

THE COVERT WORLD OF ESPIONAGE

EYE SPY

INTELLIGENCE MAGAZINE

TRAITOR WITHIN
SURGE IN SPY ARRESTS

NUMBER 120 2019

£3.95

ISIS END GAME?
GLOBAL FRAGMENTATION FEARS

DEATH HEAD
INTEL & SECURITY DEBATE



SPIES & THE
GREAT GAME

- IRAN SPY FOCUS • NOVICHOK - THE THIRD MAN
- COLD WAR ASSASSINS • HUAWEI INTEL FEARS
- CIA TALIBAN CONTACT • FSB STING



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FIVE EYES AND CYBER FEARS



Eye Spy presents a number of long forgotten, yet key assassination case files, some intended to change the course of history, others acts of simple retribution...

THE DEATH HEAD DEBATE MENACE OR DETERRENT?



Invented over 1,500-years ago, Eye Spy investigates the great game of chess and its enduring historical and modern connection to the world of espionage

THE RED ORCHESTRA



COUNTER-TERRORISM

An international round-up of the latest attacks and how government organisations are tackling emerging threats



EYE SPY 120



VOLUME XV NUMBER EIGHT 2019 (ISSUE 120)
ISSN 1364 8446 publication date: MARCH 2019
FRONT COVER MAIN IMAGE: © CRAIG WHITEHEAD
Established December 2000



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"We need to decide the extent to which we are going to be comfortable with Chinese ownership of these technologies and these platforms"

ALEX YOUNGER - CHIEF OF MI6



MI6, BND AND DGSE UNCONCERNED OVER BREXIT



Intelligence chiefs and security officials from around the world attended the recent 2019 Munich Security Conference. All manner of topics were discussed, including what happens next following the military defeat of ISIS in the Middle East. Nearly all, including MI6 Chief Alex Younger, were agreed that ISIS will continue to pose a threat, albeit one of a terrorist nature. Interestingly, at the same event, Mr Younger, along with his counterparts in Germany's BND and France's DGSE, were united in their belief that the intelligence relationship between the three countries should remain "untouched" by Brussels - even when the UK exits the European Union.

Away from the busy halls, conference rooms and corridors of the Munich event, spy chiefs representing the so-called Five Eyes Alliance (USA, UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand) have been discussing China's giant telecommunications company - Huawei. There are genuine concerns that China's intelligence service within the MSS, is "too close to Huawei." Already most US Government agencies have stopped using computer systems and software associated with the firm, and elsewhere around the world, several arrests linked to espionage and the company have been made. Four of the Five Eyes nations have strongly bracketed Huawei with the MSS, only the UK believes use of its programmes and technology is "manageable." Eye Spy looks at this ongoing problem.

Besides China, Iran and Russia have again been warned over their illegal cyber activities. These and an array of topics making news are examined.

MARK BIRDSALL, MANAGING EDITOR



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INTELLIGENCE CHOICE

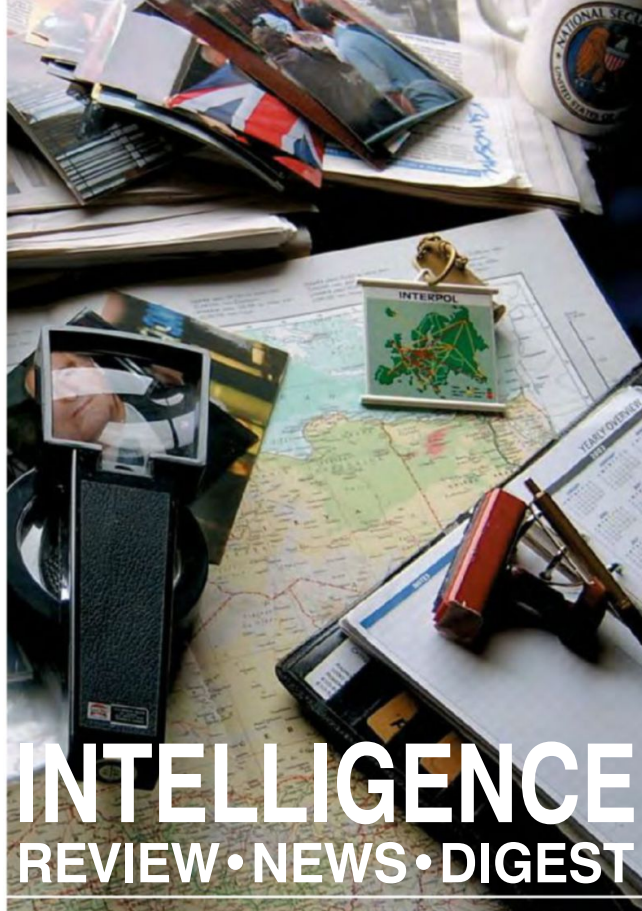
CHECK MATE: A GAME OF INTRIGUE AND DECEPTION

If ever a game has been so strongly associated with the world of intelligence, then surely chess must rank as number one. A favourite past-time of many spy chiefs and senior officials, chess has also been used as a communication method to pass secrets, discuss on-going operations, and even warn agents of impending exposure and arrest.



For decades the KGB used international chess tournaments as a means of infiltration and recruitment. The CIA, not to be undone and aware of the activity, sent their own monitoring agents. This fascinating feature looks at how chess has become an enduring part of spynore - with incidents dating back hundreds of years.

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INTELLIGENCE REVIEW • NEWS • DIGEST

BELGIUM SPY FEARS

More Security Lapses in Brussels as EU Warns of Major Chinese and Russian Spy Networks Operating in Brussels

A major in Belgium's military intelligence service, the ADIV, stands accused of passing classified information to a Serbian woman suspected of being a Russian agent, according to an ongoing probe by Belgian federal prosecutors and by the I Committee, a Belgian Parliamentary oversight body.

In addition, Clement Vandenborre, a four-decade intelligence man and head of the country's foreign intelligence service, (counter-intelligence department), has also been barred from his office after being accused of illegally shredding sensitive documents and of broader mismanagement. He disputes the claims.

Intelligence sources told Eye Spy the ADIV is currently experiencing mistrust between its main intelligence section, which is run by military personnel, and its counter-intelligence element, predominately manned by civilians.

If the Belgian major is proven to have worked for Russia, the case would have echoes of Herman Simm, an Estonian Defence Ministry official, who in 2009 was convicted of Russian espionage in Tallinn, after he leaked 386 classified EU and NATO files. Although the ADIV does not oversee EU offices and NATO headquarters in Brussels, the possibility remains that information from international institutions could

MI6 CHIEF AND THE ISIS THREAT

INTELLIGENCE CHIEFS JOIN IN COMPLACENCY WARNING TO EU

Alex Younger, Chief of MI6, and his European counterparts, met at the annual Munich Security Conference (MSC) 15-17 February, the world's largest gathering of its kind.

Germany's BND President Bruno Kahl and France's DGSE chief Bernard Ernie joined with Younger over the need for continued security links. They warned any failure to mount a collective response to modern threats would create serious problems today and in the future. A statement released by the three intelligence men read:

'The three Service Heads are united in the view that modern threats require a modern response, any failure to do so would lead to even greater risk. To have effect, our efforts must be combined in partnership. MI6, BND and DGSE make a powerful contribution. Even after the UK's exit from the EU, close operation and cross-border information sharing must be taken forward on themes such as international terrorism, illegal migration, proliferation and cyber attacks'.

Mr Younger also commented on the security situation involving



ISIS, this as it nears territorial defeat in Syria. "The terror group has managed to morph and reconstitute... in a more traditional, asymmetric threat," he said. "We need to think about what happens when people in Idlib disperse. These organisations exploit political failure essentially. They exploit ungoverned space to organise and grow."

RETURNING TERRORISTS

He also referenced Briton Shamima Begum, a pregnant 19-

year old who joined ISIS four years ago. Younger warned those seeking to return were unlikely to reconcile with their homelands.

"They are likely to have acquired both the skills and connections and also experienced extreme radicalisation that make them potentially very dangerous," he said. "That fact needs to be uppermost in our minds as we approach this admittedly extremely complex and difficult problem. Public safety is the first thing that we will consider."





have been compromised, as the Estonia case showed 10 years ago.

In February, the EU's diplomatic and foreign wing, the European External Action Service (EEAS), alerted member states' embassies to the presence of about 250 Chinese and 200 Russian spies said to be operating in Brussels. The notice even suggested diplomats should avoid a popular steakhouse and cafe within

walking distance of the commission headquarters, according to a report in the German newspaper *Die Welt*.

"Brussels has now overtaken Vienna [as the spy capital of Europe] and there is now a greater density of so-called intelligence services from outside the EU in Brussels than here," Peter Gridling, the head of Austria's domestic intelligence agency, the BVT, said last year.



L-R: DGSE Director General Bernard Emie, BND President Bruno Kahl and Chief of MI6, Alex Younger



Shamima Begum

Mr Younger said returnees would face questioning and possible prosecution when they returned home. "The reality is this is a societal, generational problem that we face in the West and it can

only be addressed at that level," he added. "The military defeat of the 'caliphate' does not represent the end of the terrorist threat. We see it therefore morphing, spreading out... within Syria but also externally - this is the traditional shape of a terrorist organisation."

• Britain's Home Secretary Sajid Javid, asked to comment on the case of Begum, said: "Britons who joined ISIS in the Middle East conflict theatres will not be allowed back into the UK."

Those who do manage to return will face almost certain prosecution.

CIA BLACK SITES

A Critical Voice From Moscow

Not all those connected to the world of intelligence are entirely happy about Gina Haspel's rise to the summit of one of the world's most powerful spy agencies. During her appointment process to become Director CIA, much debate ensued about her role in the CIA's extraordinary rendition programme - citing a controversial back site in Thailand and Haspel's alleged oversight responsibilities. One person who has recently joined the debate is whistleblower Edward Snowden, who fled the US after distributing thousands of stolen classified intelligence documents.

Speaking recently via a videolink at a London conference on 'National Security Whistleblowing and Government Security', Snowden said he was puzzled by Haspel's promotion because she had "overseen the country's torture programme." Snowden



Director CIA Gina Haspel

told delegates: "America's culture of impunity has corrupted not just the system of intelligence, but the system of government. What does it tell them when they see that you can literally get promoted rather than prosecuted."

Despite such criticism, Haspel is backed by Langley and intelligence sources say incidents of waterboarding at the Thailand black site "probably occurred before she assumed control."

LOYALTY TESTS IN UKRAINE

LIE DETECTORS TO 'OUT' MOSCOW'S FRIENDS

Ukraine Military Prosecutor-General Anatoly Matios, has proposed using lie-detector tests to determine whether residents in separatist-controlled parts of eastern Ukraine, such as Donetsk are loyal to the government in Kiev or support Russia-backed separatists.

The proposal has raised questions about whether the tests could be used to restrict the voting rights of those from separatist-controlled territory when they try to register and cast ballots in Ukraine's

upcoming Presidential Election in March. Matios said he can now reveal that "top secret lie-detector software," has been developed in Ukraine's Black Sea port city of Odessa on the basis of work by "a powerful intellectual and scientific centre."

According to Matios, the new polygraph software uses algorithms that allow computers to quickly test the reactions of people to a series of questions. "The reactions to the questions make clear if a person is answering sincerely or not," Matios said.



FEMALE CYBER GATEWAY

GCHQ SEEKS TO ATTRACT MORE WOMEN TO CYBER WORLD

In a bid to attract more females to engage with the wider security cyber world, GCHQ's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), has established a series of all-female teenager CyberFirst Girls' Defender courses which will run in April and May.

Six hundred posts in four-day residential and non-residential events are being made available to those who participated in the 2019 CyberFirst Girls Competition. The NCSC hope they can convince more women to seek careers in cyber intelligence environments and help bridge the enormous male-female employee divide in this specialist field.

Statistics released by the American Association of University Women (AAUW), reveal that just 11% of cyber positions are held by females, based on a



Chris Ensor



NCSC HQ, London



recent survey conducted by ISC - *Global Information Security Workforce: Women in Cyber Security*. The figure in Europe is even less - just 7%.

Some 35% of GCHQ's employees are female, but around 90% of those who work in the wider international cyber and tech world are male. Chris Ensor NCSC Deputy Director for Skills and Growth, said he hoped the courses would "appeal to the 'inquisitive instincts of young people.'"

The UK events have been created to provide a light but interesting and factual insight into cyber security and attract the brightest women who otherwise may not

have pursued or considered a career in the industry.

IBM's Academic outreach leader Heather Ricciuto also dispelled fears that the world of cyber is a predominately male arena.

"One myth about cyber security is that to work in it, you have to be a hacker or a coder and that it is just for boys. The other is that everybody thinks that you have to have a computer science degree and that's just not true. We need people with all sorts of skills."

IBM recently held seven cyber educational events for 200 girls in Florida schools. Apple too have recognised the lack of females in computing jobs, and have launched a new programme to address the area.

AI AND CYBER

Another communications agency seeking to promote the important work played by women in the cyber world is GCHQ's sister organisation - the National Security Agency (NSA). Its web site recently carried an interview with Kimberly Ferguson-Walter, a specialist in artificial intelligence (AI) and cyber security who operates within the Agency's Research Directorate.



Walter, noting the ever-changing world of cyber and its impact on operations said: "I was not focused on cyber before my employment at the NSA. I was excited to be given the opportunity to work with the best and brightest here and did not shy away from the challenge of learning about cyber on the job. I was impressed that the NSA valued outside perspectives and different backgrounds and was confident that I could put my background in artificial intelligence to good use in the cyber domain. The recent explosion of interest in both machine learning and cybersecurity has made this career even more exciting."

"I have seen much more emphasis on artificial intelligence (AI) and human behaviour. The tone had shifted such that there are now few concerns that AI will take over operator's jobs (even if there is doubt about how well the algorithms perform). People realise that we simply don't have enough operators to perform the job, and we need AI in order to scale up in number and in speed to defend our systems better."

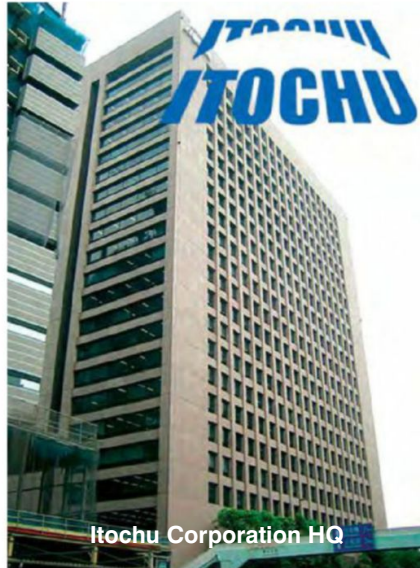


Kimberly Ferguson-Walter

CHINA MSS SPY ARREST

JAPANESE TRADER HELD ON ESPIONAGE CHARGES

Tokyo officials have revealed an unnamed employee of the Itochu Corporation, one of the largest Japanese general trading companies, has been detained in China for over a year on espionage charges. Specialising in textiles, metals, minerals, food, machinery, energy, chemicals, general products and real estate, Itochu has been actively pursuing expansion in China.



Itochu Corporation HQ

"The man was detained in February last year," said Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga.



Yoshihide Suga

Susumu Tsuda, senior coordinator of protection of Japanese

nationals overseas for the Japanese Foreign Ministry, said the man was accused of violating Chinese espionage laws and was in custody. He is receiving consular help.

The MSS has detained a number of Japanese nationals since 2015, eight remain in detention. Of these, four have been given jail terms, including an executive at a Tokyo-based Japanese language school who received a six-year jail sentence in Shanghai for espionage. Intelligence officials in Japan believe the Ministry of State Security has embarked on a "catch all" policy of detaining foreign nationals on espionage charges, even if the evidence is flimsy.

URANIUM FOR SALE



Photograph which accompanied the sale

TOKYO: An investigation in Japan has been on-going for over a year to determine how a person was able to acquire and attempt to auction uranium online. In November 2017, Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority was alerted that an online auction website operated by Yahoo! had a product described as 'Uranium 99.9%'. Yahoo! was contacted and police notified resulting in an investigation of the seller and bidders who were subsequently arrested and questioned. The substance was confiscated and tests revealed it was indeed radioactive uranium. The seller said he acquired it online from someone outside Japan. Further tests on the substance continue to determine if it is enriched or depleted (less radioactive).

Eye Spy discovered an auction on the same website for yellowcake listed 5 June 2018, which doesn't appear to be the same incident.

IRGC TROOPS TARGETED

AL-QAIDA LAUNCHES DEADLY ATTACK

TEHRAN: Al-Qaida-linked terrorists killed 27 Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) troops on 13 February. A bus carrying members of the paramilitary force was struck by a suicide car bomber on a road between the cities of Khash and Zahedan, a mountainous region along the Pakistani border that is also near Afghanistan. Twenty were others wounded. Tehran

believes the terrorists crossed the border from neighbouring Pakistan.

A group calling itself Jaish al-Adl or the 'Army of Justice', claimed responsibility. Founded in 2012, Jaish al-Adl has abducted and killed border guards in several operations. In September 2018, several of its operatives disguised as Iranian soldiers killed 24 people



IRGC troops

in the Iranian city of Ahvaz. A month later 11 Iranian border guards were kidnapped. Five were

later returned, but the whereabouts of the others remains unclear.

LANGLEY'S USS COLE QUEST CONCLUDES

SANA'A: One of America's most wanted was killed in a precision airstrike in Ma'rib Governorate, Yemen, in early January 2019. Al-Qaida operative Jamal al-Badawi was involved in the attack on the USS Cole in 2000 as it docked for refuelling in Yemen's Aden Harbour. It was then struck by terrorists using a small boat

packed with explosives. The resulting blast killed 17 sailors and wounded a further 39.

Al-Badawi was arrested by Yemeni authorities in December of 2000 and held in connection with the attack but he escaped from a prison in Yemen in April of 2003. He was

recaptured by Yemeni authorities in March of 2004 but again escaped custody in February 2006.

US Central Command confirmed the death of al-Badawi. The State Department's Rewards for Justice Program had offered a reward of up to \$5 million for information leading to his arrest.



Jamal al-Badawi

JOHN CANTLIE UK PHOTO JOURNALIST

UK Home Office Confirms Captured Briton May Still be Alive

British journalist and photographer John Cantlie who was captured by ISIS-friendly terrorists in Syria in 2012 along with US journalist James Foley, is probably still alive, according to UK Security Minister Ben Wallace. He escaped but was captured again and subsequently featured in many ISIS propaganda videos.

He was last seen in a recorded video in December 2016 as

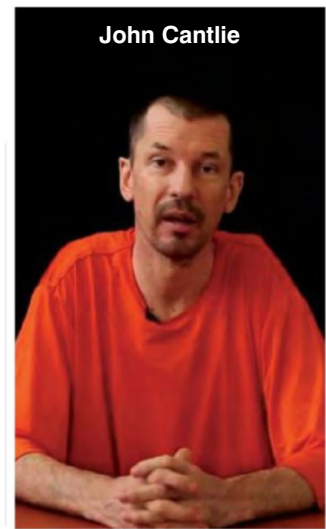
Alliance forces began the operation to retake the strategic city of Mosul.

According to local sources, Cantlie was subjected to all manner of punishment and under duress appeared in the videos as a "roaming foreign correspondent" in an attempt to show life was not too bad for residents under ISIS rule. During the Mosul assault he said numerous lives had been lost and that the damage

to the city caused by attacking forces was immense. And it was in Mosul Cantlie was said to have been killed in an Alliance air raid.

Mr Wallace's comment was supported by anti-ISIS fighters attached to the Syrian Democratic Forces, who believe Cantlie "may be alive and held in Deir ez-Zor."

As for the unfortunate James Foley, he was murdered by ISIS in 2014 in Raqqa.



John Cantlie

AUSTRALIAN DETAINED ON ESPIONAGE CHARGES

Diplomats Issue Warning that China 'No Longer Safe to Visit'

Counter-intelligence officers from China's MSS, have detained an Australian citizen on espionage charges, more specifically, "endangering state security."

Yang Hengjun, 53, a novelist, 'blogger' and a senior fellow of the US-based Atlantic Council, who formerly worked in China's

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was arrested on 19 January. He is recognised as one of the most influential writers on China which led to him being nicknamed the 'Democracy Peddler'.

In some of his previous writings, Hengjun reported that he had been approached on a number of occasions by Western Intelligence

agencies to try and recruit him as a spy. He had rejected the alleged advances calling them "despicable." However, he has used some of his experiences in his writings and spy novels.

Hengjun is being detained in what China refers to as 'residential surveillance' - a veiled term for a secret location.



Yang Hengjun

Australian diplomat Stephen Joske, who worked in China for over a decade said travelling to China is "no longer safe."

MOSSAD SPY GAMES IN IRAN

Agents Who Secured Nuclear Secrets Almost Captured

According to intelligence sources in the Middle East, the audacious Mossad operation in Tehran to steal tens of thousands of Iranian nuclear papers, almost resulted in the capture of a

number of participants. Similarly, some media houses claim the CIA was fully aware of the endeavour prior to its initiation, this after Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu briefed US President Donald Trump at the 2018 World

Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland (January). The liaison was reportedly made because Israel wanted Washington's support should the operation falter.

Further details of the covert action in Tehran suggests the Mossad team, who were supported by agents in Iran, secured some 100,000 documents (around half contained on CD-Roms) by "working when the security guards left the warehouse between shifts." The operation was conducted in one night.

The Mossad action was revealed to the world by Netanyahu when he spoke about Iran's covert pursuit of nuclear weapons (Project Amad), on 30 May 2018, and then later at the United Nations. Following the first exposure, in which binders of



Mossad Director Yossi Cohen

documents and racks of CDs were displayed, a White House official said they had seen "new and



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu advised US President Donald Trump over the Mossad operation



ADVANCED PERSISTENT THREAT 10

FBI Targets MSS Cyber Hackers Following Worldwide Attacks

Two Chinese hackers operating for a Ministry of State-sponsored group known in the cyber world as APT10, or Advanced Persistent Threat 10, have been indicted on charges they were involved in a major campaign to secure information from dozens of companies and government bodies around the world.

Zhu Hua and Zhang Shilong are alleged to have started the hacking operation over a decade ago, resulting in the theft of



Zhang Shilong

significant sensitive data from high-end technology, maritime, aviation, space satellite and communications firms. FBI

Director Christopher Wray described the target list as a "Who's Who of the global economy," without identifying the actual targets. However, he did reveal the US Department of Energy (DOE) and NASA were victims, accusing APT10 of being part of a wider Chinese conspiracy to steal intellectual property. Also amongst those targeted - 10,000 US Navy personnel. "Healthy competition is good for the global economy," he said. "Criminal and rampant theft is cheating."

The FBI's Cyber Action Team working with other US Government cyber units identified APT10 following a spate of 'spear phishing' operations. At least 12 countries were also targeted, including the UK, Japan, UAE, France, Canada and Germany. And whilst Hua and Shilong are unlikely to face justice in the United States (both men reside in China), they can be detained if they travel outside the country.

In recent weeks the US and allies have named several cyber attack groups working for Russia and



NASA - one organisation amongst numerous others targeted by APT10

Iran whose primary role to secure information is state-sponsored by intelligence agencies such as Russia's GRU and Iran's MOIS.



FBI Director Christopher Wray and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein announce the indictments against Hua and Shilong



Zhu Hua

compelling evidence." Shortly thereafter, President Trump announced the United States was leaving the five-nation 2015-brokered nuclear deal with Iran.

Some intelligence sources believe the CIA and other US intelligence agencies were supportive of the Tehran operation - most notably in

providing communications and spy satellite data.

Officially, Iran's spy agency MOIS, continues to deny the Mossad raid took place and no documents were stolen.



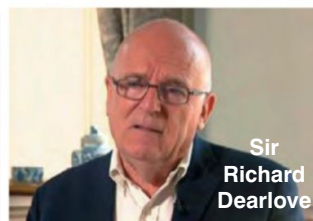
Iranian engineering chamber which Israel claims is used to test and evaluate 'implosion devices' necessary to detonate a nuclear bomb

US-UK INTEL SHARING

Intelligence Liaison Will Not Suffer After UK European Union Withdrawal

A senior US intelligence official has dismissed warnings that Britain's intelligence mechanism and its relationship with the US Intelligence Community (USIC) will be harmed or downgraded, if and when 'Brexit' happens.

Anthony Vassalo, Associate Deputy Director of the Office of the Director National Intelligence (ODNI), asked about the impact of Britain leaving the EU said: "I think that operationally, tactically, the work that's done in the field, the work that's done back here, in terms of integrating across the allies and partners goes on. I have not noticed any material change in



Sir Richard Dearlove

any of that, and I wouldn't expect to."

In recent weeks a number of former senior British Intelligence figures have suggested that the current withdrawal agreement being brokered by the UK Government would "threaten the national security of the country." Words echoed by Sir Richard Dearlove, former Chief of MI6.



© Amos Ben Gershom - CPO

SANCTIONED

Europe Moves To Punish Senior GRU Spies Over Sergei Skripal Incident

The European Union has placed sanctions on four Russian GRU officers, including its two most senior directors and the alleged suspects, in the attempted Novichok nerve agent assassination of one of agency's former officers in Salisbury last March.

The new EU regulatory powers to sanction individuals connected to chemical attacks, manufacture and transportation, were only created last October and this is the first time they have been used. And whilst the intended target Sergei Skripal, an MI6 agent purportedly still active in intelligence liaison, survived,



Sergei Skripal

civilian Dawn Sturgess died. Her partner Charlie Rowley was also seriously injured, so too Skripal's daughter Yulia.

In a brief statement drawn



The two GRU officers accused of attempting to kill Skripal are caught on CCTV in Salisbury. Both men insist they were sightseeing

up by legal officers, the EU said: '*Anatoliy Vladimirovich Chepiga and Alexander Mishkin possessed, transported and then, during the weekend of 4 March 2018, in Salisbury, used a toxic nerve agent for which the UK has charged them with attempted murder. Igor Olegovich Kostyukov, head of the GRU, and Vladimir Stepanovich Alexseyev, the deputy head, are both accused, given his senior leadership role to be responsible for the possession, transport and use of the nerve agent*'.

Olegovich Kostyukov is acting chief of the GRU following the death of Director Igor Korobov in November 2018.

The sanctions essentially mean the four men would be detained in EU nations; any assets



GRU Acting Director Olegovich Kostyukov

held in any of the countries would also be frozen.

Chepiga and Mishkin have denied any involvement in the attack, so too the GRU. Following the EU action, Russia's Foreign Ministry said it would "respond to this unfriendly action," claiming the "weight of evidence does not stand up to scrutiny." Kremlin officials also warned that the sanctions circumnavigated proper procedures which should have involved the United Nations Security Council.

CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Russian-stated owned media continue to shield the GRU from any involvement. The primary theme being - British Intelligence were authorised to create the plot in order to '*cause scandal and distraction for failing to negotiate favourable terms for departing the European Union*'. One story which has received much coverage, "adding to the intrigue," according to one senior RT editor, is that one of the first persons on the scene to treat the Skripals, and



GRU HQ buildings, Moscow



Skripal's home in Salisbury has undergone much rebuilding after Novichok contamination



Alexander Mishkin and Anatoliy Vladimirovich Chepiga

who was in close proximity to the bench where the couple fell ill, "just happened to be the British Army's most senior nurse."

Noting that in all the UK's media reporting of the incident, the person was described as an off-duty nurse, RT's editorial reported: *'Skeptics will say it's a hell of a coincidence that Britain's most senior military nurse and her family were celebrating her son's birthday at just the right time, and in just the right place, to get involved in arguably the decade's biggest spy scandal in Britain. Perhaps stranger things have happened'*.

Besides action against the GRU, five employees from Syria's Scientific Studies and Research Centre, involved in the manufacture of chemical weapons, were also sanctioned.



The bench where the Skripals fell ill is removed by specialists

Our Guys In Salisbury

Novichok Board Game Released by Russian Toy Company



Two Russians, Nikita Filipov and Mikhail Bober have sparked fury after creating a board game called *'Our Guys in Salisbury'*. Players retrace the steps two assassins took to Salisbury in an attempt to kill former GRU officer Sergei Skripal. The game, manufactured by Igroland, a toy company based in the Russian city of Yekaterinburg, begins in Moscow and ends in Salisbury with figures dressed in Hazmat suits. The player who reaches Salisbury first to 'deliver' the Novichok nerve agent wins.

Other cities which attackers 'Alexander Petrov' and 'Ruslan Boshirov' (aliases) visited, are part of the game. These include Geneva, Tel Aviv, London and Minsk. Items associated with the attack, including a spray bottle bearing a green skull and cross bones, and pictures of the faces of two alleged GRU attackers also feature.

The game, which sold out shortly after its release in December 2018, has been condemned in the West for its "shocking disregard" for the victims.

In a joint statement the designers said: "We didn't want to offend anyone. On the contrary, we wanted to support our countrymen who might be offended by this situation - a lot of things are said and a lot of it without any proof."

However, in an interview on YouTube, the designers said they had grown tired of Western coverage of the attack. Mikhail Bober, who joined Igroland last year, said he came up with the idea for the



Game creators Nikita Filipov and Mikhail Bober



The perfume bottle and packaging which housed the Novichok nerve agent used in the Salisbury attack

game in part because of the scale of coverage of the Skripal poisoning by the foreign press, and Western accusations that Russia was responsible.

"It's a humorous response to the torrent of dirt and information from the Western media directed at our nation," said Bober. "We wanted to 'outgame' this torrent. Because in this situation it seems that any Russian is a spy, GRU agent, hacker or so on. In some way, this was an idea... our answer to Western media: enough already. To us, it's not funny any more. It's sad. This needs to stop."

The controversial game is one of several attempts in Russia to play down the affair and make light of the incident. Since December, Russian media house RT has been selling

black T-shirts bearing the question, 'Do you work for GRU?' More distasteful, RT reportedly sent out chocolate Salisbury Cathedrals as corporate end-of-year gifts to other news agencies. The two GRU men accused of the attack said they had travelled to Salisbury to visit the cathedral.

Salisbury's former mayor, Jo Broom, said: "I think it's extremely sad and shows a shocking disregard really for all those that have been involved in the tragedy last year. I think it's bad taste to do something like this, especially when we're trying to move on and inject some positivity back into the city and this sort of smacks of a bit of a kick in the teeth really. I am surprised by it. I think this is a step beyond isn't it, really? It's taking it to another level."

Asked whether he would consider making other games about recent events in Crimea or Ukraine, Bober said: "Definitely not, a fair number of people have died there, there are a lot of opinions and everyone has their own truth. There are victims there, it would be stupid to use it in a commercial project."

The consensus in the intelligence world is that 'Our Guys in Salisbury' (also called 'Our People in Salisbury') is not a 'game' and



RT GRU t-shirt

certainly not humorous. It does, however, "reflect the Kremlin's response and attitude to the attack and events thereafter," a former MI5 agent told Eye Spy.

COMRADE PUTIN

Another board game released in January 2015, also drew attention from the intelligence world. Described as "crowd-funded and patriotic," - players of 'Comrade Pu Conquers Estonia', attempt to retake Estonia from Russian forces who have invaded. The game has become popular with Estonians who fear Russia armed aggression and features a caricature of President Putin on the box lid, though he is not specifically named in the game or accompanying literature.

One of the cards states: 'Don't allow Russia to get help from Kazakhstan in its conquest of the Baltic countries'.



Many in the Baltic state, which became an independent country from the USSR in 1991, fear invasion is a real possibility and the game's creators say the idea was borne from Ukraine-Russia tensions.

In recent years the country has hosted several NATO exercises, the latest being Operation Siil/ Steadfast Javelin in the summer of 2018 to test security.



May 2018. British Army troops participate in NATO's Operation Siil (Hedgehog), Estonia

TAKE TWO: MIKHAIL LESIN

DOCUMENTS COULD POINT TO ALTERNATIVE REASONS FOR DEATH

WASHINGTON DC: On 13 February, Hiram Puig-Lugo, a Washington judge, ordered the release of autopsy records and other files in the investigation of Mikhail Lesin, the former Russian Press Minister who was found dead in a hotel room under suspicious circumstances in 2015.

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit was filed by Radio Free Europe (FRE/RL - Russia), a media outlet with journalists who report in 23 countries where a free press is banned by the government or not fully established.

Washington lawyers argued turning over the documents could compromise how DC City Police or even the FBI conducted investigations. The judge said the arguments were too broad and rejected move by lawyers that privacy interests of Lesin's family outweigh the public interest in the circumstances surrounding his death.

An initial report by the medical examiner's office declared Lesin's death to be caused by blunt-force trauma, but said the manner of death was "undetermined." But the final report, released in October 2016 by the US Attorney's Office for Washington and City Police, called his death accidental, caused by blunt-force injuries to the neck, torso, and lower upper extremities, "which were induced by falls." Acute ethanol intoxication was cited as a contributing factor.

The report was met with deep suspicion by business acquaintances and others familiar with the once-powerful, wealthy Kremlin insider. It was reported Lesin had been in contact with the Justice Department in the months leading up to his death. This liaison caused suspicion in intelligence circles that the Russian had been deliberately targeted by external forces. His name is being linked to the so-called *Russian Assassination List*.



Mikhail Lesin with President Putin

NO ACCESS FOR 90 YEARS

ISRAEL MOVES TO PROTECT INTELLIGENCE FILES

TEL AVIV: The Office of President Netanyahu has announced an amendment to the classification regulations protecting documents associated with its intelligence services.

Previously, secret files submitted by the Mossad and Shin Bet were kept secret for 70 years. The new regulations extend the period to 90 years and now include other government agencies such as the

Israel Institute for Biological Research, Israel Atomic Energy Commission, military cyber units, as well as government-run research institutes and commissions.

President Netanyahu said the amendment would protect Israel's assets and informants, that many of the documents describe current operation methods and "could harm Israel's foreign relations."

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Five Eyes objective: Squeeze Huawei
and remove Chinese espionage threats



THE SUM OF ALL CYBER FEARS

Five Eyes Influence Evident as China Spy Squeeze Spreads

Officers from Poland's ABW (Internal Security Agency), have arrested a representative of China's Huawei telecommunications company and a former Polish security official on charges of espionage - this as the FBI reveal details of an extensive intelligence probe into Huawei's links to the MSS



Intelligence sources believe the move follows collaboration between the ABW, CIA and FBI and follows the arrest of Meng Wanzhou - the daughter of Huawei's founder - Ren Zhengfei* - in Vancouver, Canada, in December.

An ABW spokesperson identified the men as Wang Weijing A.k.a. Stanislaw Wang, a Huawei sales director and Piotr D., reportedly a former agent of the ABW who works for telecoms company Orange Polska.

Huawei moved quickly to distance itself from Weijing's alleged activities by announcing he had been sacked after "bringing the company into disrepute." An official said Huawei employees must "abide by laws and regulations in the countries where they are based." Poland said its probe was not directly linked to the company, but an ABW source acknowledged that an investigation was ongoing and analysis taking place regarding Huawei activities in Poland.

Cyber investigative specialists reportedly searched Huawei's local Warsaw headquarters and that of Orange Polska. The investigative teams were supported by specialists from two unnamed overseas intelligence agencies.

INTELLIGENCE CONDUIT

The incident follows major international concerns that parts of the firm are acting (or could act in future years) as an intelligence collection conduit of China's intelligence service within the MSS. Eye Spy sources referenced CIA and FBI probes linked to a 2017 Chinese National Intelligence Law. In this, one line triggered concern: *Organisations and citizens shall, in accordance with the law, support, cooperate and collaborate in national intelligence work*.





ABW Director Piotr Pogonowski

Wanzhou was acting as the company's senior financial officer and now faces extradition to the United States. US Senator Ben Sasse a member of the Senate Armed Services and Banking Committees accused Huawei of being an "agent of the Chinese Communist Party," and welcomed Canada's action. US National Security Advisor John Bolton said: "We are all



Meng Wanzhou



Huawei headquarters, Shenzhen, China

concerned about theft of intellectual property and Chinese telecoms companies that are being used by China for intelligence gathering purposes."

Both counter-intelligence operations coincide with a major international investigation into possible breaches of sanctions imposed on Iran by Washington. Part of the charge sheet against Wanzhou includes commentary that she *'misled banks about Huawei's business and trade dealings with Iran'*. Another section read: *'...allegedly defrauding multiple financial institutions in breach of US-imposed bans on*

dealing with Iran'. North Korea has also been cited by intelligence people. In what seemed like a 'tit-for-tat' response by Beijing, two Canadians were detained in December in China, including former Canadian diplomat Michael Kovrig and businessman Michael Spavor; a third Canadian was detained in January 2019. All were "suspected of engaging in activities that harmed Chinese national security."

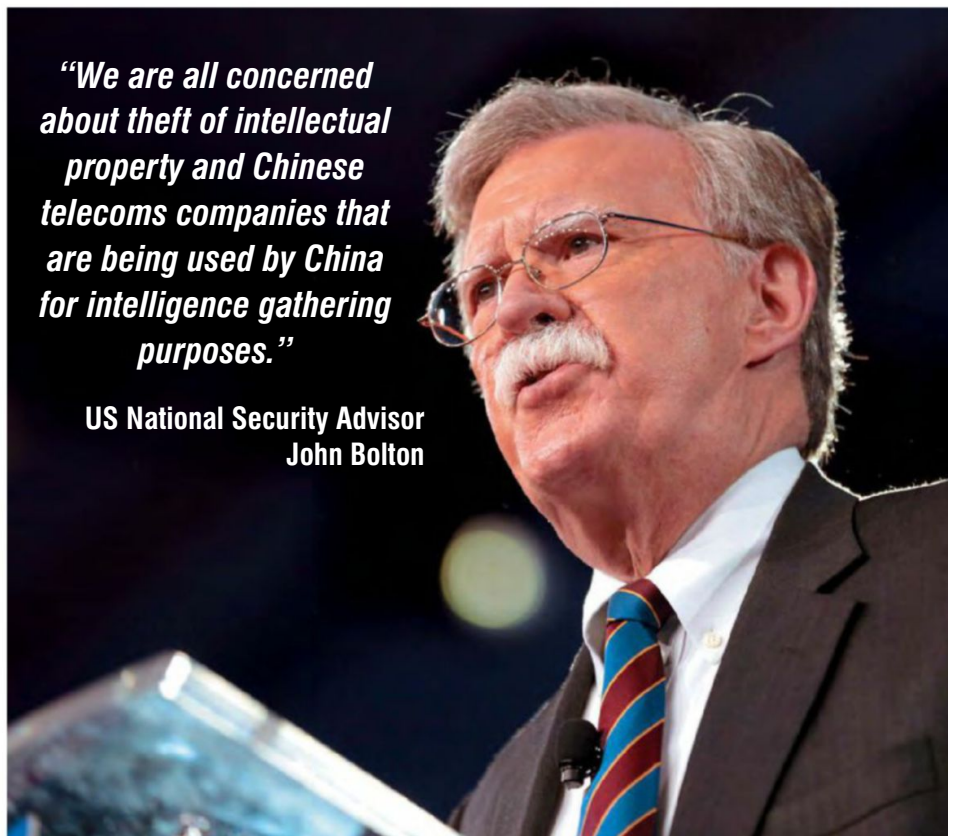
A Chinese Government spokesman said there would be further "grave consequences" if Meng Wanzhou was not freed. ➤



ABW headquarters, Warsaw, Poland

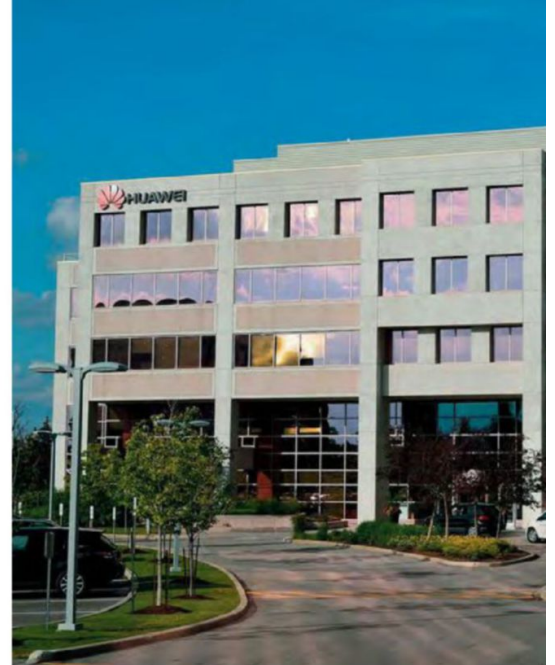
"We are all concerned about theft of intellectual property and Chinese telecoms companies that are being used by China for intelligence gathering purposes."

US National Security Advisor John Bolton





Huawei testing laboratory within its headquarters in Shenzhen



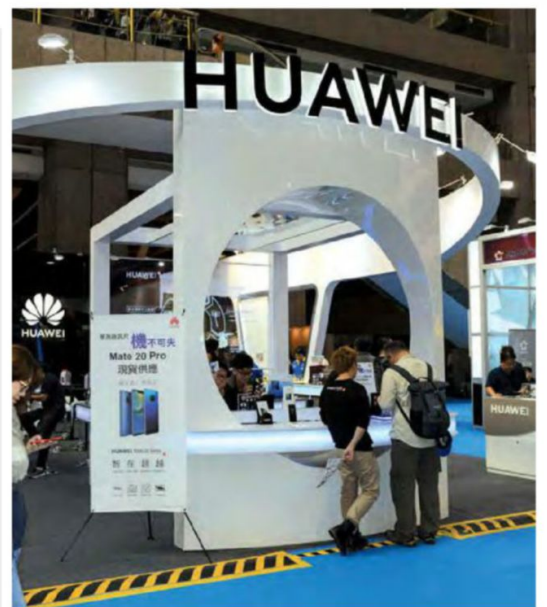
Michael Kovrig

used in thousands of American Government computer systems, including those operating in intelligence and national security environments. Besides China's National Intelligence Law which directs companies to assist the MSS at all times, the CIA believes other programmes have been created which Chinese Intelligence and cyber specialists could engage and subvert without the knowledge of Huawei.

In August 2018, Washington concluded that there was a real danger that equipment could allow a "backdoor" to be used by Chinese spies" and a bill was signed that essentially disallowed US Government bodies from using Huawei equipment. And though at present this does not affect the private industry, President Trump has referenced an executive order which would effectively ban US companies from using the Chinese technology.

DIRECT US ACTION

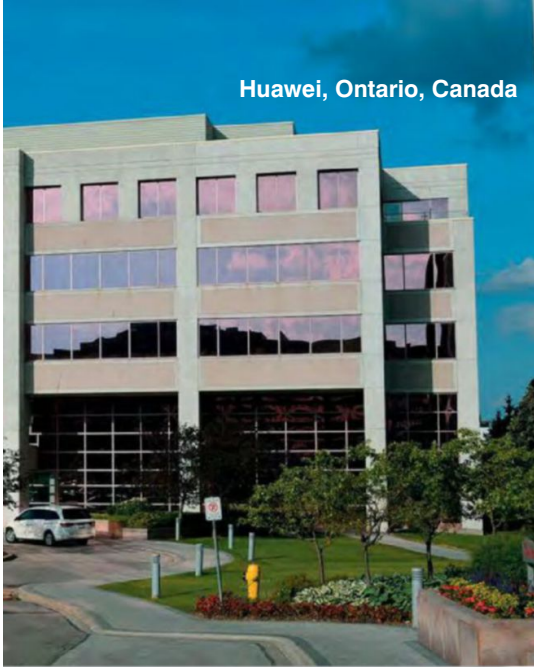
The collective actions follow a major US investigative probe which began in 2016 into possible breaches of security, including espionage, enabled by Huawei technology



Huawei's growth in the electronics markets, especially in communication and computer systems has concerned Western intelligence agencies - all fearful of 'backdoor' MSS entry within their own respective networks



Huawei, Ontario, Canada



Huawei founder - Ren Zhengfei

Just weeks after the Polish action, the United States Government charged China's communication giant Huawei Technologies with Conspiracy to Defraud, Bank Fraud, Theft of Trade Secrets, Wire Fraud and over dozen other offences, following a major intelligence-led investigation. The probe was headed by the FBI counter-intelligence sections in various cities, and assisted by security bodies in the US, Canada and elsewhere. The move comes at a time of major Western Intelligence fears over the company's links to China's Intelligence Service operated by the Ministry of State Security.

FBI Director Christopher Wray said: "The charges are the result of years of investigative work conducted by the FBI and our law enforcement partners. Both sets of charges expose Huawei's brazen and persistent actions to exploit American companies and financial institutions and to threaten the free and fair global marketplace."

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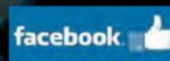
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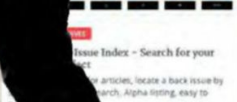
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MI6 Chief Alex Younger

Some of the charges are directly linked to financial institutions with threads to Iran, which breached US national laws and espionage.

Wray referenced one act of espionage involving an operation to steal details of advanced equipment being tested by T-Mobile. A number of Huawei specialists granted access to the tests allegedly attempted to secure the technology and then sought to conceal their actions.

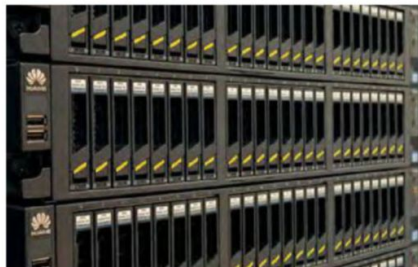
Huawei's involvement were a "clear attempt to circumvent hard-earned, time-consuming research and gain an unfair market advantage," said Wray. The Bureau said that the charges reveal the immense influence the MSS holds over companies like Huawei and are an obvious threat.

FIVE EYES FEARS

In recent months, the Five Eyes (NSA, GCHQ, CSE, GCSB and ASD) collaboration has provided intelligence to their respective governments that has resulted in moves to restrict the roll-out of Huawei technology used in fast 5G mobile networks. Australia, New Zealand and the United States have blocked Huawei from their 5G sensitive infrastructure networks, while in the UK, the country's primary telecommunications provider BT (British Telecommunications), announced it would "not use Huawei's equipment in its core 5G infrastructure."

MI6 WATCHFUL

MI6 Chief Alex Younger recently referenced the growing prowess of Huawei: "We need to decide the extent to which we are going to be comfortable with Chinese ownership of these technologies and these platforms in an environment where some of our allies have taken a very definite position." He too referenced Chinese law: "In China they have a different legal and ethical framework. They are able to use and manipulate data sets on a



scale that we can only dream of." Referencing China, Russia and North Korea, and the "old fashioned methodology that MI6 was built on," Younger said MI6 is "shifting focus to the nexus between humans and technology." His views were shared by UK Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson who expressed "grave and very deep concerns" about Huawei supplying technology to upgrade Britain's 5G services.

However, UK cyber analysts from GCHQ and its National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), believe Huawei equipment utilised in 5G networks can be "managed." Former GCHQ Director Robert Hannigan believes technology used by the cyber intelligence arms can provide protection and evaluation.



Former GCHQ Director Robert Hannigan



Internal Affairs Minister Joachim Brudziński

Other countries are also probing if the Chinese Intelligence-linked company should be allowed access to communications platforms, including Germany, Norway and the Czech Republic.

NATO too have now been urged to join the debate concerning how much Huawei technology should be allowed into Europe and used by its forces. Following the incident in Poland, Internal Affairs Minister Joachim Brudziński called for NATO and Europe to take a unified stance regarding Chinese communications systems.

Also relevant to the Chinese cyber and communications debate, intelligence specialists note Israel's spy services Mossad and Shin Bet, and its defence arms (IDF) have long refrained from using Huawei technologies fearful of security breaches.

*Ren Zhengfei is a former engineer in the Chinese Army and a Communist Party member.



FBI Director Christopher Wray, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross (left) and Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker announce the charges against Huawei

US TRAITOR IDENTIFIED

Iranian Penetration of US Cyber Networks Continues

Monica Elfriede Witt, 39, a former USAF counter-intelligence specialist who served from 1997 through 2008 and then as a cleared defence contractor until 2010, has been charged with conspiring to deliver and delivering national defence information to representatives of the Iranian government. Witt, a field operative, had studied Persian and carried out covert missions in Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

"Once a holder of a Top Secret Security Clearance, Monica Witt actively sought opportunities to undermine the United States and support the government of Iran - a country which poses a serious threat to our national security," said Executive Assistant Director Jay Tabb of the FBI's National Security Branch.

"She is alleged to have revealed to Iran the existence of a highly classified intelligence collection programme and the true identity of a US intelligence officer, thereby putting the life of that individual at risk," said Assistant Attorney General John Demers of the Department of Justice's National Security Division.

In 2012, Witt was warned by the FBI that she was a possible target for recruitment by the Iranian intelligence service MOIS. She told Bureau officials she would never reveal the work she did for the USAF, however, something changed while serving in Iraq, and she underwent a transformation.



Kirk Stabler head of the AFOSI



Embassy in Kabul and 'told all', according to the written indictment. In addition to assisting in the manufacture of anti-American videos and films, along with four cyber co-conspirators named as Mojtaba Mosoumpour, Behzad

She told investigators: "I was a Christian, though I was not a religious person and never went to church. During my mission in Iraq, I decided to learn more about the people's beliefs and religion. I believed it would help me to better confront the enemy. I got a copy of the Quran and started reading it."

In June 2013, she entered the Iranian



Monica Elfriede Witt

Mesri, Hossein Parvar, and Mohamad Paryar, she sought to deploy malware and spearfishing campaigns. Prosecutors said these "would provide the operatives covert access to the targets' computers and networks." The Iranian team created false identities and positions in a bid to make contact and target persons and computer networks operated by government agencies in the United States. All five are referenced as being part of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which supports one of the world's biggest cyber arms.



Mojtaba Mosoumpour, Behzad Mesri, Hossein Parvar and Mohamad Paryar



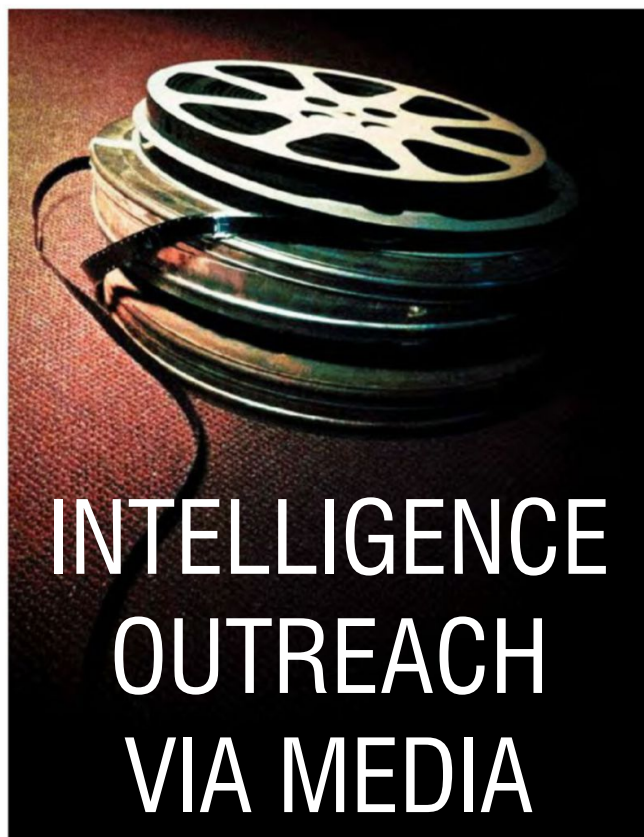
AFOSI investigative interview. Inset: Monica Witt wanted poster

Another Witt note secured by counter-espionage officers was equally damning: 'If all else fails, I may just go public with a programme and do like Snowden', a reference to NSA/CIA traitor Edward Snowden.

"The case underscores the dangers to our intelligence professionals and the lengths our adversaries will go to identify them, expose them, target them, and, in a few rare cases, ultimately turn them against the nation they swore to protect," said Demers.

The investigative probe, which began in 2017, was a multi-intelligence effort assisted by the US Air Force of Special Investigation (AFOSI).

As for Witt and her four indicted coconspirators, they remain at large.



INTELLIGENCE OUTREACH VIA MEDIA

MI6: WE ARE JUST LIKE YOU

MI6 has distanced itself further from a time when recruitment sometimes involved a 'tap on the shoulder', entry through a 'nod' from a serving relative or an invitation made via an Establishment friend at one of London's top gentleman's clubs.

In 2018, the Service launched its first television recruitment advertisement which was shown in cinemas - this in a bid to attract new talent and staffers from all walks of life. Now it has produced a short film it describes as the 'Barbershop Advert' with a tagline #secretlywerejustlikeyou.



The new production, which features on YouTube and Google Display, is aimed at reaching out to people who may not have necessary thought about applying for a job in the secret world of intelligence. The commentary which accompanies the advert tries to downplay the '007' misconception of those who work in the industry, beginning with "it's not like finding the secret button for your ejector seat... it's finding common ground with a stranger and gaining their trust." Intelligence watchers believe the word 'trust' is key for the barber is using a cut-throat razor and the customer has undoubtedly got faith in his hands.

An advertising section on its website to accompany news of the advert states:

If you've never considered a career in SIS, then you're probably exactly who we're looking for. There's no such thing as a 'type' of SIS officer, and

while we have always attracted talent, in order to remain one of the best intelligence services in the world, we need to harness talent from the widest possible range of backgrounds and experiences. That could include you.

There are many misconceptions about what it's like to work for SIS, and the sort of people who work here: you're all from privileged backgrounds; you can't balance family or social life with a career in SIS. In fact we are more like you than you think. Many officers balance fulfilling careers with caring commitments, have active social lives and come from a range of educational backgrounds.

The advert is part of a new broad recruiting campaign in which the Service hopes to attract around 1,000 new recruits. This will see its overall staffing levels rise to around 4,500.



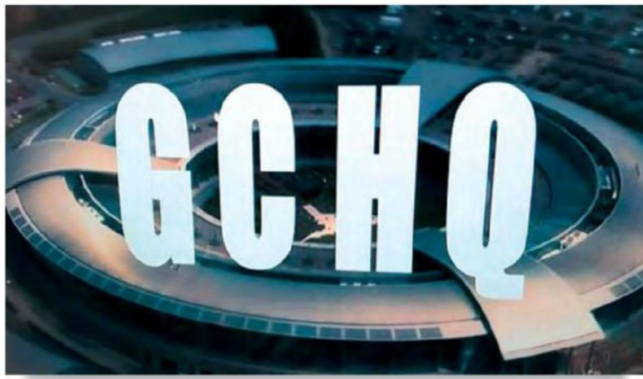
GCHQ INVADED BY ET AND DR WHO

Another British Intelligence agency that recently engaged with television media is the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ). The organisation delighted both Dr Who fans and followers of their official Twitter account by Tweeting confirmation

that it had survived a 'Dalek' attack shown on Doctor Who's New Year's Day TV special.

In the episode, the extraterrestrial, appearing for the first time in the Jodie Whittaker era, entered GCHQ in Cheltenham and was confronted by a worker. The unfortu-





nate employee was quickly despatched by the invader who announced: "Communication headquarters acquired... Earth is annexed." The Dalek then managed to temporarily shut off Britain's Wi-Fi at GCHQ, before Doctor Who came to the rescue to fend them off.

'We've just about finished cleaning up the mess from the Dalek attack last night', GCHQ



tweeted from its official account, usually reserved for more serious subjects, adding: 'We're happy to confirm that GCHQ is still at full operational capability'.

WHEN MEDIA AND INTEL LIAISE

SECRET ENGAGEMENTS PREVALENT FOR INFLUENCE AND WHEN IT SUITS

Whilst engaging with social media and its numerous platforms is becoming something of a 'norm' for some spy services, the influence of powerful intelligence and defence agencies is very much in evidence in the motion picture and television worlds.

Some organisations deny involvement, but the CIA for example, established an Entertainment Industry Liaison Office over

20-years ago, and openly acknowledges it provides substance and guidance to producers and writers alike. Critics however, believe Langley's endeavour was primarily intended to help "paint the Agency in a better light," using "subtle influence." One intelligence source told Eye Spy, that whilst such offices can and do assist productions, "there is evidence that on too many occasions scenes and scripts are altered to suit the Agency."



Gary Oldman (right) played John le Carré's famous MI6 spy George Smiley in the utterly convincing movie adaptation of his novel - *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*

CIA ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY LIAISON OFFICE - STATEMENT

As an organisation that plays a key role in America's defence, the CIA is a frequent subject of books, motion pictures, documentaries, and other creative ventures. For years, artists from across the entertainment industry - actors, authors, directors, producers, screenwriters, and others - have been in touch with the CIA to gain a better understanding of our intelligence mission. Our goal is an accurate portrayal of the men and women of the CIA, and the skill, innovation, daring, and commitment to public service that defines them.

If you are part of the entertainment industry, and are working on a project that deals with the CIA, the Agency may be able to help you. We are in a position to give greater authenticity to scripts, stories, and other products in development. That can mean answering questions, debunking myths, or arranging visits to the CIA to meet the people who know intelligence - its past, present, and future. In some cases, we permit filming on our headquarters compound. (Please visit our Headquarters Virtual Tour.) We can also provide stock footage of locations within and around our main building.

Intelligence is challenging, exciting, and essential. To better convey that reality, the CIA is ready for a constructive dialogue with a broad range of creative talents.



Chris Cooper played FBI traitor Robert Hanssen in the movie *Breach*

Documents secured from recent US Freedom of Information Acts (FOIA) requests show that 800 films, documentaries and plays have received support and guidance from US Government bodies such as the Defense Department. The CIA has been referenced around 60 times. Materials suggest movies such as the powerful *Recruit* starring Al Pacino who operated at a CIA training centre and *Zero Dark Thirty* - the hunt for Osama bin-Laden received guidance from Langley.

No intelligence agency likes to be portrayed in a bad light, especially in movies: and in some cases

object to certain scenes and themes. Whilst MI6 has long recognised the character James Bond has been a useful recruiting tool, it favours more realistic portrayals of its staffers and front-line agents - hence its very mundane adverts.

Eye Spy was informed that the film *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* is a firm favourite amongst the Service's higher echelons. In the United States, experienced and long serving officers have cited three movies: *Breach*, *The Good Shepherd* and *Bridge of Spies* - all of which give an insight into some field operations, the mind-set of officers and work in the US Intelligence Community (USIC).





FROM THE WORLD OF COUNTER-TERRORISM RACE AGAINST THE CLOCK

FBI Seeks Justice for ISIS 'Beatles' Victims

The FBI is hastily trying to bring two suspected ISIS terrorists, Alexandra Kotey and El Shafee Elsheim, to stand trial in the United States. The pair, alleged members of a British ISIS terrorist cell dubbed 'Beatles', are being held in Syria by Kurdish fighters. However, with the unexpected announcement by President Trump signalling the withdrawal of US troops from the region, this has concerned security officials who fear the men could be freed by ISIS supporters or simply let go by their captors who are increasingly overstretched.

The US wanted a fast extradition but there have been delays due to



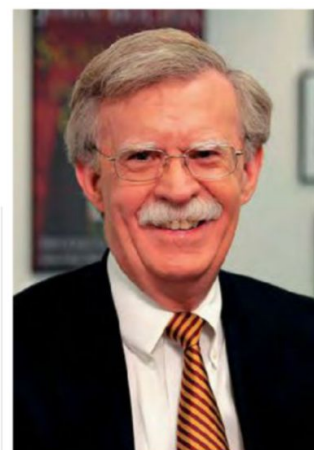
Steven Sotloff

legal challenges in the UK where the men had citizenship. Now both have been stripped of their citizenship, and Home Secretary Sajid Javid provided information to the US to be used to prosecute

the men, without first seeking a guarantee that they will not be put to death. The family of El Shafee Elsheim challenged the Home Office's decision to assist US prosecutors without such assurances.

However, the challenge has been rejected. Lord Chief Justice Lord Burnett and Justice Garnham issued a joint statement: "There is no general, common law duty on Her Majesty's Government to take positive steps to protect an individual's life from the actions of a third party and that includes requiring particular undertakings before complying with the MLA (Mutual Legal Assistance) request."

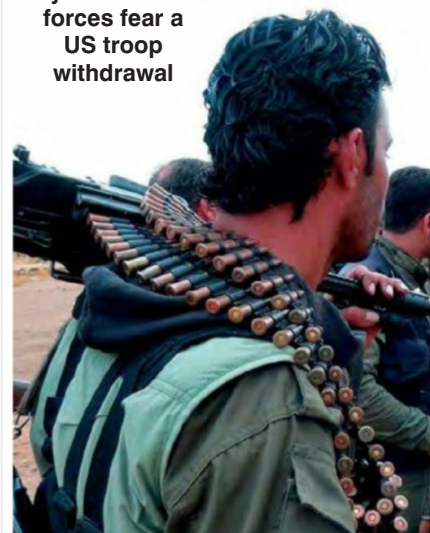
Kotey is accused by the US State Department of having "likely engaged in the group's executions and exceptionally cruel torture" of Western journalists and aid worker hostages. Elsheim was said to have "earned a reputation for water-boarding, mock executions, and crucifixions," according to a State Department spokesperson. The ISIS execution cell, the Beatles, is accused by the State Department of "holding captive and beheading approximately two dozen hostages," including American journalists



John Bolton

James Foley and Steven Sotloff and aid worker Peter Kassig. They also are accused of murdering British aid workers David Haines and Alan Henning.

YPG fighters in Syria. Kurdish forces fear a US troop withdrawal



El Shafee Elsheim



Alexandra Kotey

TUNISIA TERRORIST ACTS

LIFE SENTENCES FOR SUPPORT CELL MEMBERS

Seven terrorists have been jailed for life in Tunisia for their role in attacks in March and June 2015, which left 60 people dead. Most of those killed were tourists, including 30 Britons.

In the first attack at the Bardo National Museum, gunmen killed 22. Three months later lone terrorist Seifeddine Rezgul killed 38 people on beaches, streets and at the Hotel Rui Imperial Marhaba complex at Port El Kantaoui near the popular resort of Sousse.

All the men who participated in the actual attacks were killed by security service members. They were supported by associates aligned to al-Qaida and are suspected of receiving specialist training in Libya. The planner of the attacks - Chamseddine al-Sandi - was never captured, but reports from Libya suggest he was amongst a group of terrorists targeted and eliminated in a US air strike in 2016.

Following the Bardo attack, a Tunisian counter-terrorist unit

raided a terrorist safe house which was connected to the incident and killed 10 operatives. Thereafter several raids led to the detention of more than 15 suspects. Other arrests were made in North Africa.

The Tunisian government blames an al-Qaida affiliate group called Okba Ibn Nafaa Brigade for both incidents, but predictably, ISIS insisted it was behind the outrages.

Besides life sentences for the seven men, a number of other



Chamseddine al-Sandi

associates linked to the group received lesser sentences.

Since the resort attacks, many holidaymakers have avoided Tunisia, however, security has been stepped-up throughout destinations popular with visitors.



Seifeddine Rezgul



Bardo Museum Memorial to the victims of the terrorist attack



Peter Kassig moments before his murder

As for the return of US fighting forces from Syria, US National Security Adviser John Bolton said

that the protection of the Kurds would be a condition of the withdrawal. This has upset Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan who sees the fighting YPG Kurds as terrorists. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that discussions with Turkey on the matter were ongoing, but he was confident that an agreement could be reached.

Kurds fighting ISIS elements in Syria and Iraq say their morale has been affected.



David Haines

ISIS LEADER SURVIVES COUP

Inner Circle Turn on Terror Chief

Middle East sources claim ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi has survived an attempted coup by its last few commanders who blame him for the group's collapse.

A number of local journalists named the alleged leader of the plot as Abu Muath al-Jazairi, a foreign fighter whose nationality has been disputed. The attempted assassination reportedly took place in an unnamed village in the Euphrates River Valley, after al-Jazairi announced he was willing to pay a reward for anyone who killed al-Baghdadi.

Two gunmen who turned on the terror chief were reportedly killed by al-Baghdadi's 'private' bodyguard team. He was driven away to an undisclosed location close to the Syrian border.

In recent months the terror chief has become more isolated from his followers and a lack of guidance and instruction has caused frustration in the ISIS ranks. Al-Baghdadi has created an escape plan for the last of his inner circle. Intelligence officials believe his favoured destination is Afghanistan where ISIS has a sizable following or possibly Turkey.



Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi



AL-QAIDA RISING

Al-Shabaab Terrorists Strike Easy Targets in Kenya Again

A small, but heavily armed team of terrorists aligned to the al-Qaida supportive group Al Shabaab, stormed an office and luxury hotel complex (DusitD2) in Nairobi, Kenya, on 15 January, killing at least 21 people. Amongst the fatalities, a British charity worker named as Luke Potter and American businessman Jason Spindler. The incident occurred on the third anniversary of a major terror attack by the group on a military facility in neighbouring Somalia which resulted in dozens of troop deaths.

The latest attack, widely played out on television media, was conducted by five terrorists. CCTV footage showed the gunmen enter



Gunman caught on CCTV

the complex firing at fleeing civilians. Moments earlier several car bombs had exploded and a suicide bomber blew himself up outside the foyer and restaurant of the Dusit Hotel - heralding the start of the operation. At the time of the incident, the buildings were occupied by over 700 people. Within minutes Kenyan security



A Kenyan security officer helps civilians escape

forces assisted by external operatives, including several US Navy SEALs, and at least one SAS soldier arrived at the scene and started to evacuate office workers and guests. Both Special Forces have troops based in the city.

The terrorists moved through buildings and corridors, unconcerned their faces were visible - suggestive of a suicide operation. At least two wore suicide bomb vests. The security operation lasted for several hours, before a senior defence official declared the incident over. All the terrorists were reportedly killed, though one source said an attacker had been captured. "Terrorism will never defeat us," said Kenyan Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i.

An Al-Shabaab web site said the attack was in response to Washington's 2017 declaration recognising Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. A statement read: *'In response to the witless remarks of US President Donald Trump, and his declaration of Jerusalem as the capital, the group targeted Western and Zionist interests worldwide in support of our Muslim families in Palestine'*.

Kenya Police said five people have been detained in connection with the DusitD2 incident.



SAS soldier at the scene

A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

The attack mirrored another Al-Shabaab atrocity in Kenya in 2013, when 67 people died after terrorists attacked the Westgate shopping mall - just two miles from DusitD2. A further 150 people, primarily students were killed by the terror group in 2015, in an attack on the Garissa University College in Kenya. Two years later the group conducted its biggest act of slaughter when a massive car bomb exploded in the centre of Mogadishu, Somalia, killing an estimated 500 people and injuring hundreds more.

In 1998, al-Qaida terrorists attacked the US Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania killing 200 people.



Luke Potter



Jason Spindler



2012. Some 200 Al-Shabaab fighters engage with troops from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISON) to lay down their arms. Since then, the Somalia-based terrorist group has become more pro-active in various African countries



The terrorists torched vehicles heralding the start of the attack

ISIS THREAT STILL EXISTS

Intelligence and Special Forces Personnel Killed in Syria and Afghanistan as US Prepares to Withdraw Troops

As fears mount that an exodus of US forces in theatres such as Syria and Afghanistan could impact on security, an ISIS suicide bomber killed four Americans in Manbij on 16 January. Three were named as Army Chief Warrant Officer Jonathan Farmer, 37, Navy Chief Cryptologic Technician Shannon Kent, 35, who was based at Fort G. Meade in Maryland and Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA) civilian Scott Wirtz, 42, a former US Navy SEAL supporting Operation Inherent Resolve. Another female defence intelligence contractor was not named, but a member of her family identified her as 27-year-old Ghadir Taher, who was working as an Arabic interpreter. At least one



Jonathan Farmer



Shannon Kent

of the four worked in intelligence and was engaged in collecting information about adversaries in the area, according to US defence sources. At least 15 other people were killed, including two Syrian troops. A number of US soldiers were also injured.

The attack occurred at the Palace of Princes, a restaurant popular with US troops and personnel.

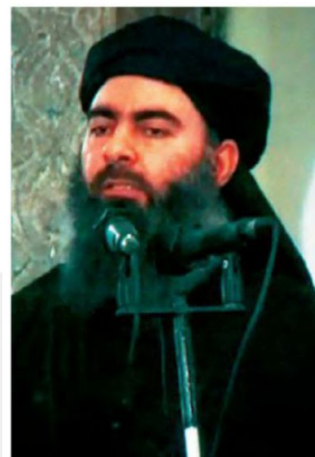
ISIS claimed responsibility via its 'Amaq press agency', saying one of its operatives detonated a body-worn vest containing explosives, though no evidence was provided.



Cameron Meddock



Scott Wirtz



In hiding - ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi

currently based in Syria, were to be withdrawn. The president declared "ISIS have been defeated," words echoed by Vice President Mike Pence who said the "caliphate had crumbled and was defeated."

A CIA estimate states that only a few areas of Syria remain under ISIS control - this amounts to just 1% of the country. Langley and Pentagon analysts said the terror group will utilise its remaining 15,000 fighters in conventional terror and guerrilla tactics.

In Afghanistan, US Army Ranger Sergeant Cameron Meddock, 26, became the first Alliance casualty of 2019. He was shot on 13 January in Badghis Province and died of his injuries whilst receiving treatment in Germany. Following the incident, US forces - part of NATO's Resolute Support mission killed 10 ISIS fighters in the area.



ISIS fighters surrender to Afghan and Alliance forces

ISIS FALL TO TALIBAN

1 August 2018. Some 250 ISIS terrorists surrender to Afghanistan troops after their defeat by the Taliban in an engagement known as the 'Battle of Darzab'. While exact numbers of ISIS dead remains unclear, one estimate puts the figure at around 500, though this is disputed.

Pentagon officials said ISIS was largely defeated by Alliance fighters and not the Taliban.

Both groups had fought each other since 2015 in an attempt to gain control of Jowzjan Province's Darzab District.



GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS HEADQUARTERS 100 YEARS

QUEEN UNVEILS PLAQUE WITH SECRET MESSAGE



The dots and dash's under certain letters spell out '1 hundred years'

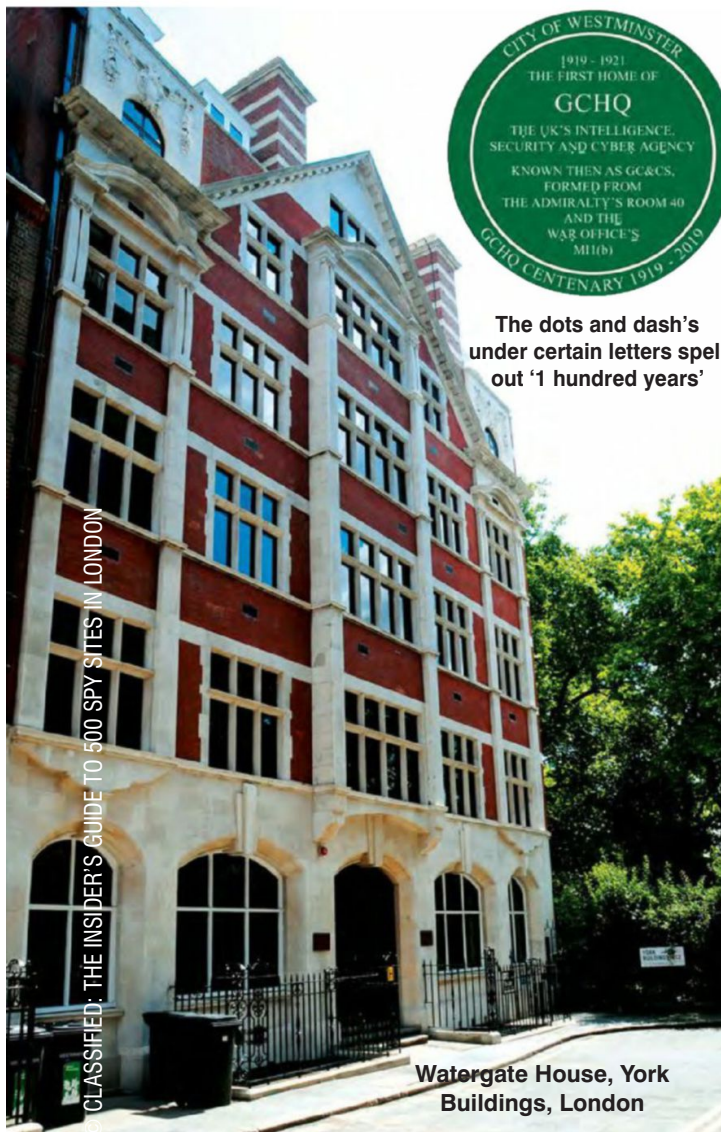
On 14 February, Queen Elizabeth unveiled a commemorative plaque at the 1919 birthplace of GCHQ as part of its centenary celebrations. The Government Code and Cypher School (GC&CS), a peacetime cryptanalytic unit made up from staff from the Admiralty's Room 40 and the War Office's MI1(b), was based at Watergate House near Charing Cross until 1921. The organisation relocated to Queen's Gate in Kensington then moved into Bletchley Park in September 1938. In 1939 the cover name of GCHQ was adopted to disguise its secret work in electronic eavesdropping and in 1952 began the process of moving to Cheltenham. The agency moved in to its iconic modern headquarters known as the 'doughnut' in 2004.

At the ceremony, the 92-year-old monarch met with the heads of all three UK intelligence agencies, GCHQ Director Jeremy Fleming, Chief of MI6 Alex Younger and Andrew Parker Director-General of MI5. The Queen said: "I suspect you are busy," to which Alex Younger replied, "We are... but we are delighted to do this."

She also met with Ruth Bourne, a WWII veteran codebreaker from Bletchley Park. During the conversation, several references were made to the work of the famous BP codebreakers. Her majesty also met the



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Watergate House, York Buildings, London

CLASSIFIED: THE INSIDER'S GUIDE TO 500 SPY SITES IN LONDON



The Queen with (L-R) GCHQ Director Jeremy Fleming, MI6 Chief Alex Younger and Director-General of MI5 Andrew Parker

grandchildren of GCHQ's first Director Alastair Denniston, and the winners of CyberFirst, a GCHQ competition for girls aged 12 to 13 to help ensure women are better represented in the cyber workforce. (See page 6)

A number of artefacts from GCHQ's collection were also shown to the Queen, including former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's cell phone scrambling device that encrypted her conversations during the 1982 Falklands War. The Queen said: "I remember my father had one, he used to get so cross when it didn't scramble... it took some time to heat up and then work."

The wording on the plaque reads: '1919 - 1921. The first home of GCHQ. The UK's



intelligence security and cyber agency. Known then as GC&CS, formed from the Admiralty's Room 40 and the War Office's MI1(b)'. The plaque, containing two secret messages honours the codebreakers from the past 100 years and the ingenuity that still runs through the organisation today.

At the ceremony GCHQ Director Jeremy Fleming said:

"It's an honour to have Her Majesty the Queen recognise this historic occasion as we celebrate 100 years of GCHQ helping to keep the country safe. Our history is full of amazing intelligence, world-leading innovation, and most of all - ingenious minds.

"It's a history defined by a belief that with the right mix of minds, anything is possible. As we enter our second century and race to remain ahead of our adversaries in the cyber age, it's our brilliant work that still defines us today. It is not glamorous, or easily portrayed



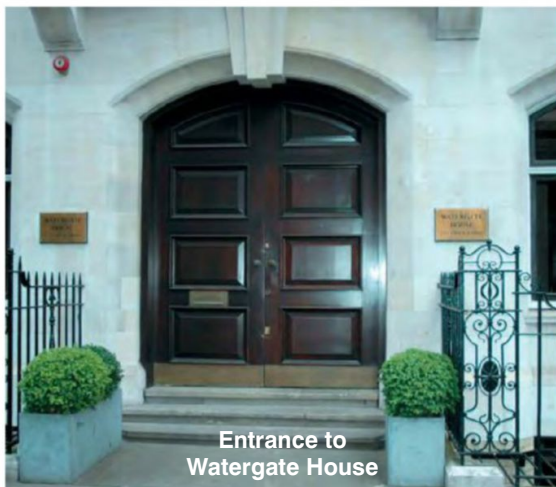
The Queen is shown a 1939 codebook used by the Royal Family and Government regarding travel arrangements

in film. But over the last one hundred years it has saved countless lives, shortened wars, given Britain an edge, and solved or harnessed some of the world's hardest technology challenges. It's clear to us all that the world is changing at an unprecedented rate.

"To keep up in this digital era - to optimise the potential of technologies like Artificial Intelligence and Quantum computing - we know we need to keep reinventing. This means making the most of the unique talent we have in GCHQ. If we get this right - and I'm confident we will - the prize is a new kind of security and intelligence mission fit for our second century."



The Queen with WWII Bletchley Park codebreaker Ruth Bourne



Entrance to Watergate House



CIA



TRADING PLACES

More Top Floor Positions Filled by Women as D/CIA Gina Haspel Rewards Long-Term Operatives

Director CIA Gina Haspel continues to reorganise the Agency's 'top floor' with the appointment of more females to run some of the organisation's most important and sensitive directorates. Elizabeth Kimber was named as the Deputy Director of the Directorate of Operations (DO), which for many years was known as the shadowy and powerful Directorate of Plans and more recently Clandestine Service.

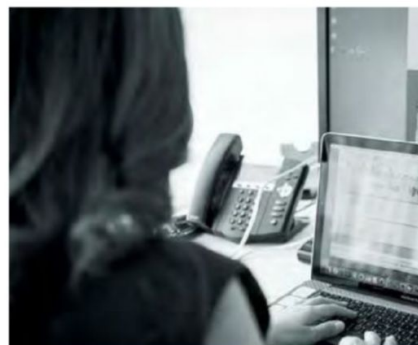
The DO continues to be at the forefront of espionage operations, intelligence collection, spy recruitment and all manner of tradecraft and dark arts. Similarly, despite some concern from politicians and oversight bodies, it has maintained its prowess and capability for conducting covert and dangerous operations. Haspel described the DO operators as "America's silent warriors."



Elizabeth Kimber

Kimber's appointment surprised some intelligence watchers and former Langley officers. However, she known in Langley as what's called an 'overt employee' in that her rise to the summit of the DO came through her three-decade long work attitude, professionalism, interpersonal skills, leadership qualities and dedication. Some also see her promotion as a reflection of the CIA's modern approach to positional fulfilment - based on merit and service - as well as other spy traits necessary to function in the clandestine arm of the Agency.

Kimber's appointment surprised some intelligence watchers and former Langley officers. However, she known in Langley as what's called an 'overt employee' in that her rise to the summit of the DO



KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

Another post recently filled by a female was head of the Directorate of Analysis (DA), previously known as the Directorate of Intelligence. Haspel appointed Cynthia Rapp, a Middle East specialist to take over from Richard Hoch who was appointed Chief Strategy Officer for the CIA.



Director CIA Gina Haspel





Sonya Holt



Dawn Meyerriecks

Rapp's lengthy career included involvement in the production of the President's Daily Brief (See Eye Spy 119) - an overview of current and important national security issues. Her new role of course

also includes intelligence analysis and insight; information gleaned from numerous CIA elements, including open source collected by her section. Here it will undergo analysis, be

given context and moved to other respective areas of the CIA for action and further processing if necessary.

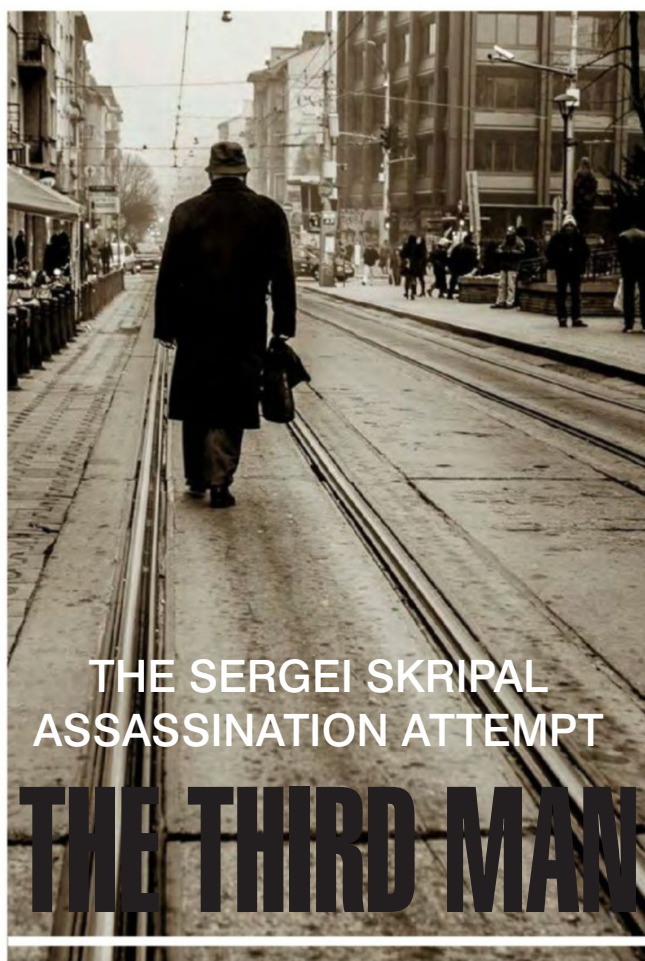
Former Deputy Director CIA Michael Morell, who in 2008 headed the analysis section, commented on Rapp's rise to the summit of one of Langley's most important directorates. "She has extensive experience as an analyst, deep integrity and has the confidence of the Director, all necessary for someone to lead the DA." Interestingly, Rapp's husband, father and mother were all CIA operatives.

In previous months, Haspel and the Agency's senior executives have moved to change the recruitment and appointment mind-set of

'intelligence traditionalists', including the creation of more defined 'Mission Centers'.

Kimber and Rapp now sit alongside Dawn Meyerriecks whose also rose through the ranks to become the CIA's Deputy Director for Science and Technology. Thus for the first time in Agency history, three top spy directorates are now headed by females. In May 2018, Sonya Holt, assumed the role of Director of Diversity (CDIO).

Langley's reorganisation of its internal and external components and staff recruitment process has also resulted in an increase of number of female employees. Almost 50% of its entire workforce are women.



Bulgarian investigation into poisoning case exposes possible third GRU operative involved in attempt to assassinate MI6 agent Sergei Skripal in UK

Tsvetan Tsvetanov, a Bulgarian politician, announced that a new investigation was being launched into the 2015 poisoning of Emilian Gebrev, a Bulgarian entrepreneur and businessman. One of his company's exports specialised in defence-related equipment to Ukraine. Gebrev also controlled a weapons manufacturing plant seen as strategically important to Bulgaria and NATO.



Emilian Gebrev

effects or possible impact on his health.

BACKGROUND

On 24 April 2015, Mr Gebrev hosted a reception in Sofia during which he, his son and one company executive fell ill. They were hospitalised for suspected poisoning and Gebrev fell into a coma. The three recovered, but a month later Gebrev was re-admitted into hospital. The poison was never identified and doctors are unsure of the long-term

FLIGHT PUZZLE

A few days before the reception, a Russian called 'Sergey Fedotov' had arrived on a flight from Moscow to Burgas, a three hour drive from Sofia. He did not show up for his return flight scheduled from Sofia on the 30th, instead he took a flight to Moscow from Istanbul, Turkey, two days earlier.

Sofia Airport,
Bulgaria



On 24 May, Fedotov returned to Bulgaria arriving from Moscow and once again did not show up for his scheduled return four days later. Instead, he returned to Moscow, this time via Serbia on 30 May.

SKRIPAL LINK

Investigators then decided to source other flights made by Fedotov. He flew into London from Moscow on the very same day GRU officers Dr. Alexander Yevgenyevich Mishkin cover name 'Alexander Petrov' and Colonel Anatoliy Chepiga cover name 'Ruslan Boshirov' arrived, but on a different flight. And just like his previous visits to Bulgaria, he failed to make the return flight scheduled for 4 March - the day Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia fell ill. Sources claim Fedotov exited the aeroplane minutes before departure, had his bags removed and allegedly flew back to Moscow via a different route in Europe. However, this is disputed by investigative sources who believe he may very well be still in the UK. Eye Spy police contacts said MI5 have always believed at least one other person, possibly supported by elements in the Russian Embassy, assisted in the Skripal operation.

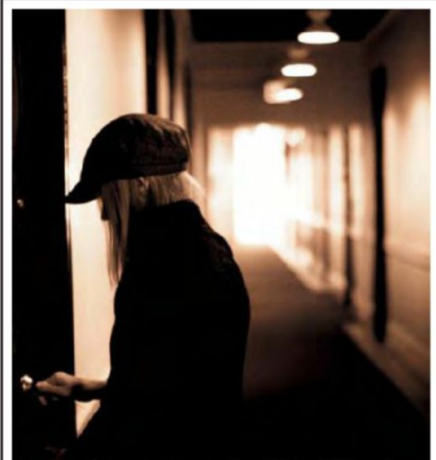
According to the Russian news outlet Fontanka, investigative website Bellingcat, together with associates in The Insider (Russia), they have managed to traced the travel itinerary of 'Sergey Fedotov' since 2010, when the name first appeared. Journeys to Europe, Asia and the Middle East have all been identified, some coinciding 'with news-making events'. Bellingcat said that the name Sergey Fedotov appears to have been created for operational purposes by Russia's intelligence services. According to the investigative web site, Fedotov appears to have no past prior to 2010, when his identity was invented using the same techniques used to create the fake identities of Petrov and Boshirov devised by the GRU (Cover and Legend).

BBC security correspondent Gordon Corera said he contacted the Russian Embassy in London and the Kremlin in Moscow regarding the tri-source reports on Fedotov. Both strongly refuted the Bellingcat report. The BBC reported: 'A Kremlin spokesman cautioned the BBC to be skeptical about Bellingcat's report, since we don't know what [its] authors based their work on [or] how competent they are'.

Continued on Page 82



Tsvetan Tsvetanov (far left)



These released notes by the CIA in 1994, reflect Soviet Intelligence Training and its Cold War association with Russia's Military Diplomatic Academy. Inclusion here is to demonstrate only the use of Cover and Legend, Infiltration and Overseas Operational Acclimatisation

MILITARY DIPLOMATIC ACADEMY

NOTES ON COVER AND LEGEND

**INTEL
INSIDE**

The military school is called a Diplomatic Academy, an allusion to the practice of using diplomatic cover for intelligence officers abroad. It accepts candidates from all the armed forces, but they must have graduated from secondary school and a military academy, have had two years' command experience and some intelligence service, and be Party members. Their health, security and service records must be outstanding. They must not be older than 32.

Recognising that its matriculants from the armed forces, for all their schooling, may not have the polish or professional scholarship expected of a military attaché, the Academy spends two years giving them as it were a B.A. in liberal arts, with courses in music and literature, philosophy and logic, psychology, and law, and some military science and military history thrown in. Only then does it get down to serious intelligence training, so its whole course lasts four years.

Beginning in the third year, the Academy's Diplomatic Preparation Department schools the student primarily for his cover duties, offering courses in diplomatic etiquette and attaché observation, collection, and reporting; but it also touches on covert tasks, operational as well as informational reporting, and the organisation of deep-cover operations.



CHECK MATE

A Game of Intrigue and Deception

Invented over 1,500-years ago, Eye Spy investigates chess and its enduring historical and modern connection to the world of espionage

M16 man and author John le Carre's 1974 *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* is a compelling and utterly embedded chapter in the narrative of the 'Great Game' of espionage. It has been likened to an international chess game, where MI6 attempt to out a KGB spy working in the highest echelons of British Intelligence, using cunning and all manner of covert moves and deception. In the 2011 film adaptation of the same name, one scene includes le Carre's most

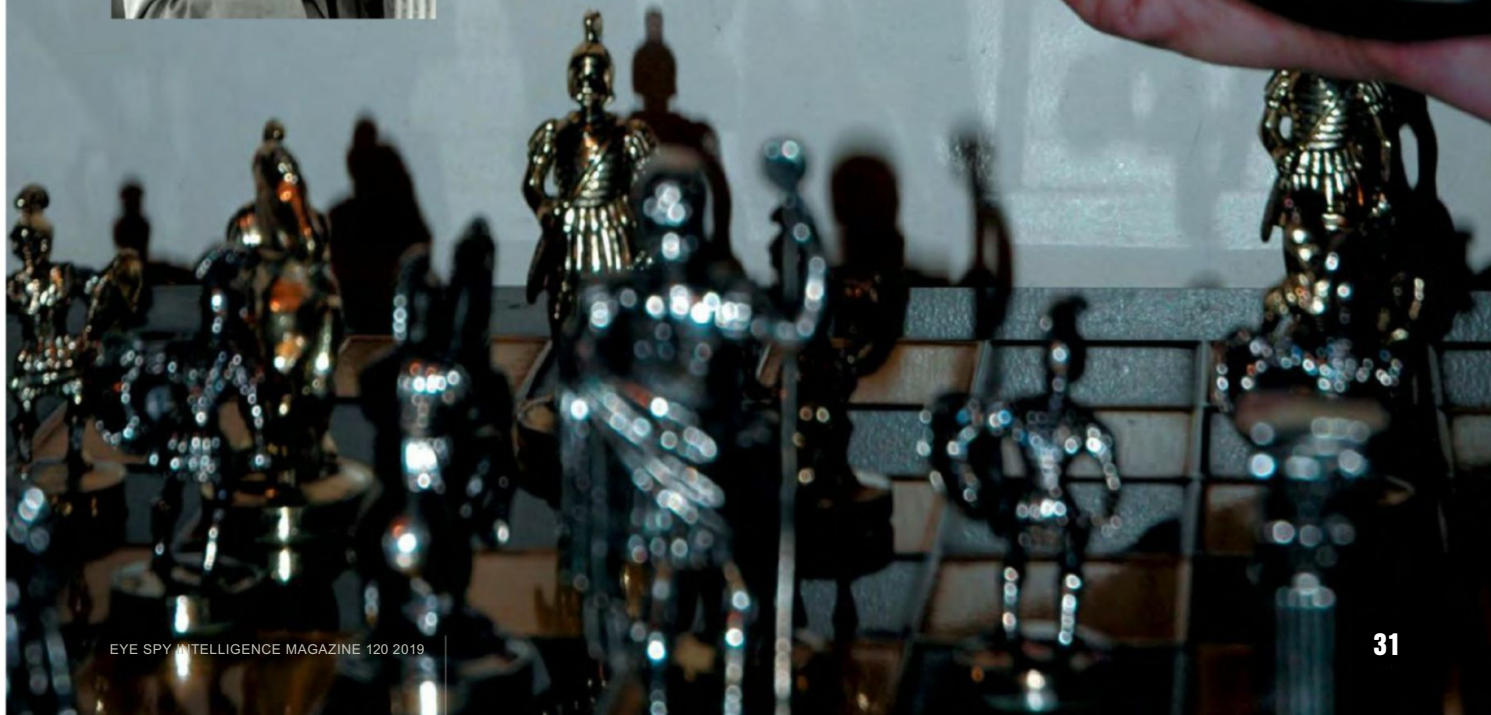
famous spy character, George Smiley (Gary Oldman), search the home of the Service's recently deceased Chief (John Hurt) for clues. He finds a chess board with a number of pieces - each with photographs attached of



John le Carre



EYE SPY EDITORIAL





the organisation's senior officers - any one of whom could be the double agent. Smiley has been likened to a 'Chess Grandmaster' who must play the game with Karla, his opposite number in the KGB. Eventually, MI6 man Bill Haydon, (Colin Firth), designated 'Tailor' is identified as the KGB spy.

Chess and intelligence also featured in the 1966 film *Funeral in Berlin* based on the book by Len Deighton. British Intelligence officer Harry Palmer (Michael Caine), is tasked with travelling to East Berlin to help arrange the defection of KGB Colonel Stok (Oskar Homolka). When Palmer enters his office in East Berlin, Stok is sitting next to a chess board and asks, "do you play chess?" When he returns to West Berlin Palmer tells an associate, "I have been playing chess."

Another MI6 officer Ian Fleming, famous for his James Bond novels was a great chess enthusiast, and occasionally inserted moments of chess-playing spies in his works, *From Russia With Love*, being one such book. He noted and described the KGB's interest in the game: "These Russians are great chess players. When they wish to execute a plot, they execute it brilliantly. The game is planned minutely, the gambits of the enemy are provided for. They are foreseen and countered... I have a feeling that you and I and this girl are pawns on a very big board - that we are being allowed our moves because they do not interfere with the Russian game."

Le Carre, Fleming and Deighton's inclusion of chess in their writings is not by chance, nor are they the only great writers to forge a link,

but their works are a reflection of how this game is inextricably linked to the world of intelligence, both overtly and in more complex and dark fields. And its connection is all encompassing and historical.

THE CHESS SOCIETY OF SPIES

Britain's WWII codebreaking centre at Bletchley Park, has always been associated with the world of espionage and chess. Some of its most famous codebreakers, including the likes of Alan Turing, Harry Golombek and Stuart Milner Barry, were all keen players. The players were all members of the Bletchley Chess Society. Indeed, the Government Code and Cipher School (GCCS) was sometimes jokingly referred to as the Golf Cheese and Chess Society.

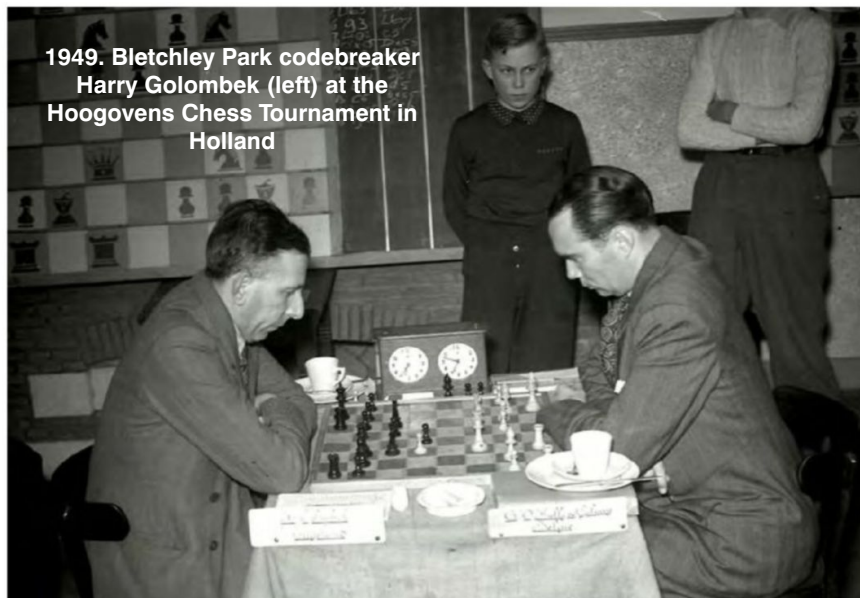
The organisation, which famously cracked the 'impenetrable' German Enigma code, is said to have been strategically located between the university cities of Oxford and Cambridge in a



Blythe House, London, was used as the imaginary headquarters of MI6's 'Circus' in the motion picture *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*



A wax sculpture of agent 'Harry Palmer' (Michael Caine) at Madame Tussauds, London



1949. Bletchley Park codebreaker Harry Golombek (left) at the Hoogovens Chess Tournament in Holland



Alan Turing

bid to attract the very best crypto analysts. Its Director, Commander Alastair Denniston, was adamant that chess players had an “aptitude for codebreaking and planning,” and is rumoured to have purposely selected some of them for work at Bletchley.

Chess player Donald Michie who operated from Hut 6 at Bletchley Park, later worked on artificial intelligence (AI) and chess computer games. Another Bletchley codebreaker and fervent chess player was Irving Jack Good, a Pole born Isadore Jacob Gudak, who endeavoured to crack all manner of German and

Japanese codes alongside Turing. He was recruited by Colonel Hugh O'Donel Alexander, a British chess champion. After his life in the shadows, Good later worked as the



Jack Good



Reuben Fine (centre) pictured with several Russian chess players in Holland

technical advisor on Stanley Kubrick's inspirational picture *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

As a warning to new recruits at Bletchley Park, senior management would advise them not to play chess for money - fearing they might just

find themselves sitting opposite some of the UK's greatest players!

Bletchley Park was not the only intelligence arm in WWII to have stalwarts of the game to help solve puzzles. Reuben Fine, was an American linguist and one of the country's most revered chess players. He was employed by the US Navy to identify German U-boat activity and the routes they took to traverse the oceans of the world.

In Sweden, senior codebreaker Ake Lundqvist was an avid chess player, who later became a Correspondence Grandmaster, on one occasion finishing third in the world championship.

CHESS MOVES AND KGB SUSPICION

Graham Mitchell, appointed Deputy Director of MI5 under Roger Hollis in 1956, was head



The Mansion House - Bletchley Park codebreaking centre



Mitchell's office was bugged inside MI5's Leconfield House HQ, London



A series of postcards was discovered years later which some claim contained cryptic messages concealed in written chess moves

of the Russian Desk and a brilliant chess player. Some in MI5, including spycatcher Peter Wright, believed he was loyal to the Service's arch enemy - the KGB. However, the evidence relating to Mitchell and a KGB link, was, according to sources, "more persuasive in nature than that of his superior." Hollis of course, has always been suspected of being a

Russian asset - though this is vigorously disputed by MI5 itself.

Nevertheless, in the climate of the Cold War, so concerned was MI5, that under the auspices of an operation codenamed PETERS, Mitchell's house near Chobham Common, London, was bugged, so too his office at the

Service's headquarters in Leconfield House. Here cameras were concealed and listening devices hidden in furniture, while a team of Watchers followed him across London and beyond. Mitchell was almost certainly aware of the covert activity, for he once shouted into a two-way mirror - "why are you doing this to me?" The MI5 man was fully aware he was being surveilled.



33 South Audley Street, London. A former MI5 safe house where both Mitchell and Hollis were interviewed

Security Service officers went as far as searching through his rubbish bins. On one occasion they discovered a hand-drawn map on which was written 'RV'. There was deep suspicion this meant 'Rendezvous with KGB', and the map was a meeting point or dead letter drop.

As time went by, suspicion only grew and both he and Hollis were interviewed at an MI5 outpost in South Audley Street. Yet the spycatchers could never quite secure that one piece of evidence which could be used to build a convincing case against Mitchell. Nevertheless, the affair took its toll and in 1963 Mitchell stood down.

Half a century later a former member of Mitchell's household staff stepped forward with an intriguing clue. A batch of cryptic postcards were discovered - sent to Mitchell from an unidentified person in Germany. Each

Frankfurt/Main, 30.11.50

Dear chessfriend Mitchell,
 J beg your pardon, Sir, but J was very badly ill. J had
 a-Lungenentzündung, schwere Kiefernvereiterung and last
 not least-schwere Nierenblutungen. J hope J am recovered
 now and J am enabled to continue our game in the same
 quickly way as before.
 What news meanwhile? Have you already won
 some games? Or have you finished some others?

In our game J play: With best wishes
 19. c7-c5/37 35 very sincerely
 20. Lb3 - a4/23 14. Yours

Retype of one postcard received by Mitchell



MI5 Director-General Roger Hollis

contained a chess move. Whilst some in the intelligence world believed they represented communication between Mitchell and an overseas British agent or a colleague, others believed they had a more sinister meaning - KGB contact.

One postcard sent by a Dr Edmond Adam read: *'Dear chessfriend Mitchell'* and contains several chess moves. Another from 1950: *'Without against Dr Balogh I always have now hard fights in my games. Against Collins I have been fallen into a variation of the Nimzowich-defence who surely should be lost! I shall try to find a new idea for defending. But only a little hope. But all my games go forward in a quick way'*. A chess move followed.

Such wording still causes debate amongst the codebreakers of today's intelligence services. All very cryptic - but Mitchell would have understood the communications.

Nevertheless, there was no firm evidence against Mitchell, who dismissed all accusations made against him of being a KGB asset.

In 1987 Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher declared that a second independent investigation had cleared him. Even Britain's most suspicious spy writer - Chapman Pincher - said the allegations against him were "grotesque."

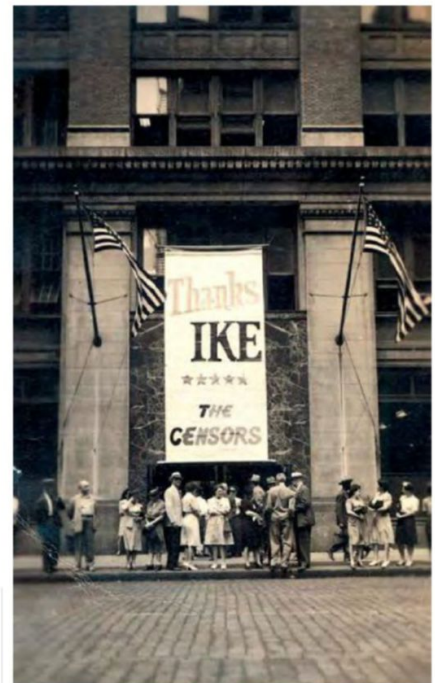
As a footnote to the Mitchell postcards, in WWII Britain's Office of Censorship and America's equivalent, banned all international chess games which utilised the postal service. It was forbidden to send postcards and letters containing chess moves - the intelligence world believing they could conceal hidden messages etc. Civilians too were not allowed to create postal chess games with service or government personnel on home territories.

GAME PLAY

Intelligence officials recognise that in the Cold War, both the West and East used chess moves on postcards as a way to conceal coded communications. Historian Gordon Thomas, the author of many fine books on intelligence said: "Chess moves were a common way of establishing contact," noting it was a preferred method used by the KGB and many a Russian's favourite pastime. However, the game's links with spylore goes far beyond writing secret messages on postcards.

In 1956, Canada's RCMP launched an investigation after intelligence was secured that diplomats from the Russian Embassy were using a chess club in Ottawa as "cover to initiate espionage operations." One of the Russians cited was Gennadi Popov who used the club to form a friendship with a former RCAF clerk. He alerted police and Popov was duly expelled from Canada for "improper activities."

Unbeknown to the Russians, the RCMP had five serving officers who were members of the chess club and monitored the Russians and



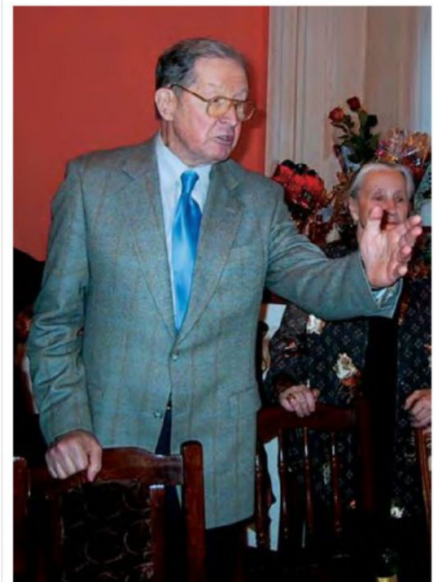
1945. US Office of Censorship, Manhattan Federal Building

their intended targets. And of course, the Ottawa embassy had been exposed years earlier as being a hub of espionage activity in 1945 by cipher clerk Igor Gouzenko, who later defected to Canada.

KGB CHAMPIONS

Russian Chess Grandmaster Yuri Averbakh admitted that throughout the 1960s and 1970s, when travel outside the USSR was at best difficult for many ordinary citizens, even the country's top players would be accompanied by a KGB officer when participating in tournaments abroad. One famous Russian

Continued on Page 79



2002. Yuri Averbakh celebrates his 80th birthday

THE FSB USB DRIVE STING

AMERICAN IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME

In what seems a direct response to recent counter-espionage operations launched by US Intelligence against suspected Russian spy operatives, Moscow authorised the arrest of Paul Whelan, 48, a former US Marine and police officer. Accused of espionage, he faces up to 20-years in prison if found guilty. A Russian Interfax news agency source said Whelan "had rejected the spy claims."

Whelan, who now works as a security officer and analyst for a Michigan-based car parts supplier, had travelled to Moscow shortly before Christmas to attend the wedding of a former Marine. FSB officers confronted him at the Hotel Metropol where he was staying. Here the FSB claim, he "gifted" them a USB drive



Paul Whelan - a 'spy pawn'?

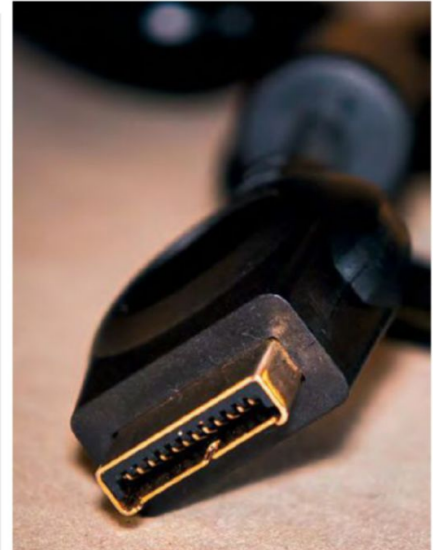
containing a list of names of people allegedly employed by the FSB and other Russian defence agencies. "He was caught during an espionage operation," an FSB official said. Kremlin spokeswoman, Maria Zakharova added: "He has been charged with committing an offence under Article 276 of the Criminal Code of Russia... that is espionage."

Eye Spy was told the USB drive had been given to him by an acquaintance just minutes earlier. *Rosbalt*, a Russian publication with security and intelligence threads said Whelan had tried to secure the services of the 'acquittance on numerous occasions with the intention of obtaining information on the Russian security services'.

Whilst the CIA has refused to comment on the spy allegations, privately officers believe Whelan, who also holds British, Canadian and Irish citizenship, was detained as a possible 'pawn' in the on-going case of Maria Butina. She was detained by US law enforcement in July 2018, and pleaded guilty to acting as a foreign (Russian) secret agent in the United States in December. President Putin dismissed the spy claims and accused the FBI of "fabricating the case." He insisted Butina had pleaded guilty to avoid a lengthier prison term.

A MOST UNLIKELY SPY

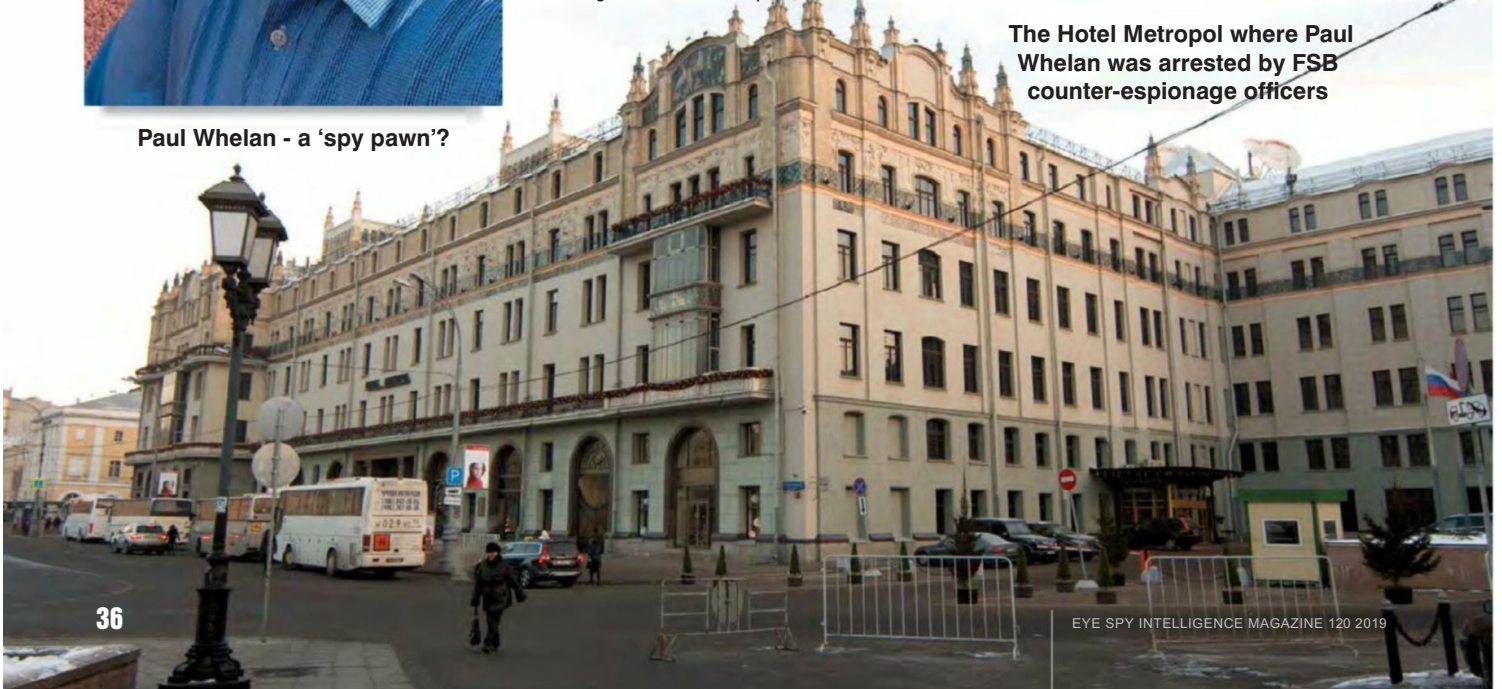
A retired CIA man told Eye Spy: "It's almost certain Whelan, a most unlikely Langley agent, was arrested for a possible spy swap involving Butina." John Sipher, a former CIA



agent said in the current US-Russian spy climate, the Agency would never use a person who has no official ties to the government (non official cover - NOC)."

However, President Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov ruled out any near-future exchange. Peskov told journalists: "I have not heard such statements, so I cannot say anything. Russia never uses people as pawns in a diplomatic game. Russia does engage in counter-intelligence activities regarding those who are suspected of spying... yes regularly. But nobody in Russia has ever used people as pawns." No doubt his comments were greeted with much humour in the corridors of Langley and Vauxhall.

The Hotel Metropol where Paul Whelan was arrested by FSB counter-espionage officers





Maria Butina acted as a penetration agent infiltrating various political groups

The simmering spy row between Washington and Moscow intensified just one day after Whelan was arrested when the FBI detained another Russian in the person of businessman Dmitry Makarenko in the Northern Mariana

Islands (29 December). He is suspected of involvement in the illegal export of military equipment including night vision and thermal imagery devices. Russia media houses said there was little doubt the Makarenko affair was linked to events in Moscow involving Whelan.

US Ambassador to Russia, Jon Huntsman, has met with Whelan in Moscow to discuss his well-being and offer consular support. And whilst little context to the spy allegations has been forthcoming from the FSB, US Secretary of State and former Director CIA Mike Pompeo said: "I have made it clear to the Russians - our expectation - that we will learn more about the charges and come to understand what it is he has been accused of. If the detention is not appropriate we will demand his immediate return."

Eye Spy understands that on the morning of the day of his arrest and wedding, Whelan had visited a number of Kremlin museums together with wedding guests.

Whelan's brother David has insisted the spy allegations are unfounded. "His innocence is



Jon Huntsman United States Ambassador to Russia

undoubted and we trust that his rights will be respected. I don't think there is any chance that he is a spy."

In mid-January he was moved from solitary confinement in Lefortovo Prison in Moscow to a conventional cell.

UNSEEN WARRIORS

Fighting UAV Operators and Collectors of Intelligence Receive New Medal

In the past, campaign medals have been awarded to air crew depending on the level of personal risk they faced. Now that has changed with the creation of a new medal crediting the operators and controllers of UAV operations. Operation Shader is the codename of the UK's military contribution to the US-led campaign to defeat

ISIS in Iraq and Syria and the new medal takes its name from this endeavour - Op Shader.

Since 2014, when the UK joined the Alliance against the ISIS terrorists in Iraq and Syria, UAVs have been increasingly used to carry out strikes, gather intelligence and conduct surveillance.



Personnel awarded the medal, which does not feature a clasp* include RAF Reaper crews, based at RAF Waddington, Lincolnshire, Creech Air Force Base in Nevada, United States and ground crew at RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus where many UK and Alliance airstrikes against ISIS were planned and launched from, plus Army and Navy personnel who have provided logistic and communications support. RAF Akrotiri is also one base which has been utilised by various intelligence agencies involved in the broader fight against ISIS.

Mark Jackson, Wing Commander 13 Squadron said, for the first time his UAV crews were being "justly rewarded" for their efforts. "For many years a Reaper operator - a pilot, sensor operator or mission intelligence coordinator would wear their uniforms very much with pride, but with a bare chest because they don't have any medals to show for the operations they performed. Despite delivering on operations every single day of the year, for many, many years, they don't have that ribbon and piece of metal to show for it." ➤



Left: Air Defence Ground Radar, Mount Olympus, Cyprus, used to support operations at the RAF's important base in Akrotiri. Right: An RAF UAV controller guides a UAV at Creech AFB, USA

Interestingly, Jackson, a former Torpedo pilot said with the level of surveillance involved, "you can't help but have some form of a relationship, mentally, with those you are looking at and observing. But the key point is that everything we are doing is about protecting UK citizens," he added. "Whether that is because of surveillance, and therefore providing necessary intelligence to certain services, you know that every single hour you are airborne is an hour that is spent protecting the UK."

INTELLIGENCE AND DANGER

UAVs, especially those engaged in surveillance have helped collect valuable intelligence in theatres regarded as too dangerous for ground operatives. Similarly, armed UAV variants have been responsible for eliminating key ISIS and al-Qaida commanders, disrupting terrorist operations, destroying arms' dumps, identifying and attacking transit routes used by ISIS convoys and disturbing training camps. Others have been used in conjunction with conventional surveillance aircraft and satellites to source targets and identify areas where ISIS forces have relocated.

Jackson stressed that in situations where weapons or bombs are used against targets, there is a "rigorous system" in place to ensure crews do not struggle with the emotional toll.

As to the actual control of a UAV, he said he is "quite astonished" at the similarities between flying a jet and an unmanned aerial vehicle, adding that the feeling inside the cockpit is very much the same. "When you turn the lights down and are focused on the heads-up display in front of you... together with the



other peripherals providing me with information, it really doesn't feel any different at all," he added.

CHANGING WAR THEATRES

UK Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson, commenting on the new award said: "This new medal reflects the changing character of warfare. I am very pleased that personnel, who previously would not have received an operational medal, will now do so."

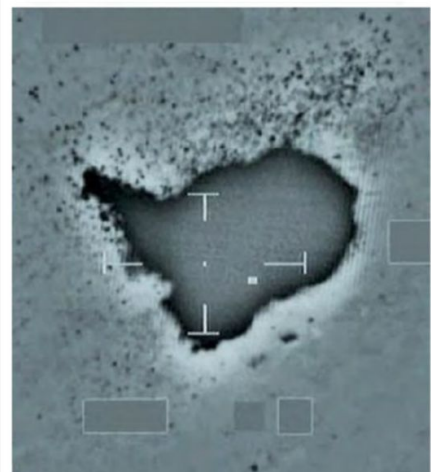
The Op Shader medal is the first operational service medal to be created since 2003 and has its own distinct ribbon; Defence officials said it is a fitting recognition of those who have contributed to the fight against ISIS.

The operation to defeat the terrorist group continues and strike aircraft still fly sorties out of RAF Akrotiri; similarly, the use of Reaper UAVs supporting Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) engaged in clearing dwindling ISIS fighting forces in eastern Syria is still ongoing.

Since 2014, the UK Armed Forces have taken a lead role in the US-led counter-ISIS Alliance. The RAF has conducted numerous airstrikes and helped train over 77,000 Iraqi Security Forces in infantry skills, counter-IED, engineering, and medical expertise. As a result, the SDF capacity to defeat ISIS has increased considerably, contributing to the success of the campaign.

The Ministry of Defence said 1,400 personnel are still engaged with Alliance forces in operations against the terrorist group.

**The clasp signifies service in a 'more dangerous area or periods of conflict'.*



An RAF strike destroys an ISIS fighting vehicle in Al Qaim, Iraq

The Building of Moscow's WWII Europe-Wide Spy Network

RED ORCHESTRA



Intelligence Historian PETER MATTHEWS who was stationed in Berlin in 1948, examines the work and legacy of one of the most famous Soviet intelligence spy networks ever created... the Red Orchestra

Even before Hitler attacked Russia during the Second World War in 1941, Soviet Intelligence were laying the foundations of a major espionage network in Germany and Europe under the watchful eye of NKVD spy chief Nikolai Yezhov. In 1936, Colonel Aleksandr Korotkov, was appointed military attache at the Soviet Embassy in Berlin. He was also the NKVD's spymaster in Germany and set about building an incredibly effective spy network, the operation of which was triggered by Hitler's panzers crashing across Russia's border in August 1941 (Operation Barbarossa).

Germany's Gestapo and intelligence service - the Abwehr - had little indication of the huge intelligence network Korotkov had built and left in their midst when he returned to Moscow. The network of agents in all levels of German life would prove a thorn in the German's side for the duration of the war. When he came to power in 1933, Hitler had ruthlessly suppressed all German Communists and their organisations so that party members and political sympathisers went underground. It

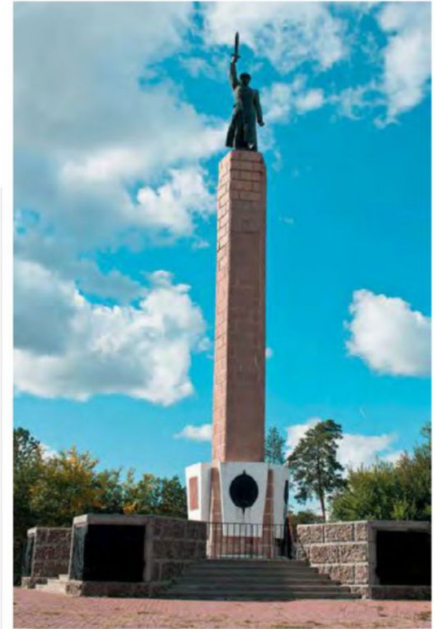
was among these Communist adherents that Colonel Korotkov recruited his many dedicated agents who then sank without trace into the German population.

A few agents were detected by the Nazi regime, mainly because they had remained in touch by wireless with their political friends in Russia. Wilhelm Flike, a wartime German signals intelligence agent told me, just after the war when I was in Berlin, that he and his colleagues detected only occasional transmissions to a control station in Moscow during that time.

SOVIET COMMUNICATIONS

The Germans were unable to break the Soviet codes that were being used so the Gestapo security services assumed that the messages were simply spreading the Communist gospel. How wrong they were.

Hitler's invasion of Russia immediately triggered a huge increase in the number of



NKVD monument in Volgograd

transmissions from the secret Soviet wireless network which overwhelmed Germany's wireless monitoring service in Lauf; their equivalent of Bletchley Park. The listening service counted over 600 transmissions in the Soviet code from every country in Europe but disturbingly most from within Germany.



Colonel Aleksandr Korotkov



Aircraft factory at Flossenburg concentration camp. The Red Orchestra secured all manner of intelligence on Germany's aircraft production and losses



August 1939. Stalin welcomes German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop to the Kremlin

The wireless communications system of the Russian intelligence network that had been prepared years before had been activated and which Flike and his colleagues named WNA from the call sign of the Moscow station. German security services estimated that there were over 120,000 agents and fellow travellers serving the network. Up to that time they had kept a low profile by reporting intelligence findings through the Soviet Embassy.

Communist sympathisers and ordinary Germans opposed to the Nazi regime had been recruited from the Foreign Office, Ministry of Labour and even the Berlin Council to report on production facilities, military



Molotov, Stalin and Ribbentrop sign the German-USSR Friendship Treaty



NKVD spy chief Nikolai Yezhov

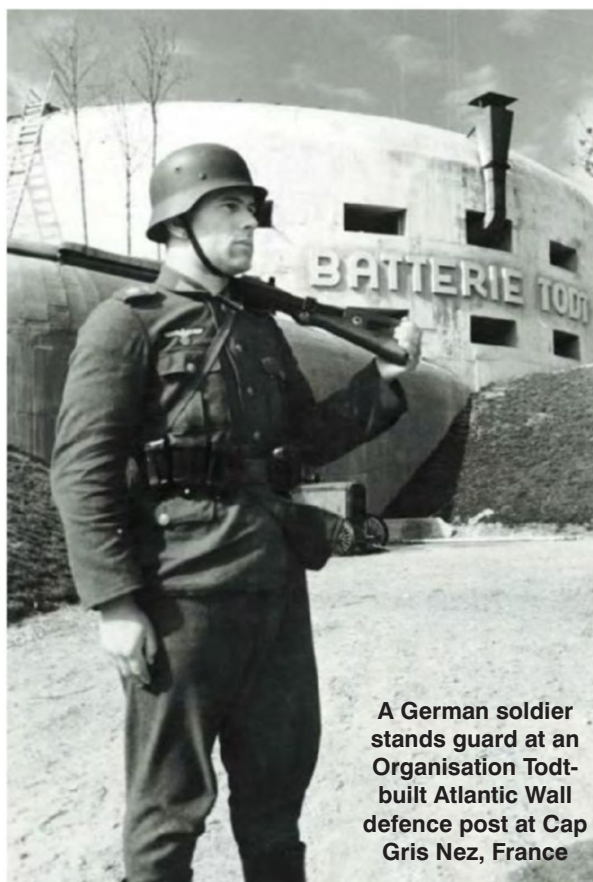
capabilities, and Hitler's plans for the future. Now, without an Embassy to report to they had to send information direct by wireless transmission - Colonel Korotkov's work in establishing a huge intelligence network was paying off. The powerful Russian Intelligence network became known to the German security services as the Rote Kapell or the Red Orchestra.

Red Orchestra transmissions were in code of course and like most Russian cryptographic



June 1941. Operation Barbarossa. German troops pass a Russian state border post

coding during the war, extremely difficult to penetrate. It took the Abwehr some time to decode their interceptions but when they finally did they were horrified at the high level and quality of intelligence. It indicated many highly placed informants and sources of secret information so a frantic Gestapo hunt for Red Orchestra agents began among the



A German soldier stands guard at an Organisation Todt-built Atlantic Wall defence post at Cap Gris Nez, France



Arvid Harnack



Harro Schulz-Boysen



Wilhelm Canaris Abwehr spy chief



Harro Schulze-Boysen, Arvid Harnack and John Sieg featured on a 1983 East German stamp

highest level of Nazi government figures until the end of the war.

QUALITY INTELLIGENCE

Details of Germany's war effort were revealed to Moscow such as the Luftwaffe's strength of 22,000 machines of first and second line aircraft that were available, but losses were also indicated; only ten machines were being built for every forty-five lost. The army was moving thirty divisions from west to east;



Berlin 1941. L-R: Rudolf Hess, Heinrich Himmler, Philipp Bouhler, Fritz Todt founder of Organisation Todt and Reinhard Heydrich listen to Konrad Meyer at a Generalplan Ost exhibition in the city. Todt was superceded by Albert Speer following his death in February 1942

400,000 men were stationed in Italy to ensure that the Italians did not make a separate peace; no large movement of troops went unnoticed by Red Orchestra agents.

High level political decisions were also exposed such as Hitler's willingness to allow Finland to make peace with Russia once he had occupied Leningrad (which he never did). Strategic ones were also reported to Moscow such as the decision to shorten the German Army's line of defence in Russia to enable them to supply their troops more easily. This rich vein of intelligence being supplied by the Red Orchestra had several parts to it, one of which was run by two dedicated Communists, Harro Schulze-Boysen and Arvid Harnack. The group had over a hundred agents but the network was eventually penetrated by the Gestapo; their interrogators were shocked to find how many Soviet agents had worked themselves into positions of trust in Germany over many years.

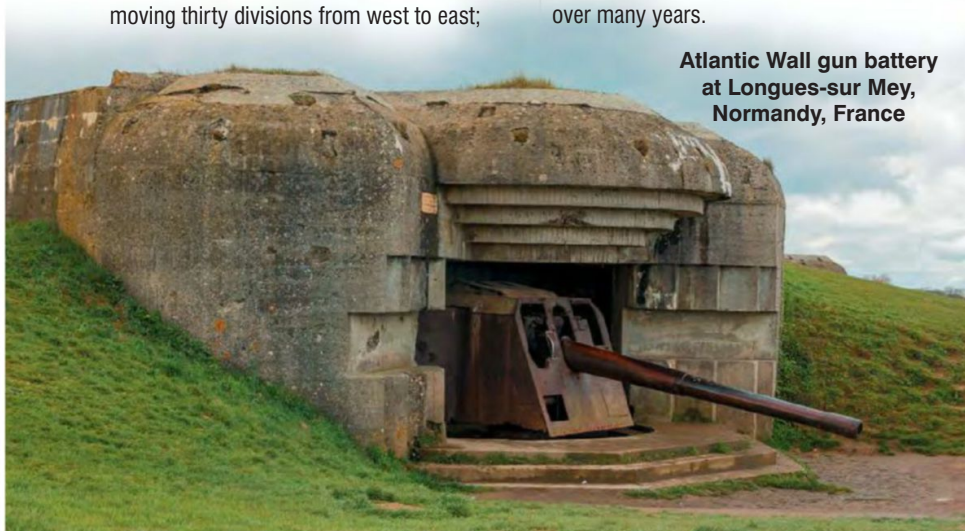


Fritz Todt

Later in the Cold War, British and US Intelligence identified the same long-term strategy of Soviet Intelligence, recruiting agents early and patiently watching them to grow into trusted leaders of the community and even the security services. This type of agent infiltration continues today, with Russia's FSB and SVR being most prominent in the art.

Another faction of the Red Orchestra was run by a staunch Communist, Leopold Trepper. He took over much of the intelligence role of Schulze-Boysen and acted as a businessman supplying the notorious Organisation Todt (OT). OT was the main contractor to the Nazi war machine and responsible for all manner of building and factory production, often using forced labour as the war status of Germany worsened. Now Trepper was in a position to identify many of the major construction

Atlantic Wall gun battery at Longues-sur Mey, Normandy, France





Leopold Trepper

projects in Germany and Europe so that the fortifications being built were known to the Russians. Trepper's group was eventually penetrated by the Gestapo and he was 'turned' to send disinformation to Moscow. However, he survived the war and returned to his life as a businessman.

The Red Orchestra's most effective part of its network, according to Herr Flike, was operated by Alexander Rado, a Hungarian living at 22, Rue de Lausanne in Geneva, next door to the Soviet Comintern offices. Rado's group had



Alexander Rado

been established in 1937 (shades of Colonel Korotkov) and was seen as the most dangerous. German security services could not touch them

in neutral Switzerland. By coincidence (or was it) a British secret service agent, AA Foote, was a near neighbour who later wrote a book about his exploits but never mentioned the Red Orchestra, so speculation about a possible connection have run rife ever since.

FULL CIRCLE

The Soviet Union's espionage record in WWII is extraordinary and that of its Red Orchestra spymaster Colonel Korotkov is rated as outstanding. But his career did not end as war finished in 1945. As the Red Army fought its way into Berlin, Stalin appointed Korotkov to head the KGB Intelligence station in the Karlshorst Residency so Russia's most brilliant spymaster was, once more returned to Germany's capital city.

He confronted MI6 operations as the Cold War began and the Berlin Airlift started its commencement, but to counter the Soviet espionage offensive the Allies employed some brilliant intelligence operators of their own. The German General Reinhard Gehlen created an outstanding espionage network which laid the foundations of the CIA together with yet another brilliant spymaster, Allen Dulles.

Gehlen was spymaster of the anti-Communist Gehlen Organisation for the United States (1946-56); and the first President of the Federal Intelligence



Allen Dulles



Reinhard Gehlen

Service (Bundesnachrichtendienst, BND) of West Germany (1956-68). Thus the Cold War conflict created the world class CIA and German BND intelligence services which helped shaped today's intelligence community. They created a fresh purpose for what had been, up until then, the militaristic purpose of the secret intelligence services - but were to maintain peace in Europe as the intelligence gathered in the Cold War prevented it from turning hot.

PETER MATTHEWS:

Eye Spy Associate Editor - Peter Matthews is author of two intelligence books *SIGINT: The Secret History of Signals Intelligence 1914-1945* and *House of Spies: St Ermin's Hotel - The London Base of British Espionage*



Nazi artefacts on display at the Atlantic Wall Museum near Ostende, Belgium - note the street plate 'OT. Regiment Speer'. Albert Speer assumed control of Organisation Todt in 1943. Unbeknown to him and his predecessor, the Red Orchestra had successfully penetrated the organisation



Alleged Exfiltration of Iranian Scientist

THE JOURNEYMAN

COVER STORY OR FAKE NEWS?

Recent media reports surrounding the alleged tri-service coordinated exfiltration of an Iranian scientist on New Year's Eve 2018, by the Mossad, CIA and MI6 has raised many an eyebrow in the intelligence world. The supposed operation to get the scientist to the United States reportedly began with the Mossad moving him to Turkey. From here he was driven to France and used a migrant dinghy to cross the English Channel - eventually reaching Lydd in the southern county of Kent.

Many sceptical intelligence watchers asked - why would three of the world's leading intelligence services with so many resources between them, take such a risk? Navigating the English Channel in an illegal boat is difficult enough without raising the attention of the French Coastguard - not to mention the dangers associated with crossing a sea in a dinghy.

HUMAN INTELLIGENCE

Human intelligence collection and the recruitment of foreign spies and persons operating in crucial areas, continues to play a major role in the evolving world of global espionage. And it is true, MI6, Mossad and the CIA would be interested to learn everything a scientist working within Iran's nuclear programme has to offer. Even more so in today's climate of uncertainty. "For decades,

high-level defectors have been the crown jewels of human intelligence collection," said Joe Augustyn, a retired CIA officer who ran the Agency's defectors' programme for three years.

Not every spy qualifies for exfiltration, but intelligence agencies will work to rescue high-ranking military officials, intelligence officers, academics, scientists and others with access to sensitive information - and who are at imminent risk of being caught or captured. The actual scientist was reportedly a Mossad



Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan



UK Border Force patrol rescues migrants in the English Channel

contact man who was allegedly involved in the 2012 assassination of key Iranian nuclear scientist Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan in Tehran. Nevertheless, despite the 'high-profile' of the supposed 'defector', commentators are questioning the validity of the Iran exfiltration report.

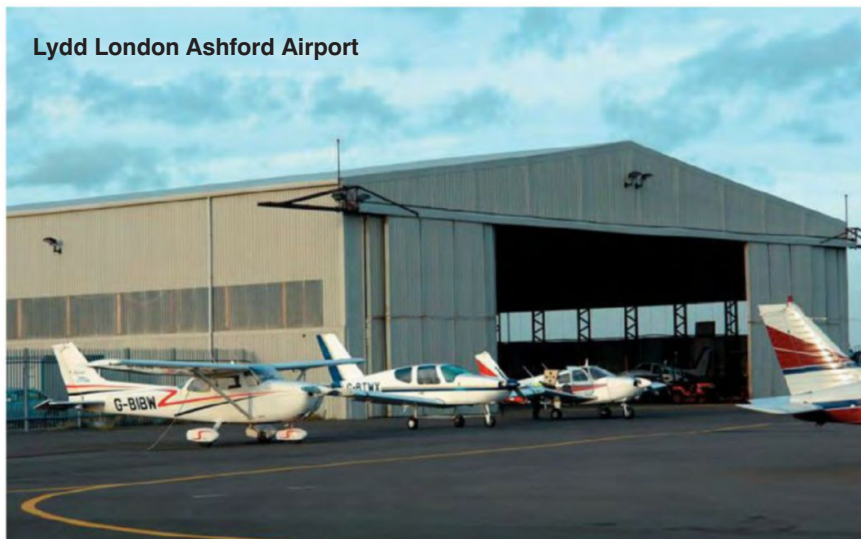
THE SOURCE

The initial report, provided by an unnamed source and published primarily in the UK ➤



Lydd, Kent, lies on the famous Romney Marsh

Lydd London Ashford Airport



Danny Yatom



Migrants at a camp in northern France

and picked up by Israel's media said: *'Once in France, the question of how to get him into Britain remained. We couldn't simply fly him in. Though unusual, it was determined infiltrating him into a group of fellow migrants preparing to cross the Channel by boat offered one solution'.*

Eye Spy advisors said it would have been far more advantageous to use US airbases - Incirlik or Izmir in Turkey or in nearby Cyprus where the UK operates military bases at Akrotiri and Dekeleia. Akrotiri also supports an intelligence station. Why risk a land and perilous sea crossing if the asset was so important. And if the destination Lydd was relevant, why not use Lydd London Ashford Airport. The airport can handle aircraft as large as a Boeing 737 or Airbus A319. And Lydd Air has regular flights to Le Touquet



A Gulfstream aircraft at Lydd Airport

Airport in northern France. Also of interest, two military bases and a New Scotland Yard counter-terrorism training facility are located in the area.

Britain and the USA have a chain-line of sites - drops and pick-up points, including support bases and safe houses throughout the Middle East and Europe. Similarly, MI6 and CIA have 'friends' within the intelligence services of Europe and Middle East who would be willing to help. Contractors too could have been used and operationally, numerous aerodromes exist - any one of which could be used to charter an aircraft to Lydd. "A journey across Europe and an even more bizarre plot to hide him amongst people smugglers in France to conclude his crossing in a small boat makes absolutely no sense whatsoever," a UK intelligence officer told Eye Spy.

MOSSAD REACTION

Former Mossad Director Danny Yatom told the *Jerusalem Post*: "Once he is out and meets up with intelligence agents to take him all the way

to England, it is not a logical tactic to mix him in with a group of migrants because it takes lots of time," he said. "You need to undertake every effort at that point [after having left Iran] and knowing that the Iranians are looking for him in Europe, to get him to his final destination." He also said it was possible Iran has watchers based at French coastal points where smugglers operate. "It's completely ridiculous that they would not have found a better way to get him to England."

Yatom also supported the suggestion MI6 would have flown him to England in a private plane.

Nevertheless, he said the story was so bizarre, that the defection could be true, but its narrative might be a fake cover story to distract everyone from learning how the defector was secreted out of Iran. "If the report is fake, and intended as a cover story, it is very weak," he added. He also said the use of Cover and Legend and creating misleading stories and reports in such operations is part of a spy's day-to-day work.

Whilst the governments of Israel and Britain view the Iranian nuclear situation slightly differently, Yatom said it was not beyond the realms of possibility that both Mossad and MI6 would engage together in such an operation.



MOSCOW PRIDE OVER SECRETS

OPEN SOURCE INTEL WELCOMED BY CIA DURING COLD WAR

The National Security Archives based at The George Washington Museum in the United States, recently secured a compelling collection of Cold War photographs collected by the CIA, DIA and US Army of Soviet weaponry which featured in public military parades and events to mark special occasions. Predominantly from the 1960s and 1970s, these included May Day, October and Bolshevik Revolutions. The research facility said the events presented the “perfect settings to collection intelligence” and give an insight into the “type of information spies were collecting during the Cold War.”

As well as imagery, the ‘confidential’ marked black and white photographs are supported by identification text, dates, location production and the event in which

USSR WAC 167B MOSCOW 55 45 N 37 35 E
GADGUL missile viewed during May Day parade, 1 May 1968.
Confidential (3,20) CIA 1231301



USSR WAC 167B MOSCOW 55 45 N 37 35 E
SS-3 SCUD BALLISTIC MISSILES ON UJ-77E CARRIER, IN MAY DAY PARADE, 1 May 1960.
Confidential (3,19) CIA 820041



USSR WAC 167B MOSCOW 55 45 N 37 35 E
SCHOGE mobile missile in parade marking 53rd anniversary of Bolshevik Revolution, 7 November 1970.
Confidential (3,19) CIA 1282993



James E. David

ordinary Muscovites could marvel at the country's advanced weaponry, from missiles to aircraft and specialist equipment. Also included, several intelligence documents each specific to the imagery providing an overview of the event and equipment as interpreted by US Intelligence.

The National Security Archives has an overview of imagery collection operations by US Intelligence written by James E. David, curator at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

David said whilst photographs taken by spy aircraft such as the U2 and satellites was important, they could not pick-up small important details until the resolution of cameras was improved. Thus securing photographs of Soviet equipment from what can only be described as Open Source theatres was vital. He also noted that whilst the Soviets were “skittish” about people taking photographs, especially Westerners, such concerns “did not outweigh a collective sense of pride and a

determination to show off their military prowess” to the world.

The files also reveal officials and other dignitaries attending the events, all important areas for analysis.

LINKS: www.nsarchive.gwu



Russia has a long tradition of displaying its military equipment and emerging technology

Spy in the Ranks: Relations Between Iran and Europe Deteriorate LOST IN TRANSLATION



German Army troops patrol in Afghanistan

Intelligence 'War' With Iran Continues

Following a number of exposed Iranian intelligence operations, relations between Europe and Tehran have deteriorated sharply. And the recent arrest of a German armed forces translator on suspicion of spying has done little to ease the mounting tensions. A 'friendly' intelligence service, almost certainly MI6 or the CIA, warned Germany's Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV) and military command, that it had an "Iranian spy in its ranks." Thereafter a protracted search to identify the suspect ended on 15 January. A 50-year-old German

citizen of Afghan heritage, named in court papers as Abdul Hamid S, was arrested.

Hamid S, a military translator since the 2000s, was based at a barracks in the Rhineland region where he worked for an electronic warfare unit translating Taliban signals intercepted by German troops serving with Alliance forces in Afghanistan.* Authorities say he had been subject to high level security

clearance checks before he was allowed to work with the unit.

German investigators identified the suspect when they reviewed his travel patterns that included a series of trips to European cities which coincided with visits by a known Iranian intelligence operative. German military intelligence thereafter deliberately passed Hamid S bogus information; he promptly



Iran's Minister of Intelligence
Mahmoud Alavi



German Police and troops train their Afghan counterparts in Kabul



Embassy of Iran, Berlin



BfV President Thomas Haldenwang

arranged a meeting with his Iranian contact, and was allegedly caught handing over details of Alliance troop movements and bases in Afghanistan.

"Abdul Hamid S. is strongly suspected of having worked for a foreign intelligence service," federal prosecutors said. "The accused was a translator and cultural advisor to the Bundeswehr. In this capacity, he is suspected of passing information to an Iranian intelligence service." An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman denied any knowledge of the translator and said the incident was "manufactured by the Mossad and CIA" in a further effort to damage relations between Iran and Europe.

IRANIAN SPY NETWORK?

A day after his arrest, police, acting on information provided for by the BfV, conducted a series of raids in Berlin as well as the states of Baden-Wuerttemberg, North Rhine-



Germany has banned Iran's Mahan Air

Westphalia and Bavaria in connection with investigations into 10 other suspected Iranian spies. All of those targeted are said to have "spied on institutions and individuals on behalf of an intelligence entity associated with Iran," said federal prosecutor spokesperson Stefan Biehl. That 'entity' was the Ministry of ➤



A US Army soldier speaks to an Afghan police officer through an interpreter



Iran's Ambassador to Germany Ali Majedi

STATE SECRETS

IRAN AGENT JAILED IN ISRAEL

Gonen Segev



© SAAR YAAKOV/GPO

Former Israeli diplomat Gonen Segev, 63, who served as infrastructure minister in the mid-1990s, has received an 11-year jail sentence after he admitted "serious espionage offences and reporting to the enemy." Segev had been accused of acting as an agent of Iran's MOIS. He was recruited by Iran in 2012 whilst working as a medical practitioner in Nigeria, this after his licence to operate in Israel was revoked.

Initially Segev denied the spy charges claiming, "I wanted to fool the Iranians and come back to Israel a hero." Israel's Shin Bet (domestic intelligence service) however, had monitored his movements and surveilled key encounters between Segev and known Iranian intelligence figures, thus his defence and reasons for his actions were soon dismantled. A MOIS contact gave him a computer programme which allowed him to send coded communications back to his spy handler. Thereafter he reportedly passed intimate details of Israeli security services, defence sites and key officials working in defence and political arenas.

Segev, who is known to have visited Iran on one occasion, was extradited from Equatorial Guinea in 2018. His lesser jail term came following a plea bargain which removed the serious charge of 'assisting an enemy during a time of war'.



Bundesamt für
Verfassungsschutz

BfV headquarters, Berlin



Seal of the Islamic
Revolutionary Guards
Corps (IRGC)

agents of the Quds Force, which acts as the foreign arm of Iran's powerful Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC).

Iran's Ambassador to Germany Ali Majedi, was duly summoned and asked to explain the activities of the alleged spies.

Following the translator's arrest and raids, the Iranian airline Mahan Air was banned from operating in Germany and has been accused of links to the Iranian government and for transporting Iranian personnel and equipment to Syria. The United States classified Mahan

Intelligence and Security (MOIS) - Iran's main spy service. Computers, cell phones and other materials were seized. Some of the operatives are also suspected



Mustufa Haidar Syed-Naqvi

Air as a "material supporter of terrorism" in 2011 because of its links to the Quds force. In

August 2018, British Airways said in a statement it had decided to suspend flights between London and Tehran. The European Union banned Iran's Aseman Airlines from operating within the EU in 2016.

In recent months Iranian agents have been accused of involvement in plots to bomb an opposition rally in France; assassinate a political opponent in Denmark and for terrorist activities against opponents in Albania, Brussels, the United States and Norway. Asadollah Assadi, an Iranian diplomat, is currently awaiting trial in Belgium for masterminding the foiled terrorist attack planned for the annual gathering of the Iranian Resistance MeK in Paris last June. The Netherlands rightfully expelled two Iranian embassy staffers designating them persona non grata in June 2018. (See Eye Spy 118)

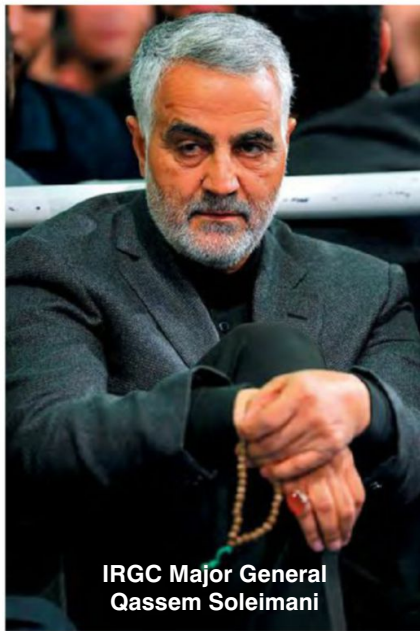
In December, Berlin protested to the Iranian ambassador in connection with the conviction of a Pakistani man who was serving as an Iranian agent. Germany's Superior Court sentenced



Asadollah Assadi



Quds Force members celebrate a missile launch



**IRGC Major General
Qassem Soleimani**

31-year-old Mustufa Haidar Syed-Naqvi to four years and three months in prison on charges of “working for a foreign intelligence service.” That agency was MOIS.

The court ruled he “spied against Germany and France” on behalf of the Quds Force by compiling information about possible attack targets in Germany. The Quds Force is commanded by IRGC Major General Qassem Soleimani and reports directly to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

DESTABILISING IRAN

Intelligence analysts in the United States believe that widespread protests against the regime by Iranian citizens in 2018, have weakened its already tenuous grip on power; the United States withdrew from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, worsening an already calamitous economic climate within Iran and signalling a radical shift in the old Western policy of appeasement toward its leadership; and the European Union continued that shift by placing two senior regime MOIS agents on the EU terror blacklist, as well as imposing sanctions on the intelligence service itself.

Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the Iranian opposition, tweeted this about the need to expel the regime’s diplomats: ‘I would like to



ALLIANCE INTERPRETERS

WAR, INTELLIGENCE THEATRE WORK, AND A MULTITUDE OF THREATS



A US trooper with his Afghan translator talk to a youngster at a checkpoint in Helmand Province. Hundreds of linguists have departed the country

It is estimated that Alliance forces currently contract about 5,000 translators in Afghanistan. Whilst pay varies dependent on the nature and location of their work, it is recognised as one of the most dangerous occupations in the country. Some find themselves working in what can only be described as intelligence offices.

However, most operatives often find themselves assisting fighting troops, patrol units and engaging with both ordinary civilians and others who oppose the foreign presence in their country, including captured terrorist figures. Throughout the troubles in Afghanistan, hundreds of interpreters have been killed in active service and their families often threatened. Many have since departed the country for fear of retribution by groups such as al-Qaida, ISIS and the Taliban.

In the United States, Washington created the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa programme

which has allowed many interpreters and civilians to leave Afghanistan. An estimated 50,000 Afghans have resettled in America between 2006 and 2018. Some 20,000 are believed to have operated as interpreters or field assistants.

In the UK, a 2018 Commons Defence Select Committee report titled *Lost in Translation? Afghan Interpreters and Other Locally Employed Civilians*, criticised the Ministry of Defence and Home Office for not securing properly the future of interpreters and other Afghanistan personnel who aided British forces. Its authors said the government “must abandon its policy of leaving former interpreters and other loyal personnel dangerously exposed.”

At the height of the conflict, British forces employed around 3,500 interpreters. Some 150 are seeking indefinite leave to remain in the UK.

once again reiterate - on behalf of a Resistance movement which has been seeking the oil and arms embargo of the mullahs theocracy since 1981 - the need for taking the following steps... [including recognition of the Iranian people's right to overthrow the Regime and expelling terrorist diplomats from other countries'].

In 2007, the US Treasury Department designated the Quds Force a supporter of terrorism for sending weapons and ammuni-

tion to the Taliban in Afghanistan, as well as weapons, funding and guidance to “other terrorist organisations” - including Lebanon’s Hezbollah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the general command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

*The Alliance, (Resolute Support Mission) was formerly known as the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), which was disbanded in 2014.

10 THE SERIES



Eye Spy presents a number of long forgotten, yet key assassination case files, some intended to change the course of history, others acts of simple retribution...

ASSASSINATION

MURDER MOST FOUL

The Cold War lasted more than forty years, from the late 1940s to the collapse of east-central European Communism beginning in 1989, and concluding some two years later. This historic chapter also saw a dramatic increase in state-sponsored assassinations, covert killings and judicial executions.

There were many assassins, including contracted killers who plied their trade during this period - some more successful than others. And sadly, as has been witnessed in recent years, this ultra-dark tradecraft continues to this day...

The Cyanide Killer Bohdan Stashynsky

In 1957, acting on the authority of KGB Director Alexander Shelepin and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, 25-year-old KGB-trained Bohdan Stashynsky was given a reconfigured spray gun that fired a jet of poison. The substance was carefully designed to induce cardiac arrest, making any potential victim's death look like a heart attack. Stashynsky used the weapon to kill Ukrainian nationalist leader Lev Rebet in 1957. Two years later on 15 October 1959, he was

given an improved version of the same weapon in Munich to assassinate Stepan



1941. Lev Rebet pictured in Auschwitz



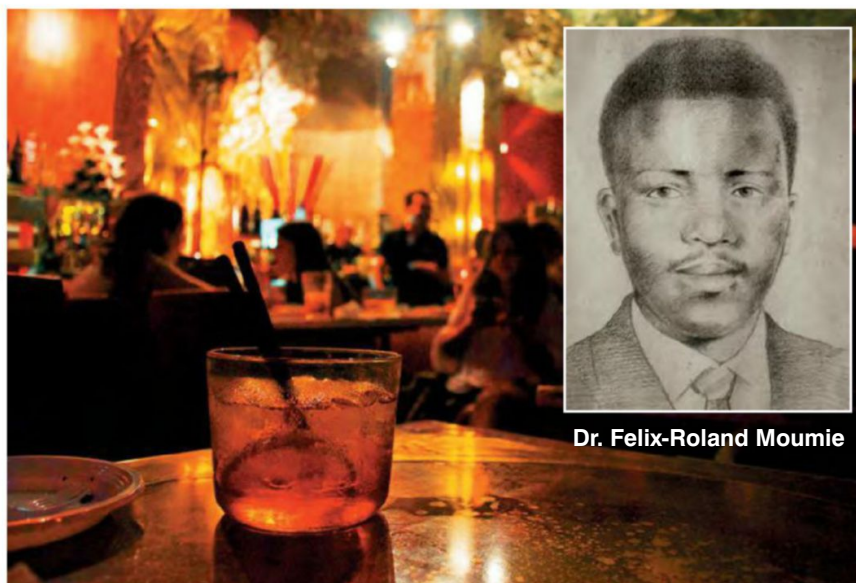
Kiev 2009. Ukrainians still commemorate the life of Bandera

Bandera, another prominent anti-Moscow Ukrainian activist and associate of Rebet.

This weapon was a small aluminium cylinder that sprayed a jet of liquid cyanide. If the substance struck a target in the face or chest, the vapours would cause arteries to suddenly contract, denying the blood supply to reach the brain. Death was almost instantaneous, though a CIA report concluded that it might 'conceivably allow the victim time to scream'.



Stepan
Bandera



Dr. Felix-Roland Moumie

The manufacturers of the device had carefully mixed the solution in order that the victim's arteries would return to normal after just five minutes - thus leaving no visible and obvious signs of menace.



Stepan Bandera's
gravestone in Munich

Stashynsky defected to West Berlin in 1961, along with his German wife Inge, and retold the grim circumstances of the killings which naturally interested intelligence officials. His admission was an

act which probably explained his paltry eight years prison sentence. In 1966, Stashynsky was released from prison early on parole, and was reportedly handed over to the CIA. Thereafter the Stashynskys were given new identities and asylum - reportedly in South Africa in 1984.

Aperitif? William Bechtel

Early in October 1960, Dr. Felix-Roland Moumie, 34, the exiled leader of the Camerounian nationalist movement - Union des Populations du Cameroun (UPC), travelled to Geneva, Switzerland. On



Thallium

the eve of his return to Conakry (Guinea) where the UPC had established its headquarters in exile, he was invited to dinner by a man whom he had met earlier in the year in Accra, Ghana. The individual was 66-year-old 'journalist' William Bechtel, who claimed to be interested in the UPC's armed struggle against the French-backed regime of Ahmadou Ahidjo. But Bechtel held a dark secret.

A former member of the French Foreign Legion and one of the first soldiers to rally De Gaulle's Free French Forces in London in 1940, Bechtel was also a reserve officer in the French secret service, the SDECE, and an experienced covert operative of the Main Rouge (Red Hand), a secretive cell inside the SDECE.

In their investigative book on the French secret service *La Piscine*, Roger Faligot and Pascal Krop provided a detailed account of the Moumie assassination as told to them by General Paul Grossin, the head of the SDECE from 1957 to 1962.

During dinner in Geneva, an accomplice distracted Moumie with a telephone call while Bechtel slipped deadly Thallium into his aperitif. The dose was carefully measured to kill him after he had boarded his flight to Guinea in the early hours of the morning. It was believed that the poison would not be detected by the authorities there.

The operation faltered when Moumie opted to drink a glass of wine instead of the aperitif. Undeterred, Bechtel poisoned the wine as well: to his relief, Moumie then drank both the aperitif and wine - unwittingly consuming two doses of Thallium. Hours later he fell ill and was in great pain. Treated for two weeks at the Hupital Cantonal de Geneve, he died on 3 November 1960. Swiss investigators suspected Bechtel was involved in Moumie's death, but shielded by officials in Paris, he

was never convicted of the murder. He died in 1980.

The Active Assassin Jean-Pierre Cherid

Jean-Pierre Cherid, of Moroccan descent, was a far-right French activist and later mercenary who was prominent in the assassinations of several ETA (Euskadi Ta Askatsuna - Basque separatist group) operatives. A former French paratrooper, he first became a member of the Organisation Armee Secrete (OAS) during the Algerian War (1954-1962). In 1976 he was one of a number of mercenaries hired by Spain's security services - then part of Servicio Central de Documentacion - SECED, to take part in the 1976 Montejuirra massacre against the left-wing Carlist Party.

Cherid participated in the 1978 assassination of Jose Miguel Benaran Ordenana, better



ETA mural in Pasaia, northern Spain



Jean-Pierre Cherid

known in the intelligence world simply as Argala, a member of ETA who had participated in the 1973 assassination of Francisco Franco's Prime Minister Luis Carrero Blanco. In 1979, he headed a failed operation to murder ETA activist, Txomin, in Biarritz, France. Some months later, his unit murdered another ETA activist, Enrique Gomez Alvarez, 'Korta', in Bayonne. On 31 December 1980, Cherid killed ETA member Jose Martin Sagardia in Biarritz.



Prime Minister Luis Carrero Blanco

Cherid died in 1984, whilst assembling a bomb in Biarritz. Police discovered his remains on the roof of an adjoining building.

Years later in 2008, Cherid was also accused of involvement in the 1976 disappearance of another ETA activist 'Pertur'.

A Murky Chilean Tale Michael Townley

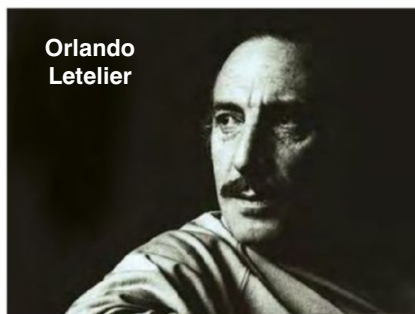
Currently living under terms of the US Federal Witness Protection Programme, Michael Townley is a former agent of Chile's feared Direccion de Inteligencia Nacional Agency (DINA). He confessed and was convicted for the 1976 Washington DC assassination of Orlando Letelier, former Chilean ambassador to the United States, a crime which resulted in him serving 62 months in a US prison. As part of his plea bargain, Townley received immunity from further prosecution; he was



Michael Townley



Memorial to Orlando Letelier - Sheridan Circle, Washington DC

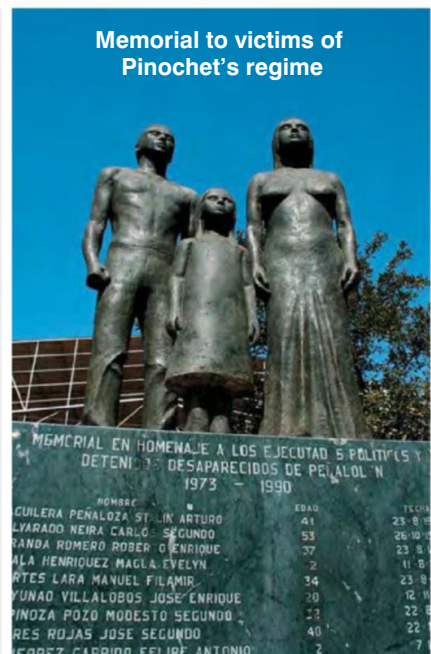


Orlando Letelier

therefore not extradited to Argentina to stand trial for the 1974 assassination of two other Chileans - General Carlos Prats and his wife. Another DINA operative, biochemist Eugenio Berrios was also implicated in the Letelier sanction. He fled to Uruguay in 1991 as Chile



Augusto Pinochet in 1995



Memorial to victims of Pinochet's regime

moved towards democracy. His corpse was found in 1995 near Montevideo.

Researchers discovered Townley worked in Project Andrea - an effort to secure and produce chemical weapons for the country's dictator Augusto Pinochet. The WMD would be used against a number of political opponents. Another man, Colonel Gerardo Huber Olivares also an agent of DINA, was himself assassinated in 1992, probably because he was due to give evidence in court against Pinochet.

In 1993, Townley was convicted, in absentia, by an Italian court for carrying out the 1975 Rome murder attempt of Chilean politician Bernardo Leighton. At the time, Leighton was an outspoken critic of Pinochet.



Silencing A Voice of Protest Josip Perkovic

In 2016, former Director of the Yugoslav-era State Security Service (SDS - Služba Drжавne Sigurnosti), Josip Perkovic, then 74, was convicted in Germany and given a life sentence for his involvement in the 1983 assassination of Croat emigre, businessman and dissident Stjepan Djurekovic, 56. In court, Perkovic was described as the head of a shadowy cell that carried out many murders,

Djurekovic, who had defected to West Germany in 1982, was shot dead by SDS agents in the Bavarian town of Wolfratshausen in an operation codenamed Dunav. Other individuals, including Zdravko Mustac, who was Director of the SDS at the time, were also identified and linked to the assassination by German prosecutors.

Djurekovic was but one of dozens of Yugoslavian emigres murdered during the Cold War, all opponents of the Yugoslavian Government established by Josip Broz Tito. Of interest, even after the Cold War ended, there was considerable resistance to identify and bring to justice the perpetrators of such killings. When Croatia joined the European Union in 2013, its government passed a law effectively blocking the extradition of Josip Perkovic. Undeterred, Berlin continued to press for his extradition and justice was eventually done.



Stjepan Djurekovic

The International Vinko Sindicic

Travelling on a Swiss passport, Vinko Sindicic, another SDS agent, arrived in the UK in 1988. His mission was the removal of Nikola Stedul, a Croatian emigrant and former President of the Croatian Statehood Movement, campaigning for independence from Yugoslavia. On 20 October 1988, Stedul, whilst walking his dog in the Scottish town of Kirkcaldy, was shot four times by Sindicic. Remarkably, Stedul survived the assassination attempt and Sindicic was arrested by police as he attempted to board a flight from Heathrow Airport.



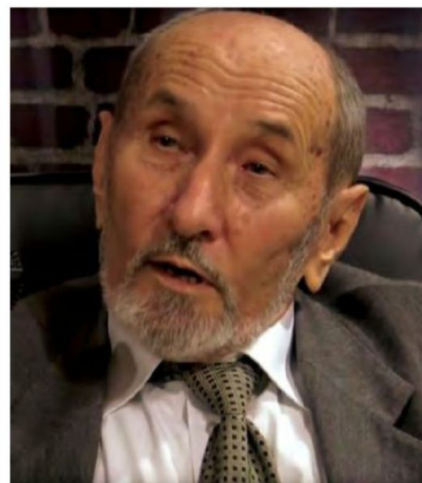
Vinko Sindicic

Officials at the Embassy of Yugoslavia, some evidently aware of Sindicic's objective, moved quickly to give him an alibi - the traveller had arrived in the UK to watch his country play a football match against Scotland.

The explanation failed to convince MI5, the Service having intelligence on the well-travelled operative. And Sindicic's link to the shooting was confirmed when gunshot residue was discovered on his skin; this matched residue found on Stedul. Following



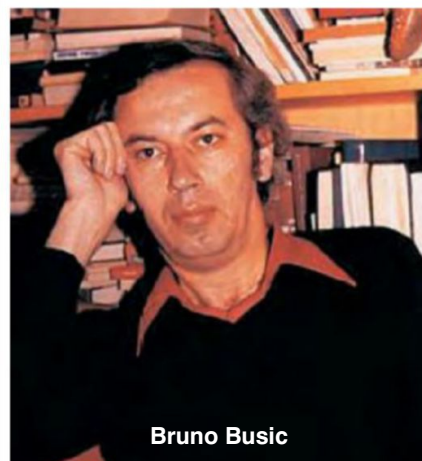
Bruno Busic's grave and memorial in Zagreb



Nikola Stedul

an eleven-day trial he was found guilty of attempted murder and sentenced to 15-years in jail. The assassination attempt became the subject of a 1994 movie - *The Yugoslav Hitman*.

Intelligence officials believe Sindicic is linked to several murders around the world. Probably the most notorious being the killing of the journalist Bruno Busic, who was shot in the doorway of his Paris apartment in 1978. An attempt to try Sindicic in 2000 for the killing collapsed after a disastrous trial and he is currently a free man. He was also arrested again in January 2018 by Spanish police - this in respect of "false testimony."



Bruno Busic

The Infiltrator Craig Williamson

Retired South African Police Major Craig Michael Williamson (military intelligence), was exposed as a spy in 1980, and his agency linked to numerous state-sponsored assassinations, bombings, burglaries and kidnappings. A skilled and experienced propaganda man who operated during the apartheid era, Williamson infiltrated the anti-Apartheid movement during



Craig Michael Williamson

the 1970s, before rising suspicion led to his recall in 1980.

One notorious operation overseen by Williamson was to use carefully manufactured letter bombs to kill activists and opponents of the government. Using the skills of master bombmaker Jerry Raven, the IEDs were so tiny they could be slipped into a small envelope. In 1982, one of the bombs was sent to exiled writer and activist Ruth First in Mozambique. She was working as Director at the Centre of African Studies. First died almost instantly after opening the letter.

Also in 1982, he was linked to the bombing of the offices of the ANC (African National Congress) in London.

Several motion pictures, documentaries and printed matter have been produced which detail the skilled operator's activities; one *Sunday Times* feature titled: *'The Spy Who Never Came In From The Cold'*, concludes



Ruth First

with his infamous quote: "I respect a person who's willing to die for his country, but I admire a person who is prepared to kill for his country."

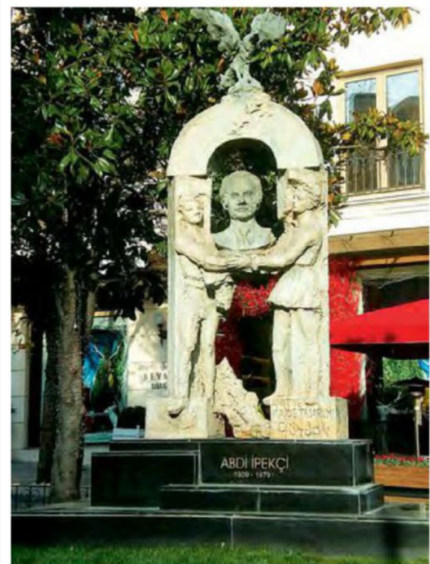
An Iranian Recruit? Mehmet Ali Agca

Mehmet Ali Agca is a Turkish assassin who murdered left-wing journalist and popular human rights activist Abdi Ipekci, Editor-in-Chief of the major Turkish newspaper *Milliyet*, on 1 February 1979. Together with a fellow member of the ultra-nationalist Grey Wolves organisation, he was given a life sentence, but six months later escaped from jail and fled to Iran. The street where Ipekci was killed has been renamed Abdi Ipekci Avenue in his honour and a memorial built.

Agca is perhaps better known for the dramatic attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II on 13 May 1981, in St Peter's Square, Rome.

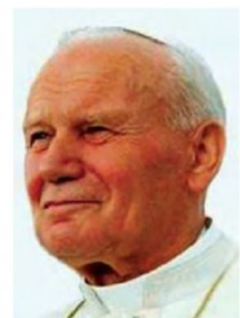


Mehmet Ali Agca



Memorial to Abdi Ipekci in Istanbul

After serving 19-years in prison in Italy for the crime, where he was visited by the Pope and forgiven, he was deported to Turkey. Here he received an additional 10-year sentence. Agca was released on 18 January 2010.



Pope John Paul II



A mural of Ruth First in Soweto, South Africa and plaque in Camden Town, London



The car in which Pope John Paul II was travelling in when Agca shot him



Plaque in the square indicating where the shooting took place

In countless interviews, Agca describes himself as a mercenary with no political orientation, although acknowledging he is a former member of the Grey Wolves and the state-sponsored Counter-Guerrilla.

Agca published his memoirs in 2013, and controversially wrote that the Iranian Government and Ayatollah Khomeini had ordered the assassination of John Paul II. According to him, he received instructions and training in weapons and explosives in Iran, from Mohsen Rezaee (Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps - IRGC) under the orders of Ayatollah Jaffar Subhani and Ayatollah Khomeini.



Mohsen Rezaee

Long Arm of the Mossad Mike Harari

Mossad intelligence officer Michael Harari was involved in several high profile intelligence operations, including the failed Lillehammer affair and the rescue of hostages at Entebbe.

In 1972, after operatives of the Palestinian terrorist group Black September killed 11 Israeli Olympic athletes in Munich, the Israeli



Plaque erected to the murdered Israeli athletes directly outside the building in Munich in which they were based



Prime Minister Golda Meir

Government led by Prime Minister Golda Meir sanctioned Operation Wrath Of God. Its primary objective was to eliminate the entire leadership of Black September. Under Harari's leadership, a

small unit was assembled and across Europe, the team killed at least seven suspected sponsors and players involved in the Munich massacre. Each sanction was carefully planned: one target answered his telephone, confirmed his identity, and was immediately killed by a bomb secreted in the receiver. This incident and others are carefully replicated in Steven Spielberg's absorbing 2005 film *Munich*. Remarkably, intelligence sources claim the hunt for those responsible lasted for at least two decades.

However, Harari's reputation was damaged in Lillehammer, Norway, when he led an operation in July 1973, which ended with the death of Ahmed Bouchikhi, an innocent



Michael Harari

Moroccan waiter who had somehow been mistaken for Chief of Operations of Black September, Ali Hassan Salameh.



Ahmed Bouchikhi

To make matters worse, six members of the 15-person Mossad squad were arrested by Norwegian authorities. Harari himself escaped, but the damage to Mossad's reputation and the political fallout was significant.

Harari's last known operation was in 1979, when he finally managed to assassinate Salameh in Beirut, Lebanon, somewhat restoring his image with the Mossad hierarchy after the Norway fiasco.

He died in 2014, aged 87, having spent much of his retirement denying an alleged stint working for Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega.



Ali Hassan Salameh

COURTESY: ISRAEL BROADCASTING AGENCY



The Telephone Killer Vladimir Khutsisvili

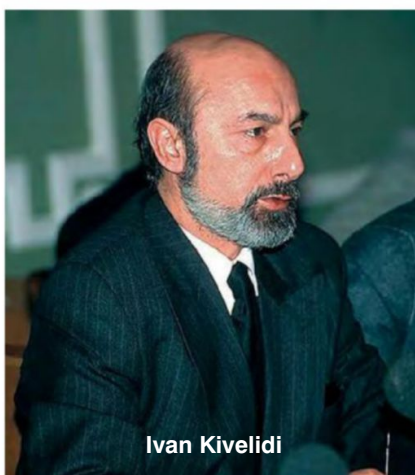
The only use of a substance similar to the Novichok nerve agent used in the attempted assassination of MI6 agent and GRU officer Sergei Skripal in March 2018, was registered in 1995. Banking magnate Ivan Kivelidi, 46, founder of Rosbiznesbank and head of the Russian Business Round Table, died 72-hours after tiny quantities of an unidentified nerve agent were found on his telephone and possibly in a cup containing tea. Kivelidi's secretary Zara Ismailova, 35, passed away in great pain just hours later. The doctor who conducted the autopsy and dissected his highly toxic liver, reportedly died a few weeks later. Intelligence officials initially believed Kivelidi was poisoned with cadmium.

Today, few disagree with CIA and MI6 conclusions that the primary victim was killed by an assassin using Novichok stolen from a secret FSB laboratory in Moscow. And for the record, the intelligence agencies believe Kivelidi's death was but one of an astonishing 500 contract killings to have taken place in Russia and its former satellites in 1995.

During the police investigation, it was discovered that the killer acquired the



Vladimir Khutsishvili



Ivan Kivelidi

substance from an employee of the branch of GosNIIOKhT - the State Scientific Research Institute for Organic Chemistry and Technology in the Saratov region. The employee was subsequently convicted of abuse of authority, as he "synthesised dangerous agents illegally."

The alleged assassin, also suffered from severe poisoning and clandestinely underwent treatment at the Sklifosovsky Institute. He and the bank's deputy head Vladimir Khutsishvili were found guilty of killing Kivelidi and his secretary after purchasing a vial of highly toxic poison from a contact in spring 1995, and sentenced to nine years jail.

Today, much secrecy still exists surrounding the incident, including who actioned and authorised the sanction. Moscow continues to rebuff attempts to secure further information. However, a clue to the incident can be found in a 2008 comment made by Moscow Prosecutor Yuri Syomin who said: "I am not permitted to name the poison that killed Kivelidi." However, he did admit it was "a chemical weapon that can kill a lot of people even in a small dose and is naturally classified."

LANGLEY'S M TONY MENDEZ LE

Tony Mendez, one of the CIA's most famous operatives, and known in 'spylore' as the 'Master of Disguise', has died at the age of 78. Recognised by Langley as one of the Agency's 50 most influential 'trailblazers', he was famously instrumental in helping lead the joint US-Canadian operation which helped rescue several US diplomatic staffers after the embassy was stormed by protesters in an Iranian government-sponsored operation in Tehran in 1980. He was awarded a CIA Intelligence Star for his role in the operation and in 1997 received a Trailblazer Award.

Dozens of American diplomats were seized and held hostage in the Iran incident, but six managed to secure sanctuary in the Canadian Embassy. Here they were sheltered for 79 days while the CIA plotted a most audacious escape plan.

Mendez joined the six and provided bogus identities to the staffers as film crew members working on a fictitious sci-fi movie - *Argo*. They evaded capture after successfully



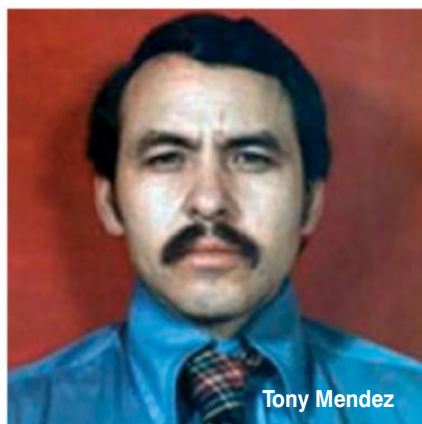
Mendez is congratulated by President Carter for his role in the escape of six US diplomats



Ben Affleck with
Tony Mendez

MASTER OF DISGUISE

EGENDARY CIA SPY PASSES



Tony Mendez

boarding a Swissair flight to freedom. The incident became known as the 'Canadian Caper'* and Mendez's role in the production of a subsequent 2012 Academy Award winning movie of the incident (of the same), was played by Ben Affleck. After learning of his death, Affleck said: "He was a true American hero and a man of extraordinary grace, decency, humility and kindness."

In 2013, the CIA unveiled a painting of Mendez and a colleague carefully assembling a number of documents and identity papers used by the six trapped diplomats in Operation Argo. Titled *'Argo - The Rescue of the Canadian Six'*, the work was painted by Deborah Dismuke, like Mendez, an operative of Langley's Directorate of Science and Technology (DS&T). "The visual concept of the painting came from Tony," said Dismuke, the first-ever officer to have artwork displayed at the CIA Art Gallery. "I invited him to come to the Agency so that we could stage the scene. I will truly miss him."

Mendez joined the CIA in 1965 and soon his skills as a graphic and landscape artist were being utilised by the Agency's Technical Division. Thereafter he operated in numerous theatres, including Moscow, assisting in complex operations and providing all manner of illusory espionage support. Mendez once transformed a black agent and an Asian diplomat into a pair of white business executives, using masks that some associates said "resembled the motion picture stars Victor Mature and Rex Harrison." On another occasion, he devised an oversize 'jack-in-the-box' - a spring-loaded mannequin - that enabled a CIA contact to exit out of a vehicle while a dummy inflated in his place.

He departed the Agency in 1990 and went on to run an art studio, as well as write three absorbing books about his life and work at the CIA, the most well known being *Master of Disguise: My Secret Life in the CIA* (1999). "I've always considered myself to be an artist first," he once said, "and for 25 years I was a pretty good spy."

Following his death, a Langley statement read: *'Tony Mendez embodied the pioneering spirit, boldness and derring-do that have defined CIA since our founding. We're truly grateful for his exemplary service to our country'.*



A decade ago Mendez was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and he sadly succumbed to the illness on 19 January 2019. Eye Spy understands he had just finished a new manuscript before he passed. Titled *The Moscow Rules*, the book is set for publication in May 2019.

The CIA's website has various features on Mendez and his work.

*See Eye Spy 102 - *The Canadian Caper*

CIA TRAILBLAZER AWARD

Eighty three CIA operatives have received the Trailblazer Medal for exceptional service to the Agency. The names of 74 have been released. The identities of the other officers "must remain secret."



'Argo - The Rescue of the Canadian Six' painting in the CIA Art Gallery depicts Tony Mendez (top) with a colleague creating the bogus film crew identity papers



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LOCK A

Thousands of
Atomic Programme
Files Withdrawn
from UK and
Australia's National
Archives...

AN ATOMIC

Researchers, intelligence historians, academics and conspiracy theorists puzzled as government denies access to once open documents on UK's atomic research and tests

With no warning and no explanation from the government, thousands of British nuclear files were withdrawn in December 2018 from the UK National Archives by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. It has resulted in an embargo on public access to any of the atomic files that were declassified in the 1980s. What has fuelled speculation is that the files don't represent only one section of the British nuclear programme. Thousands of files from across the British Atomic research programme from 1939 to the 1980s have all been closed at the National Archives, along with the civilian applications of this technology. Amongst the withdrawn files are records of:

- Testing of atomic weapons by the Atomic Weapons Establishment and its predecessors

- Results of testing and theoretical physics behind the atomic programme

- Information on the Top Secret Tube Alloys project of 1939-1945

- All files from the Harwell laboratories

ND KEY C MYSTERY



National Archives, Kew, London

TUBE ALLOYS

Tube Alloys was the codeword for a project begun in Britain in 1939 after Germany's principal scientist Werner Heisenberg split the atom (fission) the previous year. Hitler



Kurt Diebner



Werner Heisenberg

authorised a top secret nuclear programme known as the Uranverein (or Uranium Club) to develop an atomic bomb. The endeavour was supported by leading nuclear scientists, including Kurt Diebner, who acted as director and administrator.

Britain's Tube Alloys explored the use of energy from fission and its feasibility of developing atomic weapons and possible civilian use as energy.

For the duration of the Second World War, it became a race against time as Britain and its ally America attempted to gain intelligence on the progress of Germany's atomic bomb programme. It led to the famous Commando raid on the Norwegian heavy water plant in Nazi-occupied Norway to prevent Hitler gaining heavy water for his atomic programme. By March 1944, 30 senior ➤



Mushroom clouds soar over Hiroshima (above) and Nagasaki following the dropping of the atomic bombs in August 1945



Farm Hall, Godmanchester, Cambridge



Leslie Groves Jr., head of the Manhattan Project examines a map of Japan

British scientists were working in the United States at stations like Los Alamos (the Manhattan Project) and other secret weapons sites. At the end of the war, Hitler's top atomic bomb scientists were 'snatched' in an operation codenamed Epsilon from Germany and brought temporarily to Britain. They were held at Farm Hall at Godmanchester, Cambridge, with no explanation given for their detention; here their conversations were secretly bugged by British Intelligence. It was also here that they received news of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima on 6 August 1945 and Nagasaki three days later.

During the Cold War the Soviet Union and the West came to the very brink of nuclear war as

the atomic superpowers vied for superiority. It is said that only the actions of the Russian spy, Penkovsky, saved the world from total obliteration when he leaked Russia's true state of affairs to the West. It remained a dangerous game with British spies and traitors like Kim Philby, Guy Burgess, and Donald Maclean passing secrets of the West to Moscow and ultimately defecting there. With the thaw of the Cold War in the 1980s, the West and Soviet Russia entered a pact under President Reagan



George Thomson, Chairman of the MAUD Committee which began Britain's secret Tube Alloys project

and Gorbachev to reduce nuclear weapons. There was hope that finally the nuclear threat had been averted and a new dawn had emerged.

CURRENT NUCLEAR FEARS

But tensions have risen sharply again in recent years - some would argue to levels of the Cold War. The world has tried to monitor Iran and North Korea as they seek to secretly develop their own nuclear weapons. As countries hostile to the West, a number of sanctions

Entrance at Los Alamos used by personnel who worked on the Manhattan Project



Regnart Buildings, London, used by the British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association (BNF)

© CLASSIFIED: THE INSIDER'S GUIDE TO 500 SPY SITES IN LONDON



James Chadwick headed the British element of America's atomic Manhattan Bomb project. Here seen (left) with US Major General Leslie Groves Jr. - the project's director

have been imposed on Iran and North Korea to prevent them succeeding in becoming nuclear powers and threatening the West. Reports in Russia also indicate a 'reinvention' of nuclear delivery methods, with some officials claiming Moscow has invented new weaponry which can avoid all counter methods.

AUSTRALIA FOLLOWS SUIT

Is this new Cold War behind the withdrawal of Britain's historic atomic files from public access in December 2018? The mystery

intensified yet further in January 2019 with the withdrawal of nuclear files from the National Archives of Australia (NAA) by the Australian government. The two are possibly interlinked because the British conducted 12 nuclear tests in Australia in the 1950s and 1960s near Maralinga in the remote west of South Australia.

This recent case highlights how once-classified material can potentially become sensitive again, with their contents possibly a threat to national security. Something must

have been discovered to make the industry and security services nervous about what could be in the files, or whether the information in them could be used by a hostile nation to finish their own nuclear aspirations and capabilities.

Elizabeth Tynan, author of the book *Atomic Thunder: The Maralinga Story* believes there could be some kind of attempted cover-up by the British. "Many relevant UK documents have remained secret since the time of the tests, well past the conventional 30 years that government documents are normally withheld," said Tynan, referring to files held at the NAA.

Whatever the reasons for this sudden action, the closure of these files has caused particular problems for those academics and scientists who rely on this material for their research. In an age of increasing nuclear threat from countries hostile to the West, national security has been secured over and above freedom of knowledge.

An intriguing mystery remains - what exactly triggered this new embargo?

- Whilst the exact number of files withdrawn by the UK National Archives remains unknown, it is estimated that 1,700 files are affected

TUBE ALLOYS

A PROJECT BREACHED BY THE KGB

A great deal of documented information pertaining to the Tube Alloys project was utilised and stored at two London locations used by the important British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association (BNF), including the Regnart Buildings. Here scientists performed various experiments in a number of

laboratories. Unbeknown to MI5, the BNF had a Soviet spy in its ranks - Melita Norwood. She started work at BNF in 1937, and for the next 40-years served as a clerk and secretary to the organisation's Research Superintendent. Norwood therefore had access to all manner of important files, including test results and the key figures involved in the project. She would go on to pass incredibly sensitive papers on Tube Alloys to her superiors in the KGB in Moscow, via London contacts.

Of course all the staff at BNF were closely vetted and some even fell under suspicion, thus were watched by MI5. But Norwood avoided external and internal security probes. It was not until 1992 that the truth about Norwood began to emerge - she was KGB agent



Sir John Anderson was one of the key figures responsible for Tube Alloys and Britain's push to create a nuclear bomb. Inset: Melita Norwood - KGB Agent Hola

Hola. Her identity was exposed by defector Vasili Mitrokhin who was the KGB's chief archivist. To the astonishment of the watching spy world, and for reasons which remain secret today, she was never charged. And as a further blow to British Intelli-

gence, the KGB files secreted out of the USSR by Mitrokhin, which became known as the Mitrokhin Archive, revealed she was held in more regard than any of the so-called Cambridge Spies including the likes of Philby, Blunt and Maclean.



Vasili Mitrokhin



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Bruno Kahl, President of the BND with Chancellor Merkel at the opening ceremony

BND-TRADING PLACES

Controversial New Headquarters Opens

After decades in provincial Pullach, Bavaria, Germany's Foreign Intelligence Agency (BND), celebrated the opening of its new HQ in Berlin on 8 February. Fronted by tall steel palm trees, the headquarters sits upon a site where the once infamous Berlin Wall dissected the city separating East and West. Intelligence and political figures believe the building represents a major symbolic change for Germany, however, not all are convinced.

Chancellor Angela Merkel attended the official opening ceremony and thanked BND personnel for their work enabling "millions of Germans to live in safety." She said the organisation "needs to stay strong and efficient."

Former Defense Ministry State Secretary, Willy Wimmer said: "The decision to relocate the HQ stemmed directly from the aftermath of German reunification, as political institutions were moved from West Germany's capital Bonn, back to Berlin."

Apart from its outstanding size, the construction features a massive monolith-like sculpture near the front entrance. German media have



Bruno Kahl, President of the BND

dubbed it 'The Thing'. Officially, the BND said it "conveys a subtle hint of the BND's function - casting light on the hidden and safeguarding secrets."

One critic called the building "megalomaniacal" and "its endless windows looked like a 3D printer had run amok..."



The land coverage of the new headquarters is equivalent to 36 football pitches

SETBACKS

The opening of what has been described as “the largest intelligence HQ in the world,” has not been smooth. The project was ridiculed by the German media because it took 12 years to build: it should have been completed by 2012-13. Building costs too have soared - from an estimated 720 million euros to 1.1 billion (\$1.25) - a 42% rise.

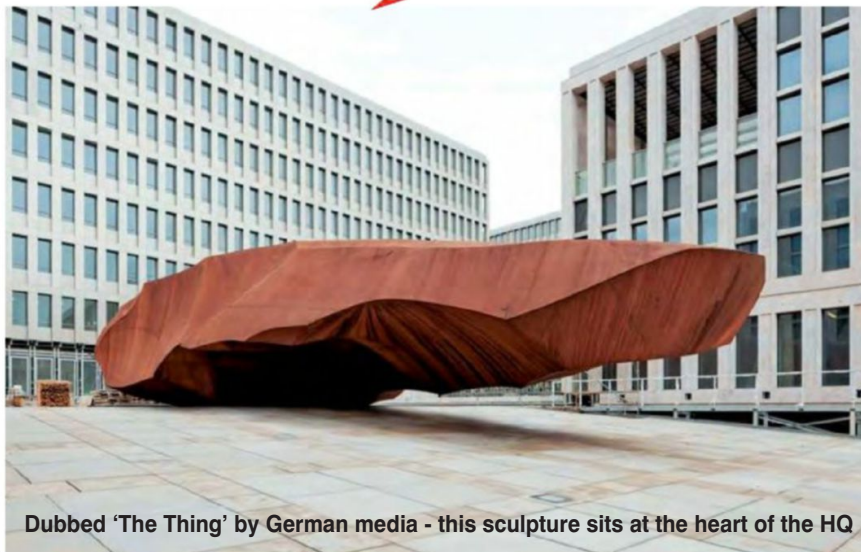
Part of the reason was due to security; for legislation demanded that every foreign labourer working on the actual building site had to be accompanied by a BND guard. In addition, 206 million euros was spent on furniture and technology. The project also stumbled because of a number of unforeseen and embarrassing incidents during construction. In 2011, officials admitted that secret blueprints for the complex had been stolen. This forced planners to move quickly and redesign certain aspects during mid-construction. “A very costly affair,” one minister said.



Protesters march past the new HQ over reports the BND supported NSA operations

WATERGATE

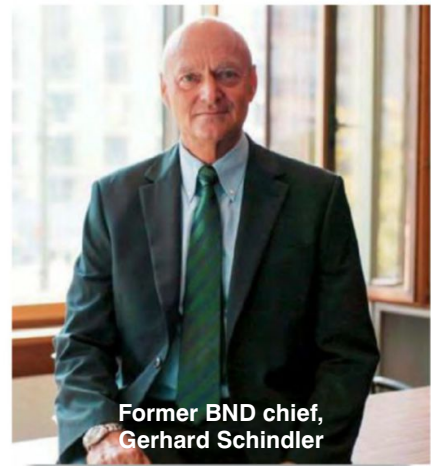
In 2015, Eye Spy reported on another unfortunate security lapse when thieves



Dubbed ‘The Thing’ by German media - this sculpture sits at the heart of the HQ



Outside the building sit steel palm trees



Former BND chief,
Gerhard Schindler

stole newly-fitted water taps. The villains managed to breach security and remove dozens of costly taps from upper level toilets. This in itself was embarrassing, but of more concern was that it resulted in huge floods throughout the building. The German media once again had reason to poke fun at its construction, especially as the incident remained undetected for over 12 hours. "Germany's Watergate," was a collective term favoured by reporters in conversations with officials.

When the incident was finally acknowledged, Berlin Police admitted: "The taps were stolen from toilets on the fourth, fifth and sixth floors of the complex. As all the water pipes were under pressure, water has flooded the ceilings and walls and destroyed doors, electricity connections and security systems." The theft only added to the rising cost of the headquarters' construction.

MIRROR OF THE STASI?

Critics in Germany continue to argue over its enormous size, cost and the actual design and architecture. The building covers an area the size of 36 football fields. The well known architecture critic Nikolaus Bernau, writing in the *Berliner Zeitung*, said: 'The structure evoked the luxury of a prince's palace'. However, he added a somewhat deflating



More protests outside the HQ. Note the replica Cold War West Berlin Checkpoint Charlie sign with a play on the words... 'You are Leaving the American Sector'

comment noting that while at the same time, it was 'reminiscent of the STASI', the feared East German Communist-era security service, 'The building is shaped like a monument of power'.

Bernau reflected that other intelligence headquarter buildings occupied by MI6, CIA and FSB, have avoided using symbols - perhaps a recognition of power - unlike the BND HQ in Berlin.



To augment the feature, *Berliner Zeitung* ran an online poll asking what its readers think. This too upset German officials who had backed its design and position in the city. Fifty per cent said the structure looked 'awful', while 29% 'liked its design'. Everhard Holtmann, a political scientist who lives next



BND General Major Werner Sczesny
Vice-President for Military Affairs



Merkel has dismissed suggestions the BND assists foreign spy organisations target German citizens

to the headquarters said: "I don't share the widespread opinion that the building is particularly ugly, it is a balance between economy and aesthetics, albeit not fully successful."

Other 'architectural reviews' were also not supportive. An editorial in *The Suddeutsche Zeitung* described the complex as 'megalomaniacal and its endless windows looked like a 3D printer had run amok'.

INTELLIGENCE FOCUS

Besides its design and size, there were more important intelligence concerns. Former BND chief, Gerhard Schindler, said it was a mistake leaving the Agency's important technical surveillance unit at the old BND site in Bavaria. He argued that it will now complicate logistics, since the HQ moved to the capital. The BND has a staff of around 6,500, the new HQ can support 4,000. This means 1,500 intelligence officers and support staff still occupy the BND premises near Munich. Other personnel are based elsewhere in Germany and at overseas locations, primarily within field stations at the country's embassies.

Writers and conspiracy people opposed to the world of intelligence and security have also started to examine the building and features. One referenced the enormous fake palm trees outside the walls. "These reportedly support high-frequency eavesdropping equipment..." A reference perhaps to recent reports that the BND has been helping the NSA and GCHQ in a number of surveillance operations, including some targeting its own officials.

A BND official dismissed the palm tree theory - "they are simply features adding to its appearance."



BND HQ Munich. Some 1,500 technical officers will remain in the city and not relocate to Berlin

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CIA ASSOCIATES PAVE THE WAY FOR TALKS WITH TALIBAN LEADERSHIP

TALIBAN CIA CONTACT

Negotiated Peace Seen As Necessary to Focus Allied Eyes on Growing ISIS and al-Qaida Resurgence in Afghanistan

Senior diplomats, military and intelligence negotiators have engaged with Taliban leaders in moves that Washington and Kabul see as vital to ending nearly two decades of conflict in Afghanistan. The liaison follows secret back-channel negotiations between the group's leader Hibatullah Akhundzada, who assumed the role in 2016, and CIA officers and contacts.

The talks have been confirmed by Pentagon officials as Afghanistan's President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani said that since he became leader in 2014, over 45,000 members of his country's security forces have been killed. Speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Mr Ghani revealed that during the same period, around 70 people attached to external allied forces have been killed. "It shows who is doing the fighting," Ghani said. "We need to get a stable Afghanistan that can ensure the security of Americans, Europeans, and others on the one hand, but more fundamentally our own democratic rights and institutions."

The Taliban feel that the momentum is on their side, and that's why they are talking to the US,

but refusing to engage with the Kabul government," he added.



Secret reports created by Pentagon and intelligence analysts have warned that Afghan security forces are seeing a significant rise in casualties. Lt. General Kenneth McKenzie, who many believe will be the next commander of US Central Command (CENTCOM) said: "Their losses have been very high. They are fighting



Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzada

hard, but their losses are not going to be sustainable unless we correct this problem."

INTEL CENTRE ATTACK

President Ghani's comments were made during a difficult week for the leader. They followed a devastating attack on 21 January when Taliban operatives stormed a National Directorate of Security (NDS) intelligence training centre in Maidan Shahr, in Maidan Wardak province, killing over 70 personnel. Some estimates put the figure as high as 125, while the Taliban say 190 NDS and military personnel were killed. A suicide car bomber crashed through the main gates of the compound allowing associates to enter. The operatives were all killed. Officials have



President of Afghanistan Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, speaking in Switzerland, said a staggering 45,000 Afghan security personnel had been killed since 2014



US troops target an enemy position in Paktika province



Taliban casualties since 2002 are estimated to be around 25,000

confirmed the attack was the deadliest ever against the NDS.

Two days later, the NDS launched several operations targeting the organisers of the attack and weapons dumps. Airstrikes killed seven Taliban members, including senior commander Mullah Saifullah. The NDS also destroyed six Taliban bases detonating storage facilities housing over 50 tonnes of explosives and weaponry.

Ironically, the Taliban Maidan Shahr operation was carried out on the very same day as Taliban council leaders met with US Special Envoy Zalmay Khalilzad in the Middle East. Khalilzad, who is vastly experienced in the country's political and armed troubles, is the Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation at the US Department of State.

Taliban commanders confirmed that they had held four days of face-to-face talks with US officials seeking to end 17-years of war. The



**Lt. General
Kenneth
McKenzie**



Afghanistan Army Commandos



US Special Envoy Zalmay Khalilzad

group's leadership are also in discussions with Kremlin officials who support the peace endeavour. Some 25,000 Taliban fighters have been killed in the country since 2002.

Mr Khalilzad said the "meetings were more productive than they have been in the past," though he acknowledged much more is to be done. Amongst the subjects on the agenda, a promise from the Taliban that once allied forces, including NATO, departed Afghanistan, the territory should not be used by other hostile forces to plan attacks on the United States and elsewhere.

Interestingly, amongst the Taliban envoys he spoke with were a number of freed prisoners

from Guantanamo Bay Prison, including senior commander Khairullah Khairkhwa, former governor of Herat province, and the group's defence overlord, Mohammad Fazi. Fazi was captured in 2002. They were exchanged in 2014 for US Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl who was captured in 2009 after he unwittingly wandered off from a US base.



**Khairullah
Khairkhwa**



Mohammad Fazi

Intelligence analysts believe a negotiated peace agreement with the Taliban will allow allied forces to tackle the parallel threat of other terrorist groups, most notably ISIS and al-Qaida. "It's likely any agreement with the Taliban would include a caveat in that they too help to defeat extremism in the country," a US intelligence specialist on Afghanistan said.

• According to a UN security report, more than 10,000 civilians were killed or injured in 2017 alone.

Death Symbol Debate

A Deterrent or Menace?

A number of defence ministries and key officials have joined in a controversial move to 'censor' famous insignia and markers from Special Forces regiments and elite warfare units.

The skull and crossbones arrangement and (variants of) has featured on the insignia and badges of hundreds of military commands. To some it is a symbol of strength, unity and a defence deterrent, while critics claim it represents menace. Either way, in recent years officials have started to rethink, review and in some cases, remove or redesign service logos. Now a fierce debate has been reignited concerning the display and use of 'death symbolism' in the military.

In the UK, senior officials have reportedly ordered the country's Special Air Service (SAS) to stop wearing comic-book *Punisher* skull badges on their uniforms, arguing that they look like the Death's Head (Totenkopf) emblem worn by Hitler's infamous SS.

The skull logo was adopted by the SAS after serving alongside US Navy Seals in Iraq and taken from Frank Castle's Marvel Comics' Punisher character who became a vigilante after criminals murder his wife and children and who wears the logo on his chest. A war veteran and US Marine Corps Scout Sniper,



Lt. Colonel David Stirling - founder of Britain's famous SAS regiment

Castle is skilled in hand-to-hand combat, guerrilla warfare, and marksmanship - all the traits of elite fighting troops.

The SAS badge has been specially made for the regiment and is worn as a patch on the side of a soldier's helmet or on the front of their body armour. "We have been told that it could be upsetting to other units, disrespectful to enemy forces and could encourage war crimes by some of the foreign troops the SAS work with, such as Afghans and Iraqis," a military source said. "It's in recognition for the



Punisher logo - variant of

work he has done - it's not a celebration of taking a life but more to do with putting himself in a position where his own life has been put at a risk."

Ex-Sergeant Trevor Coult, who won the Military Cross in Iraq and is the head of the foundation For Our Veterans, described the ruling as "completely ludicrous."

POLICE USAGE

When police in New York and Kentucky put the Punisher logo on their squad cars, they received mixed reaction. The stated reason for the logo addition was to celebrate the Blue Lives Matter movement, which advocates the safety of police. Critics say the emblem is the logo of a criminal, a vigilante who operates outside the law, and just not an appropriate symbol for the police to use. Most police



1980. SAS troops prepare to enter the Iranian Embassy after the building was seized by terrorists



SS commander Otto Weidinger - note death head insignia on cap



SAS troops enter the Iranian Embassy in an operation codenamed Nimrod

officers disagree, stating that the Punisher logo serves as a warning to criminals that if they're committing violent acts, the police will challenge them.

However, Punisher co-creator Gerry Conway has decried the use of the Punisher symbol by law enforcement: "To me, it's disturbing whenever I see authority figures embracing Punisher iconography because the Punisher represents a failure of the Justice system. The vigilante anti-hero is fundamentally a critique of the justice system, an example of social failure, so when cops put Punisher skulls on their cars or members of the military wear Punisher skull patches, they're basically siding with an enemy of the system." Conway compares it to "putting an American Confederate flag on a government building."

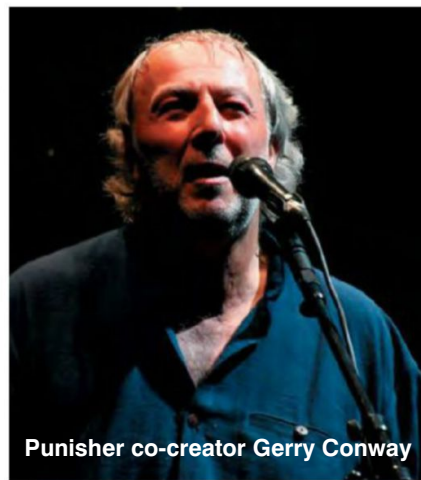
Many soldiers do not agree. One soldier wrote: 'Frank Castle's ambivalent relationship with the military parallels the experience of many who have served. Juxtaposed against his



17th Lancers Cavalry Regiment



Sailors of HMS Utmost pictured with the Jolly Roger in 1942



Punisher co-creator Gerry Conway

hatred of immoral bureaucrats who send naive soldiers into war, Frank's love of fellow brother-warriors helped him cope with the bitter realities of the service, and for the tragic realities he faced when he returned home. The Punisher logo is a kind of bond of brotherhood for those in service. A reminder that those who serve are not alone, that they stand beside brothers and sisters in service'.

AUSTRALIAN BAN

In 2018, all 'death iconology' was banned from use in the Australian Army creating a similar fire storm in the ranks. Lieutenant General Angus John Campbell said icons like the skull mask and Grim Reaper were "arrogant and ill-considered" and "eroded the ethos of the Army." The response from soldiers was swift and furious.

Former 2RAR Platoon Sergeant Justin Huggett, a veteran of the Afghanistan War where he was awarded the Army's Medal of Gallantry, wrote an open letter to General Campbell after learning about the new directive and ban: ➤

A Royal Navy sailor adds a 'kill' line to a Jolly Roger flag





Australian commandos in New Guinea 1945



France 1940. Luftwaffe Ju88 with painted Skull and Crossbones symbol

'Does the proud heritage of the Bravo Company men and their company logo of a 'Circling Shark' disappear forever? (Killer Shark) What about the 2/4RAR Delta Company Road Runner (Murdering Bird). Or our Company badge based around the bayonet, the most feared and gruesome up close and personal weapon on the battlefield. An emblem with no other purpose in its existence other than inflicting extreme pain, bone chilling physical and psychological fear in your enemy and of course horrific death'.

Campbell argues to abolish years of pride and history based on a minority of people being offended was a reflection of how modern day society is going. He then pointed out how one of the most enduring and recognisable icons in the Australian Army was one based around violence and death - The Infantry Combat Badge (ICB) pictured below.



Huggett believes every effort is being made at senior levels to "denigrate the combat effectiveness of the army."

SELECTIVE BANS

Others Veterans Forums complained of double-standards noting certain symbols were being viewed as politically incorrect and therefore inappropriate but the banning was selective leaving other potent political symbols untouched.



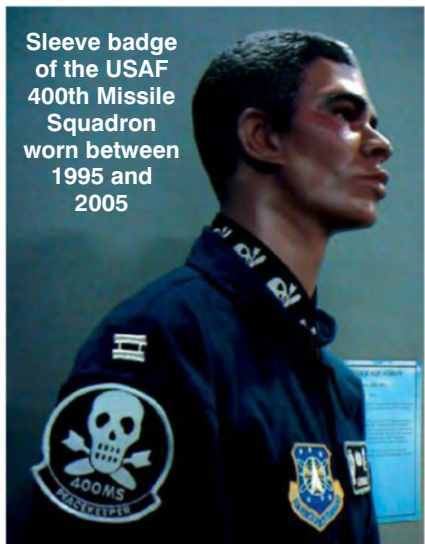
Emblem of the Skull and Bones Society formed in 1832. A secret group at Yale University in the United States often linked to conspiracy theories and the intelligence world, most notably the CIA

Australian Army Lieutenant General Angus John Campbell said: "Such symbology is never presented as ill-intentioned and plays to much of modern popular culture, but it is always ill-considered and implicitly encourages the inculcation of an arrogant hubris and general disregard for the most serious responsibility of our profession: the legitimate and discriminate taking of life."

Another soldier said: "There is obviously something vitally important about soldiers



Nieuport Ni17 'Night of Death' fighter aircraft flown by famous French pilot Charles Nungesser in WWI displayed a skull and crossbones symbol



Sleeve badge of the USAF 400th Missile Squadron worn between 1995 and 2005

identifying with one another in this regard, as well as coping with the existential trauma involved with warfare. But to correlate these symbols with a celebration of death is a serious mis-read of what these symbols are designed to do - to increase pride and morale amongst the unit.

THE ACE OF SPADES: PSYCHOLOGICAL SYMBOLISM



The image of the skull and crossbones is deeply entrenched in the minds of millions around the world and associated with military forces since the Knights Templar. The 17th



Colleagues help an injured US trooper during the Vietnam War



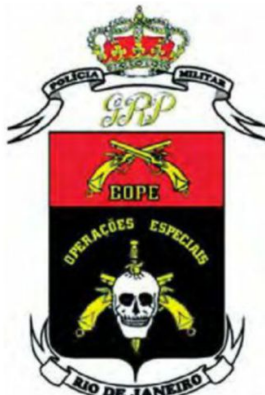
An interesting logo associated with the US 359th Fighter Squadron. Note the use of a skull and Ace of Spades playing card in the backdrop of an attacking aircraft

Lancers (Duke of Cambridge's Own) was a cavalry regiment of the British Army, raised in 1759 and notable for its participation in the Charge of the Light Brigade during the Crimean War. General James Wolfe's admiration of his men was evident in the cap badge chosen for the regiment: the Death's Head with the motto 'Death Or Glory'.

During World War II, many propaganda posters included images of skulls. The Allies distributed propaganda posters utilising skull imagery which portrayed Hitler as death or the



SECURITY USE OF SKULL & CROSSBONES SYMBOLISM



Brazil. Special Police Operations Battalion



Syria. Republican Guard



Spain. 8th Lusitania Cavalry Regiment



USA. 24th Intelligence Squadron



USA. 533rd Training Squadron



USA. 95th Fighter Squadron

cause of deaths. The Axis posters warned of impending death to Allied fighters employing skulls and bones. But there are thousands of other less obvious symbols used by fighting forces.

PSYCHOLOGY AND FEAR

In the Vietnam War, the Ace of Spades playing card was thrown onto the bodies of dead

enemy soldiers as part of psychological warfare. The intention was to target the alleged superstitions of the North Vietnamese, by making the Ace of Spades the symbol of death, humiliation, and suffering. It was believed that all these features were well-known to the Vietnamese and that the card was a potent symbol that would strike fear into the enemy ranks. The act was likened to depositing a calling card - placing a card





1943. The British submarine Ursula flies the Jolly Roger

on the fallen enemy's eyes, implied the Ace of Spades was the last thing he saw. The symbol was also worn by US troopers on their



1942. Sailors of HMS Proteus display the Jolly Roger following operations in the Mediterranean Sea

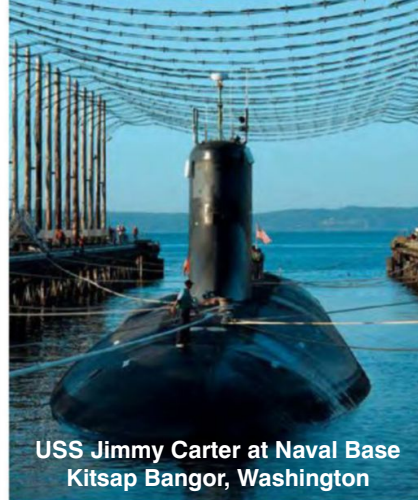
helmets and used in leaflet drops, together with a skull, warning the NVA troops to cease combat activity, or else face death.

Even though it became popular during the 1960s, the card's use as a symbol dates back to World War II. It was the soldiers of the famous 101st Airborne Division who first started wearing helmets with an Ace of Spades emblem painted on them. Unlike its meaning in the Vietnam theatre, it was a good luck symbol associated with good fortune in card playing. Also, since it was easily recognisable, the emblem served as a means of identification among friendly forces.

The history of the relationship between the Ace of Spades and death dates back to ancient times, when it was solely a European phenomenon. The background of the symbol is derived from Germanic myths and the Yule festival, which marked the beginning of winter. Winter was feared among the common people, as the cold months often meant famine and even death.

RAISING THE JOLLY ROGER

Britain's Royal Navy submarine forces have had a long association with the Skull and Crossbones flag the Jolly Roger. Its use as a marker of defiance and victory dates back to World War One. Submarines would fly the flag after a successful operation or the sinking of



USS Jimmy Carter at Naval Base Kitsap Bangor, Washington

an enemy vessel. When HMS Conqueror returned to the Clyde Submarine base at Faslane in Scotland, following the sinking of the Argentine warship General Belgrano in the 1982 Falklands War, its captain ordered that the Jolly Roger flag be hoisted. The practice was adopted by other naval forces. And just like some markers worn by today's armed forces, not all senior officials were supportive. Indeed, after the Royal Navy began using submarines in WWI (and flying the flag), First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Arthur Wilson complained, "submarines were underhanded, unfair and damned 'un-English'." He added crews should be "hanged as pirates!"

The Jolly Roger flag was last seen flying from the US Navy attack submarine USS Jimmy Carter in 2017, this after returning from a secret operation to the Naval Base Kitsap Bangor, Washington.

Spy Versus Spy

NEW KGB MUSEUM OPENS

On 17 January, the KGB Spy Museum opened its doors in Manhattan to the press. Displays feature 'exciting and formerly secret items from the much-feared Soviet intelligence service KGB... no doubt the largest collection of



KGB artefacts in the world' according to its website.

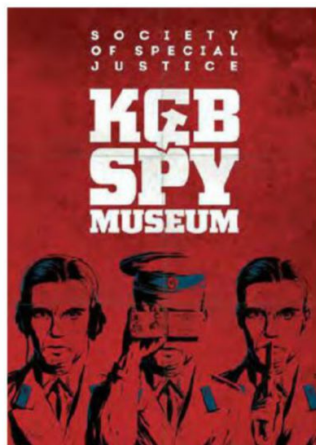
Opinion to the new city attraction was divided. The *New Yorker* wrote: 'Imagine walking down Fourteenth Street in New York and seeing a sculpture of the head of a twentieth-century tyrant (Joseph Stalin). The likeness of a man responsible for the deaths of millions, the imprisonment and torture of tens of millions, and the total subjugation of hundreds of millions has been placed on the sidewalk to entice you to visit a museum'. The *New York Post* was more supportive. Noting some 3,500 pieces are on show, including a lipstick gun, cipher devices and a replica umbrella



gun - the type used to assassinate Bulgarian diplomat Georgi Markov in London in 1978. 'The timing of the museum was perfect'.

Other interactive exhibits include dialling a period phone and hearing a speech from Stalin, Putin, or a number of other men who terrorised Russia between

their reigns. Propaganda posters decorate the collection of surveillance devices, and visitors can have their photo taken in the 'tramp chair'. The caption, and the museum's own guides, identify the exhibit: 'People who did not take psychologically to the interrogation process well were put into soft cells. Then people were given various medications to



turn from a politically idealistic person into a vegetable'.

"If people want to, we can tie them up," said Julius Urbaitis, 55, the Lithuanian businessman and Soviet-spycraft aficionado whose collection forms the basis of the museum. Urbaitis, who opened another similar museum called KGB Bunker in Kaunas, Lithuania, said an "anonymous" entrepreneur who visited it came up with the idea of a New York branch, and bankrolled it. Urbaitis said he first had an interest in World War II artefacts, but when he acquired a listening device that belonged to Adolf Hitler, he became fascinated with espionage. He added, the mission is "not political but educational."

The *New York Times* wrote a more amusing piece on the museum entitled, 'A Museum for K.G.B. Aficionados? Da!' The UK's *Daily Telegraph* wrote: 'Whatever the



Bust of Stalin at the KGB Museum

© MARCUS QWERTYUS



International Spy Museum, Washington DC



objections though, the museum will have an important function in the Western world: educating hundreds of thousands of people about one aspect of Soviet rule. However morally neutral it might be, any museum focusing on the KGB cannot help but reveal its terrible record of torture and murder and its role as the instrument of Stalin's Great Purge'.

Many others took to social media to say it was too concerned with gadgets, as though the KGB were merely playing a technological game rather than being an instrument of terror and death and its brutal history unmentioned. Historians cannot agree on exact numbers, but even conservative estimates of deaths during the Communist regimes in the 20th century are in the region of 80 to 100 million.

© INTERNATIONAL SPY MUSEUM



Artist's impression of the new International Spy Museum

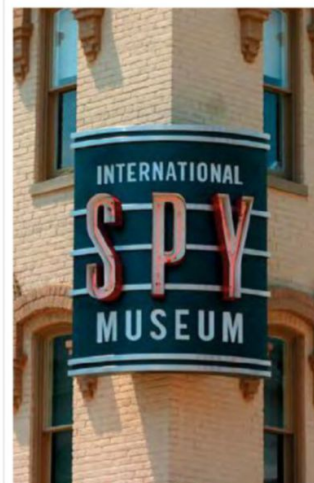
LEGAL CONTROVERSY

A legal spat between the new museum and the hugely popular Washington DC International Spy Museum (ISM) has also been reported. Various points have been filed in a lawsuit dated 22 January in the US District Court of the Southern District of New York.

The International Spy Museum (ISM) is one of Washington's most popular paid-entrance attractions with over 700,000 visitors in 2018. Opened in 2002, the museum was built and founded by Milton Maltz, a US codebreaker during the Korean War. Due to its success, the museum began the process of moving from its Washington F Street location to a new dedicated building at 700 L'Enfant Plaza. The new \$162 million museum has been under construction for nearly two years and will increase the museum's exhibit space from

19,000 to 32,000 square feet, and includes a 145-seat theatre, rooftop terrace and top-floor event space - scheduled to open to the public this May.

Eye Spy featured the grand opening of the International Spy Museum in issue 11, 2002, and on its front cover.



The Deceptive Factor

PART 16

Mike Finn

IN THE INTELLIGENCE CYCLE

REPUTATION DESTRUCTION

Mind Games, Burn Notices, Credibility, Paranoia and Inducing Suspicion

As the damage and fall-out over suspected Russian interference in the US Election continues, Mike Finn explores some key factors used in the intelligence world and elsewhere that can impact on a person's credibility

Julius Caesar ran one of the world's first spy networks and had a comprehensive surveillance system in place during his time as Emperor. In the 1500s Francis Walsingham, the spymaster serving Queen Elizabeth I, began what effectively was the precursor of MI5, keeping surveillance on anyone who threatened the State and the Monarchy. In modern times the National Security Agency (NSA) took over the US public information collecting programme codenamed Operation Shamrock. This was resurrected only a few years ago. And up until the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the notorious East German Stasi (Staatssicherheitsdienst SSD) spied on the activities of all suspected subversive citizens.

The Stasi gathered intelligence using sophisticated technology for its time. Hidden cameras, covert recording equipment, bugging devices, recording watches and much more. Over 100,000 members of the public were recruited as informants by being threatened with blackmail, bribed and coerced. The Service used political harassment psychology called 'Zersetzung', employing sabotage activities, creating contention within groups and

underground movements, discrediting key members, using harassment and similar tactics. All of the above spins around the intelligence element - The Deceptive Factor and its development.

BURN NOTICE

'People Watching' has been an integral part of the intelligence world since early times. In the last article we covered some of the cyber tools that exist in both the public and intelligence domain. These new weapons make it possible to not only collate information, but manipulate that information, even to the extent of discrediting a target. In the intelligence game it is known as a 'Burn Notice' making the person unreliable and a social or political outcast.

In today's world the NSA and JTRIG (Joint Threat Research Intelligence Group) are in the public firing line when it comes to information gathering in the public sector. Manipulation of such information can lead to character sabotage. In respect of cyber intelligence and crime, the list of reputed projects and programmes is almost endless: [A] 'Angry Pirate' is aimed at putting a target's account



(on computer) out of commission. [B] 'Changeling' can doppelgang an e-mail address. [C] 'Gateway' increases traffic to clog a website eventually leading to its collapse. [D] 'Spring Bishop' finds personal photos on Facebook. These are just a few operational programmes in which a person or organisation can be targeted.

Targeting an individual's credibility can be performed with additional 'out of sight' tools, most notably the Internet



The Stasi operated one of the most covert, yet intrusive 'people watching' operations against its citizens ever conducted by an intelligence agency

In the covert world of intelligence, there are two primary stages to implement an attack on a target. The first is collation of background information; the second is resource and planning of the operation, then the whole thing is put into play. Today a great deal is instrumented through cyber technology, but 'real world' execution also plays a prominent role.

PARANOIA

From the perspective of a target, you may wonder what 'signs and symptoms' manifest themselves. It is a difficult question to answer. However, two key factors of implementation are: events must be plausible and cumulative, events should make the target appear paranoid or a little crazy, should they try to tell associates. The latter in itself has the knock-on effect of discrediting the target.

MIND GAMES AND SCENARIOS

At this point it's prudent to talk about what's possible. One strategy is to tie the target up

with 'trivia' - events and situations that impair their use of resources, planning time, communication time, confuse and so forth.

Let's suppose the target uses telephone banking, suddenly due to an error their accounts are somehow cancelled. It takes time to sort this out, and it can be delayed further by complications.

- Next they receive a massive utility bill, it is obviously a mistake, but resolving this takes time and effort.
- When a target produces documents on a computer, for reasons unknown it creates spelling mistakes even after the spell check has been completed. This is compounded when they send an e-mail saying they 'agree' with the board of directors, the message received says they 'disagree' with the board of directors. Only three letters have been added - 'dis', a computer error? Either way it is a significant error.
- An important meeting is thwarted because e-mails do not arrive.
- The company switchboard they telephone say the person they want is not available; on the next try the line is down.
- An announcement is made on the Internet that the target has passed away, many associates make contact to verify the information.
- The target sends 200 advertising flyers by e-mail, only a handful arrive, error or not?
- Key websites the target needs and uses are either unavailable or not found.
- The target fails to attend meetings with

associates (mainly because of missed e-mails, perhaps put on his site after the event).

Imagine dealing with all the incidents over a short period?

The scenario is simplistic but illustrative. If you told someone all the above had happened to you, how do you think they would view your credibility? The fact is that we all deal with administrative trauma from time to time, incorrect bills, unrealistic business demands, computer fallibility etc. The trick is **evaluating the likelihood of excessive probability** based on your experiences in the past. If the present condition is unreasonably excessive and not just paranoia, take a closer look at events and reasons why you may be targeted, and any possible common denominators. Remember that events described here are not unusual in their own right, but collectively they may paint a very different picture to a listener, friend or associate. Remember too that such targeting is not exclusively used in the intelligence world, but exists in other theatres such as politics, corporate business and even organised crime.

GANG STALKING

One phrase of this type of strategy in modern times is 'Gang Stalking', and entails organised harassment and psychological attacks. The perpetrators are 'shadow groups' and pinpointing them is not easy. The reason victims are targeted range from subjective entertainment to objective purpose. Apart from overt surveillance to intimidate, the usual concepts of psychological and physical manipulation are instituted. There are quite a few victims on the Internet, also there are a number of help websites for such victims.

Mankind will never be free of surveillance or personal invasion. In the sense of shielding us against crime and terrorism, both in the real, and cyber world, such methods are important to the protection of society as a whole. Innocent victims caught up in such targeting methods, are considered collateral damage.

In the last two features I have just lightly touched upon a prevalent but obscure and abstruse subject. There is no clear definition, but ultimately it involves reputation and credibility destruction. In the intelligence theatre and elsewhere such tactics are being deployed. However, as we have seen in recent events in the United States, intelligence people and senior Establishment figures are also ever open to becoming targets themselves. From this perspective alone it is as well to have some insight into this rarely commented upon intelligence element.



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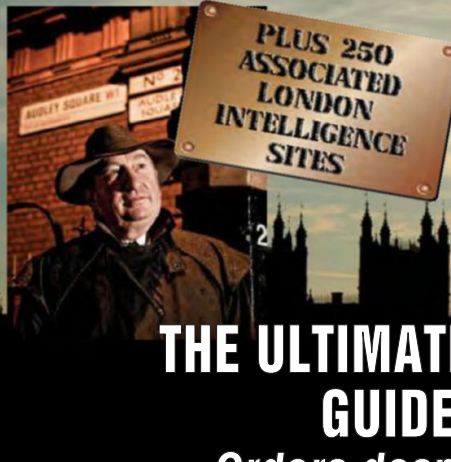
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Bobby Fischer

towards the USSR." The reason was revealed years later: J. Edgar Hoover, the Bureau's long-time and most famous Director, was deeply concerned the KGB would try to recruit him.



Garry Kasparov

chess champion, Garry Kasparov, who played in many Cold War chess dramas, was always accompanied by a KGB Lt. Colonel Viktor Litvinov, according to his former coach and friend Alexander Nikitin. Indeed, so fearful were the Soviets of the game being used as a contact method, some chess experts were actually embedded with overseas diplomatic missions to help identify agents using the game as a cover for espionage activities. One person, later identified by the CIA, was Lev Zaitsev, a cultural attache who worked at both the Soviet Embassy in Washington DC and Ottawa. An expert chess player he was in fact a KGB colonel.

World chess championships played in the Cold Wars years were dogged with rumours of external meddling and attempts by the KGB and CIA to influence games, coerce players and establish contact with watching intelligence and diplomatic officials. None more so evident than

in 1972 when American Bobby Fischer played Moscow favourite Boris Spassky in Iceland in a game which attracted worldwide interest. The KGB were adamant that the CIA had 'bugged' Spassky's chair, while Langley's officers examined Fischer's claim that watching KGB men had attempted to hypnotise him. There were indeed a number of KGB and GRU officers in attendance, but the allegation was never proven. And when neutral officials took Spassky's chair apart, they found no CIA devices.

After the game, the victorious Fischer told journalists he feared throughout the KGB would assassinate him. He also cited this as a reason why he refused to play chess again. Unbeknown to Fischer and his family at the time, years earlier the FBI had embarked on a surveillance operation to discover if he had any links with Russia prior to a scheduled visit to Moscow in 1958. Mail was monitored, cheques and financial transactions examined, and agents even posed as journalists to discover if he had "friendly persuasions



FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover instructed agents to investigate Bobby Fischer and identify any possible Communist leanings

At the end of the 1970s, another Russian Grandmaster chess player defected to the United States. He admitted that "some Grandmasters were used by the KGB as



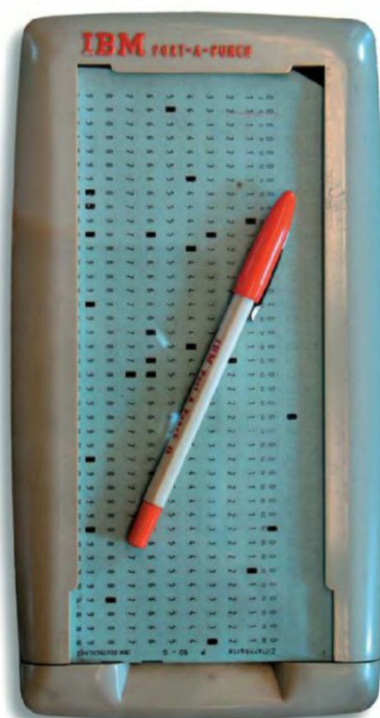
1973. Russian chess champion Boris Spassky (right)

infiltrators and collectors of intelligence.” Others were used to establish friendships and business liaisons.

VENONA, America’s most secret operation to secure intelligence communications from Russia’s KGB and GRU, also assisted US Intelligence in identifying possible traitors, spies and agents operating on behalf of the USSR. One such spy was actually given the codename Chess Knight - he was a KGB officer in Mexico.

THE CIA’s MECHANICAL PLAYER

The CIA regularly receives offers of help from a wide variety of people in various occupations to help perform espionage. Some are considered, but most get rejected almost immediately. One such offer which instantly found its way into the ‘crank’ category came from a “responsible businessman” who said he had built a mechanical chess playing machine which used IBM punch cards allowing the pieces to move. The unnamed man said he could take the machine to Moscow, engage with military planners, and instead of using chess pieces, he would exchange these for “tanks, infantry, hills, forests, planes etc.” Then he would play with generals and key officials and learn their strategies. Once the new IBM cards had been readied reflecting the Russian moves, he would take them to the US Embassy in Moscow allowing the US a deep insight into how any future conflict might play out.



IBM punch card late 1960s



A Russian Army tank is torched following the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968. One chess enthusiast hoped his computer game could help identify Russian armed battlefield strategy

Not surprisingly, the offer, made during the height of the Cold War, was rejected.

THE CHESS PLAYING KGB

Perhaps as a reflection of Russia’s enduring interest, respect and fascination with the game of chess, two of its own Grandmasters were embroiled in a diplomatic spat in the 1970s. Viktor Korchnoi and Anatoly Karpov played each other in the 1978 World Championship final in the Philippines.

Moscow had always backed Karpov who was seen as a loyal citizen of the state, while Korchnoi never hid his dislike of some aspects of the Communist system. This served only to infuriate the Kremlin and the KGB. Karpov was given a Mercedes, a Moscow flat and even a chauffeur, while Korchnoi was described as an “immoral character.” However, it was he who would have the last laugh; in 1976 he managed to slip his watchers and defect to the West finding sanctuary in Holland. And then two years later the final encounter was played out.

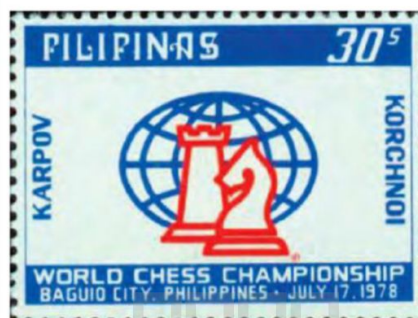
During the game, Korchnoi’s advisors accused Karpov of receiving advice and guidance from external sources using mind



Anatoly Karpov

control. He then said the ice cream and yoghurt delivered to Karpov at intervals was in some way coded. A strawberry flavour signalled a specific move, while a raspberry one meant another and so on.

Korchnoi also named a parapsychologist who would sit opposite him in the watching gallery. Vladimir Zukhar is said to have tried to hypnotise him and “interfere with his brain waves.” In the end, he hired two psychics to try and counter Zukhar, much to the amusement of watching intelligence officials from both the KGB and CIA. Indeed, after he lost to Karpov, Korchnoi duly announced the next time he played Karpov, “I will bring the CIA.”



TALES OF ESPIONAGE

Historic stories of chess, intelligence and associated matters (including violence), can



Viktor Korchnoi



Alexander Alekhine

be found in several works and declassified papers. William the Conqueror is said to have attacked a French prince after he lost a game. In 1120, a spat between King Henry I and France's Louise VI over a chess game allegedly triggered 12-years of conflict between England and France. Even earlier in 1027, the Regent of Denmark Earl Ulf was none too happy when his opponent, King Canute, decided to retake a move. Furious, Ulf threw the board in the air and then ordered that Canute be executed.

During the Franco-Prussian War, chess player Joseph Blackburne was arrested whilst competing at the 1870 Baden-Baden tournament. German officials believed he was a

French spy and throughout his visit was not allowed to talk to anyone.

When electronic methods of communication began, all manner of suspicion ensued that they were being utilised by spies. One early example can be found in literature pertaining to an incident in New York City in 1891. World champion and influential writer William Steinitz was playing chess with Russian Mikhail Chigorin using cable to exchange moves. Police duly detained Steinitz because they believed the messages, which looked fragmented, were secret codes - understandable only by the players. Facts in hand, the police later released Steinitz.

Another 'chess incident' which had a happy ending, occurred in 1919. Russian Cheka officials arrested Alexander Alekhine and accused him of being a spy. For the next 14 days he sat alone in what has been described as an "Odessa death cell." Then an officer recognised him as being a "famous chess player" and he was duly released.



1913 drawing by Morris Williams. King Canute and Earl Ulf quarrel over a game of chess

William Steinitz



The words chess and espionage surfaced again in January 2019, when Britain's Foreign Office accused Moscow of "playing diplomatic chess games," after the FSB detained Paul Whelan and charged him with espionage (see page 37). And the ongoing inquiry into President Trump's alleged liaison with Moscow headed by former FBI Director Robert Mueller, is constantly referred to in intelligence and media circles as "the great chess game."



Mueller's investigation has been likened to a common chess move where a pawn is sacrificed to lure an even more important piece - in this case President Trump

This brief engagement with the world of chess and intelligence reflects its enduring association, and for certain there are numerous other examples. Last word to Gene Coyle who operated as a field officer for the CIA for 30 years recruiting foreign diplomats willing to impart information and secrets. He described his work as "an intellectual chess game," explaining there are "many moves to be made to secure success."



Continued from Page 31

New Scotland Yard informed Corera that they were "still investigating whether further suspects were involved" in the attack on Skripal but were "not prepared to discuss details pertaining to an ongoing investigation."

IDENTIFIED?

According to informed sources, 'Sergey Fedotov' has now been identified. His real name is allegedly Denis Vyacheslavovich Sergeev, 45, a senior GRU officer and graduate of the Military Diplomatic Academy in Moscow (see sidebar page 30). Some intelligence watchers believe many GRU officers have been recruited from the learning institution. Bellingcat suggested he could hold the rank of colonel.

There are also reports he was involved in the creation of several 'sham' (front) companies, which also involved other GRU personnel. Many company records pertaining to these firms have



Denis Sergeev

allegedly been removed, erased or are being withheld.

Commenting on the new developments, Bellingcat released a statement: *'These unprecedented actions cannot plausibly be taken without direct involvement of the Russian state, and add further credibility to the UK Government's assertion that the Skripal poisoning operation, and the subsequent cover-up, were coordinated at a state level.'*



Bulgaria National Intelligence Service Emblem

Tsvetan Tsvetanov said Bulgaria's National Intelligence Service (SIA) will shortly release evidence related to nerve agent poisonings before the parliamentary committee on homeland security. He added the new probe was being coordinated with the UK and other foreign partners.

"I am certain that the necessary coordination has already been set up between the Bulgarian, British and European authorities on the case and they are working actively on it," he said.

As part of a European Investigation Order, Bulgarian security officials have forwarded all results from laboratory tests conducted on Emilian Gebrev in an attempt to determine if he was poisoned with a substance from the Novichok nerve agent family.

Speaking to the media, Prosecutor General Sotir Tsatsarov said he had presented the data from the investigation into Gebrev's poisoning at a meeting of the

Parliamentary Committee for Control of Security Services, also attended by the heads of Bulgaria's intelligence service. Tsatsarov confirmed Fedotov's three visits to the country in 2015 are being investigated. "We are establishing all the moments he made on Bulgarian territory, the vehicles and hotels he used, and contacts with Bulgarian citizens."

Britain's Ambassador to Bulgaria Emma Hopkins met with the country's Prime Minister Boyko Borissov and senior security officials to discuss both the Gebrev and Skripal incidents. "We are working in a joint team and a close partnership and we are going to find out the facts in this case," said Hopkins. "The investigation will continue even after Brexit."



Prosecutor General Sotir Tsatsarov

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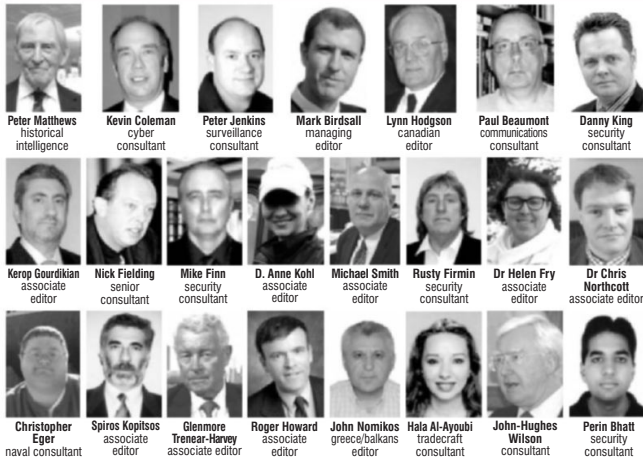
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Telephone: 01756 770199 UK
Office hours: 12.00pm - 6.00pm Monday to Friday GMT UK

USA editorial address and head office: Eye Spy Magazine International,
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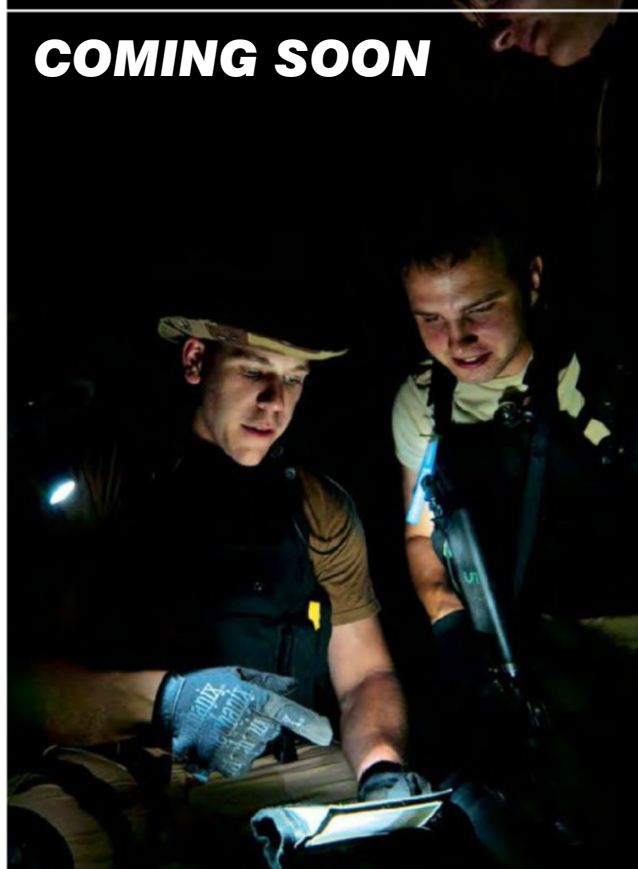


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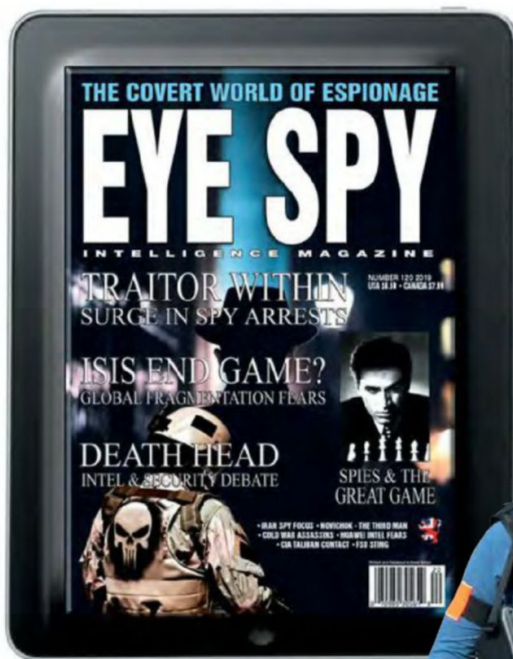
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