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IDENTIFYING INSIDER THREATS

COLD WAR SPECIAL

•BERLIN WALL •SPIES •OPERATIONS
AND A MOST UNUSUAL CIA-SPONSORED
FOOD PROPAGANDA ENDEAVOUR

KILL OR CAPTURE

THE CIA SPY AND AL-BAGHDADI



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25 >



The evolving methods of recruitment
used by today's intelligence services



IDENTIFYING INSIDER THREATS



4 MINUTES 4 PENNIES
REMARKABLE COLD WAR DOCUMENTS

THE SPY WHO RUMBLED ISIS LEADER

KILL OR CAPTURE



EYE SPY 125



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"I think we have abandoned our Kurdish partners who took over 10,000 losses fighting ISIS"



FORMER D/CIA DAVID PETRAEUS ON US TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM SYRIA

AL-BAGHDADI AND THE COLD WALL CHAPTER



The Special Forces operation to capture or kill ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi at a safe house in Syria, whilst a pivotal moment in the fight against terrorism, does not diminish the threat posed by the group's followers. Intelligence writers continue to collect information on the mission, though not all components used by the Baghdadi Desk at CIA headquarters in Langley and shared by Pentagon officials have been released. However, the bravery of one anonymous Kurdish spy who provided details of al-Baghdadi's movements and whereabouts have been told. Eye Spy Editorial examines the downfall of the terror leader who wanted to create a caliphate that spanned thousands of miles across three continents.

Nations have also been commemorating (and celebrating) several key dates in history, many linked to the Cold War and wartime. In this edition we have a number of features covering this period: from the rise and fall of the Berlin Wall, to the very secret operations backed by Western Intelligence involving... supermarkets, and key individuals honoured for their role in overt and covert actions.

In the ever-evolving intelligence world, we examine two key topics associated with intelligence - recruitment and a new willingness to engage more openly with the public. 'The New Recruiters' includes observations by individuals and Associate Editors who have experience in this field. It is a tradecraft feature not to be missed.

Enjoy the festive season and from all at Eye Spy Intelligence Magazine, have a safe and prosperous 2020.

MARK BIRDSALL, MANAGING EDITOR



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INTELLIGENCE CHOICE

SEEKING TALENT

Recruitment is one area of the industry which is constantly changing. While many services are becoming more open and advertising hundreds of posts on the Internet, most still retain field recruiters - experts schooled in identifying talent.

In this engaging and fascinating feature we examine how recruitment has evolved over the years, though still retains certain practises perfected by spymasters and recruiters from yesteryear. Most agencies involved in intelligence collection and analysis privately recognise the vital role played by these dark operators.



•17 THE NEW RECRUITERS

THE LONG ARM OF LANGLEY

KILL OR CAPTURE ABU BAKR AL-BAGHDADI



US Special Forces Launch Audacious Night-time Raid in Syria

Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, 48, the world's most wanted terrorist who led ISIS/Daesh from 2014, was eliminated in a joint CIA-US Department of Defense operation on 27 October 2019. He was held responsible for the deaths of over 200,000 people as his followers seized territories in Iraq and Syria and committed some of the most brutal crimes ever witnessed in recent years in the Middle East theatre. Elsewhere, pockets of ISIS-inspired groups and individuals also carried out terrorist attacks in 31-countries.

Since Coalition forces defeated ISIS as a pseudo-military fighting force last year, thus ending al-Baghdadi's dream of a caliphate, he has been in hiding across Syria and Iraq. Moving constantly from one safe house to

another, his movements made detection difficult. However, with a \$25 million bounty on his head, and total loss of command and control, the terror leader became more vulnerable to betrayal. And for a number of years the CIA has endeavoured to exploit this weakness. Intelligence officials believe it was this "lack of faith" and a "sense of betrayal" by his own followers - upset that his promises of a caliphate had evaporated - that ultimately led to his downfall.

INTELLIGENCE

As early as September 2019, intelligence, defence and high-ranking political people in Washington were told that the CIA had secured "valuable information on his whereabouts." Much of it came from a former 'bride' and a courier who delivered communications to al-Baghdadi. Other information came from the daring exploits of an unidentified person. General Mazloum Abdi, Commander-in-Chief of the Kurdish-led Syrian Defence Force (SDF), said a great deal of intelligence was provided by one of its informants who had penetrated al-Baghdadi's inner circle and had tracked the terror leader's movements for five months. The latest material focussed on his current location, a house near the village of Bashira, Idlib province, north-west Syria, approximately three miles from the Turkish border. "He even supplied a floor plan of his house, the number of bodyguards and a tunnel escape route," to the US, said Abdi. As confirmation was



US Defense Secretary Mark Esper and Mark Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff brief reporters at the Pentagon on the operation

sought, CIA officers and Pentagon planners, some who have worked on the dedicated Baghdadi Desk for the past three years, plotted a course of action to end his reign as leader of ISIS.



General Mazloum Abdi

"Al-Baghdadi inspired one of the most brutal and misguided terror campaigns in modern history..."

US Defense Secretary Mark Esper

Between 50 and 70 US Special Forces troops were flown to the compound in two CH-47 Chinook helicopters to participate in the operation



General Frank McKenzie (centre) US Central Command

SURVEILLANCE

Several specialist surveillance teams focussed on the site and elite troops selected to participate in the mission. Satellite imagery and intercepted cell calls, plus information from locals all helped convince Pentagon and CIA officials that al-Baghdadi was indeed staying at the house. The watch team also included a handful of trusted Kurdish and Iraqi intelligence people who supplied invaluable information and assistance. A Pentagon official said they had provided more intelligence "than any single country." In early October the Desk contacted the White House for approval to launch an attack. "The President supported immediate action," intelligence sources said, noting the operation had been dubbed a 'Kill or Capture' mission.

Twice the US attack force was readied - but for reasons not revealed - told to stand down at the last moment. However, when the CIA learned

MQ-9
Reaper
UAV



The proposed ISIS caliphate would have covered much of Africa, the Middle East, parts of Europe and Asia



Frames taken of the compound by a surveillance UAV moments before the operation was executed





al-Baghdadi was planning to relocate, officials warned that it would be very difficult to locate him again because of the US troop withdrawal. With time running out, the operation was finally actioned.

AL-BAGHDADI END GAME

At 11.00pm Syrian time (5.00pm ET), and using the cover of darkness, between 50 and 70 US Special Forces troops from US Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) - (1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta [Delta Forces]) and a number of Army Rangers boarded two adapted CH-47 Chinook helicopters in Erbil, Iraq. The counter-terrorist operation was overseen by General Frank McKenzie of US Central Command (USCENTCOM). The Chinooks were protected by six attack helicopters and flew to the target area through skies controlled by Turkey, Russia and Syria, a journey taking around 70-minutes. Several USAF F-15 warplanes and armed MQ-9 Reaper UAVs escorted the helicopters throughout the mission. The walled compound

and an out-building, was in an area occupied by al-Qaida operatives, and reportedly used by another terrorist in the person of Abu Mohammed Salama, head of the AQ-affiliate Hurras al-Din.

At around 1.00am, local villagers heard gunfire for around 30-minutes at the house. Eye-witnesses reported troops using ropes to descend from the Chinooks; they were met with small-arms fire. Elsewhere, US air strikes killed between 10 and 15 fighters who fired upon the troops. These operatives may not have been ISIS but al-Qaida terrorists, according to Pentagon officials.

JACKPOT

Once the area was secured, troops called upon al-Baghdadi to surrender - this in an attempt to draw him out. A number of adults and 11-children emerged and were taken away from the area. However, officials said several ISIS fighters remained inside. US commanders





MONITORING THE OPERATION IN THE SITUATION ROOM, WHITE HOUSE

President Donald Trump is joined by: L-R: National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien, Vice President Mike Pence, Secretary of Defense Mark Esper, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff US Army General Mark A. Milley and Brigadier General Marcus Evans, Deputy Director for Special Operations on the Joint Staff

again requested they surrender and exit the compound. When this failed they breached two walls of the compound with explosives and eliminated a number of bodyguards. The search now began for the primary target. And within moments the troops realised he had retreated into a tunnel complex with three of his children. Pentagon sources said a robot was engaged to enter the tunnel followed by two highly trained canines - one called 'Conan' and referenced by President Trump. Knowing there was no escape, the terrorist leader detonated a suicide vest killing himself and the youngsters. The low ceiling roof and wall of the tunnel collapsed.

For the next two hours soldiers removed debris and discovered al-Baghdadi's remains. Here, rapid DNA testing was performed and several photographs taken. Ninety-minutes later the ground commander announced "jackpot" an obvious declaration that the remains were indeed al-Baghdadi's.



As many as 70 Special Forces troops participated in the ground operation

Numerous other items including three laptop computers, cell phones, documents and personal items were recovered. One official acknowledged it was "highly sensitive" and included plans for future ISIS operations, the names of key ISIS operatives and other safe houses. President Trump also recognised the importance of the material. "We now know the successors... and we've got them in our sights," he said.

Elsewhere in the building, two of al-Baghdadi's wives, attempted to detonate suicide vests as US troops entered, but both failed. They were shot dead along with an estimated 10-12-ISIS bodyguards and companions.



Tracker dog 'Conan'

The operation and collection of evidence took a little over three-hours, and once concluded, the compound and out-buildings were destroyed by attack aircraft and armed UAVs. The Chinooks carrying the Special Forces departed at 3.30am and returned to Iraq.

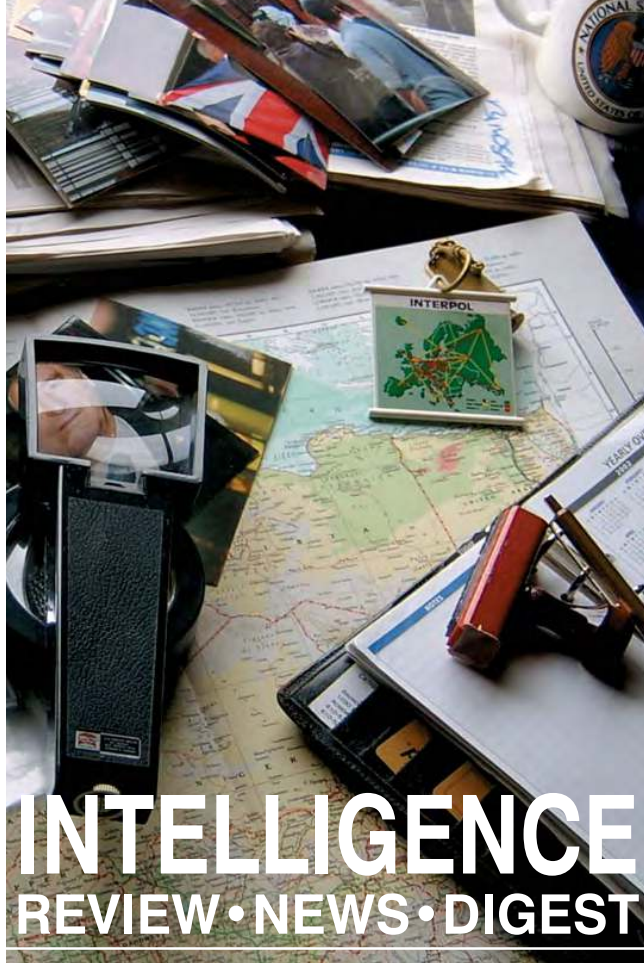
The events were watched and listened-to in real time in Washington, where advisors and senior officials provided commentary. Once news of a "successful operation" had reached the White House Situation Room, President Trump was tempted to announce al-Baghdadi's death immediately. And though advised to wait for confirmation, he could not resist telling reporters he had "very important news" to impart.

At the time, US intelligence officials told the President, "evidence should be secured confirming that the primary target had been eliminated."

Continued on Page 78



US National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien with President Trump



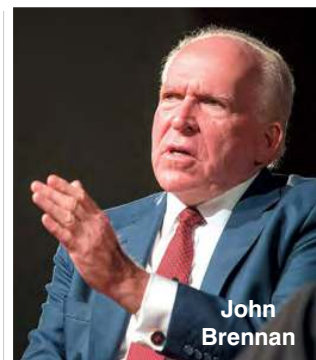
INTELLIGENCE REVIEW • NEWS • DIGEST

HAND OF THE KREMLIN

Former Director CIA John Brennan believes Russian election interference did have impact

Speaking at an event titled '2020 Vision: Intelligence and the US Presidential Election', former Director CIA John Brennan has sparked more controversy in respect of Russian meddling in US politics and Kremlin support for Donald Trump. At the National Press Club in Washington DC, sitting alongside other intelligence officers, Brennan said he still believed some US voters had been influenced by the covert actions performed by Russia in the run-up to the 2016 US General Election. No names were referenced.

Asked about the possibility voting intentions had been affected by the interference, Brennan said he was "sure the Russian efforts changed the mind of at least one voter." He then added: "Whether it



John Brennan

was one voter or a million voters I don't know."

Brennan, who served as D/CIA from 2013 to 2017, was stripped of his national security clearance following a lengthy and public spat with President Trump (which continues today). He believes the meddling could well have affected

UK THREAT LEVEL DOWNGRADED DECISION QUESTIONED BY SOME CT EXPERTS

Following high-level meetings of senior intelligence officials, police and government advisors, the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC), an element of MI5 based at the Service's London headquarters, has downgraded the country's Threat Level from Severe to Substantial, meaning that a terrorist attack could still occur at any time.



Neil Basu

The new alert level is the lowest since 2014, but Home Secretary Priti Patel warned that terrorism remained a "direct and immediate risk" to the UK. "Government, police and intelligence agencies will continue to work tirelessly to address the threat posed by terrorism in all its forms," she said.

Head of New Scotland Yard's Counter Terrorism Policing, Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu also revealed that the organisation has 800-ongoing "live counter-terrorism investigations," and that 24 attack plots have been thwarted since the Westminster attack in March 2017. He added that with the festive season fast approaching, citizens should remain vigilant.

TIMING OF DECISION

The UK decision to downgrade the threat level has been questioned by some counter-terrorism experts and followed shortly after

the death of ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. Since the elimination of the terrorist leader, counter-ISIS operations have been conducted in a dozen-or-so countries, primarily against individuals intent on avenging his death. Other senior figures have warned that the Christmas period will be of particular concern to security services. Retired NATO Commander Admiral James Stavridis said: "Unfortunately I would predict just as we accelerated an



Admiral James Stavridis



operation that was in the pipeline to take Baghdadi, they [ISIS] will accelerate operations they have in the pipeline, particularly targeting Europe." Stavridis referenced Christmas markets as being prime targets.

More recently, German security services arrested three ISIS operatives in Offenbach near Frankfurt after an investigative probe discovered they were attempting to purchase weapons

the final result itself, though appeared to contradict himself by admitting he did not know how many states were targeted nor whether it changed the outcome.

The official investigative probe into the interference found no evidence it changed the voting intentions of Americans, and little evidence of collusion. However, the thrust of this aspect of the investigation referenced voting machine and digital tallies.

Eye Spy sources were told investigative probes by at least one media house are still on-going into an alleged attempt to eavesdrop on offices used by Donald Trump in two American cities.

UK INTELLIGENCE FINDINGS

In another investigation linked to Russian political interference, the widow of Alexander Litvinenko,

the MI6 agent and former Russian intelligence officer who was murdered in 2006 in London with Polonium-210, plans to challenge a decision by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson not to publish a report on alleged Russian political interference in Britain.

Elena Tsirlina, a solicitor representing Marina, said a letter has been sent to Johnson explaining she intends to take legal action over the decision. An Internet Crowd Justice page carried the following line: *'There was profound public interest in the information being disclosed to the public, so they are fully informed of the extent of Russian interference in British politics before they go to the polls on 12 December 2019'.*

Litvinenko has previously warned that any delay in publishing the UK report serves only to help Russian President Vladimir Putin.



Marina Litvinenko

The report by Parliament's Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC) had been officially cleared by Britain's security services but not yet approved for publication by Downing Street, meaning it will not be released before the election. The ISC was examining allegations of Russian activity directed at the UK, and includes reference to the 2016 referendum on EU membership (Brexit).

JULIAN ASSANGE

RAPE ALLEGATIONS DROPPED

STOCKHOLM: Swedish prosecutors have dropped their investigation into rape allegations made against WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, 48, who is currently being held in Belmarsh prison. The Swedish action was relaunched in 2017 after Assange was evicted from his 'safe house' at the Embassy of Ecuador in London.

Intelligence sources believe the move now paves the way for his extradition to the United States for his alleged role in the leaking of hundreds of thousands of classified US intelligence and military files by WikiLeaks.



Christophe Castaner

on the Internet. According to Frankfurt's chief prosecutor, Nadja Niesen, the cell "wanted to kill as many infidels as possible."

In France, counter-terrorism officials said an ISIS follower was arrested after his plans to hi-jack an aeroplane and use it to strike an unspecified target was foiled. Interior Minister Christophe Castaner said the suspect was "inspired by the 9/11 attacks." He also revealed it was the 60th ISIS attack foiled by the country's security services since 2013.

Jordan's intelligence service - GID (General Intelligence Directorate), also issued a statement detailing a

plot by a suspected ISIS terrorist cell to kill US and Israeli diplomats and American service personnel at a military facility in the south of the country.

At least two men were central to the operation. They were arrested in July but details withheld while further enquiries were carried out. The GID said the men proposed to use vehicles to strike their targets and other weaponry.

LONDON BRIDGE INQUEST

In another development relevant to UK counter-terrorism policing, Chief Coroner Judge Mark Lucroft's *Prevention of Future Deaths* report following the 3 June 2017 London Bridge and Borough



Khuram Butt



Market attacks, pointed out a number of weaknesses which needed to be addressed. He said the current method of assessing possible attack sites could be improved. "The national criteria for identifying sites which would receive proactive advice were apparently too rigid." Lucroft also referenced the suspension of MI5's surveillance and investigation of ring leader Khuram Butt, who along with two associates used a vehicle and weapons to kill eight people. He said the decision was a matter of "legitimate public concern."

His comments were welcomed by some relatives of the deceased who said valuable intelligence had been lost as the Service moved

Butt from a 'Medium Risk' category to 'Unresolved Risk'. Lucroft said: "Accordingly, the systems for suspending such investigations (including the criteria for suspension, recording of suspension decisions and systems for rebuilding intelligence after suspensions) should be specifically considered in the continuing work of review and improvement."

He also made eighteen recommendations and called on the Government to consider new laws banning all extremist propaganda and improving the speed in which foreign intelligence reports are translated that could help prevent delays in thwarting future attacks.

Mark Lucroft



BREAKING RANKS

SPY CHIEF TURNS FULL CIRCLE AGAINST HUAWEI



Bruno Kahl, Director of Germany's Federal Intelligence Service, BND, has broken ranks with senior political figures and warned against the use of Huawei technology in the country's 5G network. Chancellor Angela Merkel said she would allow the Chinese telecommunications giant to participate in Germany's 5G rollout, this after German companies said they wanted to explore its capabilities.

Kahl told the country's legislators that Huawei "cannot be trusted fully." He also advised officials who oversee BND operations: "There is no trust in a state company that has very high levels of dependence on the Communist Party and the country's intelligence." Kahl said there should be an open political assessment of the possible risks of 5G.

Earlier in the year, Kahl's former retired counterpart in Britain's MI6, Sir Richard Dearlove, warned that introduction of any Huawei technology could "disrupt national security communications" and had wider security implications affecting other technologies.

Nate Snyder, a senior adviser with consulting firm Cambridge Global Advisors and a former counter-terrorism official who served in



Huawei at Berlin's International Broadcast Exhibition (IFA) in 2018

US President Obama's administration, noted Kahl's statement and said it should not be taken lightly. "They reflect the warnings that national security experts in the United States have been shouting from the hills," she said. "These warnings were further echoed and validated in the German and EU assessments. Hopefully, the German Government will take these cautions seriously and change course.

"There is no scenario where the vulnerabilities identified in Huawei's 5G network can be mitigated. Once there is infiltration of hardware or software, it cannot be undone. The best way to manage this risk is to not take it."

Of the German spy chief's comments, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who recently attended events in Germany commemorating the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall (see page 40), said: "This isn't just a simple decision. It's complicated, but it comes in the face of the challenges that are presented by the Chinese Communist Party."



BND Director Bruno Kahl

The US has warned its allies, including Germany, not to use Huawei technology stating it could lead to a lowering of US intelligence cooperation.

In response to Kahl's comments, which some sources believe were made to allay US fears, a Huawei spokesman said: "Contrary to what the BND President claims, Huawei Technologies is not a state-owned company, but a purely private, wholly-owned company. Huawei Technologies is neither dependent on the Chinese Communist Party nor on the Chinese security apparatus. There is no factual evidence for these allegations and we strongly reject them."

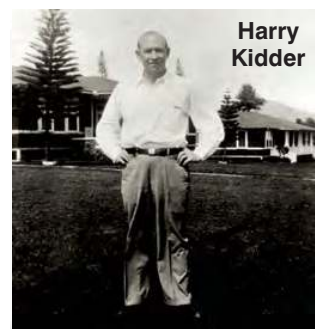


US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, delivered a speech titled 'The Lessons of 1989' during his visit to Berlin to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall

NSA HALL OF HONOR

THE RADIO MAN AND INTERCEPTOR

Chief radio operator Harry Kidder was inducted into the Cryptologic Hall of Honor during a ceremony at the National Security Agency in November. Edward M. Drake, Marine Corps Colonel Alva B. Lasswell and Air Force Lt. General Kenneth A. Minihan (Ret.), were also inducted into the Hall of Honor for achievements made throughout their careers.



Harry Kidder

NSA and US Cyber Command Director General Paul Nakasone presided over the ceremony and highlighted the significance of being selected as inductees. "The standards are high for induction," said Nakasone. "Thousands of people have contributed to our Agency over its 67-year history, but only 94 of them are recognised in the Hall of Honor."

Kidder, the second enlisted person inducted to the Cryptologic Hall of Honor, was a trainer and mentor to generations of US Navy cryptologists during his near four decades of uniformed service. Officials said his technical skill in exploiting Japanese communications was without equal.



RARE PUBLIC COMMENTS BY INTEL CHIEF

In a move again reflecting a new openness by some intelligence services to engage with the public, Chief of MI6 (Secret Intelligence Service - SIS) Sir Alex Younger recorded a 30-minute interview with journalist and Sky News Defence Correspondent Alistair Bunkall for his show 'Off the Record'. Recruited by MI6 in 1991 by a Service talent spotter, Sir Alex discussed various topics, both past and present and several interesting periods of his life. He also admitted he was never ambitious and saw himself as an operational officer - not 'C'.

Of today's myriad of global troubles and relations between the West, Russia and elsewhere, Sir

Alex said: "The world is as fragile as it has been at least since the end of the Cold War... it does feel like we're at some sort of high point. I think that there is a lot of brinkmanship going on."

"I think we have got an important role to play in making sure that our positioning doesn't end in miscalculation, and properly understanding the motivations of people who are presenting extremely hard-line positions in public, but are likely to be motivated by a whole set of much more complex issues in private."

Acknowledging his surprise that MI6 believed he would be a useful asset, Younger said he enjoyed



problem solving. "One of the things I loved about my early career in SIS was that I was given problems to deal with, I was supported and I was trained, but by and large the way I got on with it and did it was down to me."

AGENTS AND FIELD OFFICERS

Also mentioned was the derring-do of the select few operatives more commonly associated with the Service by the public - operational officers and agents.

"To create those human relationships across often forbidding cultural and linguistic boundaries, often in quite hostile environments but nonetheless where the most basic of human things, a

relationship of trust is developed," he said.

Mindful of a listening public, and the many thousands of persons who would like to join MI6 and its friends in MI5 and GCHQ, Sir Alex referenced the life-long need for respect in respect of job occupancy. "We can't talk even to our closest friends about what we're doing and so therefore we need a culture within where we can do that with each other. And it's why we have our own bar, for instance, one of the most exclusive bars in London, it's fair to say!"

Younger was due to step down earlier this year but agreed to remain to oversee events leading up to and following Brexit.

MALAYSIAN AIRLINES FLIGHT 17 NEW FINDINGS RELEASED BY INVESTIGATORS

The Dutch-based Joint Investigation Team (JIT) investigating the attack on Malaysian Airlines Flight 17 in July 2014 over Ukraine, have released new information confirming officials from Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB), were in regular daily contact by

telephone with pro-Russian-militias in the east of the country on administrative, financial and military issues.

Investigators had already determined the aircraft was shot down by a Buk ground-to-air missile system provided by

Russia's 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade, a unit of the Russian armed forces in Kursk. It is believed the telephone numbers used by FSB officers in Moscow and elsewhere were secured from informed sources. Now investigators are seeking to identify the actual persons who made and received calls and have launched a new public appeal.

The new information on the liaison appeared in the JIT's latest report released in November and is solely based on several telephone conversations, which are available to the public on its website.

A detailed overview of the report has several interesting paragraphs: 'Recent analysis of information obtained by the JIT, including witness statements by



former DPR members [Donetsk People's Republic], revealed that Russian influence on the DPR went beyond military support. This is supported by recorded telephone calls between the leaders of the DPR and high-ranking Russian officials'.

Various persons have been referenced, including Vladislav Surkov, a close Putin aide, Sergey Aksyonov, Prime Minister of Crimea, General Serdyukov, commander of the Southern Military District of the Russian Federation and Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu.

The Kremlin rejects the report and involvement in the shooting down of MH17, which resulted in the deaths of 298 people.



FSB officers arrest a suspected
ISIS terrorist



FSB FOCUS

DESTINATION TERRORISM

FSB confronts terrorist threat as Moscow reveals extent of ISIS recruitment

Russia's premier intelligence service - the FSB - has revealed startling statistics on the number of nationals from across the country who have moved abroad to join terrorist organisations. ISIS was cited as the biggest draw for around 5,500 citizens, leading to the opening of thousands of nationwide criminal cases. Other data shows that of 337 people who returned to the country following the collapse of ISIS, over 250 have since been arrested and most convicted.

FSB Director Alexander Bortnikov said: "Four thousand cases are ongoing... it is important that younger people form a negative attitude towards radicalism in all its manifestations." He also called on international intelligence services to increase cooperation in the area of counter-terrorism.

Highlighting national security, other data showed that in the first half of 2019, the FSB had launched nearly 1,000 investigations into acts of terrorism in 20 districts of Russia. This action has led to around 40 major terrorist attacks foiled by the organisation in 2019, including an attack in Moscow.



FSB Director
Alexander Bortnikov

Speaking to journalists following a meeting of senior intelligence and security officials, Bortnikov also warned that guided by computer specialists, groups such as ISIS had turned to crypto currencies to conceal funds and help finance major operations. He said the sophistication of such activities can be measured by investigative probes which revealed bogus "shell companies trading on

the stock exchange" and moving monies into legitimate areas. "Private crypto-currencies are used as they guarantee the anonymity of transactions unlike Bitcoin and its analogs," he concluded.



Bortnikov's comments coincide with a new Russian Interior Ministry report which revealed terrorism accounts for 1% of all crime in the country. Noting ISIS cells have been uncovered across the country, Oleg Ilyinykh, head of the Main Directorate for Combatting Extremism warned: "Even a single crime can destabilise inter-faith relations and complicate an entire region." However, he did welcome news that the number of terrorist crimes in Russia in 2019 was lower than the previous year.

CIA-FSB LIAISON

Bortnikov also made reference to US-Russia intelligence sharing about ISIS, noting American agencies had recently imparted valuable information on an emerging plot in the country. This surprising announcement came exactly two years after the CIA helped Russian security services derail an ISIS plot to





attack sites in St. Petersburg, including the Kazan Cathedral. That intervention led to President Putin personally thanking President Trump for the intelligence. Bortnikov also revealed the FSB has passed important information to the FBI and CIA relating to the Boston Marathon bomb attack in 2013, (above) in which three people were killed and many more injured.

In respect of the new US tip-offs, Mr Bortnikov said: "The Americans have recently provided information to us about specific individuals and plans to carry out attacks in our country." And whilst he refused to identify the actual agency, he commented that cooperation exists which is "outside politics" and "regardless of current relations between the two countries."

Discussing the arrangement, the spy chief said: "We pay them back and provide assistance and support, including informing our partners of any manifestations or threats we encounter and the information we receive." And just as important, cyber relations were mentioned, Bortnikov said, "these are improving and cooperation in cyber security has resumed." He also spoke of a new initiative between Russia and European countries. "Law enforcers and foreign ministries are working actively, first of all at the European platform in Geneva... we are restoring these relations."

Intelligence watchers note that since the attempt to eliminate a former GRU officer in England in 2018, which led to the expulsion of over 150 Russian spies from several countries, Russia has embarked on an outreach programme to improve relations.



Kazan Cathedral, St. Petersburg



Russia's *Pyotr Velikiy*. Inset: President Putin visits the flagship

ARCTIC WAR GAMES

Russian Forces Engage in Nuclear War Games

Various Russian defence services, including 12,000 troops have engaged in a major nuclear exercise to test the country's readiness in the event of conflict with NATO forces. Amongst an array of warships, observers noted the 'flagship' of the country's burgeoning navy - the nuclear-powered battleship Kirov Class *Pyotr Velikiy*. Several 'attack zones' across the country, including Pemboi, Chizha and Kura firing ranges were targeted by 100 aircraft, warships, submarines and 200 missile platforms.

Civilian shipping was told to avoid all three strategic areas.

The new war games were revealed as the United Nations continues to debate the nuclear arms treaty and the New Strategic



Pyotr Velikiy (top) is escorted by Britain's HMS Dragon in the English Channel

Arms Reduction Treaty (New START), between the United States and Russia which effectively limits the number of warheads and rockets. Moscow is keen for the deal, which expires in 2021, to continue, but Washington has yet to confirm its willingness to prolong the treaty.

MYSTERY EXPLOSION

Whilst Russian-American intelligence cooperation appears more stable, especially in the area of counter-terrorism, this does not mean attempts at intelligence collection will not go unpunished. This was reflected in news

that three 'US military diplomats' had been stopped by the FSB allegedly attempting to travel to an area which was featured widely in the international media following an incident at a top secret naval test range in Nyonoksa on 8 August. Here five scientists and two service personnel perished following a mysterious



US Embassy, Moscow

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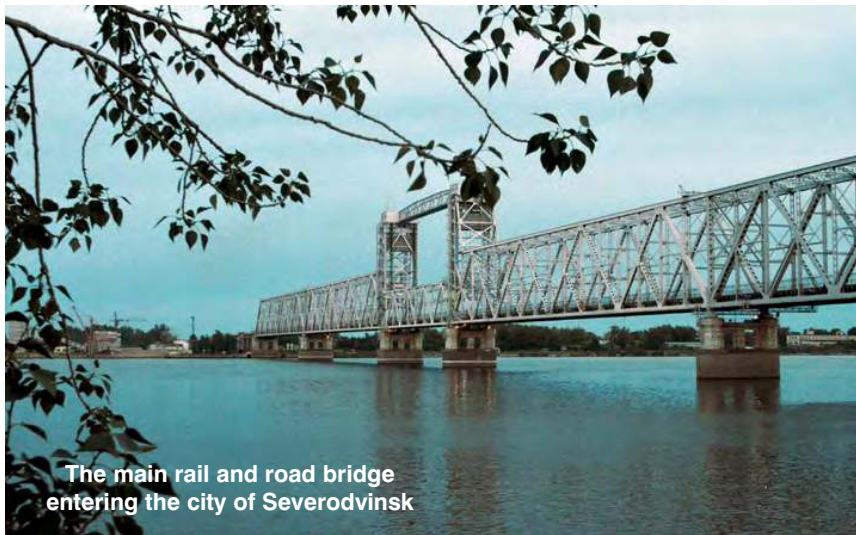
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The main rail and road bridge entering the city of Severodvinsk

explosion which led to all manner of nuclear concerns, and allegations of a cover-up. (See Eye Spy 124 - *Skyfall*)

The three Americans, described as “military and naval attaches,” had purchased train tickets to travel to the city of Arkhangelsk, but instead journeyed to Severodvinsk, about 30 miles west of the incident; they then allegedly planned to make their way to the secret range.



President Putin with Kremlin spokeswoman Maria Zakharova

However, watching FSB surveillance officers removed the men from the train. Undeterred, the trio then rented a car and returned to Severodvinsk, which is also the primary northern base of Russia’s nuclear submarine fleet.

Speaking about the incident in her weekly media briefing, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said the men were intent on reaching an area near the test range. “There, they took a local train and went to a populated area where there is a testing ground and other facilities,” she said. However, the diplomats were “not held in custody and were released.” Zakharova said a complaint had been made to the US Embassy in Moscow. And with a slight smirk, added: “Clearly they got lost... we are ready to give the US Embassy a map.”

Another FSB official in an attempt to defuse the situation said, “they had probably lost their way.”

Officially the US State Department did not respond, but a spokesman told journalists: “Just as Russian diplomats in the US travel to



City officials from Severodvinsk announce the building of a new launch test site at the Vostochny spaceport

learn more about the country in which they live and work, our diplomats travel across Russia as part of a normal diplomatic activity in order to better understand Russia. The diplomats had properly filed notification with the Russian authorities.” The three operatives were not named.



Assistant Secretary for Defense Policy and Emerging Threats, told a UN meeting: “The United States has determined that the explosion was the result of a nuclear reaction that occurred during the recovery of a Russian nuclear-powered cruise missile.”

In recent weeks, Russian officials have deliberately leaked information on the new project which President Putin referenced last

Residential buildings under construction at the Vostochny spaceport



Site near the deadly August explosion which killed seven people



President Putin visits the Vostochny spaceport

year. The weapon, in theory, has the potential to “fly indefinitely,” according to Moscow.

Eye Spy Russian sources have also referenced an alternative reason for the attaches’ journey. Officials from Severodvinsk recently hosted a meeting announcing the building of a new test launch site for the Vostochny spaceport in far East Russia. The project actually began in Severodvinsk.

‘SPIES’ EXCHANGED AT BORDER

Intelligence sources believe the FSB have been instrumental in organising a spy exchange between Norwegian Frode Berg, who was

imprisoned for allegedly collecting intelligence on Russian submarines, and Nikolai Filipchenko, a Lithuanian national jailed for working as an FSB spy. The freeing of another FSB agent, named as Sergei Moisejenko was also part of the deal.



Former Presidents of Lithuania and Ukraine Dalia Grybauskaitė and Petro Poroshenko in Kiev



Frode Berg



Norway-Russian border posts. The yellow marker is Norway

Berg, a former border guard who was detained in 2016 and convicted a year later, admitted acting as a courier for Norway’s Intelligence Service (NIS), though denied knowing anything about the sensitivity of the information he was carrying. Filipchenko was convicted of espionage activities in 2017, more specifically, attempting to recruit well-placed persons from Lithuania’s VIP Protection Agency. This was the first step, according to prosecutors, to bug the residence of then President Dalia Grybauskaitė. He was jailed for ten years.

On 15 November Russian officials confirmed Berg, along with two Lithuanians, had been exchanged for Moisejenko and Filipchenko at a border crossing. The spy exchange initiative follows a new law recently passed in Lithuania which allows presidential pardons for those convicted of espionage. Indeed, once this was enforced, on 16 October, Berg, probably prompted by the NIS, asked the Russians to pardon him.

In 2018, a Baltic spy swap reminiscent of scenes portrayed in the motion picture *Bridge of Spies*, was enabled on a bridge passing over the River Piusa between Russia and Estonia. This involved Estonian businessman Raivo Susi and Russian national Artem Zinchenko.

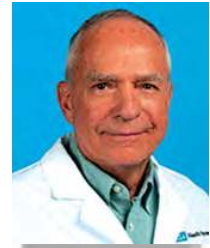


NIS spy chief Major General Morten Haga Lunde pictured with US Vice Admiral Harry Harris Commander 6th Fleet

New Report Casts Doubt on Cuba and China Sonic Attacks



Dr Robert Batholomew



Dr Robert Baloh

illnesses, and Dr Robert Baloh, an expert in neuro-degenerate diseases, have released a new report on the so-called 'Havana Syndrome' which down-plays the theory a sonic weapon was used. The men said it was most likely "emotional fear and trauma" had generated the symptoms. This has been likened to 'shell shock' causing concussion-like ailments.

THE HAVANA SYNDROME

A new investigate report has down-played official commentary that several US diplomatic staffers at the US Embassy in Cuba, and later in China, along with a number of Canadians, were deliberately targeted by sonic waves created by long-range acoustic devices beginning in 2016. A US State Department report said workers had suffered significant injuries, experiencing ear pain, nausea, vertigo and tinnitus, while others reported trouble concentrating and loss of memory. Some staffers said that the noises, also heard in diplo-



Early suspect - the cricket

matic houses, hotels and offices, resembled metal grinding, high-pitch ringing and buzzing. Dozens of people were affected.

From noisy faulty covert surveillance equipment, to directed microwaves, various theories surfaced and investigative reports released on the probable causes.

In Canada, a report commissioned by the Government implied its diplomats had been subjected to neurotoxins and hypothesised - probably due to increased fumigation by embassy staff. Some scientists believed the noise was generated by the simple cricket.

THE SONIC WAVES

Reports in Cuba of high-pitched sounds in and around the US Embassy were numerous, and led to investigative probes to determine the cause. There was genuine concern in Washington that the Cubans, probably sponsored by Russia, had engaged a new type of sonic weapon to irritate staff. This led to specialist teams being despatched to try and source the origin of the noises. The events followed efforts by President Obama to improve relations with Havana.

Then Director CIA Mike Pompeo also spoke of the attacks, though he declined to point the finger of blame.

Now Dr Robert Batholomew, an American authority in 'mass hysteria' and mass psychogenic

Interestingly the authors reference those who became sick as "participants in a continuation of the Cold War."

Expressing doubts about the sonic wave theory, the doctors, writing in the *Royal Society of Medicine* said: 'A characteristic feature of combat syndromes over the past century is the appearance of an array of neurological complaints from an over-stimulated nervous system that are commonly mis-diagnosed as concussions and brain damage.'

'The political and scientific evidence for the perpetration of an attack on US Embassy staff in Cuba is inconclusive'.

The authors also expressed doubts over the criteria used by investigative authors and scientists to create the Havana Syndrome: 'None adequately test the hypotheses they propose, while promoting exotic explanations that are not supported by the facts. Our conclusions are grounded in the prosaic and known science. There is no need to resort to exotic explanations. Claims that the patients were suffering from brain and auditory damage are not borne out by the data'.



US diplomats and their families staying at the Hotel Nacional, Havana, Cuba, were also affected

NOTES:

EYE SPY EDITORIAL



TRADECRAFT

THE NEW RECRUITERS

Eye Spy examines the evolving methods of recruitment by today's intelligence services, as some former intelligence officers question if agencies are becoming too reliant on the Internet and outreach programmes and are in danger of missing the real 'talent'

Prominent in the activities of all intelligence agencies is the recruitment of persons or groups in hard-to-penetrate positions to impart and collect valuable information and intelligence. The methods and target selection are well known and the tradecraft often explored in Eye Spy. However, the art of spy recruitment can be complex and is often a multi-person task. It can also involve the political arena as assurances, safety, personal and financial matters are often discussed. Whilst this feature touches upon the 'Great Game' our editors focus more on the actual recruitment of intelligence employees - the

majority who find work through conventional and irregular channels.

FROM TECHNICAL TO TEAROOM

One only has to visit the web sites of agencies such as the CIA and MI6 to recognise that opportunities aplenty exist for persons wanting a career in the intelligence world or others just happy to find employment. With polished film clips and lots of additional commentary on the work of such organisations, plus good wages, little wonder that more and more people are submitting their resumes in the hope of finding a job.

There are dozens of positions advertised; from a Scientific Technology and Weapons Analyst, to a Food Services Manager. However, there are numerous mechanisms in place, including security and background checks that the job seeker must pass to even secure an interview. And in reality, the recruiters will discard and reject most applications. But in today's 'modern politically correct world', spy organisations must be seen to be honest and



fair, albeit "on the surface," according to one operator with insight.

The use of Internet platforms and other social media areas to advertise intelligence jobs is growing. Just a decade or so ago, at least one British Intelligence agency was still placing adverts in the classified section of newspapers such as the *London Times*, to 'capture' potential recruits with heightened awareness, and others who recognised the insert was unusual. "The use of cryptic language ➤

Still from CIA Directorate of Operations recruitment video





'Tap on the shoulder'. MI6 has acknowledged that it is returning to a few old methods of recruitment

and clues was commonplace," one government official told Eye Spy. Indeed, some officers readily acknowledge their entry into the intelligence world began this way.

TAP ON THE SHOULDER

Today's relatively open methods of recruitment are a far cry from yesteryear, when recommendations were made by senior

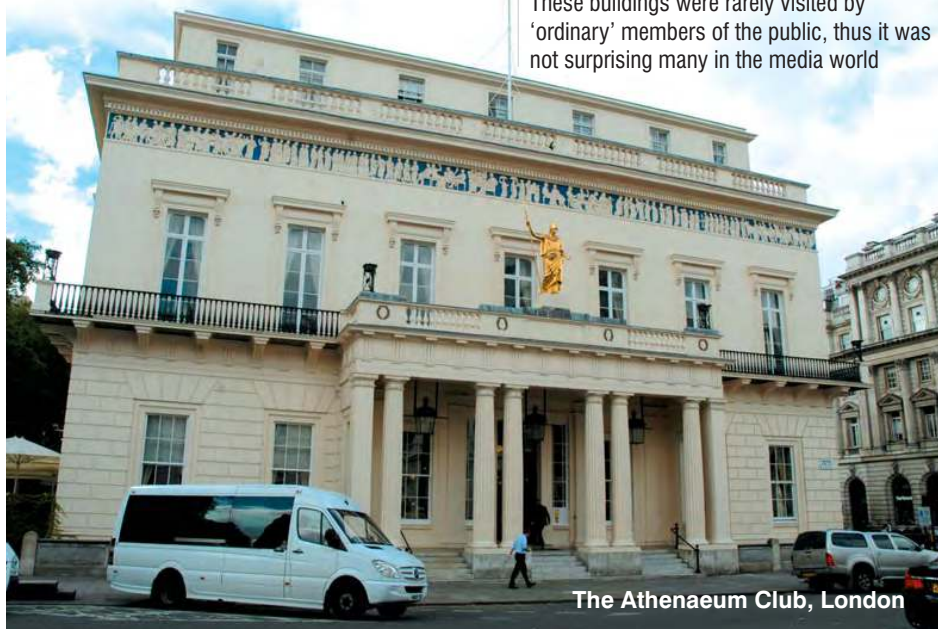


**MI6 Chief
Sir Alex
Younger**

officers or occasionally on the premise that an individual was of above average intelligence, came from a house of prominence and was a 'gentleman'. The 'tap on the shoulder' is also a phrase oft used in this environment to describe recruitment, and one not drawn from legend. It happened quite frequently and occasionally still does today. Indeed, in 2017, MI6 Chief Sir Alex Younger, a former Army officer, admitted he was recruited in this manner.

It wasn't unusual for doors to be opened by serving colleagues and even family members to the industry. In the UK, those whose job it was to find appropriate persons to fill positions were regarded as an elite bunch. In London, advice was given on potential recruits, encounters arranged and subtle interviews conducted at establishments such as the Reform Club, Travellers or Athenaeum. All had permanent members who would assess the imparted word of members and guests, and then duly make recommendations to senior colleagues. Many were also attached to the military and political arena.

These buildings were rarely visited by 'ordinary' members of the public, thus it was not surprising many in the media world



The Athenaeum Club, London



Some specialist officers are known in the intelligence world as 'talent spotters'

thought this unfair. It was regarded as very much of a closed industry, akin some said to a secret society.

Nevertheless, while some people were recruited because of their position, others were invited to join because they had a particular skill set that senior officials believed would be advantageous. And to be fair, this is still the case today. The many elements which exist in Intelligence, some with threads to external government bodies, led to a very controlling senior management and a very well connected 'contract base' allowing recruiters access to other agencies as they searched for talent or persons capable of performing a certain task.

At the sharp-end of recruitment, the work of those charged with seeking to place persons in overseas environments or to act as spies has always been particularly difficult. The one thing that has not changed since the emergence of spy agencies, is that those recruited as spies will never appear on an employment list, nor its payroll.

UNORTHODOX CONTACT

Agency talent seekers and recruitment activities are, on the surface, very different today. However, despite a new openness - glaringly obvious with a five minute examination of 'Job Vacancies' on most intelligence web sites - intelligence watchers acknowledge that methods used in the past still exist. Premier agencies continue to use a handful of officers who regularly embark on what is known as 'unorthodox contact'. An example of such a person can be found in the motion picture - *The Recruit*. In this case actor Al Pacino played a CIA officer charged only with finding 'extraordinary talent'.

Like in the movie, these individuals are schooled in all manner of tradecraft passing



MI6 headquarters seen from Vauxhall Bridge, London

through the Agency's training school better known as The Farm, hosted by the US Defense Department's Camp Peary. Only a selected few will ultimately be chosen for tasks more in keeping with the public's perception of a spy agency, most will fill more 'conventional posts'. As for this type of unconventional recruiter, these individuals have a wide network of contacts in a variety of industries, including high-end technology companies, places of learning, the military, security etc. Recommendations are given only when a person fits a certain criteria demanded by the recruiter and it is here that some of the best 'talent' is found.

MI6's 2020 advertising section seeks those 'with a wide variety of skills' and a 'diverse range of backgrounds'. And interestingly, the Service references its Training Academy. Other supportive units and benefits are also explained which will 'ensure the experience is

enjoyable and fun': the language carefully scripted for public consumption reflecting a very modern employer. Some critics say aspects of the wording are unrepresentative of the role of an intelligence officer. However, to capture the imagination of those who may be considering a career in intelligence, the Service emphasises the work of its Operational Officers: 'Identify, cultivate, recruit people who can share secrets...'

THE ILLUMINATI

Just as revealing are the Chief's comments. Sir Alex Younger urges those who are fearful they did not attend the "right university," to apply. This is part reference to the illuminati which MI6 sourced and recruited from the universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Spies such as Burgess, Philby and Maclean come to mind. However, undoubtedly some who serve in the organisation will have been schooled in



'Skull and Bones' Society logo

such high places of learning, and a similar situation exists in the United States. Here the CIA and other agencies have long had an association with the academia in places such as Yale and Harvard. Indeed, the activities of the secret society at Yale - known as the 'Skull and Bones' - has seen 'Bonesmen' rise to the summit of government. Former Director CIA James Angleton was also a member.

Thirty years ago the CIA engaged more openly with universities in a recruitment programme for students. It was a surprising move that split opinion in the US Intelligence Community (USIC). And for the record, Eye Spy is well aware that most major international intelligence agencies still retain ties with such universities, and are often guided by an 'in-house' recruiter... or informer. ➤



James Angleton



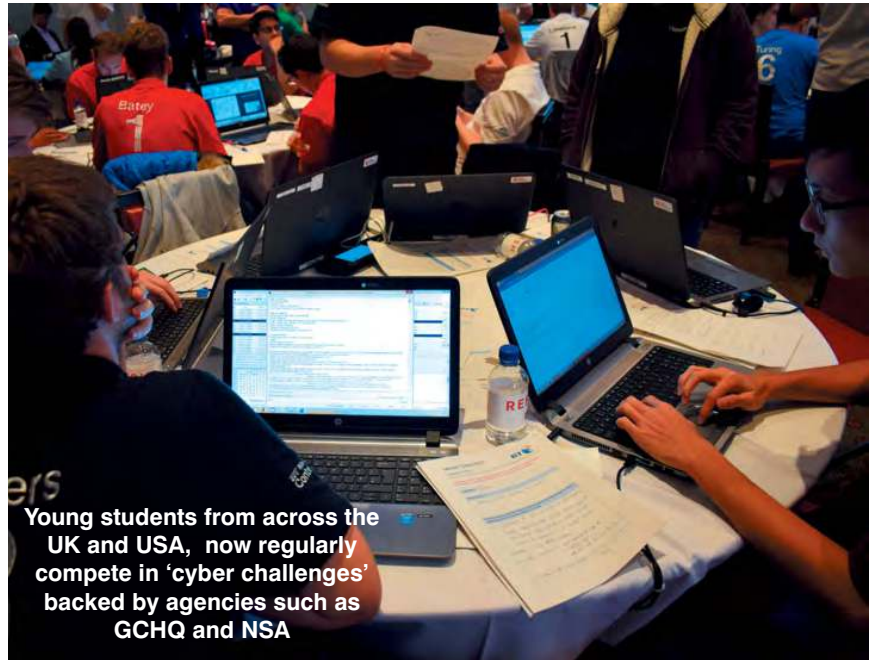
Al Pacino played a CIA 'talent spotter' in the motion picture - *The Recruit*





Recruits at The Farm and Fort Monckton are taught various tradecraft

'Diverse' is a word found in many paragraphs on MI6's vacancy and job description pages, and this is very much the case with its sister organisation in the USA - the CIA. Indeed, Langley's recruiters add to the commentary with words such as 'culture', 'minority' and 'heritage', all visually presented and scripted in a way to capture a broad audience. And both services are keen to embrace persons of every sexuality, colour, religion and creed. This line of promotion or theme is found on most intelligence vacancy sites - much different to even a few years ago when the employee pool was predominately male and white. There is much more emphasis on attracting female staff and even references to day care centres for children.



Young students from across the UK and USA, now regularly compete in 'cyber challenges' backed by agencies such as GCHQ and NSA

Langley's recruitment board also make reference to a wide range of jobs available to applicants noting: '*Virtually any job you can imagine is available at the CIA... plus some you can't even imagine*'. The latter part deliberately included to stimulate the mind of interested parties and those wanting to explore further. Another indication reflecting the change to recruitment policy, the CIA highlights its Reasonable Accommodations Programme which provides the resources and tools for those who might suffer disabilities.

Nevertheless, those expecting an instant response to a job application form completed on an intelligence vacancy page might be a little unhappy. Whilst the CIA state applicants will receive a 'confirmation package' within 48-hours, the recruitment process is still lengthy and may take months, though it is much faster than persons seeking employment with its UK counterpart. If your form is

not deleted or placed in a holding folder for 'future consideration', contact is made and the interview process enabled. All the while background checks are carried out and even a minor discretion can derail the process, though not always. Much is dependent on a person's skill-set and the opinion of recruiters conducting face-to-face interviews: all are pre-eminent in determining suitability. The interview itself is often performed outside an intelligence environment, and if successful, other meetings with different personnel and observers may follow, dependent on the actual job. Once approved, gateways are opened. Throughout the process those seeking employment will be asked not to discuss any contact. And if recruited, the individual is asked that he or she use discretion in



Following training, some intelligence officers will undertake special assignments attached to overseas military forces



Former MI6 training and research centre in central London

discussing their job and employer. Usually this means only confiding in their spouse.

CYBER TALENT

One major change in the way intelligence agencies recruit and operate is in the theatre of analysis. There are far more individuals assigned to specific subjects than in the past, the most notable ones being the use of the Internet, communication and technical support. These areas are evolving everyday, and the intelligence world requires more and more technologically 'savvy' and adept persons to keep abreast of changes. Little wonder the UK, USA and other nations are enhancing its agencies in this field, with the creation of pro-active cyber forces. It is evident, those charged with national security believe this is where future covert wars will be fought. With this in mind, agencies such as GCHQ and the NSA (two amongst many), regularly hold national cyber competitions for students. This affords recruiters and observers to identify the best operatives and emerging talent. Eye Spy is aware that some participating students have indeed found employment in the intelligence world.

UNDISCLOSED

Naturally, what is kept well away from the vacancy boards are the secret methods used by intelligence officers to search and secure information. There is absolutely no reference whatsoever. Furthermore, commentary on such endeavours is not explained to all who find employment, but only a small number who will operate in theatres at home or abroad

or directorates which analyse and distribute information. Compartmentalisation is a word which comes to mind.

MI6 does mention its Training Academy, or 'spy school' to those familiar with its former designation. During WWII and much of the Cold War, MI6 operated from various non-descript buildings where recruits would be 'schooled' in tradecraft. Topics were numerous and included surveillance, equipment (use of - including eavesdropping), disguise, driving, language, cover and legend, contact etc. A very select group also received firearms training.

The Service continues to train certain personnel at various external operational

'Virtually any job you can imagine is available at the CIA... plus some you can't even imagine'

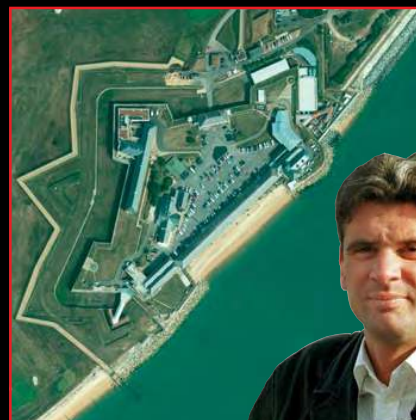


Sir Richard Dearlove



MI6 advert: 'Secretly we're just like you'

posts, perhaps the best known being Fort Monckton, though this is but one of several. Similarly, many recruits in specialist areas will be despatched to other organisations for training and educational purposes. It's also not unusual for some individuals to be assigned to a foreign agency for special tasks or to act as a liaison. This usually falls to experienced staffers. In the UK, all its spy agencies have



Former MI6 officer Richard Tomlinson spoke about his training experience at Fort Monckton, Hampshire, in his book - *The Big Breach*. The publication of which infuriated his former controllers



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

MI5 and MI6 officers said the BBC spy series *Killing Eve* had “ridiculous story lines...”

an American liaison, and the situation is reversed in Washington with British personnel.

NOT MY WORLD

Intelligence recruiters are increasingly frank about the industry being “world’s apart from that depicted on the silver screen” or by authors intent on drama. This was evidenced only recently when former MI6 Chief Sir Richard Dearlove criticised John le Carré. However, using the Internet as a recruitment platform, in January 2019, MI6 released its second film advert ‘*Secretly we’re just like you*’ to portray the Service in an ordinary way - and to reach out to a wider, younger, more diverse and ethnic audience. Set in a barber’s shop, the voice-over states: “We are intelligence officers, but we don’t do what you think... it’s not about finding the secret button for your ejector seat.” Some former intelligence officers believed the promotion was a “step too far.” Others said it reflected the changing methods of recruitment.

Yet many intelligence officers believe that film media is often the stimulus for people to seek out employment in the spy industry. Indeed, in Eye Spy 124 we referenced a visit made by MI6 Chief Sir Alex Younger to the film set of the latest 007 picture - *No Time to Die*. Sir

Alex acknowledged the imaginary spy, whilst not representative of the real world, is a useful recruitment and promotion tool. And following the BBC series *Spooks* (2002-2011), MI5’s then recruitment arm, Bartlett, Scott, Edgar, which screened candidates for the Security Service, saw an increase in applications from 70-a-day to 130.

A similar situation occurred when the BBC aired its *Killing Eve* spy series last year. However, Eye Spy was told that many officers and officials at both MI5 and MI6 were none too happy about its “ridiculous story lines.” Indeed, one former MI5 officer in the person of Annie Machon said: “I remember laughing myself silly... the show is utterly implausible and unrelentingly unrealistic.” Similar commentary has been issued by other intelligence people discussing film and television spy productions, many of which depict the intelligence world as an “action-packed, sinister and dark playground.”

THE REAL WORLD

MI6, which has a staff (full and part-time) of around 3,500, recently announced a move to recruit about 800 more officers and staffers by 2021, though it declined to comment on the number of applications. However, Eye Spy was told that over 100,000 people had applied for jobs in 2018. Just as interesting, the Service admitted it was embarking on some older methods to recruit a more diverse talent pool - evidence indeed that it had engaged with the old tradecraft - the ‘tap on the shoulder’.

Also relevant, MI6 has entered a listing of the top 75 UK employers known to have engaged in serious attempts and ongoing endeavours in an effort to attract more working class people from low-income backgrounds. The Social Mobility Foundation (SMF), a charity which helps make practical improvements for young people and compiles data from various work theatres, including government bodies, solicitors, banks etc., said MI6 features at number 73. Noting the Service’s out reach programme to young people and its promotion of apprenticeships, the charity’s Chief Executive, David Johnston OBE, said: “They are very aware of the stereotype... that you go



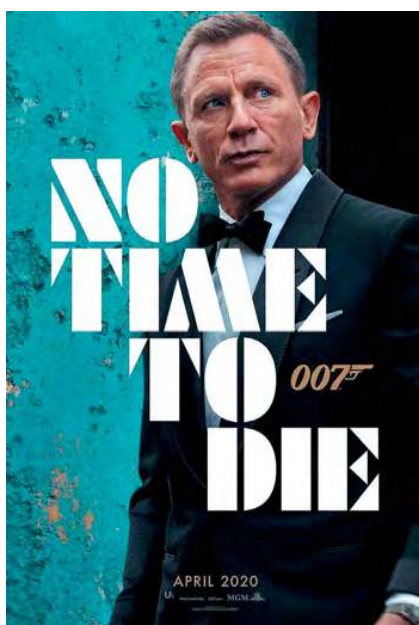
Former MI5 officers Annie Machon and David Shaylor. Machon was very critical of the BBC series *Killing Eve* (below) which most intelligence officials said did not reflect the real world



to Eton, Oxford and then you become James Bond. They also realise that there is an awful lot of talent in the country that would not even consider working for them or think that they would be suitable candidates.”

The Service’s Careers Page is a must visit section providing an indepth listing of vacancies and additional information, plus an enjoyable ‘*Myth Busting*’ section. It also recognises that external bodies have engaged in attempting to give potential candidates a hidden advantage in respect of completing the rigorous selection process. The Service states: ‘*We are aware that publishing companies have sought to capitalise on interest in joining MI6 by producing guides to our process. These guides are not endorsed by MI6 and are neither an accurate reflection of the process, nor of the work of MI6. Please use the information on our website as your guide: it is the only information we can guarantee.*’

And of course, once employed by an intelligence agency, an individual will have the opportunity to examine and explore the Internal vacancy board and seek out other adventures, if he or she so wishes...





Former CIA officer Amaryllis Fox, 38, who served as a clandestine operative from 2003 to 2010, has written a memoir, *Life Undercover: Coming of Age in the CIA* and spoken to the media about some aspects of her secret work for Langley, including a number of interesting tradecraft ruses taught by training officers to enable contact with agents and assets.

The personable Fox, who said she first encountered the impact of terrorism when her best friend was killed in the 1988 Lockerbie Pan Am Flight 103 atrocity over Scotland, said she was recruited by an 'in-house' CIA 'talent spotter' at Georgetown University in Washington DC whilst studying and "building an

algorithm which could predict terrorist activity."

A USEFUL TRADECRAFT

Eye Spy has covered the tradecraft of secret signalling in several editions, from chalk marks and flowerpots, window blinds and balloons, to the use of shopping bags, as in the case of one of the world's most important spies - MI6 agent and KGB officer Oleg Gordievsky. However, Fox, who operated in 16 countries, was briefed on a tradecraft involving the use of a Starbucks gift card.

Speaking about the trick, taught by the "last generation of Cold War tradecraft experts," Fox said: "He gives one to each of his assets



COURTESY: GLENMORE TRENEAR-HARVEY

November 2019. Eye Spy Associate Editor Glenmore Trenear-Harvey met with Amaryllis Fox in London

and tells them, 'If you need to see me, buy a coffee.' Then he checks the card numbers on a cybercafé computer each day, and if the balance on one is depleted, he knows he's got a meeting.

"It saves him having to drive past a whole slew of different physical signal sites each day. And the card numbers aren't tied to identities, so the whole thing is pretty secure."





Fox, described as a 'TV personality', writer and peace activist, claims in her book that she once play-acted an international art dealer while engaged in an operation to infiltrate the underworld nuclear arms trade in Europe.

The book also highlights the popular use by spies of eating and drinking establishments to make contact: 'Restaurants and cafes are in many ways the lifeblood of espionage. Restaurants offer

the opportunity to meet those with access to a government or terror group that might be able to help us predict or prevent the next attack. Sometimes those meetings are accidental. Mostly, they are planned to look accidental'.

As for play acting in restaurants, Fox writes: 'Sit with your back to the wall. It helps with



Amaryllis Fox

situational awareness and ensures the face of your conversation partner is turned away from onlookers in the room. Scout the place out ahead of time. Multiple entrances and exits can be helpful and private seating such as booths or hidden corners is a plus. Perhaps most important of all, the presence of security cameras and the type of clientele that frequent the joint'.

And of course, Fox insists you use a fake name. "We often work in aliases so we have to be sure we're using the name that's consistent with the operation."

Other tradecraft secrets widely known to intelligence writers are also included, including covert communication, surveillance, anti-surveillance and disguises. Not so well known, other commentary and CIA methods to secure bogus passports and driver licences, a fact which has not gone unnoticed by those charged with clearing books written by former CIA personnel.

FRONT COMPANIES AND CYBER HACKING



Michal Koudelka

was oblivious of Turla's presence."

The information targeted was held by governments, military bodies, technology, energy and commercial companies.

The UK's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), the protective element of GCHQ, did not specifically confirm the Russian Government was behind the action. Paul Chichester, Director of Operations NCSC, said: "Turla acquired access to Iranian tools and had the ability to identify and exploit them to further their own

Michal Koudelka, Director of the Czech Security and Information Service (BIS), has revealed his counter-espionage section has uncovered a Russian spy network operating in Prague since at least 2017. Whilst he said information on the operation could not be disclosed until approved for publication in its annual report, the activities of the Russian special services were now discontinued. "The network was completely destroyed and decimated," said Koudelka.

Intelligence sources in the Czech Republic believe the Russian operation, reportedly carried out by undercover FSB agents,

involves at least two private computer and software companies.

OILRIG AND TURLA

The endeavour is being linked to a Russian cyber group called Turla (sometimes referred to as Venomous Bear and Waterbug). British cyber counter-intelligence officers recently disclosed the group had essentially hacked into an operational Iranian cyber outfit codenamed OilRig, believed to be part of MOIS (Ministry of Intelligence and Security) and responsible for two earlier cyber operations codenamed Neuron and Nautilus.

The British investigation began in 2017 and uncovered the "piggy-back" engagement which targeted a UK academic institution.

According to intelligence sources, the Russians discovered OilRig was investigating possible backdoors into systems of around 35-countries, many in the Middle East. Once compromised, Turla then expanded its search across Europe. Officials said the covert action was "double edged", in that Turla was using Iranian tools to both infiltrate systems and then hide behind them. "If a compromise was discovered, users would believe the Iranians were responsible," a source said. "Iran



Paul Chichester

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National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) headquarters, London

aims. We want to send a clear message that even when cyber actors seek to mask their identity, our capabilities are a match for them and we can identify them."

Intelligence watchers have long known Turla is controlled by Russian Intelligence.

NSA officials, who joined with GCHQ to help expose the ruse, were a little more open, and some pointed the finger of blame at Russia. Other intelligence commentators believe the endeavour is but part of a wider international spy network with operational cells functioning elsewhere in Europe and North America.

In response to the NCSC/NSA findings, officials in Moscow said Western analysts had placed an "unsavoury interpretation" on the report. A number of Russian media houses said the report was deliberately released at a time of

sensitive happenings in Syria and positioned to "drive a wedge" between Russia and its ally Iran. Both countries are heavily involved with events in Syria as Turkish forces entered the north of the country to attack Kurdish forces.

A spokesman for the Russian Embassy in London said: "The [UK-USA] security services themselves are not putting forward any accusations against Russia and its citizens."

- On 23 October, NCSC released its third Annual Review since its creation in 2016. Director Ciaran Martin said it had dealt with 658 cyber incidents in 2018.

The NCSC and NSA joint report on the activities on the Turla group, and the NCSC Annual Review are both available from:

LINKS: www.ncsc.gov.uk



NCSC Director Ciaran Martin discusses the organisation's third Annual Review

OPERATION GHOST STILL ACTIVE



Another Slovak-based operation has also uncovered information on a Russian Intelligence (FSB) cyber unit which had apparently gone into hibernation following the hacking of Pentagon, Democratic National Committee and several NGOs (Non-Government Organisation) computer systems in the United States.

Little activity related to the infamous Advanced Persistent Threat 29 (APT29), also known as Cozy Bear, Office Monkeys and the Dukes, has been reported since late 2018, however, researchers at Slovak cybersecurity company ESET, who have been tracking the group since 2013, say they have recently identified at least three European nations that appear to have been hit by the group since it went underground in 2016.

The Slovak outfit has now attributed new attacks to 'Operation Ghost', an ongoing campaign by the Russian hackers against high-value government targets, to



Cozy Bear. The rogue cyber unit is reportedly using new tactics and tools which make it far more difficult to identify and counter.

ESET believes that Cozy Bear along with its sister group Fancy Bear (APT28) has been focusing on the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of European nations since the 2016 US General Election meddling. ESET has not named the targeted countries, but said ministries in at least three different nations in Europe have been affected by the covert endeavour. An infiltration by the group was

Cozy Bear penetrated Pentagon systems in 2015, forcing officials to shut down a number of offices





also discovered at the Washington DC Embassy of an unnamed European country.

All of this has conspired with other identified Russian cyber operations, and as the 2020 US Presidential Elections looms, many analysts have warned about possible interference, at least on a scale similar to that experienced four years ago.

FSB CYBER COERCION AND CONTROL

Ukraine's spy agency SBU - Security Service of Ukraine, has also claimed it has identified an FSB operation coercing people who have access to key Internet data, to spy on potential citizens who remain loyal to the Ukraine in annexed Crimea. Emails obtained by the SBU from Internet service providers, probably via friendly intelligence agencies in the UK and USA, and allegedly sent by the FSB, state they are *'required to confidentially collect personal data, report on social networks and gather information on users'*.

In addition to the groups propaganda campaigns and email hacking, a mid-2019 report by the Senate Intelligence Committee found that Russian hackers attempted to break into the election infrastructure of all 50 states. Researchers now warn that the use of advanced tools by groups such as Cozy Bear, may give Moscow planners further options to attack systems - thus comprising political campaigns.

US intelligence analysts at NSA and other cyber organisations, have advised that though major cyber attacks have not been widely reported in 2019, this does not lessen the threat. And all agree Russia, with far better tools and much experience, is now a leading player in this dark world.



Karelín Dmitry Vladimirovich

The SBU said those found "disloyal to the occupation" will be subject to prosecution by Russia.



SBU Director Ivan Bakanov



2014. President Putin signs the 'Treaty' on the adoption of the Republic of Crimea from the Ukraine

An official said the operation involved "blackmail, threats, intimidation, physical and psychological pressure, and setting-up compromising situations."

The agency also named a former SBU officer who defected to Russia as the main controller of the operation - Karelín Dmitry Vladimirovich.

The SBU warned those who might be tempted to engage with the FSB, that "espionage, providing assistance to a foreign government, foreign organisation, or their representatives in carrying out subversion against Ukraine,"

could be subject to a lengthy prison term.

Russia has a long history of cyber interference in Ukraine, and this intensified when Crimea was annexed in 2014. In 2018, GCHQ identified Russia's NotPetya malware targeting numerous countries, including Ukraine.

The Ukraine, Czech and Slovak warnings follow similar statements issued by the intelligence services of several European countries, including Austria, Switzerland and Lithuania. All have reported an upsurge in FSB, GRU and SVR cyber and conventional spy activities.

MI5-GCHQ - CHINESE CYBER WARNING

MI5 and GCHQ have reportedly warned British universities over the potential threat of cyber espionage and the loss of technology secrets to Chinese spies using the cover of education to steal secrets.

The intelligence alert comes at a time when the UK Chinese student population has doubled in less than ten years to just over 100,000, and echoes similar concerns in the United States.

A UK official is quoted as saying: "Hostile state actors are targeting UK universities to steal personal data, research data and intellectual property, and this could be used for their own military, commercial and authoritarian interests.

"Individual researchers may be targeted by a hostile state actor,



but equally you may also be targeted by an academic institution to undertake research which is of strategic benefit to that country."

Eye Spy was told all such places of learning, particularly those involved in high-technology projects, all have an intelligence liaison who will report any security concerns... and of course, advise on outstanding individuals.

THE MISSING INTELLIGENCE MAN



Sunset on Kish Island

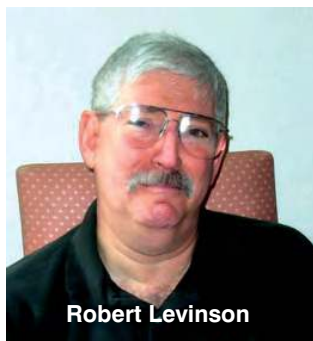


Siamak Namazi was imprisoned in 2015, a year later his father Baquer Namazi was also arrested

IRAN ACKNOWLEDGMENT: OPEN CASE AND ON-GOING

Iran has acknowledged that an 'open case' exists in connection with former FBI agent Robert Levinson, now 71, who disappeared on Kish Island in March 2007, whilst conducting an unspecified task for the CIA. Early media output by US officials said he was employed by a private company, but by 2013 it was learned he was engaged on behalf of Langley veterans in an analysis capacity. That research was unauthorised and Eye Spy understands a number of officers were disciplined and may even have lost their jobs. Levinson's family also received a \$2.5 million annuity from the CIA in order to stop a lawsuit revealing details.

The surprise statement from Tehran follows years of negative responses regarding the fate of Levinson and a renewed attempt by US lawmakers to determine just what happened to the



Robert Levinson

experienced officer. As part of the new initiative, the reward for information has been increased to \$25 million.

In a submission to the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, Iranian officials attached to its Revolutionary Court, said the case of Robert Levinson was "on going." It's unclear how long Levinson's case has been recognised, and no

other information was released, nor did Iran's Mission to the UN provide additional commentary.

A UN acknowledgement of the filling read: *'According to the last statement of Tehran's Justice Department, Mr. Robert Alan Levinson has an on going case in the Public Prosecution and Revolutionary Court of Tehran'.*

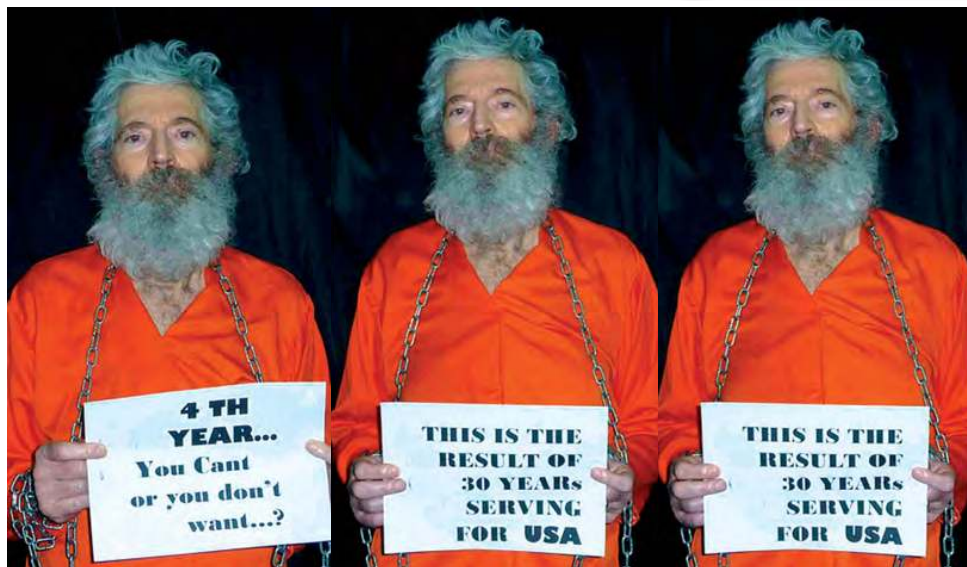
President Trump described Iran's move as a "positive step." US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

also called on Iran to release other captive Americans, including Xiyue Wang and Siamak Namazi.

Various disturbing photographs and a video clip of Levinson were released in 2010 and 2011 showing proof of life. However, wearing a Guantanamo Bay-type orange suit, he was unrecognisable - looking gaunt and donning a beard and long hair. Intelligence officials at the CIA and FBI were confident, that though authentic, the material was simply psychological propaganda produced by Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps to impact on



Xiyue Wang detained in 2016



Levinson's family and those involved with his investigation.

At time of publication, and as tensions between the United States and Iran continue, the US State Department has not commented about Iran's filling and thus acknowledgement that they are fully aware of the Robert Levinson case.

US national Dawud Salahuddin (born David Belfield), an American fugitive living in Iran who is wanted for the assassination of a former Iranian diplomat, Ali Akbar Tabatabai in 1980, is the last person to have seen Levinson before his disappearance.

THE WALL OF SPIES

INSIDER THREATS AND

Enhanced internal counter-espionage display highlights the need for maintaining vigilance

Aimed to highlight the growing menace of espionage performed by those with access to American secrets, and with much emphasis on insider threats, the US National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NCSC), has totally enhanced an existing counter-intelligence display at the US Intelligence Community (USIC) Campus in Bethesda, Maryland. First conceived in 2004, and dubbed the 'Wall of Spies Experience' - also referred to by staffers as the 'Wall of Shame' - the exhibit consisted of 72 American and foreign spy cases dating from the 1930s to 2004.

The new revamped walk-through exhibit, which has taken 30-months to create, is intended to heighten alertness of government agency employees to the threat of both internal and external espionage.



National Counterintelligence and Security Center Maryland



William Evanina, Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center and Executive Director Patricia Larsen, cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony of the new exhibition

Photographs of infamous and damaging spies now totalling around 135 are featured, beginning in the Revolutionary War period to more recent operatives such as Edward Snowden, Aldrich Ames and Robert Hanssen. Besides the imagery and a haunting video depicting some of the spies, the exhibit features various 'spy items' - from a modern day laptop computer used by an American engineer who spied for China's MSS, to a German WWII Enigma machine. Other spy equipment used by US traitors is also on show, plus material



William Evanina

EVOLVING CHALLENGES

evidence of espionage supplied by the FBI, CIA, NSA and other organisations. Another artefact extends the espionage warning beyond the US mainland, this a typewriter used in the US Embassy in Moscow in which the KGB had secreted a listening device.

The display, also called a museum, is not open to the public and has been likened to a 'Walk-in' - a reminder to those working in intelligence of the importance of securing all information, regardless of whether a



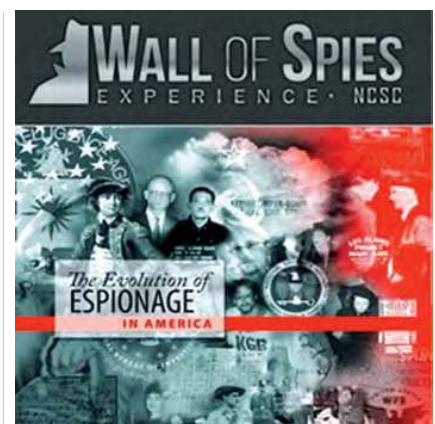


person deems it low or high value. It has been carefully located near meeting rooms in buildings at the site where senior counter-intelligence and security staffers from all of America's leading intelligence services meet. A subtle prompt to those entering a world where lost secrets could impact on so many people. However, the video produced showing a brief historical run-through of several spies is available for public consumption. NCSC Director William Evanina said: "This is a daily reminder for not only our employees, but employees who come here every day that this is what we do every single day. This is why we do it. We're in the counterintelligence business to prevent this."

"The Wall of Spies is meant to be an evolving and poignant reminder to us all that there will always be spies among us who seek to

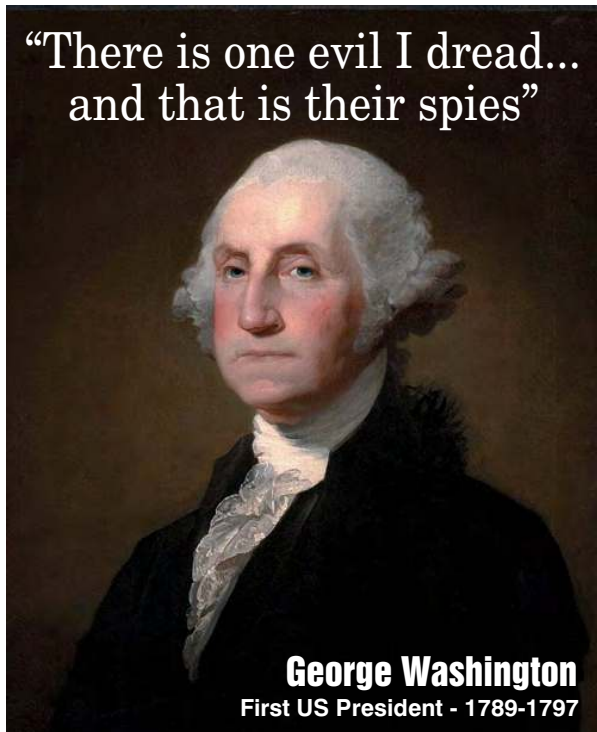


undermine our national security and our way of life. But while we focus on the present and the future, we must always remember the past. This is what the Wall of Spies experience will help us do." Evanina referenced spies from the American Revolution to the cyber revolution, and noted that counter-intelligence must also evolve.



And, in keeping with a decade of projects engaged by intelligence agencies around the world to allow the public to see and learn more of the important work carried out by such organisations, the collection is part of the NCSC's vision to become more transparent about some aspects of its operations.

The NCSC has produced a plethora of reports on the signs of espionage and the damaging impact it can have on both government and private companies. However, the new



display is timely and has been welcomed by those charged with outing traitors and protecting intelligence - this as several new spy cases have emerged.

Evanina is but one of several key officials in recent times to publicly name those nations now attempting to place agents within key US positions, from space, cyber, communication,



Selected books and spy artefacts on display

technology and military platforms, to companies involved with subjects as diverse as weather watching and food production. Evanina said there has been a significant rise in the number of counter-espionage operations, saying much of the activity is being sponsored and directed by China. In the last two years,



Ron Hansen

"five current or former US officials have been convicted of working with the intelligence services of China to betray America," said Evanina. The most recent case involved former DIA analyst Ron Hansen, 60, who served in the US Army for 20-years. In September he was sentenced to 10-years in prison for attempted espionage for China. Hansen, who was arrested in June 2018 as he

attempted to board an aeroplane to China carrying Secret military information, had received thousands of dollars from his MSS controllers.

In charge of the museum exhibit is NCSC Executive Director Patricia Larsen. She said it is intended to help intelligence workers understand some of the challenges faced by staffers. "We're not trying to celebrate any of the people on the wall," Larsen said. "We're not saying it's a colossal success that we've caught them or failure that we didn't catch them faster. What we're saying is it's part of our history, and we need to understand where we stand to be better able to protect ourselves moving forward."

In other comments intended to show the public that modern espionage is not like that often depicted in movies and conducted by stereo-type spies, Larsen said: "It's important for people to understand that we don't run around in trench coats. It's not about the old-fashion espionage that you see. It's about us being open and honest about how we protect America, this is part of our effort to do so."





A corridor of reminders pertaining to the constant threat of espionage as intelligence staff make their way to meeting rooms at the centre



The NCSC, established in 2001, is also home to America's crucial National Insider Threat Task Force (NITTF), which operates to stop and

deter the compromise of classified information by insiders and protect all federal classified networks. Both are elements of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI).

ESPIONAGE STATISTICS

Many facts, sourced artefacts and interesting statistics are displayed at the exhibit. Of the 135 spies recognised on the Wall, 119 are male and 16 female. These are US nationals



Theodore Hall

and do not include foreign spies and defectors. Eighty-one operated for the Soviets and nine for Russia, the remainder have threads to 54 other countries; nearly 60-per-cent are over 50-years-old.

The youngest, Theodore Hall, an atomic spy was just 19 at the time of his arrest.

Motivation: In respect of why they chose to betray America, 71 said it was ideology, 45 monetary and 19 for a variety of other reasons. Five traitors, John Walker, Larry Chin, Clyde Conrad, Robert Hanssen and Aldrich Ames all secured over a million dollars for their espionage work. Ames heads the chart, he was rewarded with \$2.5 million.

Of the Soviet/Russian contingent, eight traitors received the Order of the Red Banner, three, the Hero of the Russian Federation, two the Order of Lenin, and two Order of the Red Star.



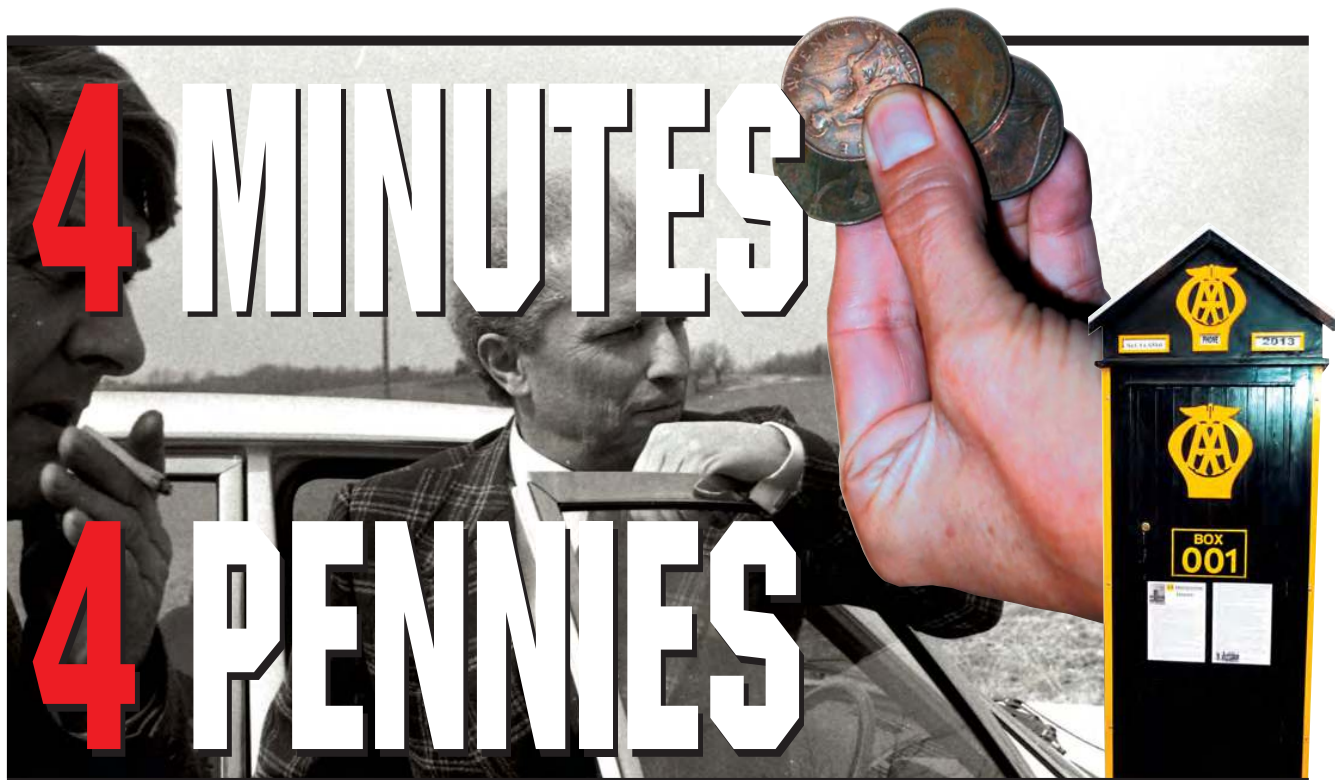
Aldrich Ames

Fifty spy artefacts are displayed, all of which have been supplied by American intelligence agencies and a small library of 120 specially sourced books are featured. The display also recognises 38 key spy sites in Washington DC and New York City.

And for good measure, the NCSC warns that eight spies have been executed in the United States.



The CIA team which identified Aldrich Ames. L-R: Sandy Grimes, Paul Redmond, Jeanne Vertefeuille, Diana Worthen and Dan Payne



A MANDATORY BUT MOST UNUSUAL COLD WAR RULING

Britain's National Archives has released a number of documents revealing one proposal related to the much wider and darker plan in dealing with a nuclear alert and emergency during the 1960s chapter of the Cold War.

Part of the nuclear alert warning rested not with the advanced listening and communication stations strategically situated in the country and elsewhere, but on the Automobile Association (AA) radio system, a telephone

box and that the Prime Minister and other leading officials were able to make a reverse charge telephone call... plus four pennies.

Lord Mountbatten, then Chief of Defence Staff was posed with the problem of not being able to make contact with Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, if a four minute alert was sounded, and if the premier was away from his desk elsewhere in the country. Mountbatten actioned a scheme whereby vehicles carrying the Prime Minister should be fitted with



identical radio equipment as used by AA engineers to communicate with colleagues and depots in the event of breakdowns etc.

If a Macmillan driver was alerted, they were required to seek the nearest General Post Office (GPO) telephone box where the Prime Minister should immediately call Whitehall and assemble senior officials to introduce a counter-action and ready the country. It was also suggested that drivers should be required to carry four pennies on their person - the minimum sum required to use a GPO box at the time.

In one of the declassified files, Bryan Saunders, Private Secretary to the Minister of Works, whose responsibilities partly included



President John F. Kennedy with Prime Minister Harold Macmillan



Lord Mountbatten, Chief of Defence Staff (centre) with President Kennedy

the overseeing of Government vehicles and drivers, wrote to Sir Timothy Bligh, the Prime Minister's Private Secretary: 'I understand that if an emergency arose while the Prime

Minister was on the road, the proposal is to use the radio to get him to a telephone. Perhaps we should see that our drivers are provided with four pennies - I should hate to

think of you trying to get change for sixpence from a bus conductor while those four minutes were ticking by'.

And, in recognising the fact that there may be occasions when a driver may not have the correct change in his pocket, Sir Timothy came up with an alternative plan. 'In such cases, it is a simple matter to have the cost of any telephone call transferred by dialling 100 (the Operator) and requesting reversal of the charge, and this does not take any appreciable time'. All this would have of course taken more than four minutes!

Nevertheless, the four penny mechanism and alternative option was approved and introduced shortly before the Cuban missile crisis of 1962-63. The AA link became a mandatory inclusion in vehicles, and operated for at least seven more years - a period encompassing four more Prime Ministers.

There is no further reference to the mandatory carrying of four pennies and intelligence historians support the notion that this most basic addition to Britain's nuclear deterrent was ever revealed to their American colleagues.

CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS - SECRET SIGNAL



THE LAST-MINUTE INTERCEPTED COMMUNICATION WHICH AVERTED WORLD WAR THREE

'...Soviet Merchant Ship Changes Course'

Declassified UK intelligence files reveal the important role played by GCHQ's outpost in Scarborough, North Yorkshire, during the Cuban Missile Crisis. The facility, which was built just before the outbreak of WWII and continues to play a vital role for the organisation, tracked Soviet warships across the Atlantic as they made their way to Cuba in 1962, in a likely attempt to circumnavigate a US Navy and Air Force blockade. At the time of course, US President

John F. Kennedy had learned Moscow was moving nuclear weapons to the island which were a direct threat to national security - hence the maritime perimeter.

Kennedy demanded that the missiles be removed, but the Soviet response was to assemble a flotilla of warships and head towards the island. GCHQ operators at Scarborough intercepted Soviet communications between Moscow Centre and the ships giving military and

political analysts in the United States critical real-time intelligence. Would the Russian

warships engage their American counterparts in an action which



GCHQ Scarborough

© GCHQ/CROWN COPYRIGHT



Entrance to GCHQ Scarborough today

could lead to WWII and a nuclear conflict?

Tony Comer, GCHQ's historian, speaking of the document's release and the action taken by the Scarborough base, said: "Just another task at the bottom of Scarborough's priority list suddenly escalated to the very top priority."

"Were the Soviets going to call Kennedy's bluff or not? Scarborough was the organisation

that was able to say exactly where these vessels were when they stopped sailing towards Cuba and then turned around and headed back to the Soviet Union."

Whilst parts of the documents are blacked out and remain classified, what makes this file unique is that it was sent directly to the White House Situation Room for immediate consideration and action. Another example of the close cooperation of British and American Intelligence.

GCHQ has also revealed the location of its new Manchester outpost in northern England - Heron House - which will be home to several hundred staffers. The city was chosen because it hosts 100,000 students. The organisation has already begun recruiting operatives to work in the outpost,

Interestingly, and unlike any comparable intelligence agency, the facility sits directly above a

**Tony Comer
GCHQ
historian**



restaurant in the centre of the city. No doubt the owners of the eating establishment will be delighted.



**Heron House,
Manchester**



In something reminiscent of the plot-line in John Buchan's 1915 novel, *The Thirty Nine Steps*, later made into a movie by Alfred Hitchcock, a British national has used his near-perfect photographic memory to document secret, top secret and coded information on a wide range of military systems and allegedly forward the material "to a number of hostile foreign governments."

Following a year-long investigation by New Scotland Yard's Counter Terrorism Command (CTC), Simon Finch, 49, of Swansea, Wales, was arrested for breaching the Official Secrets Act (OSA) and accused of a "damaging disclo-

sure" of defence information and "incalculable harm." This followed the removal of various electronic devices at his home and a legal order that he provide the access codes, which he refused to do.

A contractor at BAE Systems, the international defence, security and aerospace firm, Finch worked in the defence industry for 20 years and claimed he had access to secret and top secret information.

Asked why he allegedly betrayed the UK, Finch said he did it to take revenge on authorities after claiming he had suffered "degrading treatment" at the hands of a UK police force, believed to be

Merseyside Police. "Since the UK has refused me any justice, compensation, or even treatment... then it has no right to expect my loyalty," he said.

"It gives me very great pleasure to say that I have spent the last ten months documenting secret, top secret and coded information on the wide range of military systems which I have worked upon.

"This information has been sent [freely] to a number of hostile foreign governments. If the nation [UK] does not care for my security then why should I care for national security?"



Under the 1989 Official Secrets Act, a disclosure is considered harmful if: 'It damages the



**Wylie Watson played
'Mr Memory' in Hitchcock's
1935 picture**



John Buchan

capability of the Armed Forces, leads to loss of life or injury to its personnel, or endangers UK interests abroad'.

Unlike the movie where The 39 Steps Organisation of spies uses a theatre act called 'Mr Memory' to smuggle information on the Air Ministry's secret design for a silent aircraft engine out of the country, Mr Finch faces a maximum jail term of 14-years if his activities are deemed to relate to spying. For the record, British Intelligence man John Buchan's, 'Mr Memory', was shot and killed.



Alfred Hitchcock (centre)

SECRET INTELLIGENCE SERVICE PEOPLE

France Awards MI6 Operative for WWII Work

Second World War veteran and former MI6 officer Geoffrey Pidgeon, 93, has become the 6,000th person to receive the Legion d'Honneur, France's highest civil and military honour.

The now published author was given the award by French Ambassador Catherine Colonna during a ceremony at Lancaster House, London, for his work as an MI6 operative during WWII and his role in establishing wireless communications in preparation for the D-Day landings in 1944.

Ms. Colonna said France presented the Legion d'Honneur with "a deep sense of gratitude" for the work Mr Pidgeon performed. "This ceremony is a tribute for all those who worked for peace, justice and freedom in the world. Our country will never forget the fortitude and neither shall we."

UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace, who attended the event spoke of his gratitude to Pidgeon and the role of intelligence officers both today and yesteryear: "Thank you for all the service you have done. We owe a very

great debt and we hold in the highest esteem the work of our armed forces and indeed our intelligence services. The great thing about our intelligence service is that they don't wear uniforms, they don't wear medals, they even go home sometimes and tell their wives and husbands slight untruths about what they did during the day. They don't do it for recognition, glamour or parade. In my experience, they do it for those amazing British values that we hold dear. I know that Geoffrey fulfils those qualities."

Mr Pidgeon responded to the award saying: "They made a fuss of me today. I found it extraordinary to be number 6,000 and I think every one of the 6,000 must feel as honoured as I am."

Grateful to Britain of the role it played in ending the Nazi occupation of France, Colonna added: "This milestone serves as a reminder of the selfless efforts of millions of brave British men and women throughout the war. Our country will never forget their fortitude, and this highlights the enduring strength of the Franco-British relationship."



Geoffrey Pidgeon proudly displays the Legion d'Honneur

INTELLIGENCE AND CRICKET

Another former MI6 operator has also been in the news. Eileen Ash, who lived through two world wars and played test cricket for England turned 108. Employed by the Civil Service from the age of 18, she was seconded to MI6 during World War II, and worked for the Service for eleven years.

She is now the oldest living international cricketer in the world (and spy!) and debuted for England in June 1937, playing seven Test matches over her 12-year career.

Her next ambition is to fly with the RAF Red Arrows, one of the world's most famous aerial display teams.



Geoffrey Pidgeon with French Ambassador Catherine Colonna and UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace



Eileen Ash

SNAPSHOT:

7 DAYS IN OCTOBER

COUNTER-TERRORISM INTEL

After a relative period of quiet, terrorist attacks in two of Europe's capital cities claimed a number of lives and left scores more injured. The incidents coincide with new intelligence summaries that both Al-Qaida and the remnants of ISIS' leadership have instructed terror cells to take on a more pro-active roll; this as the Far Right continues to engage in terrorist attacks.

Eye Spy presents a number of recent high-profile incidents and happenings faced by those charged with protecting national security...

3 OCTOBER: PARIS POLICE HQ

Four police officers and employees were killed and a fifth gravely injured in a knife attack by a colleague, identified as Mickael Harpon, 45, who slit the throat of at least one of his victims. France's National Anti-Terrorist Prosecutor, Jean-Francois Ricard designated the incident "a terrorist attack," after police retraced the attacker's movements via CCTV and his electronic pass.

Mr Ricard said: "He went to a shop in the Rue Saint Jacques and bought two knives. One was a metal kitchen knife, the other an oyster knife. Leaving the shop he took a detour and hid the knives he had bought on him. The autopsies carried out after these deaths show that it was a scene of extreme violence."

Mickael killed one associate and stabbed another before entering an office on the same floor and

spree is estimated at seven minutes," Ricard said.

Harpon was born on the French island of Martinique, and worked as a computer expert with the surveillance department. "We are now looking into motives and accomplices to this attack," Ricard said. His wife, 38, who is being questioned by police as a suspected accomplice, exchanged 33-text messages between 11.21am and 11.50am, 30-

killing two more people. Harpon then took the stairs and killed another person before stabbing administrative staff leaving them with serious but non-fatal wounds to the neck.

In the courtyard, the terrorist was challenged by a trainee police officer who tried to reason with him telling him to drop his knife. He told police that the man ignored his appeals and ran at him with the knife. The officer despatched his attacker with a firearm. "The time of this killing



Mickael Harpon



Jean-Francois Ricard

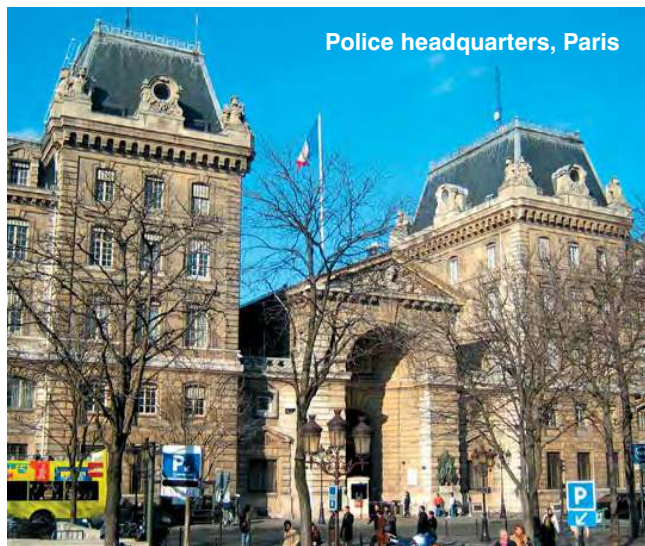
© OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF FRANCE



President of France, Emmanuel Macron, pays tribute to the four members of a specialist intelligence unit killed at Paris Police HQ



French counter-terrorism police

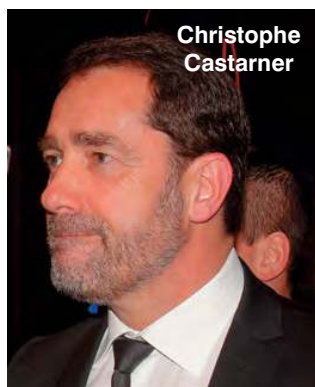


Police headquarters, Paris

minutes before the attack. He said the subject matter of these messages were “exclusively religious” and ended with the words: *‘Allahu Akbar... Follow our beloved prophet Mohamed and reflect on the Qu’ran’*.

Harpon was believed to have been in contact with others thought to belong to a ‘Salafist’ movement and according to friends, was showing signs of radicalisation. This included expressing support for ISIS; reluctance to have contact with women and justification for the 2015 attack on the office of media house *Charlie Hebdo*.

The background intelligence on the killer’s support of ISIS,



Christophe Castaner

contradicts French Interior Minister Christophe Castaner’s initial suggestion that Harpon had not “shown the slightest reason for alarm.” Other intelligence officials note the unit he worked for, the Paris Police Department Intelligence Directorate (DRPP), was previously known as the Renseignements Generaux (RG). RG, which monitored political parties, and conducted much covert surveillance on individuals believed to be a threat to security, was in the main absorbed into France’s domestic Intelligence service DGSI - but not in Paris because of its importance. And, according to some intelligence sources, there continued a rivalry, the result being not all vital intelligence was shared or passed on suspects.

Ricard said the investigation was now being headed by counter-terrorist officials because of “a combination of elements - the premeditated character of the attack, his professed desire to die during the attack, the nature of the attacks and the injuries inflicted on at least one of the victims, the context of latent radicalisation and the exclusively religious message sent before the attack.”

FAR-RIGHT TERROR ATTACK

Two people died when 27-year-old far-right terrorist Stephan Balliet launched an attack on a synagogue in Halle. Another incident occurred in Landsberg, 11 miles away, after he hijacked a taxi.

One woman, named as Jana Lange, 40, was shot dead in the road next to the synagogue after the gunman tried to gain entry, but was repelled by security guards. Inside were around 50-worshippers. Balliet then made his way to a nearby kebab shop where a



Stephan Balliet

grenade was thrown and another man shot. Video taken outside the shop showed a man dressed in military fatigues firing what appeared to be a shotgun into the street. The terrorist live-streamed the attacks, and at one point turned the camera on himself “vowing to kill as many anti-whites as possible... Jews preferred.”

Following his arrest, counter-terrorist police discovered 9lbs of homemade explosives in his car.

In the last few months, senior intelligence officials from various countries have warned of the rising danger posed by the far-right, an increasing number who have now turned to terrorism.



Jana Lange



Horst Seehofer

After visiting the scene of the attacks, German Interior Minister Horst Seehofer warned “the militant far-right is as big a threat as radical Islamism.” He said there was an “elevated threat” by around 12,000 suspected far-right extremists who had an “affinity with firearms and could engage in violence.”

As for Balliet, he is being held on suspicion of two murders and nine attempted murders. Prosecutors said he had made a “very comprehensive admission,” and that he was motivated by “anti-Semitism and right-wing extremism.”



The synagogue in Halle, eastern Germany

US TAKES ISIS BEATLES



El Shafee Elsheikh and Alexandra Kotey

El Shafee Elsheikh and Alexandra Kotey, two members of an infamous ISIS cell dubbed the 'Beatles', have been taken into US custody, this as Turkey launched its offensive into northern Syria.

Both men were captured by Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in February 2018, and are accused

of beheading numerous victims and several Westerners, including British aid workers David Haines and Alan Henning, and US journalists Steven Sotloff and James Foley. All the murders were filmed and uploaded on the Internet.

Several news teams have interviewed the pair at a holding camp in Syria, and both have



Journalist James Foley



James Foley pictured with Mohammed Emwazi (right and inset), moments before he was murdered

shown little remorse, though they did apologise for the killing of aid workers.

President Trump said: "We have taken a certain number of ISIS fighters that are particularly bad... to make sure nothing happened with them." He later tweeted: *'In case the Kurds or Turkey lose control, the United States has already taken the two ISIS militants tied to beheading in Syria, known as the Beatles, out of that country and into a secure location controlled by the US'.*

The British group's 'front man', Mohammed Emwazi, A.k.a. 'Jihadi John', often seen brandishing a knife at victims shortly before they were beheaded, was killed by an armed CIA-controlled UAV in 2015. A fourth member, Aine



David Haines

Davis, was captured by Turkish security forces in 2017 and jailed for being part of a terrorist group.

Elsheikh and Kotey could face the death penalty if found guilty in a US court. Similarly, Eye Spy understands that the move to extradite them to America may be contested in a British court.

Intelligence analysts are uncertain of the fate of other reported members of the British terror cell.

TERRORIST ATTACK BY VEHICLE

On 8 October, a Syrian man named as Omar Al, 32, living in Germany, hijacked an articulated lorry and drove it into eight stationary vehicles at a traffic light in Limburg, near Frankfurt, injuring eight people - one critically. Security service officers raided two apartments in

the region in connection with the case and secured possible terrorist-related evidence, including cell phones and USB drives.

While prosecutors declined to link the incident to recent calls by ISIS to use vehicles as attack weaponry, intelligence sources have



Vehicles are removed from the scene of the attack



The hijacked truck

reported that the security services believe it was ISIS inspired.

The incident is reminiscent of the December 2016 attack when Anis Amri, a rejected Tunisian asylum seeker, killed a truck driver, stole his vehicle, and drove it into a Christmas market in the centre of Berlin, leaving 12 dead and 56 injured.

2018 WESTMINSTER TAV

In London, terror suspect Salih Khater, 30, was jailed for life after he drove his vehicle at police officers and civilians outside Parliament Square on 14 August 2018. Accused of attempting to cause "maximum carnage," and



Salih Khater



The vehicle driven by Khater



trying to "kill as many people as possible," the defendant said he had panicked when he got lost in the area. A jury dismissed his defence and Mrs Justice McGowan ruled Khater had "deliberately copied terrorists," in recent TAV attacks.

"Your undoubted intention was to kill as many people as possible and by doing so spread fear and terror," said McGowan. "Khater had replicated the acts of others



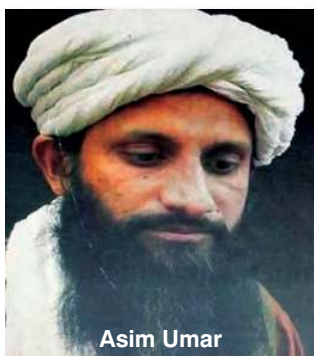
Commander Richard Smith

who undoubtedly have acted with terrorist motives."

Head of New Scotland Yard's Counter Terrorism Command (SO15), Commander Richard Smith added: "It was our view that this attack was carried out with a terrorist purpose and the sentence confirms this."

END GAME FOR AQIS CHIEF

Afghanistan National Directorate for Security (NDS) officials claim that following a joint CIA-NDS raid in the Taliban-controlled Musa Qala region of Helmand province, one of al-Qaida's most senior commanders and head of operations for the group's Indian Subcontinent franchise (AQIS), has been killed. Asim Umar, who was appointed personally by the terror group's leader Ayman al-



Asim Umar

Zawahiri, was liaising with Taliban officials when US warplanes guided by ground surveillance teams

struck. It is believed around 20 Taliban and al-Qaida operatives were also killed, including al-Zawahiri's personal courier. A large weapons dump was also destroyed.

Afghanistan sources state during the US airstrikes, which reportedly occurred on 23 September, a missile struck a site hosting a wedding party. Locals said around 40 attendees had perished.

Pentagon officials have, at time of publication, still not confirmed Umar's demise.



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CEREMONIES HELD TO MARK THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL



On 13 August 1961, work began on constructing the Berlin Wall. Overnight, it changed an entire nation and would stand for nearly three decades as a symbol of a divided city, country, Europe and World. Thirty years after the Wall was finally dismantled signifying the end of Communism in Russia and Soviet Bloc nations, the city marked this pivotal Cold War moment with ceremonies and events. Eye Spy examines the Wall's origins, importance and menace... plus remaining markers of a dark historical chapter

By the early 1960s, both the Government of East Germany and its Soviet Bloc overseers had become increasingly concerned by the rising number of East Germans legally departing to the West. An estimated 3.5-million people had passed through open crossings in the city since WWII. Many of those departing via the 'Berlin Loophole' were young, educated and the future backbone of the country.

For 28-years following the fateful border closure, the structure became a dominant fixture in the Cold War landscape, threatening death to any person who dared to cross it. The

1961. East German troops are assembled to start work on building a barrier to divide the city



Berlin Wall claimed the lives of at least 140-people, though this figure has been disputed by some intelligence historians who believe that it is significantly higher. Yet most intelligence people agree far more escaped than were killed.

ESCAPE AND DERRING-DO

In the early sixties, people jumped from rooftops, scaled fences using boots designed with special hooks, abseiled from windows, burst through barriers in trucks, and hid under vehicles and trains to make good their escape. There are also tales of other ingenious and dangerous methods. For example, in 1963



1961. Construction of the Wall begins

Horst Klein, an aerobatic expert cut a cable and hand-gripped his way to freedom - passing over the heads of guards 60ft beneath him. In 1983, friends Michael Becker and



Just one of several memorials to those who died attempting to breach the Wall



The body of Gunter Liftin is recovered from the River Spree. He was shot dead by border guards in 1961 attempting to escape over the Wall

Holger Bethke fired an arrow with a fishing line attached to an accomplice in the West. The line was affixed to a heavier steel cable which they pulled in and used a wooden device to 'zip' their way across. Some used more sleight of hand to pass border crossings, bogus - but convincing documentation and false identity cards. In 1986, one man simply walked to a border crossing and showed guards his 'diplomatic identity' card. It transpired it was a membership card for the *Playboy Club* in Munich; the cards were the same colour, size and resembled each other. The risks of course were enormous.

One of the most famous and audacious escapes occurred in 1979, when Hans Strelczyk and Gunter Wetzel, using their



Several sections of the Berlin Wall can still be found in their original position

engineering skills built a hot air balloon to lift them and their children over the border and to freedom in the West.

However, with enhanced security, the number of escapees dwindled from the thousands in the early 1960s to only a handful each year by the 1980s. Yet, even by the late 1980s there were still around half-a-dozen escape attempts each month, more than half of which were successful. These often involved defecting guards, persons who paid for exfiltration and building workers selected to repair the 'front line' etc.

COUNTER-MEASURES

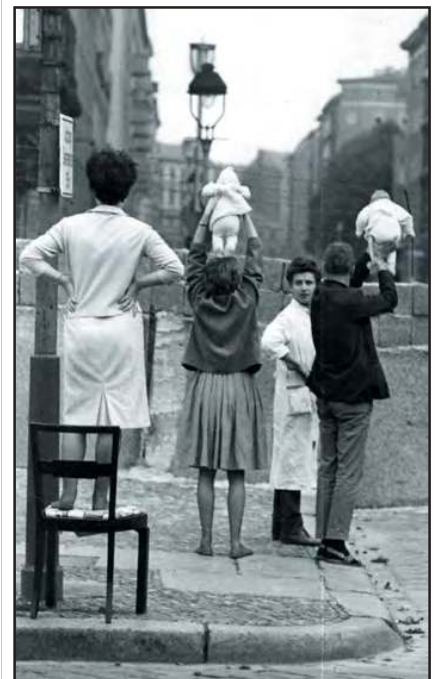
The border installations around West Berlin criss-crossed the city and surrounding areas for around 100-miles. A mile of this was ➤



The close proximity of buildings in East and West Berlin is evidenced in this photograph



'Czech hedgehogs' (anti-tank obstacles) and a watch tower in East Berlin



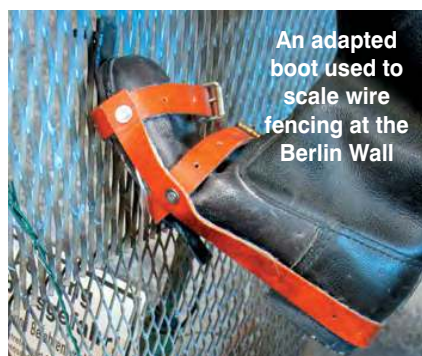
West Berliners show their babies to family members on the 'wrong side' of the border



Famous CIA-sourced photographs show an East German soldier's dash to freedom



Watched by her husband and child, Margathe Finder prepares to jump across a stretch of the border not yet fully protected by guards



An adapted boot used to scale wire fencing at the Berlin Wall

covered by an actual wall, mainly at the inner-city interface, with another half mile or more made up of heavy wire mesh around West Berlin's green border with the Brandenburg countryside. As escapes continued, mines

were laid along certain sections of fencing, not removed until the 1980s. East Germany was determined to stop the flow of persons reaching freedom, thus the top of sections of wall were lined with a smooth covering, intended to make it more difficult to scale. The Wall was reinforced by mesh fencing, signal fencing, anti-vehicle trenches, barbed wire, dog teams who patrolled long stretches; beds of nails called 'Stalin's Carpet' by locals, were also a dangerous obstacle. The line was watched over by guards in 116 watchtowers which illuminated areas turning night into day. All the while, armed patrols were a permanent and menacing sight.

A SPY'S NEST

West Berlin was also the seat of several Western intelligence agencies, exploiting its position behind the Iron Curtain. Intelligence officials interviewed thousands of defectors arriving at the Marienfelde refugee and transit camp, one of three such important centres in the city. Here they would receive medical attention, new papers and re-location documents and instructions. All the while of course, intelligence officials were suspicious of some new arrivals who may have been despatched by the KGB to infiltrate the West. By the time the Wall was removed, an estimated

1.35-million people had passed through the site, which is now home to the Marienfelde Refugee Center Museum.

The CIA and MI6 had important operational Stations in West Berlin by the mid-1950s. And from a nearby point on the border, the organisations joined to build an eavesdropping tunnel under the sector boundary to tap Soviet cable traffic (Operation Gold). However, as history shows, even before a bucket of soil had been removed, the KGB were aware of the endeavour through MI6 officer and KGB agent George Blake.

DOWNFALL

On 9 November 1989, Berlin was reunited. The Berlin Wall fell and Communism defeated - the end of the massive border complex that had divided East and West for 28-years, tearing apart families, friends and neighbours.



An East German worker clears weeds at a heavily fortified fence allowing border guards a clear shot at anyone attempting to cut the wire



1961. West Berliners watch as the 'death strip' is prepared



1961. An East Berliner throws his child to waiting West Berliners who caught the youngster. The man also jumped

During this period, there was also a sharp rise in suicides.

Not surprisingly as city residents rejoiced, massive sections of the Wall disappeared



1987. Brandenburg Gate, Berlin. President Reagan makes his famous speech demanding that the Soviets “tear down this wall.” They duly did two years later

quite quickly. Ironically, much of this work was performed by the very same border troops who had built it, with the help of Britain’s Royal Engineers garrisoned in West Berlin.

Today, in the modern united city of Berlin, visitors can still see a long section of the original eastern Wall at East Side Gallery, where in 1990, international artists were invited to decorate it with a series of paintings.

Besides sections which can be found in various international museums, and even in the grounds of CIA headquarters at Langley, Virginia, the most authentic section is sited at Bernauer Strasse, Berlin - the official monument to the Wall. Visitors can see through a remaining section the so-called ‘death strip’ of



Checkpoint Charlie - note proximity of East German watchtower (left)

raked sands (used to identify footprints) and a number of anti-tank obstacles dubbed ‘Czech hedgehogs’. These were a feature of the Wall along several sites in the city. Another structure retained is a guard tower complete with fluorescent lighting which enabled spotters to monitor those intent on escape.

CHECKPOINT CHARLIE

One of the most famous Cold War sites was of course the American-controlled crossing point called Checkpoint Charlie. Here of course



Another view of Checkpoint Charlie



Marienfelde refugee and transit camp and valuable documentation issued by officials



1984. The 'death strip'. Note the raked sand and 'Czech hedgehogs'



US troops and their East German counterparts surveilled each other for decades, supported by tanks and other weaponry. And though the original guard house, signage and other site artefacts were removed, along with a nearby East German watchtower by developers in 2000, the Mauer Museum (Haus am Checkpoint Charlie), contains many artefacts, escape memorabilia, and other interesting displays relevant to the original site.



President John F. Kennedy visits the Berlin Wall in 1963



Berlin Wall Memorial at Bernauerstrasse in the city

CELEBRATIONS

To mark the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Wall, Berlin officials transformed parts of the city into an open-air exhibition and event venue. Along the Wall's route and in places of historical importance, lectures were held, escapees told tales of derring-do, films highlighting this dark chapter shown and musical concerts held. The festival ended on the evening of 9 November, when the entire city became the largest concert stage in the world, featuring renowned musicians, orchestras and bands.

The intelligence importance of the Berlin Wall and the activities of many spies in the city is forever embedded in spylore. However, for residents they remember only the dark shadow cast by the Wall and its menace. It divided families for decades and instilled fear. Its scars are plentiful.

For those who dared to escape and were successful, a new future and opportunities awaited them. When the Wall disappeared in 1989, many residents finally had an opportunity to make contact with loved ones and friends they had left behind.





November 1989. East Berliners pass freely through Checkpoint Charlie



November 2019. A US military band participates in the 30th anniversary celebrations attended by thousands of Berliners

MUSEUM AND WALL SECTIONS SAVED BY... GOATS

Perhaps one of the most important and influential speeches ever made by a US President and most relevant to the Berlin Wall, the collapse of Communism and the 'Iron Curtain', was made by President Reagan on 12 June 1987. Speaking from the city's iconic Brandenburg Gate, Reagan directed the following statement to his counterpart in Russia - General Secretary of the Communist Party, Mikhail Gorbachev - "tear down this wall." And two years later this duly happened. For the record, it was not the first time

he had questioned the Wall's existence.

It is the final resting place of Reagan and much important material of his time as President is housed at the 1,300-acre Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley, California. This includes a repository of over 60-million pages of documents, 1.6-million photographs, a half million feet of motion picture film and tens of thousands of audio and video tapes. The Museum was recently threatened by the 'Easy Fire', the latest in a spate of fires causing mass evacuations



Wall sections at the Library

and power cuts across large swathes of California.

Besides housing a full-sized reproduction of the Oval Office as it appeared during Reagan's Presidency and an Air Force One aeroplane, the Library and Museum contains a large section of the Berlin Wall. Fortunately, in May 2019, officials recognised the threat from fire and hired a herd of 500 goats to clear flammable scrubland surrounding the complex as a preventative measure. The goats ate the brush, creating a natural fire break that slowed the flames of Easy Fire

and gave firefighters crucial time to react preventing the site being engulfed.

An official said a fire had never come so close to the Presidential Library. "The flames are licking right up the hills, right up to the parking lot," said Library spokeswoman Melissa Giller. "We were told by one of the firefighters that they believe that the fire break had made their job easier."

As for the goats, ranchers and volunteers carried them away to safety on trailers.

The fire reached the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library





USAF Colonel Gail Halvorsen, 99, was honoured by the Royal British Legion in the Festival of Remembrance held at the Royal Albert Hall, London on 9 November. The annual event pays tribute to British, Commonwealth and Allied servicemen and women who have lost their lives in conflicts.

This year's event marked the 75th anniversary of significant WWII battles in 1944, including Monte Cassino, Kohima and Imphal, and of course, the D-Day landings.

Halvorsen, known affectionately as the 'Candy Bomber', was part of the heroic post-WWII effort, that provided food and supply aid to more than two million Berliners, shortly after the Russians tried to close off the city by blockading roads and railways. Early in the airlift, then 28-year-old Halvorsen met a group of hungry German children through a fence at

Tempelhof Airport in Berlin where he was working. "The kids said, 'someday we'll have enough to eat but if we lose our freedom, we'll never get it back'. I thought their attitude was wonderful so I reached in my pocket. All I had was two sticks of gum. They held it like it was fragile, they were thrilled," he recalled.

Thereafter he regularly began dropping tiny handkerchief-sized parachutes containing candy and gum out of his mission aeroplane to the children of Berlin. "I thought, gosh, I get a chocolate ration. I can share it." His efforts inspired others to participate in the so-called 'candy drop'.

At the ceremony, Halvorsen was joined by a former child recipient who he had met and delivered sweets to during the troubled time for the city.

Halvorsen, who still gives sweets to youngsters was given a



standing ovation at the event, attended by the Queen and hundreds of war veterans. "The spirit of the Berliners was incredible and their support for us - enemies who were bombing them a few years before - was unbelievable," he said. "That's an important message still today. Dedication to ideals - to identify

first of all what's best for the human race, then supporting those efforts to make it that way."

Also honoured were the codebreakers of Bletchley Park and today's personnel at GCHQ, who regularly assist the UK and Allied forces in conflict areas around the world.

REAGAN STATUE CONTROVERSY

**Berlin Opposed Reagan Statue...
But Got One Anyway**

For years Berlin officials rejected requests by the US to erect a statue of President Ronald Reagan at the site of his famous Berlin Wall speech. Here he was cheered by thousands of Berliners when he urged the Soviet Union to "tear down this wall." In 2012 city authorities eventually endorsed a small plaque on the pavement near the Tiergarten Park where



The Berlin statue features Reagan holding his speech cards bearing the famous quote



diplomats, donors and others that the former President “courageously denounced the greatest threat to that freedom, the Soviet Empire, the Evil Empire.”

Bangert’s strange overview of the situation drew both domestic and international criticism. German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, also failed to mention Reagan - or any other American - in an opinion editorial published in 26-European newspapers which focused on the

fall of the Berlin Wall and collapse of Communism.

One such critic was former US Army Europe Commander, retired Lt. General Ben Hodges who wrote on Twitter: ‘Dear Minister Maas, on behalf of the late President Reagan, whom you don’t mention, and the millions of American Soldiers who served in West Germany along with your other NATO Allies, you’re welcome...’

During his November 2019 visit to Germany, and speaking of Reagan’s work and commentary to help bring down the Wall, Mr Pompeo said: “Those words that President Reagan said, I’m sure they helped spur many brave East Germans to defy their overlords as well. Indeed, [at the time] Chancellor Helmut Kohl told President Bush in a phone call as the Wall started to come down, ‘Without the United States, this day would not have been pos-

sible.’ “ I certainly think that the language... the rhetoric President Reagan used was an important part of that.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: Sabine Bangert and Maas appear oblivious to Cold War history and the decades of covert and overt US and UK action that eventually led to the barrier’s removal... and Reagan’s very public commitment to a united Berlin. Reagan’s words in my opinion did have an impact.



1990. President Bush speaks with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl on the telephone

INTELLIGENCE PEOPLE HONoured

Commemorations to honour fallen UK and Commonwealth armed forces (and some civilian) members took place on Remembrance Sunday (10 November). Wreaths were laid at the Cenotaph of the ‘Glorious Dead’ in Whitehall, London, by the Queen and representatives from around the world at the 100th event. Two minutes silence was observed. Armistice Day followed on 11 November marking the agreement to end hostilities in World War One.



Prime Minister Boris Johnson speaks to a WWII veteran

At the annual Whitehall event, wreaths were laid for the very first time at the Cenotaph to honour service personnel from all three British Intelligence services - MI5, MI6 and GCHQ. This was performed by Home Secretary Priti Patel and Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab to coincide with the 110th anniversary of the creation of MI5 and MI6 and 100th of GCHQ.



Over the White Cliffs of Dover facing the English Channel and France, 750,000 poppies were dropped by a WWII US Dakota aircraft flanked by two Spitfires near the Battle of Britain Memorial.



US Ambassador to Great Britain, Robert Johnson, pays respect to those who lost their lives serving with the UK’s covert WWII Special Operations Executive (SOE)

TEACHING SPYCRAFT



His counterpart in the BfV, Thomas Haldenwang said: "With ZNAF, BfV and BND are making a significant contribution to a more integrated training of intelligence services in Germany. A common and modern education geared to the needs of the digitised world is more important than ever, especially in the face of increasingly interconnected threats."

GERMAN INTELLIGENCE OPEN JOINT TRAINING SCHOOL

Germany's primary intelligence services have joined in a programme to train new operatives and students in the art of intelligence collection, analysis and use of. Dubbed 'Berlin's Spy School' by the German media, the centre is attached to the new \$1.1 billion headquarters of the country's foreign Federal Intelligence Service - Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND) in the city centre; here some 4,000 personnel are stationed. Externally, the organisation employs 3,000 personnel in 300 locations around the world. These are within its embassies.

The joint Center for Intelligence Education and Training, known by its acronym - ZNAF - will be operated by BND and BfV (domestic intelligence service) teachers, and includes 20 lecture theatres, workshops, creative studies, scientific laboratories, computer annexes and even a small cinema complex. Large

enough to accommodate 700 students and teaching staff, some will be school graduates pursuing a two-year Master in Intelligence and Security. Others attending the centre will also be taught tradecraft, from surveillance to covert entry and more modern intelligence elements such as cyber warfare and information technology. All will be fully versed in German law.

As for the courses, they will run for two-to-three years, dependent on the type of occupation sought by students or envisaged by trainers. Not disclosed, the location of another ZNAF annex which will house around 100 students (accommodation).

At the opening of ZNAF, one official said the "students will be taught intelligence tradecraft from A to Z."

BND Director Bruno Kahl said: "ZNAF provides intelligence



The new BND headquarters in Berlin was officially opened on 8 February 2019 by Chancellor Angela Merkel. It is the second largest building in the city comprising of more than 5,000 offices. It also hosts a visitor centre - unlike the new ZNAF training centre

services with their most important resource: highly trained and highly motivated staff, optimally prepared for their future tasks. Good and innovative ideas for the intelligence work arise above all through an entanglement of theory and practice. Beyond education and training, the ZNAF also contributes to the conceptual development of the practice."

The move, whilst hailed as a initiative to share publicly the BND-BfV's mission, is part of a long-going dispute between government bodies and German Intelligence regarding its training budget. Prior to ZNAF, both intelligence services operated stand-alone training and educational schools. Planning for the new centre began in 2007.



BND and BfV heads Bruno Kahl and Thomas Haldenwang at the opening of the new ZNAF centre



CARRY ON SPYING...

THE INTELLIGENCE FUSION BASE

US Abandons Plans to Relocate Key Intelligence Site

Pentagon officials have acknowledged they are reconsidering plans to relocate one of its most important international intelligence collection and training sites within the UK. The proposed move of the major intelligence hub based at RAF Molesworth, Cambridgeshire, to RAF Croughton, Northamptonshire, which already processes around a third of all US military intelligence communications in Europe, was part of a wide base-consolidation effort in Europe which began in 2015.

Molesworth is an historic base dating back to 1917 and one which played a crucial role in World War Two. It supported the US 303rd Bomb Group known as the 'Hell's Angels' which flew 364 missions over Nazi Germany. A memorial was built in 2011 honouring

nearly 9,000 personnel who flew with the command. It later supported cruise missiles during the Cold War which led to protests by anti-war groups such as the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND). For four decades or more its intelligence capabilities have been enhanced and other government intelligence organisations (civilian) are represented.

Today it includes the important NATO Intelligence Fusion Centre (NIFC) and the Joint Intelligence Analysis Complex (JIAC) overseen by the US Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) and provides intelligence to outposts in over 50 countries. It is also liaises with other bases, including RAF Menwith Hill, the NSA's key listening and communications' post. Some 2,000 people work at the extended site.

Officials have now said Molesworth will likely "stay put" as plans to move the centre to a



£200-million updated site at RAF Croughton, also part of the global intelligence network, seem to have been dropped. "The Department of Defense is currently re-assessing the future location of the JIAC and NIFC," said USAF Lt. Colonel Carla Gleason, a Pentagon spokeswoman.



Master Chief Petty Officer US Navy Rick West at the Joint Analysis Center RAF Molesworth



1989. RAF Molesworth housed dozens of cruise missiles



Molesworth provides intelligence to dozens of US and NATO intelligence bases in Europe and Africa



1980s. CND protests at Molesworth

collection and distribution at the base and 13 other facilities in Europe would have closed around 2023.

The intelligence hub at Molesworth, which opened in 2005, provides intelligence to the US European and African Commands (EUCOM AFRICOM) as well as NATO. Had the relocation been approved, intelligence

UPGRADE OF INTEL COLLECTION

Now the Senate's 2020 National Defense Authorisation Act, which still requires House approval, has called for funds to build an Intelligence Fusion Centre and a battlefield information collection and exploitation system centre at RAF Molesworth. Intelligence watchers note the base already has direct lines to GCHQ and NSA and is a relay station for CIA field communications.

While the Pentagon has said it is reassessing the move from Molesworth to Croughton, it didn't offer further details. "This decision does not change the US commitment to strengthen the NATO Alliance, deter aggression from potential adversaries, and to support multinational operations," Gleason said. "We are working closely with the United Kingdom to determine next steps for the future location of the JIAC and NIFC."

British intelligence officials welcomed the news.



US Naval Forces Europe-Africa Fleet Master Chief Steven Giordana addresses US personnel at RAF Molesworth

A MOST PRIVATE AGENDA



DIRECTOR CIA MEETS SAUDI KING AND INTELLIGENCE HEAD

Saudi Arabia's King Salman hosted Director CIA Gina Haspel on 7 November in Riyadh. The meeting in the capital was attended by a number of Saudi officials including Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan and Director General of the country's General Intelligence Directorate (GID) Khalid bin Ali Al-Humaidan, as well as the US Ambassador to the Kingdom John Abizaid. The King and Haspel "discussed a number of topics of mutual interest," the Saudi Press Agency reported. Few other details on the agenda have been released.

Haspel's visit followed one day after Iran started the process of injecting uranium gas into centrifuges at its underground nuclear Fordow facility and the launch of Operation Sentinel, a Coalition task force enabled to protect shipping in the Gulf. The maritime move followed a number of recent attacks on cargo-



Vice Admiral James Malloy

carrying vessels blamed on Iran. Vice Admiral James Malloy, Commander of US Naval Forces Central Command, said: "While Sentinel's operational design is threat-based, it does not threaten.

"We've observed attacks on shipping by state actors who seek to clandestinely hide and obfuscate their complicity in public denials."



Iranian gunship and the seized British-flagged Stena Impero



SUSPICION SURROUNDS IRAN TANKER ATTACK

Following a summer of attacks on Gulf shipping and air strikes on Saudi oil installations, an alleged missile strike on 11 October against an Iranian-flagged oil tanker in October, continues to create debate amongst intelligence analysts. Initial comments issued by officials in Tehran, referenced two ships - the *Sabiti* and *Sinopa* - which had reportedly been hit by two missiles whilst navigating waters some 60-miles off the coast of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. There was also a report the act was one of terrorism committed by the Saudis. These were relatively quickly withdrawn when imagery of the *Sinopa* showed no damage.

However, a few days later, Iran Government officials released new photographs showing two holes in the hull of the *Sabiti*, just above the water line. Tehran said the "Red Sea assailant remains unknown." Representatives of the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC), said the attacks caused oil to leak into the sea. The NITC also said it was possible the missiles were launched from Saudi soil.



President Hassan Rouhani (right) and Foreign Minister Javad Zarif

Sabiti was enroute to Syria carrying one million barrels of oil, and just moments after the explosions, turned its tracking system off. For the last year-or-so, the United States has engaged in a programme trying to stop oil-flow to Syria - as evidenced by the saga of *Grace-1* when it was seized in waters off Gibraltar (See Eye Spy 124).

On examination, military explosives' analysts believe the images reflect limpet mine damage, rather than a missile strike, adding to the debate and confusion.

Photographs released by the National Iranian Tanker Company showing damage to the *Sabiti*'s hull and the unharmed crew on the day of the alleged attack. Analysts believe the holes are more representative of limpet mine damage



CIA officials are uncertain of the exact circumstances of the attack

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said: "The fact that a country may think it can create insecurity in the region without receiving a response is a mistake. This was not a terrorist attack, nor was it carried out by an individual... it was carried out by a government." He also alleged a video exists of the strike, but to date this has not been seen.

Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif was a little more objective. He said that after receiving intelligence from MOIS (Ministry of Intelli-



Abolfazi Hasanbeigi

gence and Security), he believed it was likely two nations participated in the strike. Calling it “dangerous adventurism.” Zarif added it was a “complicated attack directed by one or more countries.”

A member of Iran’s Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, Abolfazi Hasanbeigi, also referred to a video tape. He blamed the US, Israel and Saudi Arabia for the attack and said the evidence would be presented to the United Nations.

Saudi Arabia’s Foreign Minister, Adel al-Jubeir denied his country was involved. “We did not engage in such behaviour at all. This is not how we operate.”

INTELLIGENCE

CIA intelligence officials are still considering the possibility that the incident was a deception operation carried out by Iran itself to implicate Saudi Arabia. “This has all the hall marks of a ‘false flag’ operation, implicating the Saudis,” a Washington source told Eye Spy. Of additional relevance, satellite data

secured by another US intelligence agency shortly after the first reports appeared in the media of the attack, show the Sabiti then rendezvoused with the Iranian-flagged vessel the *Saviza*, regarded as a covert operations surveillance ship. *Saviza*, which has a permanent representative of MOIS aboard, has been used as a support platform to assist Houthi fighters in the contested Yemen port of Hodeidah. Intelligence specialists state the ship retains its cover identity as a cargo ship to avoid wider investigation.

Washington and London have accused Iran of using the terrorists as a proxy force to attack Saudi and foreign shipping traversing Gulf waters.

The incident occurred just days prior to Russian President Putin’s visit to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Mr Putin called on all sides to resolve the Gulf tensions with dialogue.

Iran remains a key ally of Moscow.



Impact holes in the hull of the Sabiti were probably caused by mines... not missiles



Fordow nuclear facility, Iran

A CALCULATED RISK

US State Department spokesman Morgan Ortagus said it was “a big step in the wrong direction and underscores the continuing challenges Iran poses to international peace and security.”

The move now puts pressure on those nations, including France which continue to support the treaty.

Treaty Breakers: Iran Resumes Uranium Injection

President Hassan Rohani of Iran has announced his country had begun injecting uranium into centrifuges - a major process which some believe is further evidence that Tehran has restarted its nuclear bomb programme.

Others believe it is a calculated gamble - a ruse intended as a warning to Washington after it imposed tough new sanctions following the US withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear accord and is no longer functioning properly. Iran had previously warned that it will begin enriching uranium again.

The treaty, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, limited Iran’s research and development programme and allowed International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors to monitor aspects of the process and inspect sites. According to some US intelligence officials the treaty was not thought out properly, and the CIA and other agencies, including the Mossad, said elements of its associated weapons programme had been “moved underground.”

Rohani gave a press conference saying engineers had begun

injecting uranium gas into over 1,000 centrifuges. Described as “another blatant breach of the treaty,” his comments followed a meeting between Iran’s Ambassador to the IAEA, Kazem Gharib Abadi, in which he said: “We have started injecting UF₆ (Uranium Hexafluoride) into centrifuges at Fordow.” The site, constructed deep inside mountains near the city of Qom, is protected by air and ground forces. Following the accord, it was designated a research facility and banned from even receiving uranium for 15-years, but is now once again considered a nuclear site.



Kazem Gharib Abadi



Metropol Hotel, Moscow

SPIES

OR POLITICAL PAWNS? HOPES OF 'SPY' EXCHANGE DERAILED

Maria Butina, 30, the Russian operative who used her US National Rifle Association (NRA) activism to illegally infiltrate conservative political circles and promote Russian interests before and after the 2016 US General Election, was released from a Florida prison on 25 October and deported back to Russia.

Butina was arrested by the FBI in July 2018 in Washington DC, and in December pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to violate the law governing foreign agents operating in the US and was sentenced to 18 months in prison, the first Russian citizen convicted of crimes relating to US Election interference. US prosecutors said that Butina was not working

for a Russian spy agency but had knowingly taken part in an operation to "spot and assess" potential espionage targets. After her conviction, the Russian Foreign Ministry lobbied for her release, saying she was innocent.

Butina arrived back in Moscow on 26 October and was greeted by her father and Russian journalists. "Russians never surrender," an emotional Butina told reporters at Sheremetyevo International Airport.

Despite being a member of President Putin's United Russia Party, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the president had no plans to meet with her. In the past Putin has warmly welcomed home Russian agents arrested



Maria Butina

abroad, including SVR operative Anna Chapman in 2010, who he admitted singing patriotic songs with. However, he did call Butina's arrest as a spy "a travesty of justice."

BEAN NOT BOND

Some analysts suggest that Paul Whelan, an American national who also holds a British and Canadian passport accused of spying against Russia, was seized as a bargaining chip as Moscow sought the release of Butina. The US State Department has called for him to be freed, stating that no evidence of his guilt has been offered.

A judge in Moscow recently ruled that Whelan will remain in "pre-trial detention" until 29 December 2019. Whelan was in court when the judgement was made. And though he was guarded in a defendants cage by a security official wearing a balaclava to hide his identity and told to remain silent, reading from a prepared statement he told the court. "Russia says it caught James Bond on a spy mission. In reality they abducted Mr Bean on holiday."



Police Mugshot of Maria Butina following her arrest in the USA



Paul Whelan reads out his 'Mr Bean' comment



Vladimir Zherebenkov

Whelan, who had journeyed to Russia on several occasions, and was due to attend a friend's wedding, was arrested in December 2018. Staying at the Metropol Hotel in Moscow, a friend suddenly knocked on his door - followed moments later by FSB counter-



Rowan Atkinson plays 'Mr Bean'

intelligence officers. They almost immediately recovered a USB drive from his room. On the device were "state secrets," according to officials. Whelan believes he was betrayed by his friend - who himself works for the FSB.

NO CREDIBLE EVIDENCE OF SPYING

Whelan insists the entire affair is a joke, and his solicitor, Vladimir Zherebenkov, who has scrutinised hundreds of pages of evidence presented by prosecutors, believes there is "no damaging material to convict him." Many of the American's other Russian friends and colleagues have also told FSB officials that throughout their association, he never attempted to recruit them, nor did they see any evidence that he was collecting or searching for state secrets.

Similarly, Whelan, a former US Marine reservist, recently claimed he had been assaulted by prison staffers.

Speaking of the case, US Embassy of Russia spokeswoman, Rebecca Ross said: "Three hundred days in Lefortovo Prison. Without unrestricted legal assistance. Without unrestricted consular access. Without phone calls with family. Without evidence. This is not an open or fair process. Enough is enough."



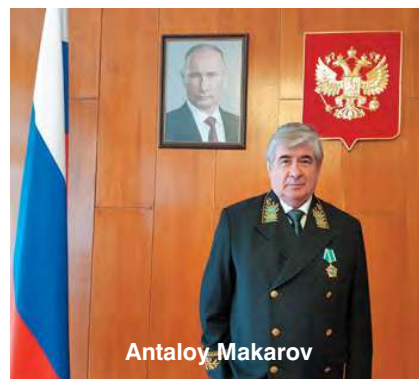
Paul Whelan

The US Government has officially called on Russia to present credible evidence of his espionage or release him.

The bizarre circumstances of the case lend credence to the theory he was detained specifically for the purpose of an exchange - though since Butina's return to Russia, this has not transpired. Indeed, hopes were dashed earlier in the year when Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov ruled out a deal involving Butina. The charge of espionage directed at Whelan carries a 20-year prison term if proven.

AGENTS OF INFLUENCE

Embassy of Russia, Sofia, Bulgaria



Antoloy Makarov

RUSSIAN DIPLOMAT EXPELLED OVER ESPIONAGE SUSPICION

A senior unnamed Russian diplomat has departed Bulgaria after being accused of espionage - this after prosecutors failed to raise charges because he held diplomatic immunity. Counter-intelligence officers from the country's State Agency for National Security (SANS) had been surveilling the target, probably an SVR or FSB officer since September 2018.

Officials from Bulgaria's Foreign Ministry met with Antoloy Makarov the Russian Ambassa-

dor, notifying him of the SANS intelligence and asked that the diplomat be recalled.

"There are grounds to charge a First Secretary of the Russian Embassy in Bulgaria for espionage," the Special Prosecution in Sofia said. The operative conducted several intelligence-gathering activities and met with a high-ranking civil servant to access classified information concerning Bulgaria and NATO.

The Russian Foreign Ministry has yet to respond officially to the expulsion and

espionage claims, though an Embassy spokesman said, "the Russian side reserves the right to respond."

Relations between the two countries, which are usually good, have been strained due to a number of recent spy cases. These involve espionage and covert operations aimed at shifting Bulgaria's geopolitical orientation.

ALLEGED RUSSIAN AGENT

Nikolai Malinov, the head of a pro-Russian Bulgarian non-government organisation (NGO), was recently charged with espionage and money laundering for Russian organisations "working to shift the country's geopolitical orientation," an official said. ➤



Nikolai Malinov with Vladimir Putin in Moscow after receiving his award

However, in early November, Malinov, a retired Bulgarian legal official, travelled to Moscow after special judicial permission was given allowing him to leave the country for four days. At the Kremlin he received the Order of Friendship award personally from President Vladimir Putin. He also discussed the spy charges with Putin which he denies.

SANS claim Malinov, a former parliamentary deputy from the Bulgarian Socialist Party, headed a pro-Russian group called the Russophiles National Movement. More serious are allegations he transferred Bulgarian state secrets to two other Russian organisations - the Double-Headed Eagle Society and the Russian Institute for Strategic Studies.

Prosecutor General Sotir Tsatsarov said the information Malinov was accused of delivering to the Russian groups directly affected national security and was part of an attempt to exert influence on the Bulgarian government's foreign policy toward Russia and the West.

SVR INFLUENCE OPERATIONS

Bulgaria has also imposed a 10-year entry ban on Lt. General Leonid Reshetnikov a former KGB and SVR officer who retired in 2009. Reshetnikov was the Director of the influential Russian Institute for Strategic Studies (RISS) from 2009 to 2017.

That organisation has been linked with the attempt to manipulate the results of the 2016 US General Election in favour of Donald Trump, according to allegations US officials made to Reuters in April 2017.

Besides that charge, authorities in Sofia claim Reshetnikov had co-ordinated recent Russian espionage operations in Bulgaria aimed at "reorienting the Balkan country back into the Kremlin's orbit."

Reshetnikov responded by saying he was a Bulgarian patriot and the charges against him filed because the "Americans have launched Operation Russian Spies in Bulgaria."



Leonid Reshetnikov. Right: Seal of SANS



EX-CIA OFFICER

The only CIA officer jailed for her role in the 2003 abduction of Abu Omar, A.k.a. Hassan Mustafa Osama Nasr, an Egyptian Milan-based cleric believed to be part of al-Qaida, has fled Italy "fearful of her life." Sabrina De Sousa, who has dual American-Portuguese nationality, was one of 26 CIA operatives convicted in Italy in absentia. Unlike her fellow CIA officers identified by police but beyond the reach of Italian prosecutors, she was living in Portugal in 2016 and extradited following a request by authorities in Rome. She still had a year left of a community service order, after her four-year sentence was commuted in 2017 by President Sergio Mattarella.

De Sousa's flight followed shortly after senior US and Italian intelligence officials, including Director CIA Gina Haspel, held a number of meetings in Rome on 9 October. Haspel reportedly met with all of

Italy's intelligence chiefs, including her counterpart General Luciano Carta of AISE (Agency for Intelligence and External Security). Another intelligence person, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo,



2003. CIA surveillance photograph of Abu Omar in Milan



FLEES ITALY



Sabrina De Sousa

had been in the city and met with a variety of senior officials on 1 October. And then on 16 October, Presidents Trump and Mattarella held talks at the White House. These three liaisons prompted De Sousa to leave Italy.

Whilst some intelligence watchers believe the "Rome liaisons were relevant to De Sousa's decision to leave Italy," no formal announcement has been made. However, De Sousa



D/CIA Gina Haspel



16 October 2019. Presidents Donald Trump and Sergio Mattarella



**Director of AISE
General Luciano Carta**

herself said: "I was terrified of the consequences that I could face. The arrival of Haspel in Italy confirmed to the Italian Government that the US administration had washed its hands of my case." Whilst not explaining her decision more fully, intelligence sources believe she had become something of a target following a crackdown on intelligence people talking to the media. Her solicitor, Andrea Sauccucci, added she could reveal more details shortly "thanks to recent changes in the Whistleblower Act."

Eye Spy has featured Abu Omar's case in previous editions, and the high-profile Langley officers involved with his abduction, including Jeffrey Castelli, the CIA Station Chief. The al-Qaida suspect was flown to Egypt as part of the Agency's worldwide Extraordinary Rendition programme and then allegedly subjected to "enhanced interrogation."

De Sousa, who used diplomatic cover and at least one other occupation to hide her field officer intelligence role, has maintained throughout she was not in Milan on the day

Omar was bundled into a car, and that she did not plan the operation. "The CIA scapegoated me to deflect attention from those who authorised the rendition and also to prevent further investigation into the operation," she said.

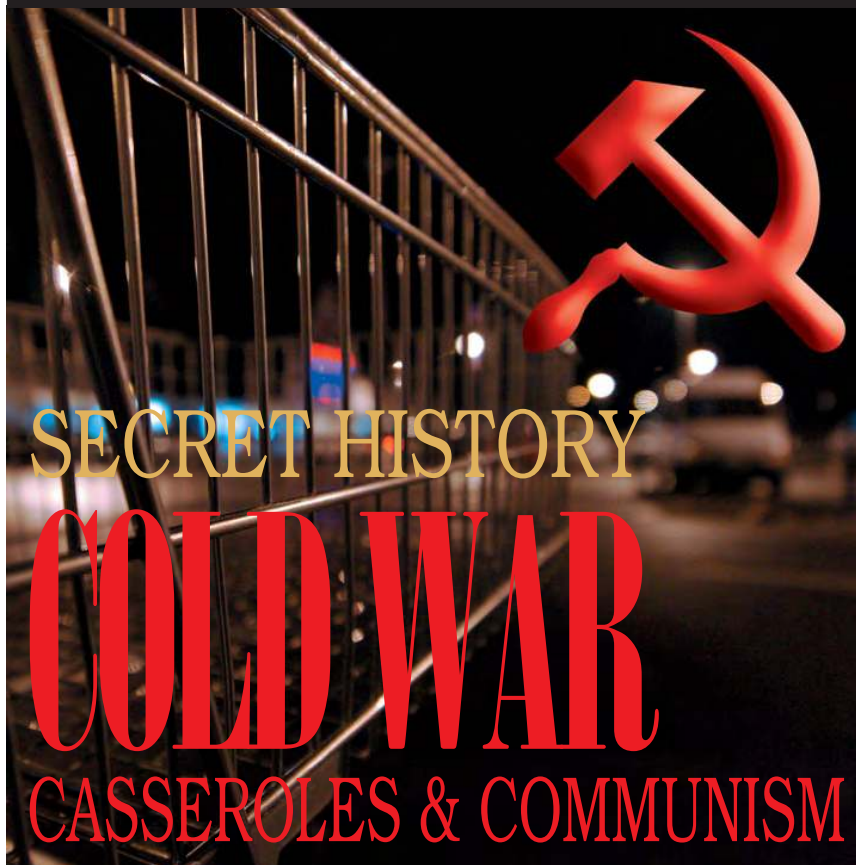
In 2009, De Sousa sued the US Government for not granting her diplomatic immunity for her role in the affair, but lost the case.

Italian Intelligence claim she was one of four key CIA officers who planned the operation, which was exposed after cell phone data led to a number of key individuals. In February 2013, Castelli was convicted by a Milan court and handed a seven-year prison sentence. Several other CIA officers were also found guilty and given prison terms. None of course were extradited. As for Omar, an Egyptian court ruled the alleged al-Qaida threats were unfounded.



2 October 2019. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo with Italy's Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio

A MOST SECRET SUPERMARKET OPERATION



1961. Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin - the first man in space followed months later by US astronaut Alan Sheppard (below)



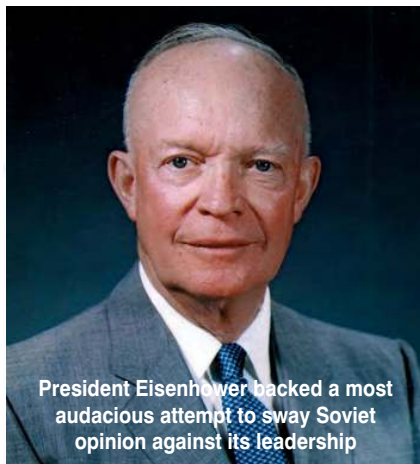
Eye Spy Editorial has delved into various US archives to examine one of the least known intelligence-sponsored operations of the Cold War. Using propaganda, psychology and a number of trusted 'entities', some with established threads to the intelligence world, plus well-stocked food shelves, US spymasters hoped that by giving ordinary Soviets a glimpse of life in the West, this would help topple Moscow's military and Communist elite and prove an open and free society was the only option...

The Cold War between the United States, its allies and the USSR lasted for the best part of half-a-century. Two of the most prominent and familiar aspects of the 'chill' were the Arms and Space Race, this as both sides sought dominance through military might and technology. Yet unbeknown to

many, the intelligence world was also involved in a covert process dubbed the 'Farm' or 'Food Race'. Whilst this involved government-sponsorship, finance and support to deliver high-volume and standardised agriculture, it was also a covert action to convince the world

about the superiority of Capitalism over Communism.

Part of Washington's endeavour involved the US Information Agency, which was charged with creating a propaganda platform to



President Eisenhower backed a most audacious attempt to sway Soviet opinion against its leadership

1950s. General Mills frontage. Note balloon and signature: 'The FUTURE is our frontier'. The company would play a major role in a very unusual and covert programme





Photographs, some covertly smuggled out of Moscow, show empty shelves and reflect food and general product shortages throughout the USSR. Shoppers even fought as they attempted to secure basic food stuffs for their families. They were ideal 'tools' of propaganda exploited by the CIA and Cold War planners attempting to turn the people of all USSR nations against Communism

highlight and show the people of Russia and its satellites the type of life-style that most Americans were enjoying. And this was displayed by a resource building that today, most of us encounter regularly - the supermarket. During the 1950s, supermarkets became symbols of the superior living standards made possible by the American Capitalist system.

The supermarket was the final destination of an industrial agriculture supply chain and could not operate without shelves of mass-produced foods. In the Soviet Union, most food shelves were empty, whilst others supported only basic food stuffs.

There was also a burgeoning black market as ordinary Russians sought to feed their families. The situation was quite different in the West, especially in the United States. Here American shops were stacked with a wide variety of foods - fresh, tinned, bottled etc. This allowed shoppers access to a multitude of affordable goods. Contrary to this, the long queues at shops throughout the Soviet Union

did not go unnoticed by officials at CIA headquarters and Pentagon planners charged with defeating Communism.

WEAPONS OF FREE ENTERPRISE

Supermarkets were of course invented in the United States, and from the 1940s on such establishments began to appear around the world, some outlets created to explicitly carry American-style economic culture with them. The widespread appeal of supermarkets as 'weapons of free enterprise' contributed to the Farms Race, as the superpowers vied to show that their contrasting approaches to food production and distribution were best suited to an abundant future.

An example of the covert 'outreach' programme occurred in 1957, when Supermarket USA exhibited in the Communist country of Yugoslavia. A fully operational 10,000-square foot American supermarket was built at the Zagreb International Trade Fair and filled with frozen foods, breakfast cereals and everything a shopper could wish for. The

organisers also airlifted in fresh produce direct from the United States as they believed the country's own produce was not attractive enough. The event, sponsored by the US Department of Commerce, displayed the affordable abundance available to American consumers. ➤



Yugoslavia President Marshal Tito was so impressed by a 1957 US supermarket exhibition in Zagreb he purchased the entire model and contents



Whilst ordinary Soviets struggled to feed their families, this was not the case for government officials, as evidenced by the wife of this diplomat who had access to 'special' government shops stacked with food stuffs



A US housewife returns home following a trip to the supermarket - another propaganda image intended to penetrate the minds of those who lived in the USSR

“Endeavour to make the Soviet people dissatisfied with the share of the Russian pie which they now receive...”

The exhibit proved tremendously popular with locals - indeed, over one million Yugoslavians visited; some received free bags of American food. But throughout, KGB eyes were watching.

One person who was most impressed by the Zagreb event was Yugoslavia President Marshal Josip Broz Tito. He ordered that the entire exhibit and goods be purchased and used as a model. An advisor was even flown in from an Atlanta supermarket firm to help teach Socialist-run supermarkets to create entire chains.

MOVE TO MOSCOW

In 1959, at the American National Exhibition in Moscow, US businessmen and officials were surprisingly allowed to build a split-level, ranch-style American house, complete with food and the latest labour-saving gadgets and appliances. Also on display were cosmetics, clothing, televisions, soft drinks, mail order catalogues, fibreglass canoes, sailboats, cars and more - all out-of-reach items for most who resided in the Communist Bloc. A presentation film *'Glimpses of the USA'*, by Charles and Ray Eames, was also a useful propaganda tool. All of this was intended to show ordinary Muscovites what they were missing.

Llewelyn Thompson, known in intelligence circles as the 'Kremlinologist', was at the time US Ambassador to the USSR. He was a key player in the Cold War, advising the White House on all manner of intelligence happen-



Ray and Charles Eames

ings, and became a close friend of Soviet President Nikita Khrushchev. He proposed that displays should “endeavour to make the Soviet people dissatisfied with the share of the Russian pie which they now receive.” Recognising the psychological importance of the event, the US State Department asked well known companies such as General Mills, General Foods, Pepsi-Cola, and other processed food companies to participate. General Mills and General Foods alone shipped seven tonnes of food including cake and brownie mixes, packaged cereals, and other processed foods to the exhibition.

THE SECRETS OF GENERAL MILLS

Unbeknown to many, General Mills, established in 1928, operated a highly advanced Mechanical Division which was involved in numerous covert government projects. During WWII, nine of every ten workers at some sections of the company worked on crucial

BERLIN BLOCKADE



The American endeavour was not the first occasion the two super powers had used food and resources as a means to influence public opinion. For much of 1948 and 1949, the Soviets had enacted the so-called 'Berlin Blockade' cutting vital resources such as food and fuel to West Berliners.

However, this was circumnavigated by Allied forces who flew an astonishing 200,000+ supply flights totalling 90-million miles into the city. And as a result of the operation, West Germany opted to join with NATO in 1955.

Nevertheless, there were fatalities and 40 British and 31 Americans personnel died.





PROPAGANDA: These images reflect the objective of the 'Farm Race'. Left: Queues of shoppers in Moscow. Right: US supermarket packed with goods and isles wide enough to accommodate a small vehicle

war projects. One involved silent torpedoes which 'missed' targets only to alter course and return with deadly precision, others included lens coatings, gun sights and precision instruments.

General Mills became an integral part of the research carried out in the development of balloon technology. It could not reveal that it had begun working with the US Government (Office of Naval Research) to develop balloons that could carry as much as 250lbs of equipment into the upper atmosphere. During the unmanned Project Skyhook, its design team developed improved plastic balloons that seemingly scraped the stars at around 100,000 feet.

Besides Skyhook, the company's design team also worked on various covert intelligence projects. Pillow Balloons were used to carry leaflets in the early 1950s over Eastern Europe as part of the propaganda efforts of the Radio Free Europe committee. Moby Dick (also known as Gopher) was a Cold War reconnaissance operation by the USAF in which large

balloons floated above the Soviet Union taking reconnaissance photographs.

Project Grab Bag was an air sampling programme conducted in the United States for monitoring the stratosphere of above-ground nuclear weapons testing in the Soviet Union. The objective of Grab Bag was to develop an unmanned high-altitude balloon-borne system that would collect air samples at an altitude of typically 80,000ft and return them to Earth for analyses. The air sampling system was developed by the Balloons and Meteorological Systems group at General Mills, Inc. in Minneapolis, Minnesota, using large balloons

The Skyhook in operation



fabricated of thin polyethylene film.

All such endeavours assisted future projects such as the covert Fulton surface-to-air recovery system (STARS) used by the CIA,

GENERAL MILLS A KEY APPOINTMENT

General Edwin William Rawlings, was a leading figure in the administrative development of the USAF. Rawlings was a command pilot and combat and aircraft observer, whose decorations included the Distinguished Service Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross, which he received in 1930 for his role in the rescue of an aircrew downed in the Pacific. He also received the Soldier's Medal in 1954 for rescuing his pilot who was lying underneath a B-17 *Flying Fortress* that caught fire after landing at Wright-Patterson AFB.

After retiring from the USAF in 1959, he went on to a career with General Mills, rising to become President and Board Chairman.



General Edwin William Rawlings



US Vice President Richard Nixon cuts the tape at the opening ceremony of the 1959 supermarket exhibition

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OIL ON CANVAS, 2007 BY KEITH WOODCOCK FROM THE CIA'S INTELLIGENCE ART COLLECTION

'Seven Days in the Arctic': Artist portrayal of the CIA-owned, civilian-marked B-17 bomber lifting a US Navy operative from the abandoned Soviet Ice Station North Pole-8 on 2 June 1962 via the Fulton Skyhook system. A USAF officer on the ground can be seen preparing his balloon for the next pass

Air Force and US Navy. (See Eye Spy 80 and 113) Their ideas were the seeds for Project Helios, sponsored by the US Navy and it was General Mills' first big balloon project to carry humans aloft.

The manned flights that followed contributed to space flight - Project Strato-Lab. One experiment proved that solar flare activity would be a risk to manned spacecraft. Another venture contributed information about the Earth's atmosphere.

A most top secret project built by General Mills was Alvin - a deep ocean research submersible. One of its earliest exploits included locating a lost hydrogen bomb in the Mediterranean Sea in 1966.

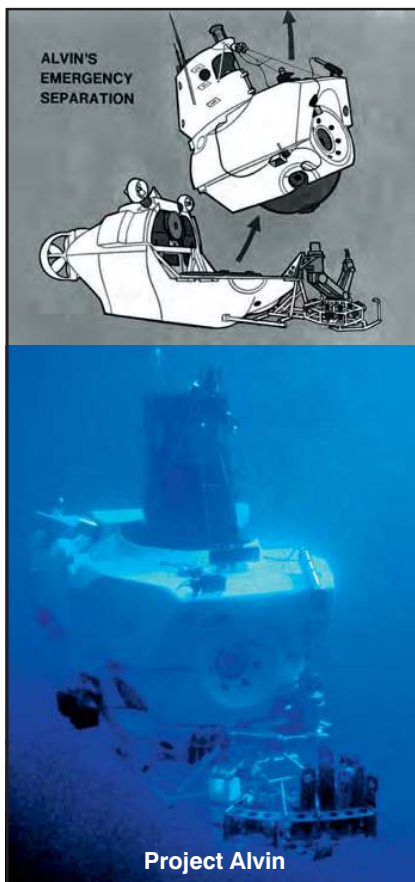
And all the while, General Mills operated as a food production firm. Little wonder the US Government chose the company to engage in the Communist endeavour.



Fulton surface-to-air balloon



The propaganda operations of the 'Farm' or 'Food Race' focussed on the different lifestyles of Soviet and American women are evident in these Library of Congress images. Top: Soviet women at work and seeking fresh water. Bottom: Packed supermarkets for US women who can still find time to enjoy social activities



STAY AT HOME WIFE

New labour-saving kitchen appliances at the exhibition symbolised the climate and times as America attempted to showcase a "glamorous stay-at-home wife" - a life-style very different to that of a working class Soviet woman.

The propaganda also had an impact in the United States and drove more and more American families to create a kitchen that functioned both as an enjoyable place to make food and to disavow Communist thinking.

This controversial message, which continued for much of the Cold War, has been debated

ever since. For example, in 1988, the *Los Angeles Times* published a feature titled: *'Women Stayed at Home During The Cold War'*, the author emphasising how the kitchen became a symbol of American Capitalism, wealth and women's domesticity - whilst most Communist women ventured to work in factories and fields.

Ultimately, those involved with sowing discontent into Communist societies succeeded. The message was clear: the American economy, based in free-market Capitalism, was capable of producing things that the Soviets 'command-and-control' economy and mentality simply could not. ➤



1980s. A fight breaks out as shoppers queue in a Russian town. The Kremlin did not want such photographs shown in the West - the CIA did



Russians wait patiently for stores to open. The shoppers are predominantly male and are seeking to purchase beer. A thriving black market existed throughout the Soviet Union - and Western goods were much sought after

DOWNFALL OF KHRUSHCHEV

The 1959 exhibition opening was attended by USSR leader Nikita Khrushchev and then-US Vice President Richard Nixon. They engaged in what came to be known as the 'Kitchen Debate'.

Khrushchev declared that by out-producing the US in per-capita meat and milk production, it would be the Soviet equivalent of hitting "American Capitalism with a torpedo." Nixon responded: "If there was going to be a torpedo fired it was going to be by America's farmers and ranchers," to which those very same listening American farmers and ranchers applauded with much enthusiasm. Nixon responded: "The American system is designed to take advantage of new inventions and new techniques," whilst implicitly associating the superiority of Capitalism over Communism with the advanced technologies being used in the American processed foods on display. A few months later, Khrushchev visited the United States to see for himself the sprawling cornfields of America. But this was of little help to the Soviet farmers back home. Khrushchev, despite all his bravado, was ultimately forced to buy imported grain - from the United States.

Some historians argue this move was one of the crucial factors that led to Khrushchev's downfall in 1964; that it was embarrassing on the world stage for the Soviet Union, a vast



Today the situation in Russia is quite different - as evidenced by these troops seeking food in a well stocked shop in annexed Crimea

country with enormous agricultural resources having to turn to its arch-enemy for grain.

Khrushchev's successor, Leonid Brezhnev, continued the policy of importing food from the US to cover domestic shortfalls. These weren't normal trading partners. They were Cold War adversaries, the global icons of Capitalism and Communism. It was becoming clear which system would prevail, at least on the food front.

Today, via archived files, it is evident intelligence officials believed the 'Farm Race'

played its part in bringing to an end the Communist regime in the Soviet Union. The supermarket exhibition, brightly lit wide aisles, shelves filled with numerous cereal brands, treats for youngsters, colourful clothing and exhibitors wearing Levi Strauss jeans injected doubt into the minds of so many ordinary Russians.

This secret war covertly backed by the CIA and other defence, research and public companies was undoubtedly won by the Americans without a single shot fired in anger and Communism would mostly dissolve.



The shortage of many basic food products in the Soviet Union continued until the fall of the Berlin Wall

DEATH PROBE THE UNLIKELY MI6 SPY



Investigators in Turkey and the UK examine death of White Helmets co-founder James Le Mesurier after Russia accused him of operating on behalf of MI6

James Le Mesurier, 48, a former British Army officer, who established the Mayday Rescue organisation and later co-founded the Syrian civil war 'White Helmets' volunteer rescue group, officially known as the Syrian Civil Defense (SCD), was found dead on the pavement beneath his Istanbul residence on 11 November. The experienced officer who graduated from Sandhurst, had operated with various government bodies and provided military guidance and training, including counter-terrorism procedures, to several countries.

Initial reports in Turkey suggested he had fallen from a considerable height from his balcony during the night. The incident occurred just 48-hours after Maria Zakharova,



Maria Zakharova

Spokeswoman of Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said: "The White Helmet's co-founder James Le Mesurier is a former agent of Britain's MI6, who has been spotted all around the world, including in the Balkans and the Middle East. His connections to terrorist groups were reported back during his mission in Kosovo."

It's not the first such accusation made by Moscow; for the last two years Le Mesurier has been described as an "MI6 agent-in-



place" and a "terrorist facilitator" in several Kremlin-sponsored propaganda attacks.

FALSE FLAG

Russia, a close ally of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime, has long criticised the White Helmets and Le Mesurier, accusing them of supporting terrorist organisations. The Syrian Government also considers SCD a terrorist organisation because it works in areas controlled by its opponents where state institutions and services are non-existent. The SCD were largely responsible for reporting on a series of war-crimes, including WMD attacks near Damascus in 2017. Again, Russian intelligence officials dismissed the material as a "staged prank" supported by US and British Intelligence to discredit al-Assad. FSB officials described the incident as a "false flag operation conceived by the CIA."

OFFICIAL COMMENT

Le Mesurier's widow, Emma Winberg, told police they had taken sleeping pills around 4.00am. She said he had been under immense stress whilst suffering from Russia's campaign to discredit him. When she awoke at around 6.00am, she discovered her husband was lying on the street surrounded by police. Now the Istanbul Governor's office has ➤

"There's a good deal of suspicion it may be murder by a state actor"

BBC investigate journalist Mark Urban



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ESPL_2020_TIMBER_SYCAMORE.125/125/125



2018. Former UK Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt and SCD Director Raed al-Saleh. Note white helmet on table

announced a "wide ranging administrative and judicial investigation" into Le Mesurier's death.

Officials in Turkey said that whilst Le Mesurier's death appears strange, it is being "treated as a suspected suicide." Another said the exact circumstances remain unclear, though he suffered several fractured bones - suggestive of a fall from a considerable height. Police also disclosed he had a large cut on his face. CCTV from the street shows no one entering or exiting the front of the building before or during the incident.

COMMENTS



**Hamish de
Bretton-Gordon**

Hamish de Bretton-Gordon, a British Army officer and WMD authority who served with the deceased, confirmed Le Mesurier was well aware that he was a

Russian target and took precautions. "He took security seriously and knew the risks of operating in this world and did all he could to minimise them," he said.

BBC investigate journalist Mark Urban said: "There's a good deal of suspicion it may be murder by a state actor, but others suggest he may have taken his own life."

Karen Pierce, UK Representative to the United Nations dismissed the MI6 spy allegation and said: "I want to take the opportunity to say on record that the Russian charges against him, that came out of the Foreign Ministry that he was a spy, are categorically untrue."

The White Helmets' official Twitter account tweeted: *'The Syrian Civil Defense family extends its deepest condolences to the*



James family, and we express our deepest sorrow and solidarity with his family. As we also must commend his humanitarian efforts which Syrians will always remember'.



In 2016, Le Mesurier was awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his work protecting and helping civilians in Syria and elsewhere

Eye Spy sources said that because of the ongoing dispute between MI6 and Russian Intelligence, notably over the Sergei Skripal

affair, Le Mesurier's death is being investigated by senior UK officers - all well aware that Moscow is intent on "payback."



Karen Pierce

SYRIAN CIVIL DEFENCE

The SCD claims that up until 2018, it had saved over 114,000 lives. Around 250 White Helmet volunteers have been killed since operations began in this most dangerous theatre. Also in 2018, 422 White Helmets and volunteers and family members were covertly evacuated from a war-zone in Syria by Israel Defence Forces (IDF).



SCD was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2016, the same year it was designated a terrorist organisation by Syria.



CIA: OPERATION TIMBER SYCAMORE

The Covert Mission Which Led to Mistrust

Both the Syrian Government and Russia have become increasingly suspicious of non-government organisations (NGOs) operating in Syria, especially since the CIA closed down its Operation Timber Sycamore around 2016.

Enabled around 2013, this covert Langley endeavour trained

operatives opposed to President al-Assad and moved both monies and equipment into the country aided by Middle East allies. The operation was authorised by President Obama and headed by the CIA's now defunct Special Activities Division (SAD).

Director CIA David Petraeus had sanctioned Timber Sycamore

which was allegedly backed by British intelligence officials. He believed the operation could be concealed, but soon both Syrian armed forces and Russian troops were directly targeting the US-backed rebels. Reports also emerged of US weaponry intended for use by rebels was being sold on the black market. Media investigative probes soon determined a link and the *New York Times* was one of the first newspapers to uncover CIA involvement with arms movements to the region.

When President Trump assumed office in 2017, and with costs now over a billion dollars, there were genuine fears weaponry was finding its way to cells of ISIS and other terrorist groups. Some sources claimed his subsequent



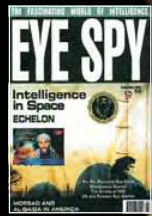
President Bashar al-Assad

closure decision had been influenced by Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose own spy services had become fully aware of the operation.

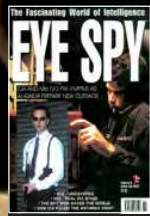
Timber Sycamore was cancelled and analysts agree, that of around 15,000 fighters intended to be trained by SAD, only a handful gained sufficient fighting prowess.



Syrian rebel fires a US-manufactured anti-tank weapon



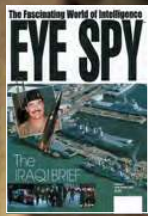
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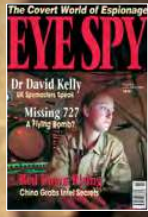
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SYRIA - A MOST COMPLEX INTELLIGENCE THEATRE

YPG BETRAYAL?

Iran, Russia, Syria and ISIS, benefactors of US Troop Withdrawal from Northern Syria?

Turkey's invasion of northern Syria in an attempt to create a 20-mile wide buffer zone between the two countries, has been widely criticised by world governments, NATO and the Arab League. The attack against pro-American Kurdish YPG forces, has resulted in many defeats for the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), who are opposed to President Bashar al-Assad's regime. Since the operation began, an estimated 500,000 Kurdish civilians

have been displaced and several hundred killed in airstrikes and ground attacks.

The military action began on 9 October, just three days after US President Trump withdrew hundreds of American troops, who are supportive of the SDF, from various parts of the country.* The move was denounced by some senior intelligence and military commanders as an act of betrayal, primarily because the YPG has been prominent in fighting ISIS forces in Syria. As swathes of the region became battlegrounds, hundreds of

detained ISIS prisoners have managed to escape. At the Tell Abyad holding camp alone, 750 ISIS followers simply left the compound.

ISIS CONUNDRUM

CIA officials estimate the number of ISIS detainees held in the region totals between 22-25,000, of which half are male ISIS fighters from Syria and Iraq. At least 2,000 originate from 50 other countries whose governments have refused to repatriate them. US intelligence officials have admitted that an operation



YPG counter-terrorism unit



Turkey President
Recep Tayyip
Erdogan



The CIA warned Turkey was about to invade northern Syria irrespective if US troops remained

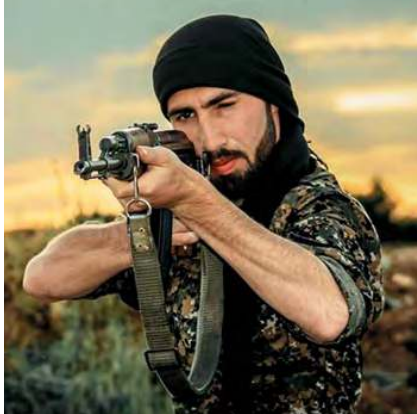


Turkish ground missile and air strikes against YPG troops in: 1. Kamisli. 2. Ras al-Ayn. 3. Tel Abyad and 4. Ras al-Ayn. On 11 November Turkey widened its attack and struck Kurdish PKK outposts deploying Bayraktar Tactical UAVs in Iraq (centre)

to transport around 60 “high value” ISIS operatives out of the area has failed. Other camps holding relatives and family members of the fighters exist. And in the resultant confusion as the Turkish offensive began, hundreds have simply walked out, due to YPG guards being moved to defend towns and areas under Turkish attack.

Russia’s President Putin also joined the debate acknowledging some Russian nationals are amongst those now departing the camps and free to fight again. “There are areas in northern Syria where ISIS militants are

YPG fighter. An estimated 10,000 Kurds have died fighting ISIS



2007. Former Director CIA and US Army General David Petraeus pictured in Baghdad, Iraq. Petraeus criticised the decision to pull US forces out

concentrated and until recently, guarded by the Kurdish military,” said Putin. “The Turkish Army entered these areas and the Kurds left. ISIS fighters can simply run away and I am not sure how fast the Turkish Army can get this situation under control.”

He called the flight of ISIS fighters a “real threat” and is concerned that some will return to Russia. He has already hinted Special Forces troops will be actioned in the area to

deal with the threat, thus further complicating the situation.

Former Director CIA and US Army General David Petraeus, who commanded US and NATO forces in Afghanistan in 2010-2011, was vocal in his disapproval of the US troop withdrawal and Turkish action. “I think we have abandoned our Kurdish partners,” he said. “They took over 10,000 losses as the defeat of Islamic State was carried out.



US and Turkish troop patrols in northern Syria just two days before President Trump announced his decision to pull US forces out of the region

The elimination of the caliphate with our advice and assistance and enabling then... a very sudden exit, this is not a phased withdrawal plan."

Several US Special Forces commanders who fought alongside YPG troops warned that the action will only help ISIS. One officer told the *Washington Post* on condition of anonymity: "ISIS is going to have a resurgence, and we're going to have to go back in five years and do it all again."

DEFENDING THE WITHDRAWAL

US Defense Secretary Mark Esper acknowledged that the US has now found itself "likely caught between two opposing advancing armies." He defended the pull-out of US troops saying the "offensive would have been launched regardless of what we did." He added that there was "no way we could have stopped 15,000 Turks." Around 1,000 US personnel were based in the border region supporting Kurdish forces before the pull-out. Intelligence sources said it "was likely" the

A Turkish Army observer monitors YPG positions inside Syria



CIA and senior US military officials notified the White House that Turkey was about to invade regardless of the US troop presence.

A few days after invasion and following talks with Turkish officials, US Vice President Mike Pence announced a deal had been struck with Turkey to halt its offensive. Nevertheless, fighting continued according to ground observers.

President Trump himself defended the US move, noting "the Kurds have been fighting for



many years." And in a further statement down-played the liaison with the Kurds: "They didn't help us in the Second World War." It was a remark which baffled many intelligence and military officials.

In another attempt to stop the attacks, SDF commanders said they had reached agreement with their former adversaries - the Syrian Army - to allow access to a number of SDF towns to provide protection from Turkish forces. The Syrian Army is of course backed by America's adversaries - Russia and Iran, whose forces have supported Assad for several years. CIA analysts now believe Iran will be the likely benefactor from Turkey's action.

Russia has since deployed armed forces and ranks of military police in the theatre in an attempt to separate Syrian and Turkish troops.

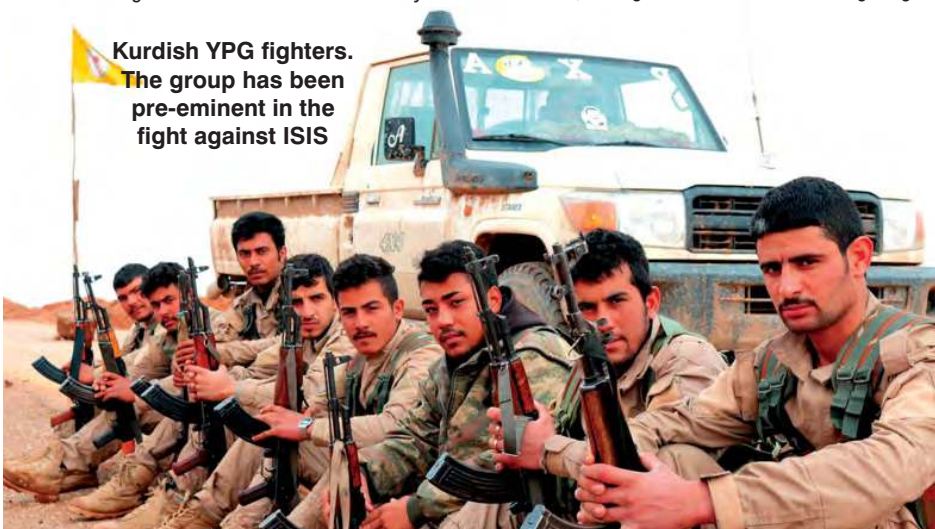
Russian Army Military Police Commander Safar Safarov told journalists: "When the Russian flag appears combat stops... neither Turks nor Kurds want to harm us, so fighting stops thanks to our work."

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan views the YPG as a terrorist group because of its association with the Kurdistan Workers Party (KWP). He claims the Kurdish separatist movement has for decades been involved in a



US Defense Secretary Mark Esper

number of incidents in Turkey, this as it seeks an independent state. Of further importance, elements in the KWP have been designated



Kurdish YPG fighters. The group has been pre-eminent in the fight against ISIS



Above: US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi points an accusing finger at President Trump about his decision to withdraw US forces



A convoy of vehicles carrying YPG fighters departs a town in northern Syria



Demonstrators in Berlin opposed to the Turkish action

terrorist organisations by both Ankara and Washington.

As for the threat of US sanctions against Turkey referenced by White House officials, and President Trump's threat to "destroy the country's economy" if Ankara does not stop



Turkish military vehicle carrying troops crosses into northern Syria

its advance, Erdogan said: "We will never declare a cease-fire. We do not sit at the table of terrorist organisations." Mr Trump later downplayed his remark.

In respect of the near future, one CIA source said that "Russia has inherited a most complicated and dangerous theatre."

* A US military protection force of around 250 troops remains in eastern Syria where the country's main oil fields are located.

INTEL GOLDMINE Eldest Sister of Fallen ISIS Leader Captured in Syria

ANKARA: Just weeks after Turkey's invasion into northern Syria, military officials said they had captured Rasmiya Awad, 65, the sister of eliminated ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in the Turkish-controlled town of Azaz. Also arrested, one of his four wives.

Turkish intelligence officials said Awad's capture, along with her husband, was an "intelligence goldmine" and would lead authorities to other ISIS commanders and identifying escape routes. She is now being interrogated on suspicion of involvement with a terrorist group.

Late last year another sister of al-Baghdadi, was sentenced to death in Iraq for "supplying logistical support to ISIS and financing criminal acts."



Rasmiya Awad



Russian Army Military Police



'SALISBURY'

Salisbury Victims Unhappy as Filming Begins for New BBC Drama on GRU Assassination Operation

The BBC has begun filming a new three-part drama centred on the GRU Novichok poisoning of MI6 agent Sergei Skripal in Salisbury last year. The series, called simply 'Salisbury', was announced in May 2019 and prompted some residents and the families of the victims to complain that it was simply too soon. Others have criticised the production for sensationalising the incident. Writers Adam Patterson and Declan Lawn, promised the drama will show "the extraordinary story full of ordinary heroes, the tale of how a community responded to an inconceivable event."

One couple particularly opposed to the series are the parents of Detective Sergeant Nick

Bailey. He spent two weeks in hospital, including a spell in intensive care. More recently, it was revealed he too suffered the effects of the toxin. After learning of the move Sue and Steve Bailey said: "We don't need this reminder... we are still trying to come to terms with what happened."

Now, following sightings of crew members and actors attached to the production, the couple have written a letter to the BBC which was published by several media houses:

'This is inappropriately premature for the people of Salisbury and in particular for the victims and their families. As the parents of Detective Sgt. Nick Bailey, who was poisoned by the nerve agent, we fully agree that our



family, as well as the families of the other victims, don't need this as a reminder. We are all still trying to come to terms with what happened last year.

'The BBC Panorama programme, broadcast last year, on the Salisbury nerve agent attack was informative and a well-balanced documentary. It's disappointing that they want to follow it up with a drama. The people of Salisbury deserve a break from this.



Dawn Sturgess



Left: The GRU officers blamed for the attack - Colonel Anatoliy Chepiga and medical doctor Alexander Mishkin. A third man - Sergey Fedotov is also a key suspect



Former Prime Minister Theresa May visits Salisbury shortly after the incident



the wake of the incident. He returned to duty in January this year, having revealed he had lost his house and cars in the subsequent decontamination process. Many personal possessions were also destroyed in the clean-up operation.

Three months after the initial incident, locals Charlie Rowley and Dawn Sturgess fell ill after coming into contact with Novichok after finding a bottle of perfume which contained the toxin. Sturgess died while Rowley survived, but he has ongoing mental and physical health issues.



'The BBC producers promise to 'focus on the extraordinary heroism with which ordinary people reacted to the crisis' is just an excuse to sensationalise an episode in our lives and in the

lives of the people of Salisbury which is still very raw'.

DS Bailey has spoke of the "emotional battering" and that he had "lost everything" in



Skripal's Salisbury home

The drama is being produced by Dancing Ledge Productions. Its Chief Executive, Laurence Bowen said: "This is the story of the poisonings in Salisbury that hasn't been told. The story of a community living through the real life horror of an invisible threat that could kill and did kill without warning. A story of tragedy, but also of resilience."



MI5 and New Scotland Yard officers at the London home of the Litvinenkos



Double agent Sergei Skripal was jailed for 13-years in 2004 on espionage charges. In 2010 he and three other Western contacts were exchanged for several SVR officers rumbled in the FBI's Operation Ghost Stories. Since being discharged from hospital in May 2018, his whereabouts remain unknown - though Eye Spy understands he is no longer in the UK

No formal response has been made by the BBC, but insiders maintain the focus will be on the "extraordinary heroism with which ordinary people reacted to the crisis."

Eye Spy understands that one of the cast is MyAnna Buring, who played in the theatre production of 'A Very Expensive Poison'. This of course focuses on another intelligence assassination - that of FSB and MI6 agent Alexander Litvinenko in London, 2006. Buring played Litvinenko's wife, Marina.



Marina and Alexander Litvinenko

UnderCover Book Releases

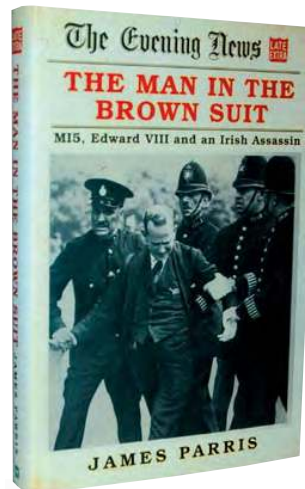
THE MAN IN THE BROWN SUIT: MI5, Edward VIII and an Irish Assassin

James Parris
The History Press

On 16 July 1936, a man in a brown suit stepped from the crowd on London's Constitution Hill and pointed a loaded revolver at King Edward VIII as he rode past. The monarch was moments from death. But MI5 and the Metropolitan Police Special Branch had known for three months an attack was planned: the man in the brown suit himself had warned them.

This mysterious man, lost to history, was George McMahon, a petty criminal with a record of involvement with the police. He was also an MI5 informant, providing intelligence on Italian and possibly German espionage in Britain. Dismissed by the rest of the world as a drunken loser and fantasist, he saw his life as an epic drama.

Why did MI5 and the police fail to act? Was it a simple blunder on the part of the security services, or was something far more sinister involved? In this first full-length study of the threat to the life of



Edward VIII, James Parris uses material from MI5 and police files at the National Archives to reach explosive conclusions about the British Establishment's determination to remove Edward from the throne. Hardback 288pp

Available from Eye Spy Ref: ES/1773
UK £22.50. USA \$30.00 ROW £25.00

TRINITY: The Treachery and Pursuit of the Most Dangerous Spy in History

Frank Close
Allen Lane

Trinity was the codename for the test explosion of the atomic bomb in New Mexico on 16 July 1945. *Trinity* is now also the extraordinary story of the bomb's metaphorical father, Rudolf Peierls; his intellectual son, the atomic spy, Klaus Fuchs, and the ghosts of the security services in Britain, the USA and USSR.

Against the background of pre-war Nazi Germany, the Second World War and the following Cold War, the book traces how Peierls brought Fuchs into his family and his laboratory, only to be betrayed. It describes in unprecedented detail how Fuchs became a spy, his motivations and the information he passed to his Soviet contacts, both in the UK and after he went with Peierls to join the Manhattan Project at Los Alamos in 1944.



Klaus Fuchs

Frank Close is himself a distinguished nuclear physicist: uniquely, the book explains the science as well as the spying. Hardback 528pp

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VENICE'S SECRET SERVICE: Organising Intelligence in the Renaissance

Ioanna Iordanou
OUP Oxford

The untold and arresting story of the world's earliest centrally-organised state intelligence service. Long before the inception of SIS and the CIA, in the period of the Renaissance, the Republic of Venice had masterminded a remarkable centrally-organised state intelligence organisation that played a pivotal role in the defence of the Venetian empire. Housed in the imposing Doge's Palace and under the direction of the Council of Ten, the notorious governmental committee that acted as Venice's spy chiefs, this 'proto-modern' organisation served prominent intelligence functions including operations (intelligence and covert action), analysis, cryptography and



steganography, cryptanalysis, and even the development of lethal substances.

Official informants and amateur spies were shipped across Europe, Anatolia, and Northern Africa, conducting Venice's stealthy intelligence operations. Revealing a plethora of secrets, their keepers, and their seekers, *Venice's Secret Service* explores the social and managerial processes that enabled their existence and that furnished the foundation for an extraordinary intelligence organisation created by one of the early modern world's most cosmopolitan states. Hardback 287pp

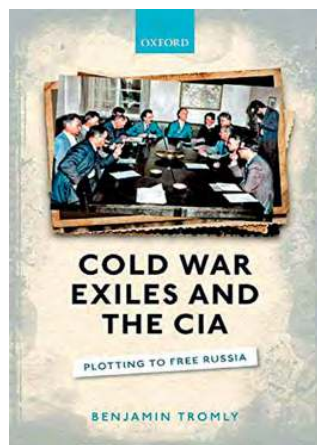
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COLD WAR EXILES AND THE CIA: Plotting to Free Russia

Benjamin Tromly
OUP Oxford

At the height of the Cold War in the 1950s, the United States Government unleashed covert operations intended to weaken the Soviet Union. As part of these efforts, the CIA committed to supporting Russian exiles, populations uprooted either during World War Two or by the Russian Revolution decades before. No one seemed better prepared to fight in the American secret war against Communism than the uprooted Russians, whom the CIA directed to carry out propaganda, espionage, and subversion operations from their home base in West Germany. Yet the American engagement of Russian exiles had unpredictable outcomes.

Drawing on recently declassified and previously untapped sources, *Cold War Exiles and the CIA* examines how the CIA's Russian operations became entangled with the internal struggles of Russia abroad and also the espionage wars of the superpowers in divided Germany. What resulted was a transnational political sphere involving different groups of Russian exiles, American and German anti-Communists, and spies operating on both sides of the Iron Curtain. Inadvertently, CIA's patronage of Russian exiles forged a complex sub-front in the wider Cold War, demonstrating the ways in which



the hostilities of the Cold War played out in ancillary conflicts involving proxies and non-state actors. Hardback 352pp [See Publisher for details](#)

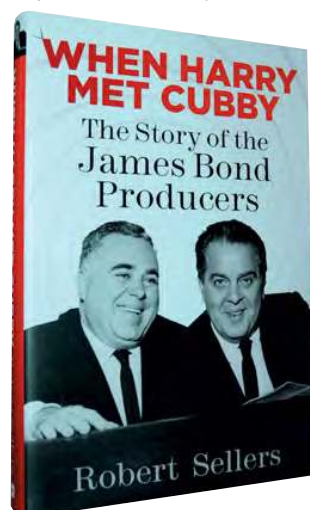
WHEN HARRY MET CUBBY: The Story of the James Bond Producers

Robert Sellers
The History Press

Albert R. 'Cubby' Broccoli and Harry Saltzman remain the most successful producing partnership in movie history. Together they were responsible for the phenomenally successful James Bond series, separately they brought kitchen sink drama to the screen, made a star out of Michael Caine in the Harry Palmer spy films and were responsible for the children's classic *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*.

But their relationship was fraught almost from the very beginning. With such contrasting personalities, their interactions often span out of control. They managed to drive away their coveted star, Sean Connery, and ultimately each other.

Loved and hated in equal measure, respected and feared by their



contemporaries, few people have loomed as large over the film industry as Broccoli and Saltzman, yet their lives went in very different directions. Broccoli was feted as Hollywood royalty, whereas Saltzman ended up a forgotten recluse. When *Harry Met Cubby* charts the changing fortunes and clashing personalities of two titans of the big screen. Hardback 288pp

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ACTION LIKELY IN PACIFIC: Secret Agent Kilsoo Haan, Pearl Harbor and the Creation of North Korea

John Koster
Amberley Publishing

A story of espionage that could have changed the course of history and saved thousands of American and British lives - and millions of Asian lives.

Before the Second World War, Korean-American Kilsoo Haan repeatedly warned the United States about the Japanese attack and accurately supplied every conceivable detail as relayed to him by Korean agents: midget submarines as well as aircraft at Pearl Harbor, then giant submarine aircraft carriers on the high seas that almost bombed San Diego with plague germs until Tojo cancelled the air strike, and a joint Chinese-Japanese attack - Operation Ichi-Go - against the American and Chinese Nationalist forces, which drove through Chiang Kai-shek's much larger army.

After the creation of Communist North Korea, Haan continued to supply information about Soviet nuclear tests in Siberia, the development of Soviet guided missiles, and the North Korean invasion of the Republic of Korea, which led to thousands of American and British casualties. He was ignored. The story of American influence in Korea and dealings with Japan provides a little-known new perspective on the Pacific War and

7 December 1941.
USS *Arizona*, Pearl Harbor

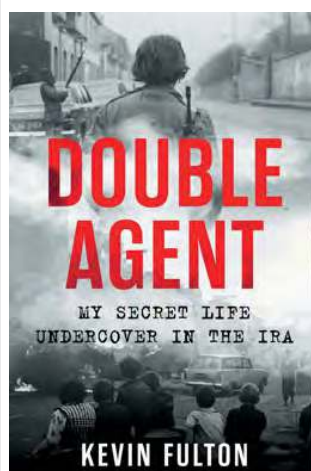


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Kevin Fulton
John Blake



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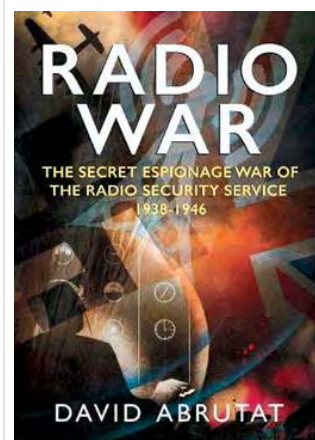
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RADIO WAR: The Secret Espionage War of the Radio Security Service 1938-1946

David Abrutat
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During WWII German Intelligence deployed wireless teams throughout occupied Europe and agents on mainland Britain. Monitoring and reporting of their wireless transmissions fell to a small, secretive and largely unknown unit manned almost exclusively by volunteers. The Voluntary Interceptors (VI) as they became known would spend hours every day at home monitoring short wavelengths for often faint and difficult to copy transmitted signals. This unit was to become known as the Radio Security Service (RSS) and was at the core of the signals intelligence production effort at Bletchley Park.

Without interceptors like the RSS, Bletchley would not have existed. Their story has never truly been written and *Radio War* focuses on the secret world of wireless espionage and includes first-hand accounts from the surviving veterans of the unit. Its existence was only made public 35-years after WWII ended, shortly after Bletchley Park's secrets were exposed. Patrick Reilly, the Assistant to Chief of MI6 Stewart Menzies, said of the RSS: "A team of brilliance unparalleled anywhere in the intelligence machine." Hardback 244pp



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KILL OR CAPTURE



Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi

Continued from Page 7

CONFIRMATION

The next day President Trump made public Baghdadi's death during a national televised address at the White House. This followed additional DNA testing on a number of recovered remains which was performed in Iraq. Here scientists compared the samples with DNA taken from al-Baghdadi in 2003, when he was in US custody at Camp Bucca, an Iraqi holding facility. The President spoke for 48-minutes about the operation which he



"Al-Baghdadi's death will not rid the world of terrorism..."

Mark Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

likened to "watching a movie" in the Situation Room. "The development showed the reach of the US military and its ability to bring terrorists to justice," he said.

Mark Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the compound had been destroyed

by US firepower. He referenced Hellfire missiles, Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missiles and GBU-12 Paveway laser-guided bombs. He declined to confirm the number of fatalities at the scene, but said no US personnel had died during the operation. Milley confirmed video recordings of the operation existed and would be released. This duly happened at a Pentagon press conference on 30 October.

President Trump said the "ISIS casualties outnumbered the captured," and that two men who were taken from the compound are in US custody. He also thanked Russia and Syria for opening their air space, but said Moscow had not been told of the "specific nature" of the operation.

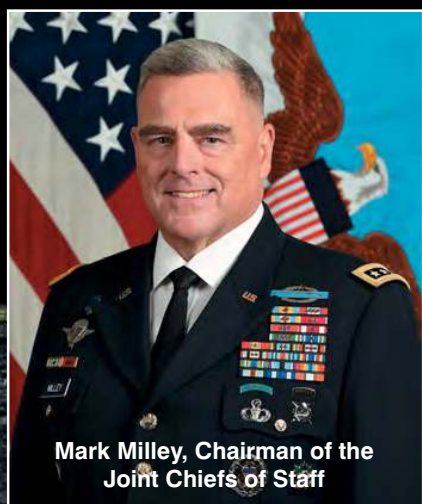
ISIS STILL A THREAT

Milley acknowledged that the death of al-Baghdadi, while a pivotal moment, "will not rid the world of terrorism." His words have since been echoed by many intelligence and military officials. Indeed, just hours after the operation, MI5 sources said the UK had increased surveillance on 3,000 people who might be tempted to respond violently to the death of al-Baghdadi.

It's unknown where al-Baghdadi was buried. However, Milley said his remains were disposed of "appropriately." Intelligence sources said they were dropped into the sea, thus not creating a land marker which could be used to inspire others, intent on terrorism and revenge. This was part confirmed when US National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien said Baghdadi's remains should be treated like those of al-Qaida leader Osama bin-Laden. He too was buried at sea.

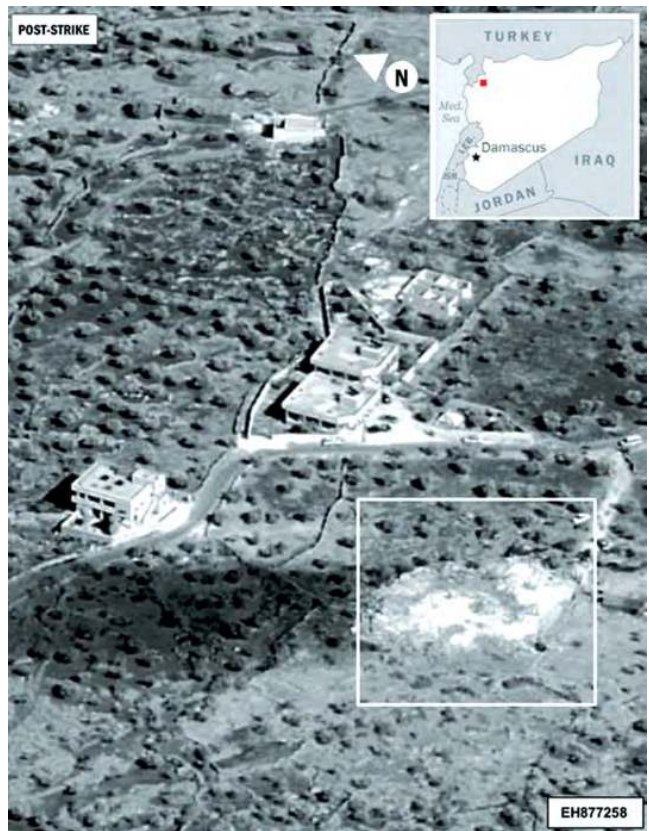
Other known ISIS commanders who regularly use the Internet did not confirm or deny reports of its leader's death. Some of the

A GBU-12 Paveway laser-guided bomb is loaded onto a US warplane



Mark Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff





Released Department of Defense photographs showing the compound before and after the night-time attack



Hashimi (above), an Iraqi researcher who monitors the group's communication channels.

group's supporters responded to the news by offering condolences and prayers on the messaging platform Telegram, according to Hisham al-

Also thanked by the US Department of Defense and the CIA for their input in locating al-Baghdadi, was the National Intelligence Organisation of Turkey (MIT).

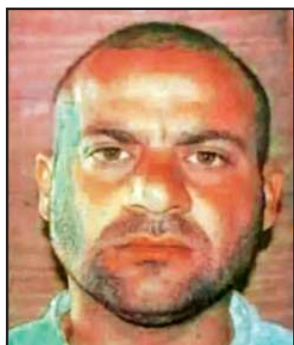
US Defense Secretary Mark Esper hailed the demise of al-Baghdadi as a "great day for America and the world." He said the joint Special Forces and inter-agency operation had been "flawlessly executed," and evidence that the United States had the will and power to "hunt to the ends of the Earth those who wish to bring harm." He said the terror leader had "inspired one of the most brutal and misguided terror campaigns in modern history."

Two days after the Delta Force operation, Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces said the likely successor to al-Baghdadi, ISIS spokesman Abu al-Hassan al-Muhajir, had been killed in a joint US-SDF operation near the northern Syrian town of Jarablus. Intelligence sources believe an armed UAV controlled by the CIA was used in the attack after vital information had been secured from al-Baghdadi's safe house near Bashira.

Forty-eight hours later, ISIS's 'news agency' Amaq, said a new ISIS spokesperson had been appointed in the person of Abu Hamza al-Qurayshi. He warned Americans not ➤



President Trump discusses the Delta Force operation at a White House press conference



Abu Abdullah Qardash

to celebrate too early, and announced the group's new leader is Abu Ibrahim al-Qurayshi. The name could be just one of

several aliases used by an operative dubbed the 'Professor' - Abu Abdullah Qardash, A.k.a. Hajji Abdallah. He has been described as a former al-Qaida commander and "ruthless." A \$5 million reward for his capture was issued by the US Justice Department, who had previously described him as a potential successor to al-Baghdadi.

Amaq also said its operations are not restricted to the Middle East and will continue, and urged people to abide by al-Baghdadi's

Post-strike photograph of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's compound



last message aired in September 2019 - to join the group and keep fighting.

CODENAME

Some journalists said the al-Baghdadi operation was named after Kayla Mueller, the American aid worker who was captured by ISIS and repeatedly raped by the terror leader before she was tortured and killed. Mueller was abducted in Aleppo in 2013 and confirmed dead in 2015, though her body has never been recovered.



Kayla Mueller

THE KURDISH-CIA SPY

PRIMARY SOURCE OF INTELLIGENCE WAS ISIS OPERATIVE

General Mazloum Abdi commander of the Syrian Democratic Forces made reference to the valuable intelligence provided by a Kurdish informant. Though not named by any party, he was allegedly an ISIS operative who became disillusioned with events and was under pressure from his family to betray al-Baghdadi. A number of his relatives had been harshly treated by the terror group.

Similarly, it's not fully understood how Abdi recruited the man, but for months he communicated the ever-changing location of al-Baghdadi to the Kurds, who duly passed the intelligence to the CIA. "He was, you could say, a security official," said Abdi. "A personal security official for al-Baghdadi himself, in charge of securing places where he would hide."

Abdi acknowledged that al-Baghdadi's life style and security methods made the

collection of intelligence difficult. "Al-Baghdadi took his personal security precautions to the highest level," he said. "He never used high-tech communications at all," this was left to a number of trusted associates... including Abdi's spy.

HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

In April al-Baghdadi moved from eastern Syria to the west in Idlib province. The relocation was reported to the CIA and was one which initially puzzled the Baghdadi Desk. The area was largely controlled by hundreds of Al-Nusra Front operatives - a franchise of al-Qaida which had fought against ISIS in the past. However, CIA analysts believe the location was carefully chosen because al-Baghdadi was confident it would be the last location on Earth where the Coalition would look.

The Kurdish spy memorised buildings and terrain, including markers, olive farms and



The spy provided details of al-Baghdadi's travel schedule for a number of months

signage. Other visitors to the new safe house were often blind-folded, but not him because he was so trusted by now. He noted small details such as the colour of roof tiles on the

The spy was at the compound when the helicopters arrived; he was safely exfiltrated out of the area by the Americans after the mission had ended



SDF General Mazloum Abdi and General Frank McKenzie of US Central Command

building and layout of the compound, hoping the data would be sufficient for surveillance operatives to match his description. And he also managed to provide details of an underground tunnel entered through a hatch in the kitchen, plus the number of guards posted at various sites in and around the compound. He also warned of other terrorist factions in the area, probably a reason why the Pentagon despatched such a heavily armed force to Idlib, including a major aerial presence.

How the informant communicated his findings remains a closely guarded secret, but Washington sources believe he had been given at least two secure cell phones which he carefully concealed amongst other communication devices.

Interestingly, despite the plethora of information and clues provided by the spy, Abdi revealed the CIA were still unsure if the intelligence was good, or that it was not a plan to lure a US fighting force which would be compromised and defeated, thus handing al-Baghdadi and ISIS a timely propaganda victory. Thus they asked the spy to obtain some of the terror's leaders clothes, preferably with blood markings - presumably for DNA testing. This was duly done and the DNA matched with samples taken from al-Baghdadi years earlier in Iraq.

As the CIA and Pentagon readied for the Kill or Capture mission, they were informed al-Baghdadi was about to relocate again. Instructions were delivered to the waiting US Special Forces who had trained for this one operation for weeks. And they attacked.

Abdi confirmed his spy was at the compound when the helicopters arrived; he was safely exfiltrated out of the area by the Americans after the mission had ended. Some intelligence sources believe he will receive a large part of al-Baghdadi's \$25 million bounty.

INTERNATIONAL REACTION

World reaction to Baghdadi's death was divided.

RUSSIA: Predictably, the Russian military questioned the US announcement. Major General Igor Konashenkov (right) said the Russian military "does not have reliable information" on a US military raid in Syria's Idlib province. "The increasing number of direct participants and countries that allegedly took part in this



Kurdish YPG fighters in Syria

ABU BAKR AL-BAGHDADI



He was born Awwad Ibrahim al-Badri near Samara, Iraq in 1971. At the time of the 2003 invasion of Iraq by US-led forces, some believe he was working as a cleric in a mosque in Baghdad. Various stories abound how he was radicalised. Some suggest this was around the same time he was detained at Camp Buccu, a US-run facility in southern Iraq, also home to many al-Qaida operatives. Others believe he had turned to terrorism to counter the rule of Saddam Hussein.

Working with al-Qaida affiliates in Iraq he chose to create his own franchise around 2010, the dawn of ISIS. In 2011, he was considered a major threat to world security, and the US Justice Department offered a \$10 million reward for his capture. This would eventually increase to \$25 million.

By the time ISIS followers captured Mosul, Iraq, in 2014, he had become a prominent figure in the world of terrorism - duly announcing the creation of a caliphate from a balcony in the city's Great Mosque of al-Nuri. Ironically, it was the last time he would be seen on a public platform until 2019, when new images were released showing him sitting next to a firearm.

operation, each one giving completely contradictory details, raises legitimate questions and doubts about its existence and especially the level of its success," Konashenkov said.

BRITAIN: "The death of Baghdadi is an important moment in our fight against terror but the battle against the evil of Daesh is not yet over. We will work with our Coalition partners to bring an end to the murderous, barbaric activities of Daesh once and for all." Prime Minister Boris Johnson.



UAE: "The death of the terrorist Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi signifies a victory for all nations ➤



united in the fight against terrorism and extremism. Coalition efforts will continue to dismantle Daesh and restore stability to areas that have suffered its atrocities.

"The UAE is firmly committed to working with its international partners to defeat Daesh and prevent the spread of its violent ideology wherever it arises." Dr Obaid Al Ketbi, Assistant Foreign Minister for Military and Security Affairs.

SAUDI ARABIA: "The kingdom appreciates the US administration's efforts to pursue members of this terrorist organisation that distorted the real image of Islam... and committed atrocities and crimes. Saudi Arabia continues its efforts with its allies, especially the United States, in fighting terrorism." Foreign Ministry statement.

FRANCE: "The death of al-Baghdadi is a hard blow against Islamic State, but it is just a stage. With our partners in the international Coalition, the fight continues to finally defeat this terrorist organisation. This is our priority in the Middle East." President Emmanuel Macron.



IRAN: "The killing of Baghdadi will not end Daesh and its ideology which was created and flourished with the help of regional petrodollars." Iranian Government Spokesman Ali Rabiei.

TURKEY: "The killing of Daesh's ringleader marks a turning point in our joint fight against terrorism. Turkey will continue to support anti-terror efforts - as it has done in the past." President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.



ISRAEL: "I would like to congratulate President Trump on the impressive achievement that led to the assassination of the head of Islamic State al-Baghdadi. This reflects our shared determination of the United States of America and of all free countries, to fight terror organisations and terrorist states.

This achievement is an important milestone, but the campaign is still ahead of us." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

JORDAN: "The killing of Baghdadi is a significant step in our joint, continuing war against terrorists and their ideology of hate. Jordan will remain at the forefront of efforts to destroy this evil in cooperation with our partners in the global Coalition." Ayman Safadi, Minister of Foreign Affairs.



CANADA: The death of al-Baghdadi is a major step in the fight against Daesh. Canada will

continue to work with our partners to ensure the enduring defeat of Daesh. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.



LAST WORD

General Mazloum Abdi head of the SDF who revealed the covert efforts of a Kurdish agent to identify al-Baghdadi's safe house, said the West should now "expect a large scale spectacular ISIS attack" in retaliation for his death.

Abdi said that far from being dismantled, ISIS will respond and grow. He also warned that Turkey's military action in the north of Syria has opened up a gateway for thousands of captured or threatened ISIS followers to exit and regroup in both the Middle East and regions far away.

"The danger of the resurgence of ISIS is very big and serious. I think there are many people who do not know this is true," he said.



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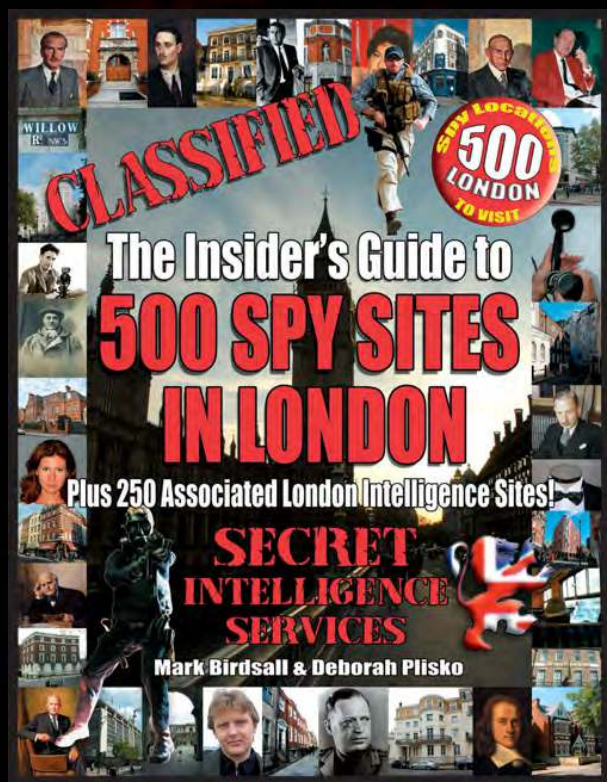
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