Churchill sanctioned Operation Crossbow on 17/18 August 1943 to bomb Germany's secret weapon establishment. It is a prime example where wartime intelligence operations had a material effect on the outcome of the war. The vast amount of bugged conversations gained intelligence ahead of the Battle of Britain in 1940, information from prisoners captured in the commando raids in 1941 and 1942, to widespread intelligence on U-boat operations, German campaigns on the Russian front, enemy operations ahead of D-Day and the Ardennes campaign, as well as details of mass atrocities and concentration camps.

Trustee, actress and comedian Helen Lederer with Eric Mark, the last surviving Secret Listener. Lederer's grandfather was involved in the clandestine work conducted at Trent Park in WWII

1943. RAF reconnaissance photo of Peenemude V2 launch facility

In February 2017, Historic England formally concluded that Trent Park's wartime work was

"of considerable national and international historical interest which bears comparison to the code-breaking work at Bletchley Park."

A major part of the mansion house has now been secured as a national museum - with a vision to create an exciting 'living' interactive and immersive AV museum to the secret listeners. This will be established in the historic spaces where the secret operations took place under MI6 spymaster, Colonel Thomas Joseph Kendrick. The museum is due to open in 2021.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Eye Spy urges readers to support this splendid educational and learning endeavour with a donation.

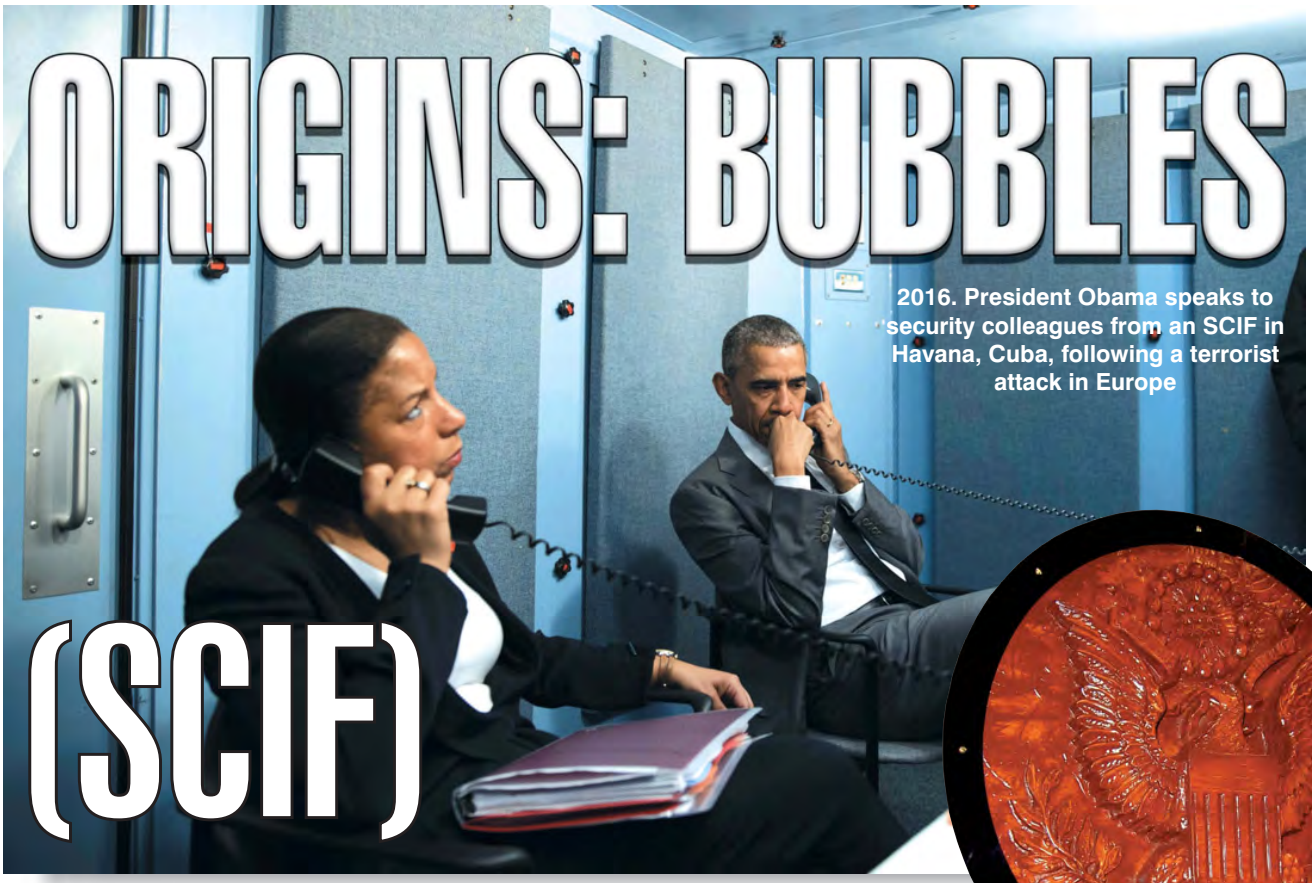
LINKS: **www.trentparkmuseum.org.uk/donation**

IBAN: GB16LOYD30945744557160 (international transfers)

Intelligence gleaned at Trent Park helped Allied Intelligence identify Germany's secret rocket programme and facilities. Pictured here is La Coupole (The Dome), also known as the Coupole d'Helfaut-Wizernes and originally codenamed Bauvorhaben 21 (Building Project 21) - a WWII bunker complex in the Pas-de-Calais northern France.

Built by Germany between 1943 and 1944, the facility was to serve as a launch base for V-2 rockets directed against London and southern England. Following repeated heavy bombing by Allied forces during Operation Crossbow, the Germans were unable to complete construction and the complex never entered service. The site now hosts the La Coupole Museum

ORIGINS: BUBBLES (SCIF)

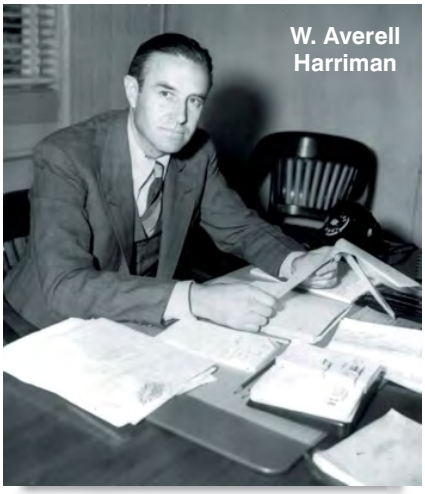


2016. President Obama speaks to security colleagues from an SCIF in Havana, Cuba, following a terrorist attack in Europe

SENSITIVE COMPARTMENTED INFORMATION FACILITIES

Eye Spy examines the origins of secure communication rooms known as SCIF's or Bubbles and their historical links to famous espionage case files and a classic American comedy show

The discovery of a listening bug in the Great Seal in the US Embassy in Moscow during the first years of the Cold War, was an early example of the prowess and cunning of Soviet spycraft. Dubbed 'The Thing' by US Intelligence, a listening device was concealed in the Great Seal and was gifted to W. Averell Harriman, US Ambassador to the USSR on 4 August 1945, by the Soviets. He duly hung the splendid carving in his office, and there it remained - undetected until 1952. Soon US Intelligence became aware of just how prolific the Soviets had become in the placement of bugs with scores of listening devices discovered in American facilities throughout Europe and Russia.



W. Averell Harriman

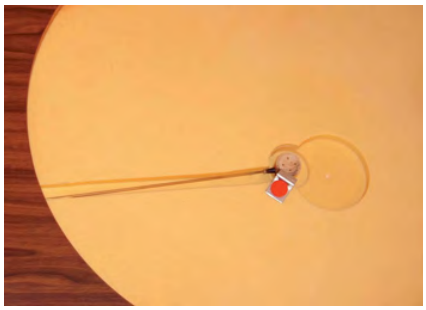
ACOUSTIC CONFERENCE ROOMS

In addition to regular bug sweeps to counter such activity, US technical experts came up with a novel tactic: A special room-within-a-room inside ultra secure facilities where officials could hold sensitive discussions. The thinking was that even if the facility had been compromised, the listening devices wouldn't be able to hear what was going on inside the Acoustic Conference Rooms (ACR) or 'Bubbles', as they were called by intelligence staffers. These were in effect, the early ancestors of modern Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities (SCIFs). Perhaps the most famous SCIF in operation today, and often referenced by the media, is the Situation Room in the White House. However, even

1960. US Ambassador Henry Lodge Jr. shows 'The Thing' to diplomats and press at the United Nations

Donald Trump had one built years ago in Trump Tower, New York: and one of his first tasks after reaching the White House, was to build a SCIF at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, nicknamed the Winter White House. At Langley, a CIA auditorium is nicknamed 'the bubble', though this is due more to its

Former building which housed the US Embassy in Moscow, and where 'The Thing' remain undetected



The KGB listened-in to conversations at the US Embassy for seven years before the Great Seal bug was discovered. The device required electro-magnetic energy from an external source to become active

Conference auditorium at CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia. Staff call the building the 'Bubble', which has been used more recently as an exchange word for 'Langley'

interior design. However, it too is protected by electronic countermeasures. And at CIA, there is an unwritten code. "What happens in the bubble stays in the bubble," according to Howard Richards, who provided personal protection for four CIA Directors.

Since their creation, and due to advancements in technology and versatile shielding, SCIFs are now highly adaptable and portable. Some are even contained within aircraft such as Air Force One. In an emergency or ongoing operation where secret and classified information is being discussed, SCIFs can be quickly transported and made operational in a very short space of time.

THE ORIGINAL BUBBLES

The first Bubbles came in two sizes 12ft by 15ft and 12ft by 20ft and were primarily manufactured using aluminium and plastic. They had five inches of space between two layers of walls, according to US State Department officials and declassified papers. They were suspended a few inches off the ground enabling security people to see suspicious protruding wires or devices. The outer-shield had noise or wind generating capability (white noise). In 1960, the first Bubble was installed in the US Embassy in Moscow and soon they began to appear in all major and sensitive places abroad, including one Bubble in Tehran (1961), which intelligence sources likened to a space rocket.

BLACK FALCON

The way the Soviets got around this problem was simple. Rather than attempt to defeat the ACR technology, they would place hidden

Left: President Trump's SCIF in Florida known as the Winter White House. Here the president discusses events in Syria with senior officials and security personnel

A rather poor SD photo showing Harry Barnes shoe bug

Harry G. Barnes Jr

THE GET SMART! BUBBLE

A still from the 1960s show *Get Smart!,* shows two men engaged in a conversation inside the bubble. The running joke in the series was that neither could properly hear each other, though the conversation was fully audible to anyone listening outside.

bugs on American staffers, who in turn would use the Bubbles, essentially compromising the facilities. Other tried and trusted spy methods could also be actioned. An example of such action can be found in a declassified US State Department file:

'In 1969, Harry G. Barnes Jr., also known as the Black Falcon, Deputy Chief of Mission in Bucharest, Romania, called a classified conference, which met in the 'bubble.' [State Department Office of Security] officer Lou Grob was monitoring the meeting from another room and heard the conversation. He immediately informed the Administration Officer... that there was a bug in the ACR. After searching, they found something resembling Don Adams's 'shoe phone' from the 1960s television series Get Smart! - the bug was located in the heel of Barnes's shoe. Barnes had had the butler take his shoes out to be modified, and someone had installed the bug in the process. After this incident, [Office of Security] officers covered ACRs with Reynolds plastic wrap (cling film) to reduce the radiation of low-power devices such as shoe bugs until the proper security modifications could be made'.

CONE OF SILENCE

The American television comedy show *Get Smart,* as referenced in the SD file, would also be responsible for the creation of a phrase used by intelligence people and in relation to users of ACRs. 'Cone of Silence' has been adopted into popular culture and is a slang phrase meaning that the speaker wishes to keep the indicated information secret and that the conversation should not be repeated to anyone not currently present. In the comedy series which ran in the 1960s about an inept spy, *'Get Smart',* in episode 1 - *Mr Big* (1965) 'Cone of Silence' was introduced and used as a recurring joke. The essence of the joke is that the apparatus, designed for secret conversations, makes it impossible for those inside the device - and easy for those outside the device - to hear the conversation. The end result being neither secret nor communicative.

Actor Don Adams, who plays the main character - agent Maxwell 'Max' Smart in *Get Smart!,* listens to his shoe!

President Trump speaks to reporters on board the Boeing VC-25 aeroplane - better known as Air Force One. This aircraft, along with a second VC-25 also in operation, has complete SCIF

President Obama pictured with his inner circle in the White House Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility - the Situation Room. Inset: Ribbon cutting ceremony in 2007 to mark the complete refurbishment of this important room

HONEYTRAPS AND SHOE BUGS

The case involving US Ambassador Harry G. Barnes as mentioned in the US State Department document, was typical of the actions of both the West and Soviets during the Cold War. It was also referenced by defense lawyers in 1987, who sought dismissal of espionage charges against a Marine Corps guard by citing Barnes' wife who was not punished for having an affair with a Romanian intelligence agent in the mid-1970s.

Marine Sergeant Clayton Lonetree, a Marine commander in Quantico, was denied the dismissal motion as irrelevant at a preliminary hearing on charges that he gave Soviet agents access to the US Embassy in Moscow and failed to report sexual liaisons with a Soviet woman.

The Marine's lawyer referred an affair between Elizabeth Barnes and a Romanian agent who was a chauffeur at the US Embassy in Bucharest. General Ion Mihai Pacepa, the former acting chief of Romania's Foreign Intelligence Service, said he had tipped US authorities about the affair after he defected to the United States in 1978, but was never told whether the US had acted on the information.

General Ion Mihai Pacepa

Sealed State Department investigative reports also show that Mrs Barnes allowed the chauffeur into the embassy in Bucharest, where he duly planted electronic eavesdropping devices on behalf of his KGB spymasters. Pacepa said in an interview that he had told US officials that the chauffeur had planted electronic transmitters in the embassy prior to important dinners hosting senior figures.

Walk-in. General Ion Mihai Pacepa defected when he walked into the US Embassy in Bonn

A former high-ranking US intelligence official said the CIA and the FBI had conducted a damage assessment in 1978 and were "90 per cent sure" that important intelligence operations had not been compromised.

For the record, State Department officials said Mrs Barnes had denied helping the chauffeur obtain sensitive information. Former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance said he ordered the information sealed (classified) during the Carter administration after US investigators determined that it was unlikely that Mrs Barnes had disclosed any secrets to the Romanians.

As for Clayton J. Lonetree, he was tried in a military court in Quantico, Virginia and convicted of espionage on 21 August 1987. He served nine years in prison and was the first US Marine to be convicted of spying against the United States. Lonetree, who was stationed in Moscow as a guard at the US Embassy in the early 1980s, confessed in 1987 to selling documents to the Soviet Union. His entry into the spying game began when he was seduced by a 25-year-old female KGB officer named Violetta Seina in that year. He was then blackmailed into handing over documents when he was reassigned to Vienna, Austria. The documents reportedly included blueprints of US Embassy buildings in Moscow and Vienna and the names and identities of undercover American intelligence agents in the Soviet Union.

Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities may provide a layer of unprecedented security, but infiltration and compromise remain a constant threat, as evidenced by these historic cases and a more recent event in Moscow (see Eye Spy 117). Here a Russian national operated in the US Embassy for over a decade. She was duly sacked in 2017 after US Intelligence discovered she was liaising with an FSB contact person. Similarly, the case of the Barnes' over half a century ago involving a simple shoe repair and covert love affair reflect the dangers of how easy it is to listen-in to secrets. Such activities are beyond the scope of SCIF.

The Istanbul Incident

Joint Investigation Team Established over Journalist's Death in Turkey

Saudi-born US-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi, 59, has been confirmed dead by officials in Riyadh. CCTV showed Khashoggi entering the Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul, Turkey, on 2 October, to obtain paperwork for his forthcoming wedding; he was never seen again leading to all manner of rumours and speculation. The first allegations that Khashoggi had been killed inside the consulate building were made on 6 October by Turkish officials.

President Trump spoke with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in a 20-minute telephone conversation concerning the missing US-based journalist. President Trump said the King adamantly denied any knowledge of what happened to Khashoggi.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was then hastily despatched to Riyadh for talks with the Kingdom's leader over the missing *Washington Post* columnist. The next day Pompeo departed Saudi Arabia and flew to Turkey to discuss the case with Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan. King Salman and Erdogan announced they had formed a joint working group to investigate Khashoggi's disappearance; both stressed the investigation would be transparent.

Khashoggi enters the consulate

Jamal Khashoggi

Pompeo arrives in Riyadh

A statement was released by Saudi Arabia's Public Prosecutor on 19 October that said: "Following the initial inquiry it was found that a fight broke out between Mr Khashoggi and people who met him in the consulate - ending with his death. The Kingdom expresses its deep regret at the painful developments and stresses commitment of the government to bring the facts to the public."

As a result, King Salman relieved Ahmad Bin Hassan Bin Mohammed Asiri, the Vice President of General Intelligence (GID), and Saud Bin Abdullah Al Qahtani, Advisor to the Royal Court, of their posts. In a second order, King Salman terminated the services of Assistant Chief of General Intelligence Major General Mohammad Bin Saleh Al Rumaih, Assistant to the Head of General Intelligence for Human Resources; Major General Abdullah Bin Khalifa Al Shaya; and the Director of the General Directorate of Security and Protection at the General Intelligence, General Rashad Bin Hamed Al Mohammadi.

Saudi Arabia's Attorney General said in a statement: "The Public Prosecutor's Office affirms that its investigations continue in this case with 18 detainees so far, all of whom [are] Saudi nationals, in order to uncover and announce all the facts, and to hold accountable all those involved in this case and bring them to justice."

On 22 October, Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir said the "act was a tremendous mistake," and blamed "rogue elements."

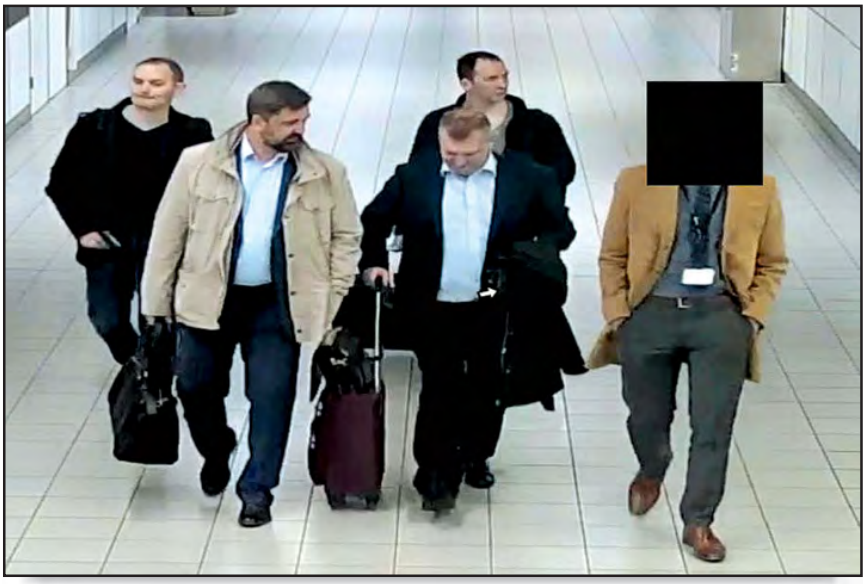
In Saudi Arabia, all eyes will be on what happens next. US President Donald Trump said he found Saudi Arabia's explanation about the death of journalist Jamal Khashoggi "credible," calling it an "important first step." Trump added if the US takes action, he does not want it to impact arms sales to the Kingdom. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the US will closely follow international investigations into Mr Khashoggi's death and will advocate for justice that it is "timely, transparent and in accordance with all due process."

Mike Pompeo speaks to Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman concerning the Khashoggi case

Ahmad Bin Hassan Bin Mohammed Asiri

THE GRU CLEANERS

RUSSIA'S GLOBAL CYBER ATTACK UNITS EXPOSED IN JOINT MIVD-MI6 OPERATION



10 April 2018. The GRU team arrive at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport and are greeted by a diplomat from Russia's Embassy in Holland

Dutch Intelligence supported by MI6 have foiled attempted GRU operations at the Hague and in Switzerland, both are relevant to Britain's investigation into the attempted assassination of former MI6 agent Sergei Skripal, in Salisbury, England on 4 March 2018.

At a joint Dutch-UK government news conference held in The Hague, officials and intelligence chiefs from Holland's MIVD (Military Intelligence and Security Service) revealed details of "brazen attempts" by Russia to manipulate international affairs. Much of the information revealed the extent of a GRU 'clean-up unit' despatched in April to help conceal Moscow's alleged involvement in the operation against Skripal, .

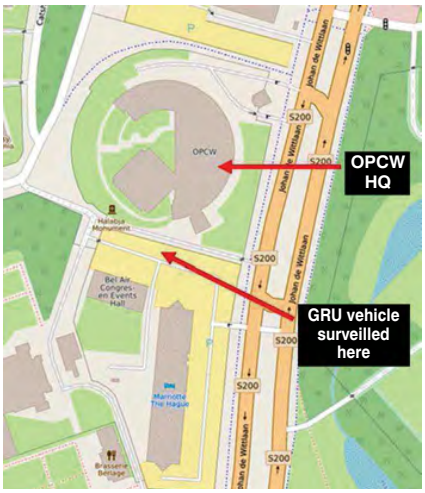
The Dutch accused the GRU of targeting the world's chemical weapons watchdog, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), through a foiled cyber operation. The OPCW was working to independently verify the UK's analysis of the chemical used in the poisoning of the Skripals in Salisbury. The OPCW was also due to conduct analysis of a chemical weapons attack in Douma, Syria on 7 April.

On Friday 13 April, Dutch authorities escorted four Russian intelligence officers out of the country just hours after the car they had rented was found parked near the OPCW's building in The Hague. Its boot was packed with equipment for hacking WiFi networks. A large antenna was also discovered concealed under a coat. The assembly was in operation targeting login details when security services, who had been surveilling the team, detained the GRU officers. One Russian operative attempted to destroy his cell phone, but it was to no avail. Analysis of the subsequent equipment, including computers, revealed a plethora of incriminating evidence that the team was operational, and had plans to visit another OPCW facility relevant to the Skripal investigation in Switzerland.

Passports of the four GRU operatives detained near the Hague

Major General Onno Eichelsheim, Director MIVD, addresses the media

The four GRU officers had entered Holland on diplomatic passports, according to the Dutch



Location of rental vehicle and OPCW headquarters on 13 April

The rental vehicle used by the GRU operatives was packed with equipment capable of engaging with computer systems

Defense Ministry, which acknowledged British Intelligence had worked with the MIVD to disrupt the operation. The head of Dutch counter-intelligence, Major General Onno Eichelsheim, named the four Russian officers as Aleksei Morenets, Evgenii Serebriakov, Oleg Sotnikov and Alexey Minin. Eye Spy understands both GCHQ and the NSA helped to expose the attempted "cyber break-in."

UK Ambassador to The Netherlands Peter Wilson, supported by a diplomatic team was unequivocal in his condemnation of Russia: "This operation in The Hague by the GRU was not an isolated act. The Unit involved, known in the Russian military as Unit 26165 (also known as APT 28 and GRU 85 Main Special Service Centre), has sent officers around the world to conduct brazen close access cyber operations."

Alexey Minin, Oleg Sotnikov, Aleksei Morenets and Evgeni Serebriakov

OPCW HQ, The Hague

Reconnaissance photographs of the OPCW building found on Alexey Minin's camera taken on 11 April

Reconnaissance photographs of the OPCW building found on Alexey Minin's camera taken on 13 and 14 April

A confiscated laptop computer contained information that they planned to travel on to the OPCW designated laboratory - Spiez in Switzerland. This facility was analysing a sample of the Novichok nerve agent used in the Salisbury attack. In addition, investigators found out about their past activities, including a record of connecting to a WiFi network at a hotel in Lausanne, Switzerland, in September of 2016, as the World Anti-Doping Agency was holding a conference at the hotel. An Olympic Committee laptop was compromised, and the APT 28 malware infection that resulted spread widely, eventually compromising the IP addresses of the International Olympic Committee, Wilson said.

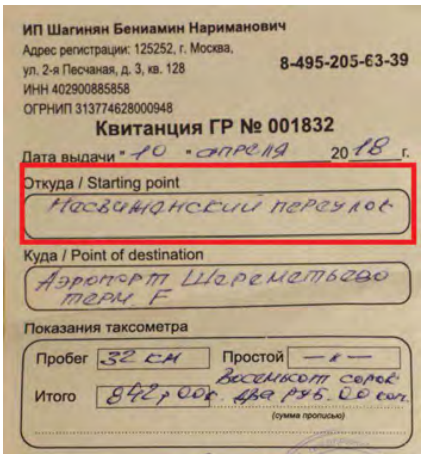
During the press briefing, officials also said the GRU had attempted to engage with computer systems at Porton Down, the UK's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl), Wiltshire, which has been active in the investigation of the Novichok incident.

Wilson added: "One of the GRU team also conducted malign activity in Malaysia," in an operation that targeted the inquiry into Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17, the airliner that was shot down in eastern Ukraine on 17 July 2014, after being hit by a missile. Hours earlier, it had taken off from Amsterdam. This case is still under investigation, though intelligence watchers are satisfied the aircraft was brought down by a Russian-controlled Buk surface-to-air missile.

Various high-end specialist equipment was recovered from the rental vehicle

Ambassador Wilson concluded: "The GRU is an aggressive, well-funded, official body of the Russian State. It can no longer be allowed to act aggressively across the world, and against

UK Ambassador to The Netherlands Peter Wilson


ИП Шагинян Бениамин Наримanович
Адрес регистрации: 125252, г. Москва,
ул. 2-я Песчаная, д. 3, кв. 128
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ОГРНИП 313774628000948
Квитанция ГР № 001832
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Откуда / Starting point
Масловский переулок
Куда / Point of destination
Аэропорт Шереметьево терм F
Показания таксометра
Пробег 32 км Простой —
Итого 842,00 Восемьсот сорок два руб. 00 коп.
(сумма прописью)

Taxi receipt found by the MIVD showing one of the operatives had travelled from the GRU HQ in Moscow to Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport on 10 April

REPERCUSSIONS

PUTIN PRIVATELY FURIOUS WITH GRU FOR EXPOSURE

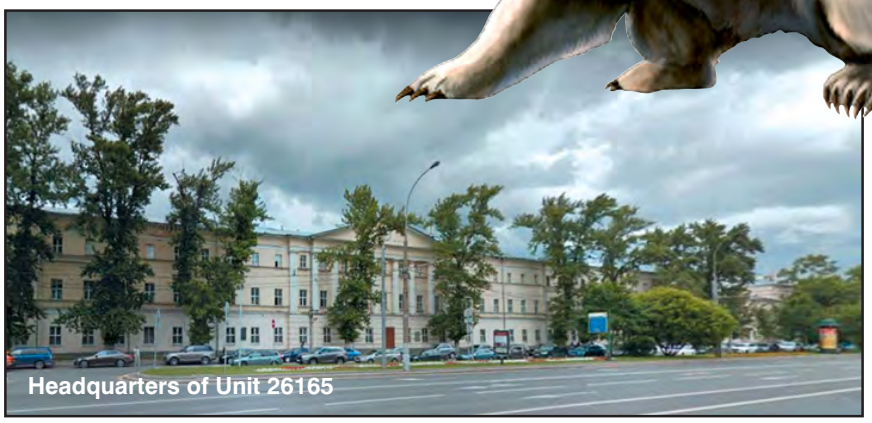
MOSCOW: The intelligence secured by the MIVD was described as "remarkable" by senior officials. Perhaps more extraordinary is the fact that British and Dutch Intelligence officials agreed to make much of it public. Amongst the treasure trove - documents revealing the GRU agents inadvertently exposed the identity of more than 300 colleagues, many still operational. Two of the men caught in The Hague used their real names on diplomatic passports - both registered as living at the GRU's Military Academy in Moscow.

Alexey Morenets' Lada vehicle is also registered at GRU's cyber warfare department - and investigators say by searching other vehicles registered to the same address they have identified an astonishing 305 other operatives of the 26165 unit accused of cyber attacks all over world.

Perhaps more embarrassingly for Russian Intelligence, the lists are believed to contain authentic and accurate names, including birth dates and cell phone numbers. Some intelligence sources have already stated that following the failed April operation, a furious President Putin instructed senior officials to investigate the Hague debacle. Speculation is rife in Moscow that "repercussions" are imminent and some senior GRU officials may be purged.

GRU chief Igor Korobov

Dutch security personnel detain the GRU operatives. Right: Logo of the cyber hacking group Fancy Bear which is almost certainly a GRU outfit



Headquarters of Unit 26165

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Opera web visits.csv:3274,https://www.google.ru/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0ahUKEwir7eaA0azaAhWTy
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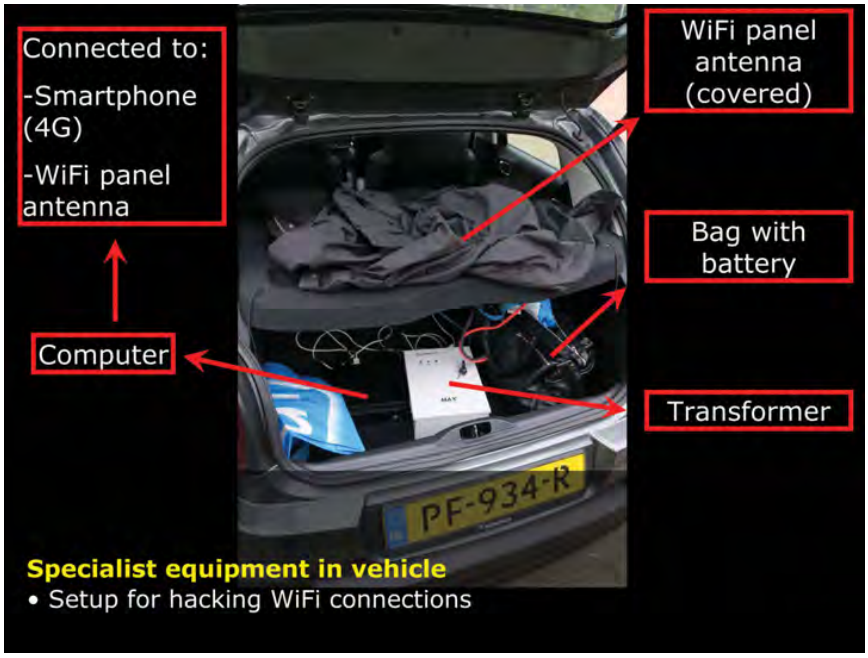
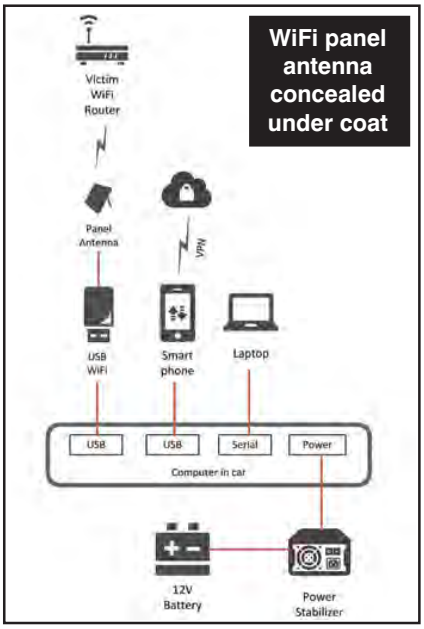
Incriminating web search data uncovered by the MIVD includes references to the Spiez Laboratory in Switzerland which was examining samples of the Novichok nerve agent used in the Salisbury attack



Holland's Defence Minister Ank Bijleveld-Schouten - she is responsible for the running and activities of the MIVD



The GRU cyber element was accused of attempting to engage with computer systems operated by Britain's Porton Down Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl)

vital international organisations, with apparent impunity. With its aggressive cyber campaigns, we see the GRU trying to clean up Russia's own mess... be it the doping uncovered by WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) or the nerve agent identified by the OPCW.

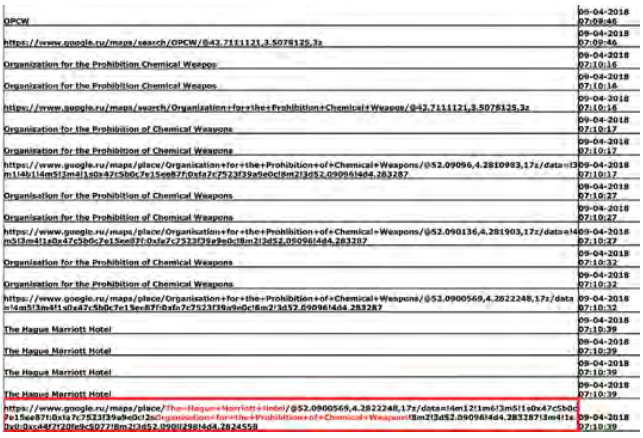
"The GRU is an aggressive, well-funded, official body of the Russian State. It can no longer be allowed to act aggressively across the world, and against vital international organisations, with apparent impunity.

"We are now stepping up our collective efforts against malign activity, and specifically against the GRU. We will increase further our understanding of what the GRU is doing, and attempting to do, in our countries. We will shine a light on their activities. We will expose their methods and we will share this with our allies. This includes strengthening international organisations, and working to protect other potential targets from further harm."

Holland's Defence Minister Ank Bijleveld-Schouten said: "By revealing this Russian action, we send out a clear message - Russia

Google Street Map print outs of Russian diplomatic missions in Bern and Geneva, Switzerland, found on the GRU team

Various cell phones and cameras recovered by the Dutch Intelligence service provided a plethora of information



A revealing image showing search records of OPCW headquarters found on Serebriakov's laptop computer

must stop this." Dutch officials defended their decision not to charge and prosecute the GRU team. Prime Minister Mark Rutte (left) said the men had been ejected immediately because it was "not a criminal inquiry." Intelligence officials backed the premier by stating that the evidence is sufficient to damage the reputation and hamper further operations attempted by one of Russia's leading spy agencies. Other officials said the operatives should have been charged.

The GRU team was carrying 20,000 Euros and 20,000 Dollars in cash

The GRU team were careful not to leave any evidence at their hotel, including rubbish (above) found by the MIVD. However, it was the items discovered on their persons, electronic devices and in the hire vehicle that exposed their activities

As investigators detained the GRU team, one agent attempted to crush his cell phone

THE AMERICAN RESPONSE

The Dutch decision not to prosecute the GRU team contrasts greatly to the actions taken by US law officials. Twelve men were recently indicted in the United States following the US 2016 General Election hacking by GRU units 26165 and 74455. The indictment describes the activities of each department in a way that generally suggests a division of labour, with Unit 26165 carrying out core hacking activities and Unit 74455 carrying out information operations.

US Assistant Attorney General for National Security John Demers said the attacks were "altering perceptions of the truth." Interestingly, four of the men indicted by the US, were also involved in the Hague OPCW operation to source information on Britain's Skripal investigation.

OPCW STATEMENT
GRU CYBER ATTACK

THE HAGUE: The Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) was briefed by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands about a cyber operation targeting the OPCW that was disrupted by the Netherlands Defence Intelligence and Security Service.

The Netherlands is the OPCW's host country and, as such, is in charge of ensuring and exercising due diligence in protecting the OPCW Headquarters. The OPCW thanks the Netherlands for its actions and will remain in contact in regards to any further developments.

The OPCW takes very seriously the security of its information systems and networks. Since early 2018, the Organisation has observed increased cyber-related activities. The Director-General has informed OPCW Member States about these activities and the OPCW Technical Secretariat has undertaken measures to mitigate them.

Director-General OPCW Ahmet Uzumcu

US Assistant Attorney General for National Security John Demers

THE RUSSIAN TWELVE

UNIT 26165

VIKTOR NETYKSHO: Commands Unit 26165

BORIS ANTONOV: Head of Department that oversees spear-phishing targeting

DMITRIY BADIN: Assistant Head of Department conducting spear-phishing targeting

IVAN YERMAKOV: Works for Antonov, uses identities Kate Milton, Kames McMorgans, Karen Millen. Hacked at least two email accounts the contents of which were released by DCLeaks. Helped hack DNC emails server released through WikiLeaks

ALEKSEY LUKASHEV: Senior Lieutenant in Antonov's department. Uses identities Den Katenberg, Yuliana Martynova. Sent spear-phishing emails to Clinton campaign, including one to John Podesta (head of 2016 campaign)

SERGEY MORGACHEV: Lieutenant Colonel who oversaw department that developed and managed X-Agent

NIKOLAY KOZACHEK: Lieutenant Captain. Used monikers including 'kazak' and 'blablabla1234565'. Developed, customised, and monitored X-Agent used to hack DCCC

PAVEL YERSHOV: Helped customise and text X-Agent before deployment against DCCC

ARTEM MALYSHEV: Second Lieutenant in Morgachev's department. Used handles 'djangomagicdev' and 'realblatr'. Monitored X-Agent implanted in DCCC and DNC servers

UNIT 74455

ALEKSANDR OSADCHUK: Colonel and commanding officer of 74455, which assisted in release of stolen documents through DCLeaks, Guccifer 2.0, and the publication of anti-Clinton propaganda on social media

ALEKSEY POTEMKIN: A supervisor responsible for administration of computer infrastructure used to assist in release in DCLeaks and Guccifer 2.0 documents

ANATOLIY KOVALEV: Assigned to 74455 involved in hacks of State Boards of Election

KREMLIN RESPONSE

Russia's response to the findings of British and American Intelligence was swift and uncompromising. Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov dismissed reports that the GRU was involved in the attempted cyber operation at the Hague. He said the reports were a "conspiracy to "distract people from stark divisions between Western nations."

Mr Lavrov said: "They weren't hiding from anyone when they arrived at the airport, settled in a hotel and visited our embassy. They were detained without any explanation, denied a chance to contact our embassy in Holland and then asked to leave. It all looked like a misunderstanding." He said the four Russians were on a routine trip to the Hague. Lavrov also accused the Dutch authorities of using "loudspeaker diplomacy," instead over quiet diplomatic channels to address its concerns.

President Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov challenged the West to provide "specific information" also using official channels.

Relevant to the equipment discovered in the vehicle used by the GRU team, a report was circulated amongst Russian media. Russian intelligence officials said it was to be used to "test the resilience of the embassy's cyber counter-measures," and not against the OPCW.

The Kremlin has also rejected the FBI's impressive investigative findings.

FBI Cyber Division Deputy Assistant Director Eric Welling discusses computer intrusion and related charges against seven Russian GRU officers as Western District of Pennsylvania US Attorney Scott W. Brady (left) and Royal Canadian Mounted Police Director General Mark Flynn look on

An ironic meeting - Sergey Lavrov with Hillary Clinton at the 2011 Munich Security Conference. Just five years later Russia's cyber elements would engage in an operation that some believe derailed her ambition to become President of the United States

UK WARNS OF RUSSIAN CYBER PLOTS

Ciaran Martin - NCSC
(National Cyber Security Centre)

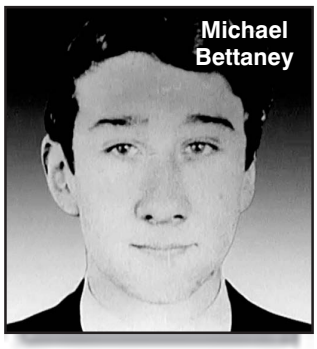
LONDON: Ciaran Martin, head of Britain's National Cyber Security Centre, warned Moscow was accessing UK data systems in attempts to spy or as a first step towards unleashing attacks on the UK's critical national infrastructure such as the energy or telecoms networks.

"One of the things that we need to worry about is the fact that Russia and other hostile states have put down landing points on networks from which they could build out," said Martin. "They can use them for spying... but they can also use them as the potential foundation for a future destructive attack."

Martin said if you are going to launch a destructive attack, "you need an entry point, a landing point on the network and you start and build from there."

WOULD-BE KGB AGENT PASSES

Michael John Bettaney, MI5's first convicted traitor and KGB hopeful who served 23-years in prison for espionage has died


Michael Bettaney

In April 1983, Bettaney used a special camera to photograph top secret documents at MI5; he was now engaged in espionage. After locating the address of senior KGB man Arkady Guk in London (Station Chief), he duly posted them through his letterbox in the hope of enticing Moscow with more secrets. Also inside, a note signed 'Kuba' and a contact address in the city. If the KGB were interested, Bettaney said Guk should place a drawing pin on the sign above the underground entrance to Piccadilly Circus Station. There were also details of several dead letter drops which could be used in the exchange.

Guk hesitated, fearful the material was an MI5 ruse. In June, and


Arkady Guk

with no response from the Soviets, Bettaney tried again. He delivered a second package this time containing an MI5 file detailing KGB officers known to be operational in Britain. And like before, a letter saying he was willing to work for Moscow.

Guk was a little more interested, but still uncertain the material was not an MI5 trap to expose his KGB work in London, he advised his second-in-command at the Soviet Embassy Oleg Gordievsky. Unbeknown to Guk, Gordievsky was already operating as an MI6 agent and he duly alerted his London handler. Through a process of elimination, Bettaney was soon identified. In the meantime, Bettaney had tried again with a third package, but he was beginning to look elsewhere for establishing a relationship with the KGB - Vienna.

Before he could depart for Austria, Bettaney was arrested and Guk deported. In April 1984, the hard-drinking and disaffected MI5 man was convicted and sentenced for his treachery. As for the intelligence he did impart, whilst awaiting trial, he provided the IRA with the names of British intelligence officers and agents operating in Northern Ireland.

Bettaney died on 16 August 2018, aged 68, though his passing surfaced only recently.


Arkady Guk operated from this house in Holland Park, London, where Bettaney posted three packages containing MI5 secrets

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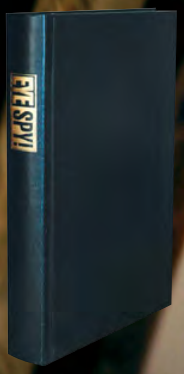

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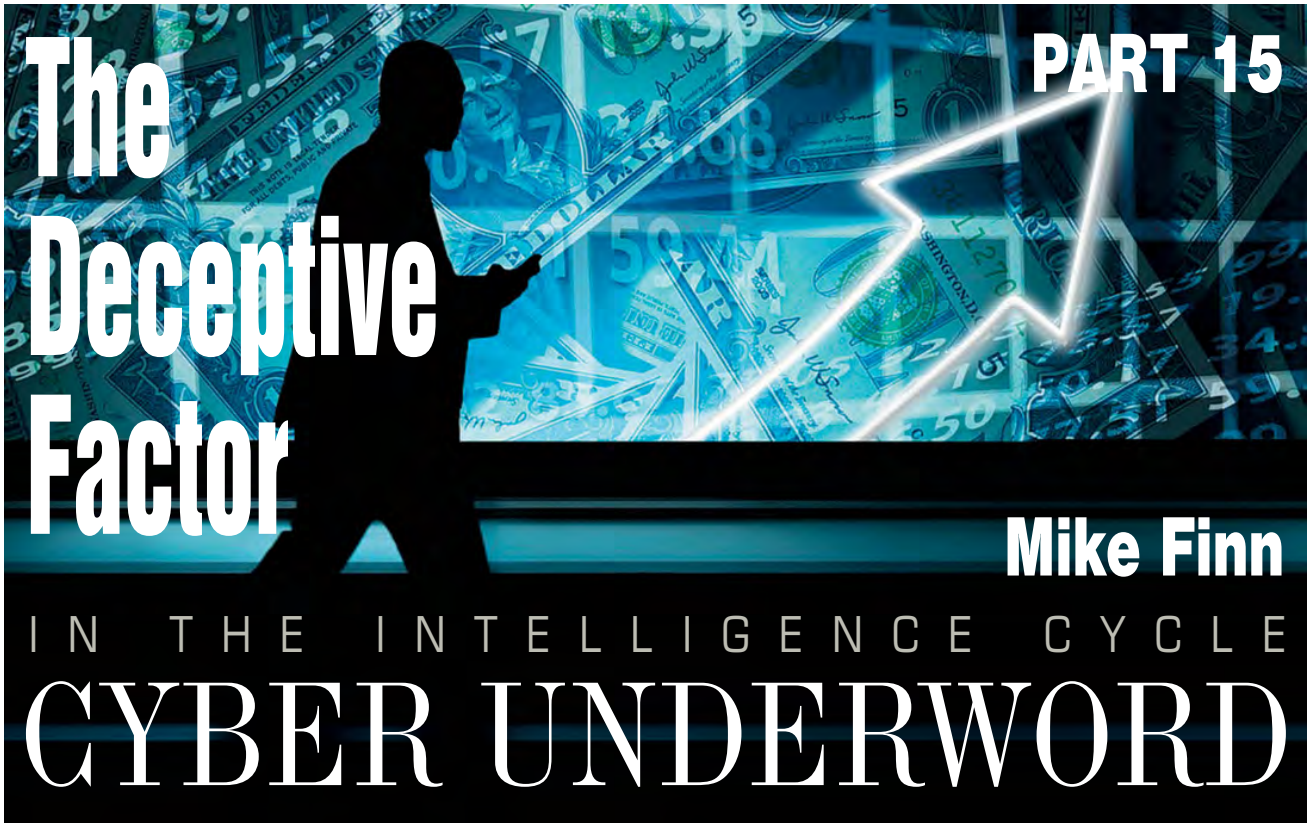

The Deceptive Factor

PART 15

Mike Finn

IN THE INTELLIGENCE CYCLE

CYBER UNDERWORD

Attacks, False Portraits, Electronic Language, Initiatives, Disinformation and Dangers

The deceptive factor is a multi-faceted tool that is now appearing in diverse areas of Intelligence. In cyber terrorism for example, the growing threat heralds new initiatives that encompass this factor. Mike Finn examines the framework created to support the deceptive factor in a cyber environment, explaining how the principles can be used to target and destroy individuals who pose a threat to national security

First we need to review some aspects of the Internet and cyber vulnerability. An open and enquiring mind is needed to take on board the few poignant facts that relate to this article, these will be the building blocks for the concluding feature in Eye Spy 119. I will leave it up to the reader to separate reality from urban legend, but often, there is more in the improbable than the probable.

It is reputed that some 23% of the world's financial market hinges on drugs, firearms, illegal goods, slavery and similar 'deviant globalisation' and underworld activities, much of which takes place on the digital black market. In respect of terrorism, 'cyber attacks' are slowly becoming more sophisticated and frequent: Internet hacking tools and skills being more accessible that ever. Terrorism in particular is finding that hacking attack knowledge is becoming easier to learn. Organisations such as ISIS are making cyber weaponry an adaptable part of its warfare. As far back as 2003 the LOphtCrack programme used to test password strength was found by the FBI on an al-Qaida computer. The programme was one of the codebreakers tools of choice at the time.

It must be remembered that cyber terrorism goes hand-in-hand with information warfare (mentioned in previous articles). Both terrorism and organised crime look for viable targets and how to attack them. These target areas include: organisation infrastructure, banking, finance, utilities, corruptible websites, Internet facilitation, propaganda outlets etc. Intelligence organisations are constantly upgrading their technology to counter this growth. GCHQ, for example, tackles these threats with new initiatives and tools such as 'Auto Blocker'; the ASI Data Science brainchild, which reputedly uses extremist recognition software and can block the IP addresses. There are many organisations now utilising sophisticated tools to deal with malicious attacks. However, part of the big picture is in understanding a little about everyday threats from the Internet as well.

BACK DOOR TECHNOLOGY

Everyone is exposed to basic Internet threats. Some typical cyber devices used by hackers include Phishing (tricks to secure personal details), Trolling (sowing discord and maligning people's reputation), Dogpiling (a large group

try to intimidate and humiliate the target), Gaslighting (making the target doubt themselves), Doxxing (making a target's personal details public and encouraging misuse). Apart from worms and viruses, many other everyday threats exist. One that is often overlooked concerns accessibility to computers through a 'back door'. Access in this manner has been attributed to programmes created by some well known companies - where a 'back door' is written into the programme installed on a computer. As far back as the 1990s the NSA developed backdoor technology. Apart from the above, attacks and counter-measures represent big business in this ever-growing and ever-changing economic field.

DISINFORMATION

Another use of such technology is to target a figurehead, or discredit an organisation; in essence making them 'persona non grata'. Special intelligence departments that perform such tasks have existed in the real world for years. In recent times the Internet has proved a more flexible medium for this type of work. Some intelligence watchers claim that Britain's Joint Threat Research Intelligence Group (JTRIG), a branch of GCHQ, exploits the Internet, using such tactics to damage the reputation and credibility of the target. It is at this point the deceptive factor comes into play. Of course special computer packages are used to facilitate and prepare the groundwork. One programme reputably used by the 'Five Eyes' alliance is called 'Ambassador's Reception'. This can encrypt your files, remove e-mails, affect computers and much more.

Many invasive cyber weapons were exposed following Edward Snowden's damaging leaks of NSA intelligence papers. 'Royal Concierge' is a programme that is used by Intelligence, to obtain information about an individuals travel plans and hotel bookings. 'Tempora' (not to be confused with tempura) works in conjunction with the Internet fibre optic system tapping; this makes it possible to access almost unlimited Internet data. A few years ago 'Tempest' was introduced, which used the EMF field directly from the computer to access the information. The eclectic programme referred to as 'Mastering The Internet' (MTI) involves port scanning. This has the apparent potential to scan innumerable Internet connected computers simultaneously throughout the world. However, many strategies begin on the Internet but are implemented in the real world. One example is the 'honey trap' (sexual enticements used to compromise).

PERSONAL ATTACKS

Anyone can become a target and be made 'persona non grata' (although those involved in some form of deviant globalisation activity are prime subjects). There are two powerful factors that make this type of personal attack effectively possible. (1) The plausibility of the attack should be within believable parameters. (2) Explanation of the event to others makes the target seem unbalanced or paranoid. We know from the above that any information on the Internet can usually be accessed, altered, or exploited; the target's computer can also become a two-way door. The Internet allows for websites to suddenly appear to be under preparation, or simply not available. E-mails can be intercepted, read and even altered. Misleading information can cause the target to waste considerable time. Contradicting web

GOVERNMENT CYBER PROXIES
A LIMITED OVERVIEW

• Iranian hackers known as Rocket Kitten repeatedly target American defence companies to boost Tehran's missile and space programmes. The Iranian Cyber Army, Tarn Andishan and Ajax are three other government sponsored groups.

• Russian hackers last year compromised dozens of US energy companies and are known to have meddled in the 2016 General Election. The NSA and GCHQ has already identified various groups controlled by Moscow's intelligence services such as Fancy Bear, APT28, Sandworm, Cozy Bear, Turla Group. The most notorious among them is called Sofacy. Dragonfly, also Russian controlled, operates from locations in Eastern Europe.

• Syrian Electronic Army (SEA) support Bashar al-Assad.

• Tarh Andishan is Iran's answer to Stuxnet.

• China seems well ahead of everyone else. There are more than 50 groups with ties to the country, far more than any other nation. Perhaps the most notorious among China's APT (Advanced Persistent Threat) groups is the Comment Crew sometimes referred to as Comment Panda or APT 1 by other firms. It is actually a Chinese military unit known as PLA Unit 61398. Numerous Chinese groups operate in cyberspace such as Naikon, Shell Crew , Toxic Panda and Hidden Lynx. Attacks on worldwide government agencies, financial services and the energy sector have been attributed to these outfits.

• In North Korea, numerous groups operate on behalf of the government, perhaps the most infamous being Bureau 121. All are controlled by the country's Reconnaissance General Bureau (RGB) part of military intelligence. Other outfits such as the notorious Lazarus Group have threads to North Korea and are known to have stolen millions of dollars in past raids.

Protesters in Washington following Edward Snowden's illegal release of NSA material

sites can be set up in opposition to the targets, false information can be fed to the target via e-mail and similar devices. In short there are 'no rules in love and war'.

What one person perceives as secure on the Internet, others will see as a challenge. In general most look at the Internet on a 'what you see is what you get basis' (WYSIWYG). In fact it's like looking at the surface of the ocean, without a concept of what life exists beneath that surface. Cyber crime and cyber intelligence are locked in constant conflict. Hackers are like flowers; there are many different classifications. For example: (a) White Hats are ethical (b) Black Hats are not ethical (c) A Script Kiddie is a newbie who relies heavily on pre-made hacking tools, the list is extensive. In this 'cyber soup' it is an easy task to implement initiatives that discredit targets, especially when so few are discerning enough to check the validity of presented facts.

Character assassination skills are a specialist field in their own right, but it's not only intelligence agencies that employ these technologies. Some specialists are employed by the corporate world to destroy competitors, but that's another story. In the second part of this article, we will look at the target, the implementation of the skills, the tell-tale signs, and especially how the deceptive factor is woven into this whole matrix.

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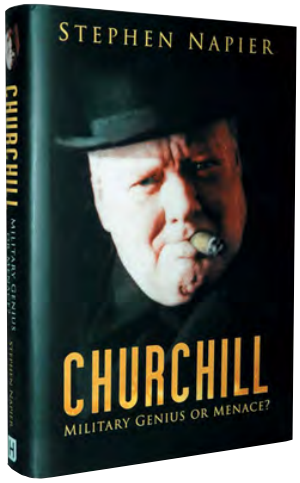
CHURCHILL: Military Genius or Menace?

Stephen Napier
The History Press

Churchill has gone down in history as one of the greatest leaders the world has ever known. From the day the Second World War was declared he stood out as the only man wanting to take offensive action. But is this accolade deserved?

The first few years of the war were nothing short of disastrous, and author Stephen Napier shows how Churchill's strategies - and his desire not to be the first British Prime Minister to surrender the nation - brought the war effort to the brink of ruin and back again. Did his series of retaliatory raids in response to a German accidental bombing help cause the Blitz? Were plans already at large for the US to join the war, with Churchill as the primary puppet master? Napier explores all this and more in a controversial examination of Churchill's leadership using first-person accounts from his peers and his electorate. Hardback 448pp



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SECRET SERVICE IN THE COLD WAR

John and Myles Sanderson
Frontline Books

WWII had been won, but relationships between the Western allies and the Soviet Union were becoming increasingly strained, as the nuclear arms race made world peace precarious. It was vital that Britain knew the Soviets' intentions and military capabilities, both offensive and defensive. As a Military Attache in Sofia, and Commandant of an Intelligence Centre in the Balkans, it was SIS officer Colonel John Sanderson's job to find out. Sanderson handled agents who operated secretly behind the Iron Curtain at the height of the Cold War and organised hidden arms depots for stay-behind agents in case of a Red Army invasion.

Based on Sanderson's letters and personal accounts of his time with MI4 and MI6. For over thirty years, John Sanderson worked for the British Secret Services - with his last mission, aged 74, as exciting as his first, being helicoptered into Sarajevo with an SAS team at the height of the Balkan War. Hardback 288pp

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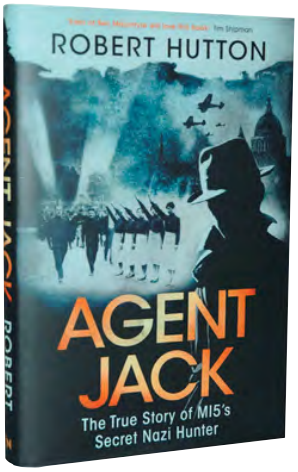
AGENT JACK: The True Story of MI5's Secret Nazi Hunter

Robert Hutton
Weidenfeld & Nicolson

June 1940. Britain is Europe's final bastion of freedom - and Hitler's next target. But not everyone fears a Nazi invasion. In factories, offices and suburban homes are men and women determined to do all they can to hasten it.



Throughout the Second World War, Britain's defence against the enemy within was Eric Roberts, a former bank clerk from Epsom. Equipped with an extraordinary ability to make people trust him, he was recruited into the shadowy world of espionage by the great spymaster Maxwell Knight. Roberts penetrated first the Communist Party and then the British Union of Fascists, before playing his greatest role for MI5 - as Hitler's man in London.

Codenamed Jack King, he single-handedly built a network of hundreds of British Nazi sympathisers, with many passing secrets to him in the mistaken belief that he was a Gestapo officer. Operation Fifth Column, run by a brilliant woman scientist and a Jewish aristocrat with a sideline in bomb disposal, was kept so secret it was omitted from the reports MI5 sent to Winston Churchill.


Eric Roberts - Jack King

Drawing on newly declassified documents and private family archives, *Agent Jack* shatters the comfortable notion that Britain could never have succumbed to fascism. Hardback 336pp

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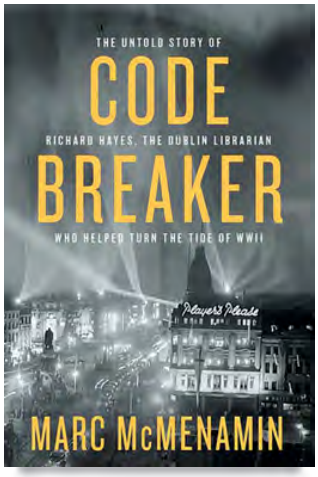
CODE BREAKER: The Untold Story of Richard Hayes

Marc McMenamin
Gill Books

The true story of librarian Richard Hayes, an unassuming librarian and Ireland's secret role in turning the tide of WWII. When Hayes, a gifted polymath and cryptographer, was drafted into Irish Intelligence to track the movements of a prolific Nazi spy, Hermann Gortz, Dublin became the unlikely venue for one of the most thrilling episodes in Irish history.

In a complex game of cat-and-mouse that would wind its way through the city and its suburbs, *Code Breaker* reveals how Richard Hayes cracked a code that helped turn the tide of World War II, and uncovers a secret history of the capital that has remained hidden in plain view for the past 70 years. Softback 256pp



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NEIN!: Standing up to Hitler 1935-1944

Paddy Ashdown
William Collins

In his last days, Adolf Hitler raged in his bunker that he had been betrayed by his own people, defeated from the inside. In part, he was right. By 1945, his armies were being crushed on all fronts, his regime collapsing with many fleeing retribution for their crimes. Yet, even before the war started, there were Germans very high in Hitler's command committed to bringing about his death and defeat.

Paddy Ashdown tells, for the first time, the story of those at the very

top of Hitler's Germany who tried first to prevent the Second World War and then to deny Hitler victory. Based on newly released files, the repeated attempts of the plotters to warn the Allies about Hitler's plans are revealed.


Paddy Ashdown

Key strands to the book's narrative lie with the actions of Abwehr head Admiral Wilhelm Canaris to frustrate Hitler's policies once the war had started; the plots to kill Hitler and, finally the systematic passage of key German military secrets to London, Washington and Moscow through MI6, the OSS and the Lucy Ring Russian spy network based in Switzerland. From 1943 onwards, concerted efforts were made to strike a separate peace with the West to shorten the war and prevent eastern Europe falling under the Soviet yoke.

What is revealed is that the anti-Hitler bomb plots, which have received so much attention are, in fact only a small part of a much wider story. Hardback 416pp

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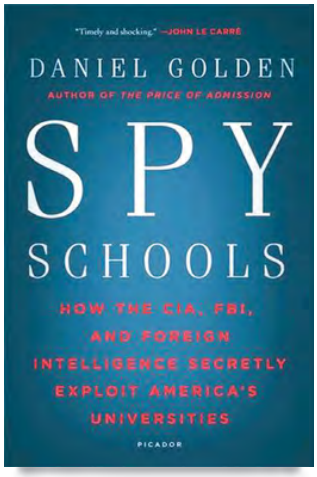
SPY SCHOOLS

Daniel Golden
Picador

Grounded in extensive research and reporting, *Spy Schools* reveals that globalisation - the influx of foreign

students and professors and the outflow of Americans for study, teaching, and conferences abroad - has transformed American higher education into a front line for international spying. In labs, classrooms, and auditoriums, intelligence services from countries like China, Russia, and Cuba seek insights into US policy, recruits for clandestine operations, and access to sensitive military and civilian research. The FBI and CIA reciprocate, tapping international students and faculty as informants.

Universities ignore or even condone this interference, despite the tension between their professed global values and the nationalistic culture of espionage. Golden uncovers controversial campus activity - from the CIA placing agents undercover in Harvard Kennedy School classes and staging academic conferences to persuade Iranian nuclear scientists to defect, to a Chinese graduate student at Duke University stealing research for an invisibility cloak, and a tiny liberal arts college in Marietta, Ohio, exchanging faculty with China's most notorious spy school - to show how relentlessly and ruthlessly both US and foreign intelligence services are penetrating the ivory tower. Paperback 368pp



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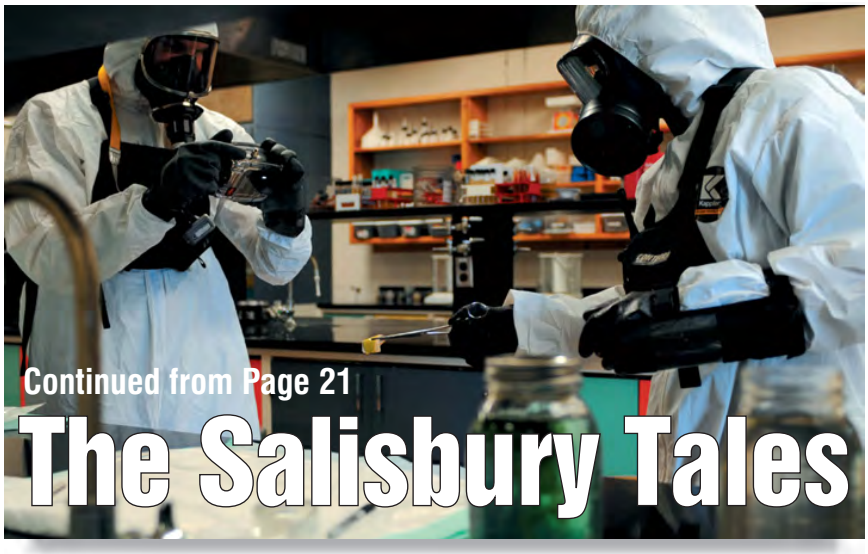

Continued from Page 21

The Salisbury Tales

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov denies all UK charges

No details concerning the exact date of the incident were published, but the GRU operation at the OPCW headquarters happened in April.

Eye Spy was told the attempted 'Swiss break-in' followed the Skripal incident and MI6 was "actively involved." This seems accurate following a statement released by the Swiss Federal Intelligence Agency (FIS). Head of Communications Isabelle Graber acknowledged British and Dutch Intelligence had "actively participated in the operation."

In Moscow, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov dismissed the reports, noting that nothing was "picked up at the time by the media."

Lavrov insisted the story was "bogus and made up by Western media," and called the report "groundless allegations."

THE SALISBURY SANCTION

There has been enormous speculation as to why Sergei Skripal was targeted by the GRU.

The converted perfume bottle found by Charlie Rowley which contained the Novichok nerve agent

He of course was exchanged in 2010 along with three Western intelligence contact men for several SVR spies and officers arrested in the USA. Besides the obvious - being a designated traitor of Russia - Eye Spy sources suggest that the GRU initiated the operation (planning) around the same time as high-profile meetings began in Moscow to explore the possibility of merging Russian intelligence organisations such as the FSB and SVR (See Eye Spy 117). "It's possible... to avoid being drawn into the talks and to retain its independence, the GRU wanted to prove it could action the most 'impossible' tasks," one informed Russian intelligence watcher told Eye Spy. "The GRU in proving its operational prowess, was determined to show its colleagues that it had the know-how and capabilities to act anywhere. By removing a traitor, the GRU would elevate itself further. The Skripal sanction was too good an opportunity to ignore."

Other scenarios have also been mentioned, including Skripal was still "active in the intelligence game." There are stories he provided background intelligence in 2012 to Czech Intelligence on the activities of Russian spy networks in the country. One reporter with NATO threads said that "so accurate was Skripal's observations and information, he was visited in Salisbury on at least two occasions by the Czechs to glean further material." Another report said he also provided officials in Spain with useful intelligence on Russian activities in the country.

3 March - 4.11pm: Boshirov and Petrov at Salisbury Train Station as they prepare to return to London after they had allegedly performed a reconnaissance mission

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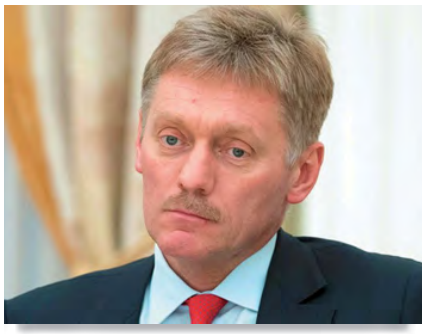
Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said comparing imagery was not reliable, and referenced the many Stalin and Lenin lookalikes who can be found in Red Square, Moscow, posing for tourists (top)



Dmitry Peskov

In Russia itself, one story has been deliberately circulated amongst senior media editors, undoubtedly by Russian Intelligence. This concerns the 'outing' of several Russian spies in the Baltics and Eastern Europe. Skripal allegedly helped expose a number of Russian agents (GRU) in Estonia. Two of the agents were named as Deniss Metsavas (Estonia Defence Forces) who had access to NATO secrets, and his father, Pjotr Volin, believed to have worked in the Main Directorate of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces.

And then there are tales of a "polite well spoken Englishman who Skripal regularly met in Salisbury. He has been dubbed the 'tweed man' because of the type of suit he always wore. Some intelligence commentators believe he is in fact Skripal's MI6 controller or handler. Another report suggests the unidentified intelligence man has commercial threads to the so-called 'Trump Dossier' which has so-damaged relations between the White House and US Intelligence Community.

Beyond the rumours, speculation and imagination of some reporters, and far more important, Skripal knows the identities of dozens of key GRU and other Russian intelligence people and agents, some of whom he disclosed to MI6 in 2006 which led to his arrest and jail sentence. This was one primary reason why Britain agreed to the exchange. "Moscow sees this as a danger to other active agents," a specialist in Russian Intelligence affairs said. "Skripal will have provided information and names useful to MI6 and allied forces."

DIPLOMATIC RESPONSE

Russia's Foreign Ministry said that despite the "new evidence" put forward by Britain, the Skripal case is "falling apart." Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov also said he has sent around 60 diplomatic letters to London demanding access to the investigation and Skripals. Also of note, Karen Pierce, UK Ambassador to the UN, referenced the worldwide operations of the GRU and Russia's continuing use of chemical weapons in several theatres.

UK Foreign Minister Jeremy Hunt, whose organisation oversees MI6 said: "It is not acceptable for Russia to instruct two GRU agents to use chemical weapons on British soil. We have international norms where you don't use chemical weapons." He warned that the "price will be high."

Mr Hunt also drew reference to the assassination of MI6 agent Alexander Litvinenko in London over a decade ago by Russian Intelligence operatives.

THE CODE OF CONDUCT

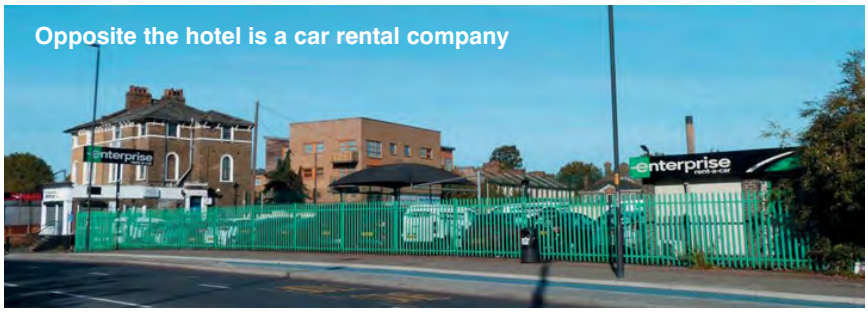
As reported in Eye Spy, British Intelligence has accused the GRU (again), of breaking the spy exchange 'code of conduct', where unwritten rules apply that spies exchanged through diplomatic channels and even non-publicised covert ones, will not be targeted. In a little over a decade, several incidents in the UK have occurred whereby former Russian

Oleg Gordievsky pictured following his defection

intelligence officers who, for whatever reasons opted to switch sides have been targeted, the most infamous being Alexander Litvinenko in 2006. However, this was not an isolated case. In 2008 the former head of the KGB in Britain, Oleg Gordievsky, who defected in 1985, was almost certainly the victim of a poison attack at a party in southern England.

Speaking recently about his latest spy book - *The Spy and the Traitor,* which focuses on the

The packaging and labelling found by Charlie Rowley which contained the lethal bottle of Novichok. The manufacturers said the items were counterfeit



Bellingcat.com founder Eliot Higgins addresses journalists outside Parliament

life and work of Gordievsky, intelligence writer Ben Macintyre said since the Skripal affair, security has been increased dramatically to protect the former spy.

In America, moves are already underway to provide additional security to a number of former Russian CIA spies who have settled in the country. While the security programme has been hastened following events in the UK, new security procedures for the agents was already underway after an incident in Florida four years ago when FBI officers surveilled a suspected Russian assassin who had arrived in the country. There was real fear in Washington that the operative had been charged with conducting a "revenge attack," according to highly informed intelligence sources.

US INTEL RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME

The top secret CIA and US Intelligence 'Resettlement Programme' for the spies had not been breached, but officials did engage in a project to discover just how easy it would be for an outside party to track the spies and persons described as 'informants'. It is believed upto 100 individuals and their relatives are under protection. Neither Langley nor the FBI would engage with reporters regarding rumours a number of former agents have been relocated and given new identities. However, sources believe this is exactly what happened following the Salisbury incident.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Eye Spy has learned MI5 believe the men opted to travel by train to Salisbury, not for convenience or speed, but because there was little chance they would be stopped (routine or perhaps due to a traffic violation or incident). Of further interest, virtually opposite the City Stay Hotel in London is a major car rental company, thus MI5 believe the men kept their options open regarding travel arrangements. Similarly, we were advised the security services are still searching for other people, perhaps a surveillance support team.

Despite the complexities of this case, it's fairly obvious British Intelligence had no exact prior knowledge that the GRU were about to launch such an audacious and dangerous operation

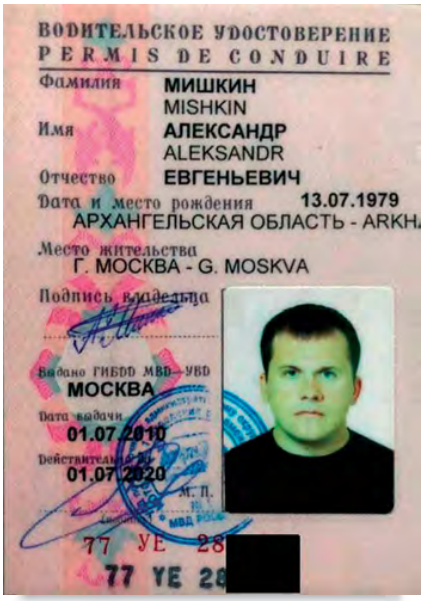
JOURNALIST FEARFUL

2018. Sergei Kanev speaking at a conference for investigative journalists in Riga

Russian journalist Sergei Kanev who participated in Bellingcat's probe to identity the two GRU officers in the Salisbury Novichok incident, has said he has left Russia "fearing prosecution because of his work." Kanev, who specialises in crime and police corruption, said "there are many of my investigations that have angered certain high-ranking officials. This is not only about Boshirov and Petrov.

against Skripal. This does not mean they were not fearful.

As for the header on our report - *The Salisbury Tales,* we heard reference amongst British



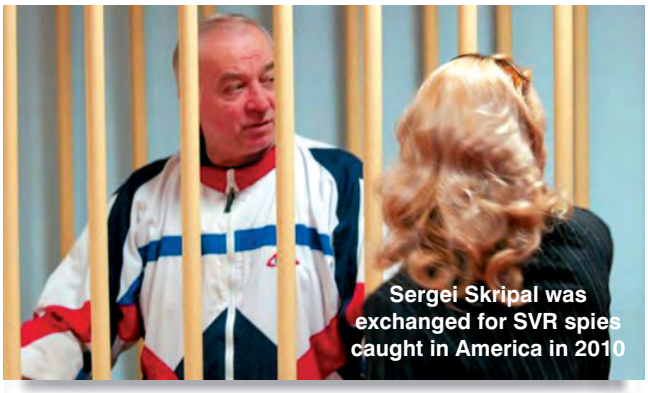
Anatoliy Chepiga's driving licence

THE KREMLIN RUMOUR MILL

FATE OF POISONED RUSSIAN SPY CONTINUES TO CAUSE DEBATE

The niece of poisoned MI6 agent and former GRU intelligence officer Sergei Skripal, 67, continues to speak to journalists about the fate of her uncle. Viktoria Skripal believes there is a "very real possibility he is dead." Her comments seem to contradict Skripal's daughter, Yulia, 46, who was also a victim of the Novichok nerve agent attack in Salisbury, England. Yulia spoke with Victoria a few weeks ago on the telephone, where she was told "he is on the mend." She also said her father would telephone the family in three days - this never happened and there has been no contact whatsoever.

"I don't think Yulia is entirely free in her actions," said Viktoria, who also believes that the UK Government has purposely shielded Sergei because of a lack of evidence to prove he was poisoned by Russian agents. "It's either [because] he is dead, or they have nothing to show," she said. "Just like in the Litvinenko case, they would have let us see him." Her reference to Alexander Litvinenko, another former Russian intelligence officer who worked as an MI6 agent in London, concerned released photographs of him laying in a hospital bed. He was the victim of a Polonium-210 attack in 2006, but unlike Sergei, died a few weeks later. "They did not let us in to see Sergei. I do not understand what is so terrible if we see him," said Victoria.



Sergei Skripal was exchanged for SVR spies caught in America in 2010

Sergei Skripal. Inset: Yulia Skripal

Viktoria Skripal

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, Maria Zakharova, agreed with Viktoria. "We find it highly suspicious and outrageous that there is no information on the state and health of Russian citizens Yulia Skripal and her father Sergei." Zakharova said Russia has a team of experienced intelligence officers and scientists ready and assembled to travel to the UK at any time to assist the investigation. "Why do they not want our help?"

Senior media editors in Russia believe reports and snippets of information surrounding his fate are being generated by British Intelligence to create a cover story. "Britain acted hastily and within days Russia was blamed leading to the expulsion of over 100 diplomats from Russian embassies," one commentator said. "They have too much invested in their line of thought to be diverted now." Another said: "It would be of huge embarrassment if an alternative explanation was to surface in future weeks or months, naturally they want to keep everyone away from the Skripals and keep us guessing."

A former MI5 contact man dismissed the possibility that the UK would deliberately leak stories of Skripal's death in order to prepare him with a new identity and place of residence, which many journalists in Russia believe could be abroad. However, intelligence sources told Eye Spy: "The intention is to keep the Russians guessing until all the pieces of evidence have been secured. If the Kremlin does not fully understand what information has been assembled, then it will limit their commentary."

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, Maria Zakharova

intelligence people to the famous *The Canterbury Tales.* Within this fourteenth century collection of stories, text includes reference to a contest involving a group of pilgrims who embarked on a journey from London to the cathedral city of Canterbury in Kent. Included was a prize for telling the 'best story' - a free meal.

British officials at the United Nations told the Security Council that up until 6 September 2018, Russia have proposed 37 different accounts of what took place in March - and this continues to grow. One includes a rather bizarre story that the future mother-in-law of Yulia Skripal carried out the attack. It's likely that the use of the phrase originated from Moscow's story-telling.

Bellingcat must also be congratulated for its investigation. Interestingly, the website said most of the information it used to identify the culprits came from materials already in the public domain (open source).

Despite denials from Moscow that the suspects are simply civilians, it's unlikely they will receive any commendations, for ultimately they failed in their task and the GRU operation was embarrassingly exposed.

To conclude, the investigation by Dutch Intelligence which identified a GRU team sent by Moscow to hack into computers at the OPCW headquarters in the Hague, leaves no one in doubt concerning who was ultimately responsible for events in Salisbury.

'Boshirov' and 'Petrov'

MIVD headquarters. Inset: MIVD Director Major General Onno Eichelsheim

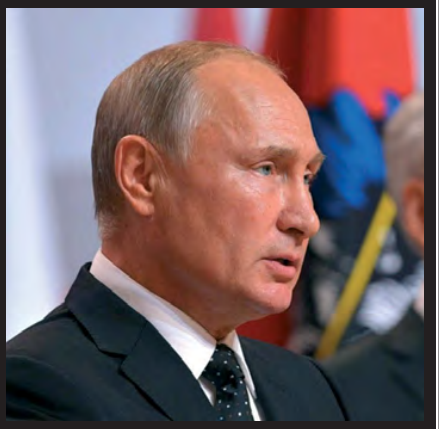
LAST WORD

MOSCOW: In October, President Putin spoke to a gathering of journalists and was asked about his thoughts on the GRU and the Skripal affair. He responded:

"I see that some of your colleagues are pushing the theory that Mr Skripal is almost some kind of human rights activist. He is just a spy. A traitor to the motherland. There is such a thing - a traitor to the motherland. Here he is - one of them.

"Imagine, if there's a person in your country who betrayed it. How would you treat him?" Putin added. "He's plainly [a] scumbag."

Putin also said the entire Skripal affair had been blown out of proportion and resulted in a chain of unrelated incidents leading to attacks on Russia.



"The faster [this] ends, the better. This Skripal, as I've already said, is a traitor, who was caught, punished and who spent five years behind bars. That's it. He went abroad and continued to cooperate, consulting some intelligence services there," Putin added. His 'consultancy' reference is an indication the GRU and Kremlin believe Skripal was still active for MI6.

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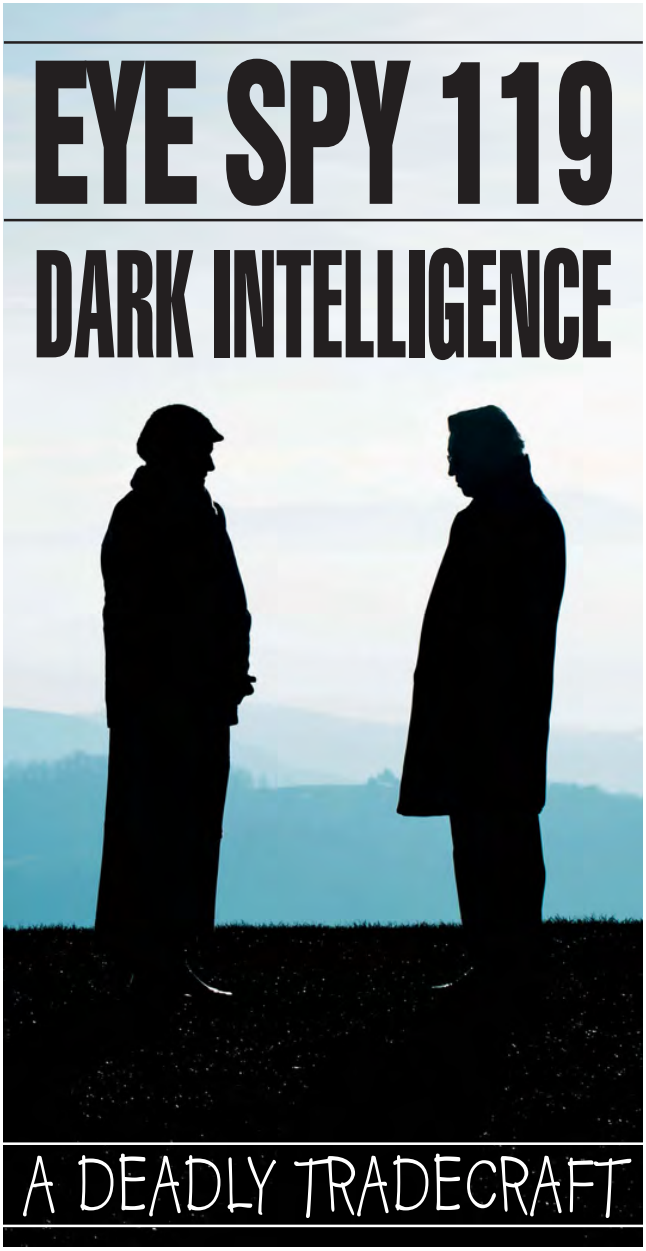

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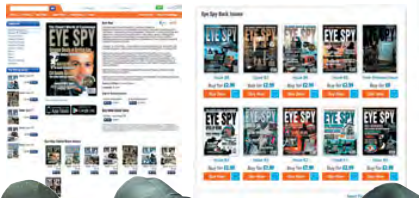

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