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THE ARRIVAL
A Most Strange Russian
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- CAPTURE OF HEINRICH HIMMLER • CHINA'S BILLION DOLLAR SPY



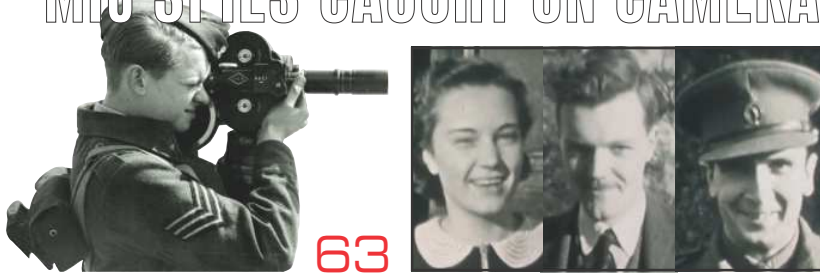
THE CHINA CONSPIRACY



INTELLIGENCE AND COVID-19

Controversy, conspiracy, rumours and all manner of disinformation and propaganda surround just when the intelligence world learned of the existence of the Coronavirus and from whence it came...

MIG SPIES CAUGHT ON CAMERA



INTEL & SPACE NEW US SPY SATELLITES

US Space Force launches first satellite as space becomes new intelligence playground

KRYPTOS

HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

SECRET SIGNALS, HIDDEN MARKERS,
MASKED MEANINGS, CODES AND COVERT
COMMUNICATIONS

THE ARRIVAL



RUSSIAN ASSASSINATION PLOT OR PROPAGANDA?



MAXIMATOR THE SECRET SIGINT ALLIANCE

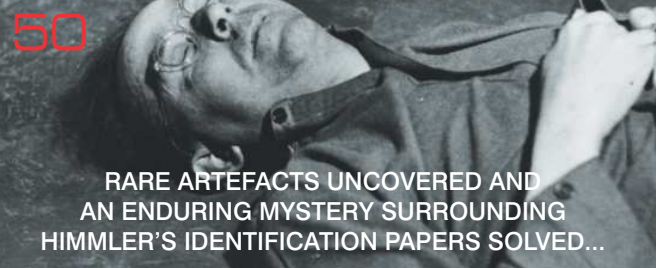
EUROPE'S VERY OWN FIVE EYES - CIRCA. 1976

THE SPY TOWER



CHINA'S EUROPEAN SPIES

THE CAPTURE AND SUICIDE OF HEINRICH HIMMLER



RARE ARTEFACTS UNCOVERED AND
AN ENDURING MYSTERY SURROUNDING
HIMMLER'S IDENTIFICATION PAPERS SOLVED...

EYE SPY 128



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"I do not think this started as an accident." The former Chief of MI6 suggested scientists in Wuhan could have been in the process of conducting research on bats when the virus accidentally escaped...



Sir Richard Dearlove - Chief of MI6 1999-2004

COVID-19 - ORIGINS AND CONSPIRACY THEORIES ABOUND



Transparency and cooperation is essential if the true circumstances of the Coronavirus outbreak which has swept across all continents, is ever to be fully understood, and proper counter-measures introduced. This also includes effective treatments and a vaccine. Sadly, this has not happened to date, and the result is suspicion, accusations and a plethora of conspiracy theories, some undoubtedly created by persons, agencies or countries with ulterior objectives.

This big question - 'is COVID-19 man-made?' - has yet to be answered. However, many in the intelligence world believe it did originate in Wuhan, China, and was under analysis and investigation by the city's Institute of Virology, many months before the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared a pandemic. Its actual origin remains a matter of conjecture, but there is a growing school of thought it was carried by bats, and spread to civilians and workers at the city's busy wet meat market.

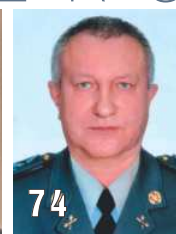
A number of senior intelligence people have publicly said that thereafter, scientists at the institute conducted tests and even altered aspects of its form to create something far more deadly. And then by accident the virus was accidentally released. At present, China has deflected calls for a multi-nation investigation, even the WHO has been rebuffed. All of this adds to the growing suspicion that Beijing has not been fully transparent.

The worldwide travel ban and movement of cargo has also impacted everyone - including Eye Spy. Issue 127 was held up for many weeks, and on behalf of ESPL I can only apologise to readers. However, the situation is slowly improving. And not surprisingly, in this edition we have an extended feature on the virus and its impact on intelligence, security and so much more.

MARK BIRDSALL, MANAGING EDITOR



HEADLINERS



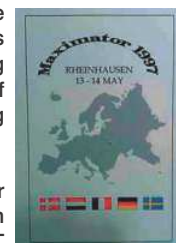
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INTELLIGENCE CHOICE

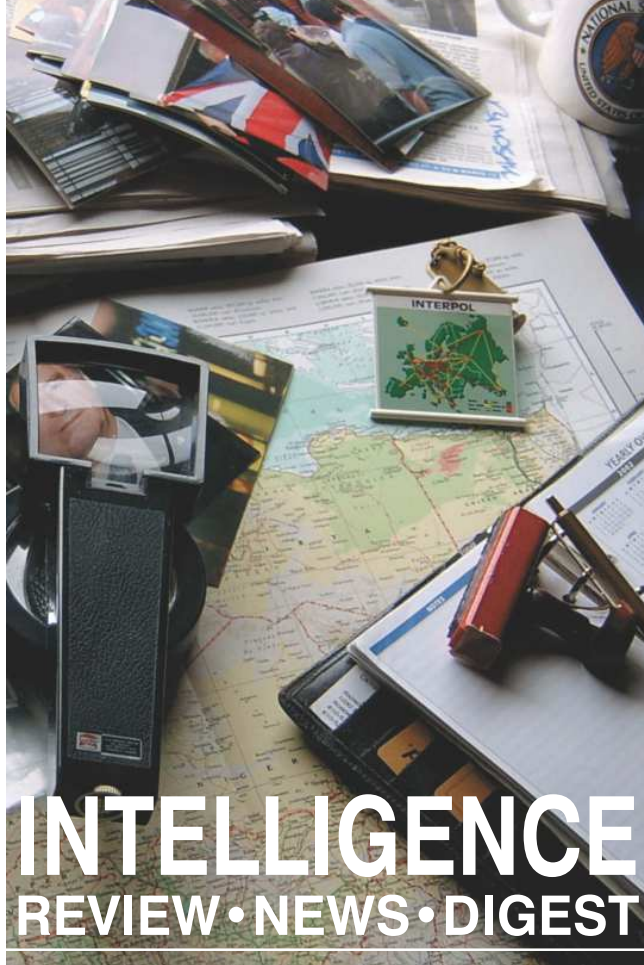
MAXIMATOR - EUROPE'S 'FIVE EYES'

There have always been reports that an alliance of communication and interception agencies operating in Europe exists. Now compelling evidence has emerged that for over 40-years a group of five agencies called 'Maximator' has operated along similar lines to the 'Five Eyes' collaboration.

Extensive research by Dutch Professor of computer security Bart Jacobs of Radboud University Nijmegen in the Netherlands, has named the European SIGINT alliance members - Denmark, France, Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands. He also discovered it was named after the Maximator beer brand.



•46 MAXIMATOR



INTELLIGENCE REVIEW • NEWS • DIGEST

INTERPOL FOCUS

RED NOTICE ISSUED FOR ALLEGED CIA OFFICER INVOLVED IN CAR CRASH DEATH

Interpol has issued a Red Notice for Anne Sacoolas, 42, the wife of CIA analyst and diplomat Jonathan Sacoolas. Mrs Sacoolas departed the UK following a road traffic accident in August 2019, in which 19-year-old motorcyclist Harry Dunn was killed. Some sources claim Mrs Sacoolas also works for Langley and is "more senior than her husband."

Dunn's mother, welcomed the news saying, "I just want to urge Mrs Sacoolas to come back to the UK and do the right thing... face justice. Maybe then our two families can come together after the tragedy and build a bridge."

The Sacoolas' were based at a US diplomatic/intelligence outpost at



Anne Sacoolas

RAF Croughton in Northamptonshire (close to the scene of the accident). In December Sacoolas was charged with 'dangerous driving', the primary allegation being that she was on the wrong side of the road and her vehicle struck Dunn.

THREAT TO US COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

US SECRET SERVICE ACT TO PROTECT PRESIDENT TRUMP DURING NATIONWIDE PROTESTS

In an unprecedented action, the US Secret Service requested that President Trump be relocated to the White House's Emergency Operations Center, which also serves as a secure shelter and communications room on 29 May. The instruction occurred as protesters clashed with police and Secret Service following the killing of George Floyd, an unarmed black man, in Minneapolis police custody. Sources said Trump

spent an hour in the bunker, which is designed for use in a terrorist attack. It is not known if his wife Melania and the couple's 14-year-old son Barron, were also inside.

Trump had just returned from Florida after watching the first manned US space launch in nearly a decade.

Such protocols for moving the President to the underground bunker are followed if the Secret



Emergency Operations Center



US police on the streets of Washington DC

Service believes there is a genuine threat to the head of state.

Two days later, more than 50 Secret Service agents were injured in further violent clashes; fires set by rioters blazed near the White House and counter-terrorist officers searched vehicles for Molotov cocktails.

Elsewhere in the city, the US Justice Department confirmed Marshals and Drug Enforcement



50 US Secret Service officers were injured

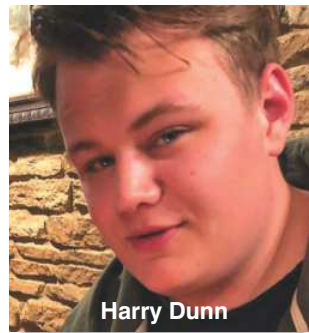


RAF Croughton, Northamptonshire

UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo have discussed the case, the former saying that she should return to Britain to face trial. However, that request failed after an extradition order was rejected on the premise that at the time of the incident, she had diplomatic immunity. Speaking on the telephone, Prime Minister Boris Johnson told President

Trump failing to return her to the UK would be a "denial of justice." What transpired then between the two countries is unknown.

The Dunn family was notified of the Interpol move by Northamptonshire Police through an email, part of which read: *'Should she leave the USA the wanted circulations should be enacted'*.



Harry Dunn

A police spokesman told journalists: "Northamptonshire Police's involvement in this case has

concluded and the file of evidence presented to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). This matter now rests with the extradition unit."

As for the Red Notice itself, this alerts police to the fact that the subject is an 'international wanted person'. However, the organisation is keen to stress that in itself, it is not an official arrest warrant.



Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo



Minneapolis, Minnesota

Administration (DEA) agents were deployed on the streets in an extraordinary move to tighten security. They operated alongside local police and Homeland Security agents, including the US Secret Service.

Lights that normally illuminate the exterior of the White House were disabled, reportedly so that the Secret Service could use night-vision equipment to monitor protesters. Additionally, the entire Washington DC National Guard was called in to help with the response to protests outside the White House, nearby Lafayette Square, and elsewhere in America's capital.

On 1 June, following another night of rioting, tear gas and rubber bullets were used to move gathering crowds away from the White House. Trump spoke on national television telling the US public he would deploy the army on the ground to restore order.

The protests were among numerous demonstrations, many violent, that erupted across the country in over 60 cities and lasted well over a week.

Shops were looted and hundreds of police and security vehicles were burned and vandalised. A number of fatalities linked to the rioting also occurred.

INTEL TREASURE TROVE SECRETS OF ISIS EXPOSED

A senior ISIS operative and long-serving member who was one of the favourites to lead the group following the death of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, is in custody in Iraq. Described by one official as a "treasure trove of intelligence," Abdul Nasser Al-Qardash is cooperating with intelligence officials and helping to identify the group's other senior commanders, and just as importantly, ISIS's future plans.

Qardash also said there had been infighting between commanders on various issues, including the treatment of prisoners.

Some confusion remains over the circumstances of his capture. Iraq said he had been arrested in May, whilst security analyst Husham al-Hahimi said he originally surrendered to Syrian Defence Forces (SDF) in March 2019, following the downfall of an ISIS stronghold in Baghouz, Syria. Discussions between Iraq officials and Kurdish fighters then ensued,



Abdul Nasser Al-Qardash

and he was then transferred in May. Hashimi said: "He is singing like a canary."

According to information already provided, Qardash said around 9,000 ISIS operatives remain in Iraq, of which between three and four thousand are still active. An Iraq security source said he had also provided much intelligence on ISIS operations abroad; its intentions and funding. This has been shared with organisations like MI6 and the CIA.

Iraq's new Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi said ISIS was "far from finished," and remains a "potent threat."



French Spies Unhappy with Candidates' Quality, Readiness and Knowledge

France's foreign intelligence organisation, the Direction Générale de la Sécurité Extérieure (DGSE), is engaged in a recruitment drive as it seeks to expand its workforce to 8,500 by 2022, a rise of between 1500-2000 staffers. The project, which saw DGSE officers travel to universities, colleges, job fairs, and also involved the use of YouTube and LinkedIn, was described as "nothing short of revolutionary," by the Service. However, not all has gone well and behind the scenes, many recruiters say they are frustrated and dismayed by the quality of many candidates.

Like its counterpart in the UK - MI6, which recently saw hundreds of applicants apply for jobs, DGSE was overwhelmed by the sheer numbers wishing to join the agency.

The type of positions advertised varied from office workers, computer specialists, analysts, and of course, field officers. Persons were sought with advanced knowledge and understanding of foreign affairs and geopolitical developments, language skills etc.

However, in an internal DGSE report the agency said it found it challenging filling the positions following the selection process, citing candidates' 'critical shortcomings'. Some appeared for

interviews severely under-prepared and their level of knowledge, was 'unacceptable for someone wishing to join the ranks of the DGSE', a line in the report read. Another DGSE analyst wrote 'job candidates showed markedly limited grasp of global geopolitics', while their knowledge of intelligence work was even more limited. Even minimum requirements, like a resume free of spelling mistakes were rarely met.



DGSE Director
Bernard Emie

The DGSE acknowledge that despite most of those seeking employment had graduate degrees, the recruitment process will take far longer than initially expected. An example of DGSE despair was revealed after an official said the organisation had yet to fill posts requiring persons fluent in Arabic "for want of suitable candidates."

CYBER REACH

In another event intended to inspire young students to seek a future in intelligence work in France, Patrick Pailloux, the Technical Director of DGSE, spoke to 65,000 pupils who participated in an annual codebreaking and cryptology competition. He said the agency was looking for "geeks not 007," and warned that there was a danger many students didn't consider themselves "suitable



Patrick Pailloux

because of the stereotype spies" featured on the silver screen and television.

Pailloux said: "We need people who are very connected to new technologies - thus young people. We have to bring them into the DGSE, it's essential. Many have James Bond and the special forces in their heads. They think, 'I am not Rambo, I am a geek', and it doesn't occur to them to enter the DGSE. But it's not only supermen who are super-charged. If you are super-charged in science then you can also serve your country. Cyber security is the alpha and omega of global security in the world we live in. If we're not able to make our systems safe then all other security is useless."

AL-QAIDA LEADER KILLED FOLLOWING FRENCH INTELLIGENCE OPERATION



Abdelmalek Droukdel

PARIS: French security services operating in Mali, have killed Al-Qaida's most powerful figure in North Africa. Abdelmalek Droukdel head of AQIM (Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb) and several of his inner circle were shot dead by French troops following an intelligence-led operation in Mali. His death is the culmination of a seven-year man hunt, and was announced by France's Ministry of Defence.

During the confrontation, which involved several helicopters, a senior ISIS leader was captured. Intelligence sources believe this suggests some form of collaboration. Mali hosts several thousand French troops as part of a protective force.



Building 141, DGSE headquarters, Paris

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

SPY TRIAL OF 'FRAMED' MARINE BEGINS

The trial of former US Marine Paul Whelan has begun in Moscow. Whelan, 50, pleaded not guilty to a number of charges linked to Russia's Espionage Act. His solicitor Olga Karlova, has consistently argued he was framed by the security services, this after he was found in possession of a USB drive containing top secret and classified information.



US Ambassador to Russia John Sullivan

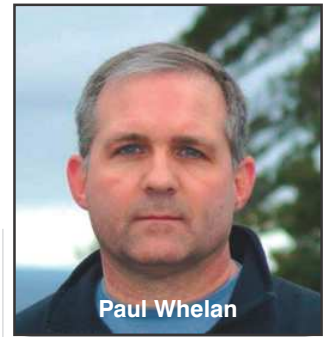
Whelan was holidaying in Russia in December 2018, and due to attend the wedding of a friend. He was handed the device by an acquaintance whilst staying at the Hotel Metropol, Moscow, just two miles from the Kremlin, which he believed contained vacation photographs. Moments after receiving the stick he was arrested by FSB officers who were hiding in the corridor. "He was caught red-handed," an official said.

Due to the nature of the trial, proceedings are being held behind closed doors. US Ambassador to Russia, John Sullivan, who has criticised Russia, was also not allowed to attend. He described the case as a "mockery of justice." Speaking to journalists in Moscow, Sullivan said: "The fact that this is a closed hearing... a secret trial, Paul hasn't seen the evidence against him. It makes a mockery of justice. He has not been allowed to make a phone

call, or speak to anyone in his family for 16-months."

Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, said the court has sanctioned the "provision of phone calls to the defendant and his family members in the United States. Bizarrely she also said Ambassador Sullivan "might be able to attend the trial if the case does not involve national security," which of course it does.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called for his immediate



Paul Whelan

release after Whelan underwent urgent surgery in May.

At the time of his arrest, Whelan was working as Director of Global Security for a US car component company. He told reporters he was "framed" and is a "victim of political kidnap and ransom." In late May, prosecutors said they are seeking an 18-year sentence.



Hotel Metropol, Moscow

THE CIA THORN

Former CIA Special Operator and Long Time Langley Critic Dies from COVID-19

Ralph McGehee, who joined Langley out of college as a 'gung-ho' Cold Warrior, has died after succumbing to the Coronavirus. During the Vietnam War he became disillusioned with the CIA and retired as a prominent critic of the Agency.

From 1952 to 1978, he served as an intelligence officer and counter-revolutionary operator in the Philippines, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam, but by the late 1960s, was increasingly racked with doubts about his mission. "Vietnam broke him, as it did so many millions of people,"



McGehee receives the CIA's Career Intelligence Medal

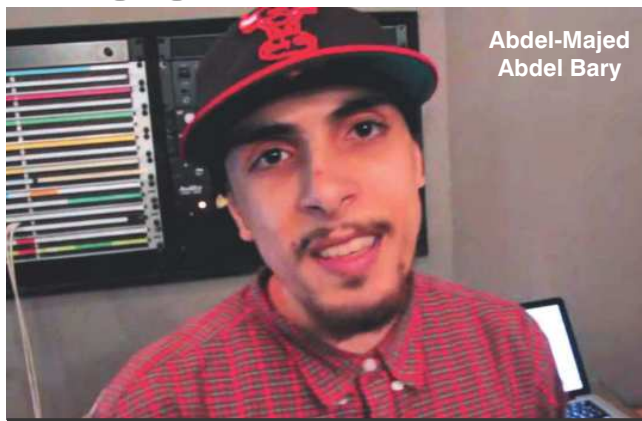
said Tim Weiner, author of the CIA history *Legacy of Ashes*. "He had spent half his life working for the American cause, and when Saigon fell, his work went up in smoke."

Thereafter McGehee publicly expressed views highly critical of the CIA and in 1983 published his book *Deadly Deceits: My 25 Years in the CIA*.

McGehee was awarded the Agency's Career Intelligence Medal after retiring and became an advocate of reform. He was invited to speak at political events, rallies, and at colleges and universities. He gave interviews to the press, television, and other media.

McGehee died on 2 May in Falmouth, Maine. He was 92.

MOST WANTED



Abdel-Majed
Abdel Bary

BRITISH ISIS 'RAPPER' ARRESTED IN SPAIN

One of the most wanted members of ISIS has been arrested by security services in Spain. London-born Abdel-Majed Abdel Bary, 29, a former 'rapper' who went by the name 'L Jinny', held both British and Egyptian nationality. He found notoriety in 2014 in the city of Raqqa, when he was photographed holding the decapitated head of a Syrian soldier. Beneath the image a

caption read: 'Chillin with my homie, or what's left of him'.

When the image was released, it was, for a time, believed he was the infamous executioner of British and American hostages - 'Jihadi John' (Mohammed Emwazi). He of course was pictured in several disturbing videos with his victims, including US journalist James Foley. Thereafter Bary disappeared and it



Bary is arrested along with associates by Spanish counter-terrorism officers

was believed he had been killed after the fall of the group as a pseudo-military fighting force twenty months ago.

Spanish counter-terrorism officers arrested Bary (who refused to speak to investigators and in court) along with three associates in the port city of Almeria. News of the arrests surfaced after a

Spanish Police tweet: *'This is how we detained one of Europe's most wanted Daesh foreign terrorist fighters in Almeria. Of Egyptian nationality, he would have entered Spain illegally and was hiding in a rental apartment'*. Bary reportedly secured secret passage to Spain on a boat from North Africa. Whilst in Almeria, he used the COVID-19 pandemic as cover -



'DELIBERATE EXPOSURE' Trial Begins in Russia of Wedding Couple Accused of Treason

In the last edition of Eye Spy, we carried a feature examining two cases in which Russian FSB intelligence officers had been exposed by the uploading of seemingly innocent imagery on social media platforms. One involved an FSB officer who attended the 2015 wedding of Konstantin Antonets and Antonio Zimina in the Baltic Sea enclave of Kaliningrad, sandwiched between Latvia and Poland. The couple were charged with high treason.

The trial of the suspects has now begun, and more information has since emerged including the name of the FSB counter-intelligence officer - Maskim Denisenko. The

FSB said the materials were deliberately uploaded and other information provided to "an intelligence agency in Latvia," including that he was based in Kaliningrad. However, Zimina's father, Konstantin, said Denisenko was their daughter's friend and a former university colleague.

He also told journalists that the trial had begun in the "utmost secrecy" and that a second hearing took place without the defendants and their solicitors present.

The couple deny all the charges and said that at the wedding, the intelligence officer handed out



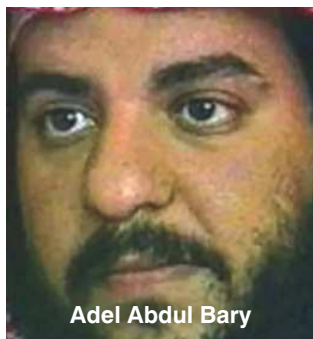
Antonio Zimina
and Konstantin
Antonets

business cards and did little to conceal the name of the organisation he worked for.

In May, President Putin signed a decree that forbids any operational member of the armed forces from carrying smartphones or other devices, capable of taking imagery, storing data and tracking

locations, whilst on duty. A document released by the Kremlin warned: *'The violation of the regulation will be considered a gross disciplinary offence'*.

The move follows several incidents in which data has betrayed the movement and presence of troops in Ukraine.



Adel Abdul Bary

constantly donning a face mask. It is believed his identity has been confirmed by British Intelligence.

Bary's father, Egyptian Adel Abdul Bary, was extradited from the UK to the United States in 2012, this after being linked to the al-Qaida bombings of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998. These attacks killed 224 people, many serving US military personnel. In 2015 he was jailed for 25-years. MI5 believe Bary's father's links to terrorism, including acting as a spokesman for Osama bin-Laden, led to his son's radicalisation. The UK Government stripped Bary of his British citizenship because of his ISIS membership, meaning it is unlikely he will be extradited back to Britain.

Eye Spy sources believe Bary's Spanish connection may have its

origins in an incident which occurred in 2015. In this case, Maria de los Angeles Cala Marquez, a Spanish national, was arrested as she attempted to travel to Turkey on a false passport. She had fallen in love with Bary on-line and was making her way to the Middle East to marry him.

CIA ESTIMATE OF THE SITUATION

In respect of ISIS's survival following the death of its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi last October, a new CIA report states that despite losses of operatives and its former head, the group has managed to maintain its '*organisational structure and leadership*'. Amidst speculation that some of its commanders have different ideological views, the group has continued to mount attacks. CIA analysts describe 'mobile groups' have now emerged and are once again targeting towns in Syria and Iraq.

The CIA estimate ISIS, now led by Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Quarashi, has created a network of around 14,000 fighters; all are willing participants in on-going actions. The US maintains a force of around 5,000 troops in Iraq.



2019. An ISIS improvised vehicle and multi-rocket launcher (MLR) recovered by Syrian and Russia troops

NEW COLD WAR?



US to Cancel China Student Visas over Espionage Fears

Relations between the US and China have been in decline for some time. Huawei 5G, espionage, hacking operations, tensions in the South China Seas, and a war of words over the responsibility for the extent of the Coronavirus pandemic, has pushed the two nations close to what China described as a "new Cold War."

Added to this volatile "fire risk," China has now back-tracked on security autonomy for Hong Kong making it a criminal offence to undermine Beijing's authority in the region. This had been guaranteed by an agreement signed in 1997 when Britain returned the region to China. The move has provoked a furious response from the USA and UK.



An estimated 370,000 Chinese students study in the United States

Also relevant to security relations, Chinese journalists and media houses are now required to register as 'Foreign Diplomatic Missions', and the number of reporters allowed to operate in the country has been reduced. In response, Beijing expelled several US journalists from premier titles such as the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*, and followed suit in respect of limiting the number of American journalists operating in China.



**Foreign
Minister
Wang Yi**

Three years ago a major FBI investigation was launched into the long-held belief that hundreds of Chinese students, contract workers and even tourists, have been tasked with securing intelligence, high-end technology and advanced weaponry secrets in America by China's Ministry of State Security (MSS). Earlier this year FBI Director Christopher Wray said his organisation was engaged in 1,000 investigations in 56 regional offices "spanning just about every industry sector" involving Chinese espionage. "No country poses a greater threat than Communist China," he said.

COUNTER-MEASURES

However, in early June the White House said it is taking action to prevent the espionage. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that Chinese students "shouldn't be here in our schools spying." Describing the situation as a "challenge," Pompeo said: "We have an obligation - a duty - to make sure that students that are coming here to study... aren't

acting on behalf of the Chinese Communist Party."

Intelligence sources said the United States is planning to cancel the visas of thousands of Chinese graduate students believed to have links with China's military. Students already in the country will have their visas cancelled and be expelled, while those already outside the United States will not be allowed to return. This would impact on 3,000 to 5,000 students now and the 370,000 Chinese nationals who attend US schools annually. Classified documents on the espionage state some students regularly pass materials back to China every two weeks.

Speaking at the National People's Congress in Beijing, Foreign Minister Wang Yi said, "a political virus is spreading in the United States



**President Trump and First Lady
Melania Trump**



**Presidents Xi Jinping and Putin at
the Moscow Victory Day Parade**

which is using every opportunity to attack and smear China." He added that the US is taking relations "hostage" and is "pushing our two countries to the brink of a new Cold War."

ESPIONAGE CULTURE INGRAINED

Song Yongyi, a historian at UCLA, commenting on the use of students as spies and infiltration agents said: "This is the same culture of spying that has always been part of the Chinese Communist Party. The party often recruits and develops spies directly from the student body. But the practice is on the increase under President Xi Jinping. Party organisations in colleges and universities are not so obedient, so the party is training agents to act as informants. If students are being utilised as spies within China itself, it's not such a leap to imagine that their activities would end studying in other nations."



A US Navy P-3 Orion surveillance aircraft. Several incidents have been reported whereby China Air Force warplanes have come in very close contact with patrolling Orions and US warships

USS Spruance, South China Seas

SPIES WITHIN

ISRAEL CHARGES NATIONALS WITH SPYING FOR IRANIAN INTELLIGENCE

Israeli activist Ayman Haj Yahya, 50, has been indicted on espionage and terrorist charges. Officials from the country's domestic intelligence service, Shin Bet, said he had been in discussions with Iranian Intelligence in a plan to recruit Israeli Arabs to provide information on various strategic and defence sites and help operatives carry out attacks.

Counter-intelligence officers arrested the suspect, who was found to be in possession of an encryption device almost certainly provided by Iran's Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS). This he attempted to destroy moments before his arrest.

Shin Bet further allege Yahya held secret meetings with Iranian intelligence officers in Budapest, Hungary, and elsewhere outside of the Middle East. "During these trips he received funds, training, encryption tools and codes in order to maintain contact with them



Encrypted cell phone, USB stick and a piece of paper containing a secret code found on Yahya



Ayman Haj Yahya

in an encrypted way after he returned to Israel," a Shin Bet official said. "This shows how Iran and its proxies intend to harm Israel."

He was first surveilled by Shin Bet meeting with Khaled Yamani, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), in Denmark and Paris in 2018. Yamani, described in court papers as 'Yahya's handler', is a suspected MOIS agent.

Some intelligence analysts have questioned the 'espionage' tag being assigned to the case, but Shin Bet believes this was the beginning of a long-term MOIS operation intended to infiltrate Israel.



Khaled Yamani

SECOND 'IRANIAN SPY' ARRESTED

In another case involving an Israeli national also linked to espionage, a female 25-year-old has been arrested for allegedly spying for terrorist group Hezbollah. She has been charged with "contact with a foreign agent and handing information to an enemy with intent to harm Israel," an official said.

The indictment states that after meeting a resident of Lebanon through Facebook, known as 'Ali', she began to perform various espionage tasks, including taking photographs of military sites, air bases and vehicles. She was also asked to attend seminars and ask war-related questions to speakers.

In 2019, Israeli Cabinet Minister Gonen Segev was jailed for spying for Iran. After he was sentenced to 11-years in prison, Shin Bet warned that other officials and citizens spying for Iran had yet to be detected, and that some almost certainly had access to government and military information.

Israel and Iran have been sworn enemies since 1979, following the Iranian revolution, and Tehran's insistence that Israel doesn't have a right to exist.



Shin Bet Director Nadav Argaman

THE QUARTERMASTER

Manchester Arena Bomb Suspect Guilty



Hashem Abedi

ISIS-inspired terrorist who claimed ignorance to purchase of bomb-making materials, faces life-in-prison after guilty verdict

Hashem Abedi, the brother of Manchester Arena bomber Salman Abedi, who killed 22 concert-goers and injured many more on 22 May 2017, has been found guilty of direct participation in the ISIS-inspired attack. Salman detonated a rucksack bomb in the foyer of the venue sending 3,000 shrapnel pieces (nuts and bolts) towards innocent people, many who were youngsters attending the Ariana Grande event. The plan had been conceived in early January that year.

At the time of the actual attack, Hashem Abedi, 22, was in Libya with his family, but investigators from MI5, New Scotland Yard and Manchester Police, followed a trail of evidence linking him to the purchase of bomb components and ISIS. At the height of the investigation, codenamed Operation Manteline, an astonishing 3,500 personnel were engaged and 65,000 hours of CCTV footage were viewed. However, the first clue to the brothers involvement came from the bomb-blast area itself and the physical evidence. Amongst the shrapnel and carnage, a torn credit card bearing the name 'Salman R. Abedi'.

On-line purchases also linked to the duo and attack, and included a hacksaw, hammer, wire cutters, chemicals and other items used in the

construction of the bomb. Retrieved electronic messages and data allowed insight into the brothers mindset and associates, one of whom was convicted ISIS terrorist Abdalraouf Abdallah. His home was being used as an information exchange hub connecting other ISIS cells and supporters.

EXTENDED SEARCH

Following the IED explosion, investigators also searched other addresses and sites, and

discovered six unused detonator cylinders which were covered in Hashem's fingerprints. Another major forensic clue linking Hashem directly to the attack were tiny pieces of tin discovered in his flat; these were the same as some of the fragments recovered at the blast scene. Hashem was now a prime suspect.

Other electronic evidence presented in court showed that he and his brother switched cell phones on at least ten occasions in the run-up to the operation. Lead investigator, Detective Chief Superintendent Simon Barraclough, said Hashem gave his brother "last minute inspiration," moments before he detonated the device. "He was with his brother throughout the entire process of making this explosive



Hashem Abedi pictured in Libya

1. Salman Abedi arrives back in Manchester from Libya four days prior to his attack. **2.** He embarks on his journey to Manchester Arena on 22 May 2017, the bomb secreted in his large rucksack **3.** Abedi caught again on CCTV around 60 minutes before arriving at the arena. **4.** The terrorist enters a lift at the venue just moments before he detonated his IED at 10.31pm killing 22 people and injuring 1,000 others



Hashem Abedi. As a 16-year-old he had fought against the regime of Libya's Colonel Muammar Gaddafi



**DSC
Superintendent
Simon
Barraclough**

and building the bomb, I believe he provided encouragement right up to the end. This was all about the sick ideology of ISIS and a desire for martyrdom."

RETURN TO THE UK

After British Intelligence and diplomatic staff made contact with a militia force in Libya, and the presentation of evidence linking him to the crime, Hashem was detained. He was flown back to the UK last July. ➤



Armed police patrol the streets of Manchester following the arena bombing



Bomb fragments recovered from the arena linked the Abedi brothers to the attack which claimed 22 lives

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**Suicide bomber
Salman Abedi**

In early court proceedings, Hashem, who by now had sacked his entire defence team and refused to attend the Old Bailey Court trial, claimed

British Intelligence paid paramilitaries £9 million to secure his return to the UK, this after he was "tortured" into signing a 40-page confession. He also alleged he was visited on three occasions by MI5 and MI6 officers in the north African country. Other papers suggest the brothers father, Ramadan Abedi, an operative of the Libyan Islamic Fight Group, prescribed by the United Nations as a terrorist organisation, was also tortured. Hashem said he had been "conned by his brother," believing the "purchases and chemicals" were to be used as "simple household cleaning goods." Jury members did not believe him and prosecutors said his "story" was just another part of his failed defence. A Government spokesman said he was "extradited in line with strict requirements."

After the jury found him guilty of 22 counts of murder at the Old Bailey Court, Greater Manchester Police issued a press statement describing Hashem Abedi as the "quartermaster" who sourced the bomb material. The trial judge said he was "every bit as responsible as his brother."

The youngest victim of the attack was eight-year-old Saffie Rose. The terrorist attack was the deadliest in the UK since the London bombings on 7 July 2005. Hashem Abedi will be sentenced at a later date.

**Operation Temperer, in which
troops are deployed to assist police,
was first actioned followed the
Manchester Arena attack**



THE CHINA CONSPIRACY



INTELLIGENCE AND COVID-19

Controversy, conspiracy, rumours and all manner of disinformation and propaganda surround just when the intelligence world learned of the existence of the Coronavirus and from whence it came...

There is little doubt where the virus first struck with such deadly force - Wuhan, China. Officials in Beijing first announced its existence on 31 December 2019, describing victims' symptoms as similar, but different to pneumonia. However, it's evident the virus formed much earlier.



Tedros Ghebreyesus

The World Health Organisation (WHO), confirmed the outbreak calling the risk to humans "very high." On 11 March WHO Director-General

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, belatedly, in many government's opinion, declared the virus a pandemic. This perceived hesitation and a failure to investigate the virus's origins more quickly, led the United States to withdraw from WHO in June.

ORIGINS

As to the exact point of origin, some analysts said it first emerged in a Wuhan live meat market, after dozens of traders and shoppers reported symptoms. A CIA source told Eye Spy its exact location - the Huanan Seafood Whole Market.

Other theories also abound, including it had been discovered in bats housed at a government testing laboratory in the city. This view is generally accepted by many Western intelligence agencies. In this case Shi Zhengli, a senior virologist and her team reportedly found the virus, but was told not to discuss



her findings and detained. Intelligence sources in the West claim at least six other senior professionals and medical officials who warned of the virus weeks before China's official announcement, have not been heard from since. This suggests some form of government interference. ➤



Shi Zhengli



Gao Yu

In April it was reported Zhengli had traced the virus to horseshoe bats found more than 1,000 miles away in the southern Chinese region of Yunnan. This story surfaced after Chinese journalist and dissident Gao Yu, herself repeatedly imprisoned, said she had spoken to the scientist while she was in custody. “We learned later that her institute

finished gene-sequencing and related testing as early as 2 January... but she was muzzled,” she claimed. An e-mail sent by Wuhan Institutes of Health Principal Investigator of Molecular Immunology, Yanyi Wang, on the very same day, allegedly told staff and officials not to discuss the virus.

Other theories have also emerged, with some commentators claiming it had been genetically engineered by scientists at a military run university, as part of a biological weapons programme. This has been disputed by China. Nevertheless, US Intelligence continues to investigate if it was introduced or released into the wider environment by a research laboratory, accidentally or deliberately. Two years ago, a number of US State Department cables were wired to several US intelligence services describing *‘inadequate safety protocols and improperly trained personnel at the Wuhan Institute of Virology’*.

OCTOBER 2019

In China, officials and state media have continued to support a conspiracy theory that the virus originated in the United States. One silly report states the Coronavirus was brought to China by an American cyclist who took part in the World Military Games in Wuhan in October 2019.

Western intelligence officials have also referenced the month of October as being a pivotal date.

Serving and former US intelligence officers have cited unverified reports that between 7 and 24 October 2019, there was virtually no cell phone usage at the institute, suggesting a major incident had occurred. Described as an



“anomaly,” it is understood the data is being examined by various intelligence agencies, including the NSA.

Despite no supportive evidence of such claims, all agree China’s Ministry of State Security (MSS) has concealed the true scale of the outbreak, from whence it really came, the number of casualties, and critically, the date when scientists first learned that a deadly virus had spread to humans.

US INTELLIGENCE WARNING?

Similarly, reports allege US Intelligence first warned of the outbreak in November 2019, this after ABC presented a controversial news item covering the virus and the White House response. Since then, this has led to major differences of opinion in the country on whether or not America, and indeed other countries around the world, could have been better prepared.



Yanyi Wang



Head of NCMI - Colonel R. Shane Day



MI5 STILL WATCHING

DEPARTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL COMMENTS ON COVID-19

MI5's Director-General Sir Andrew Parker, has spoken of how the Security Service remains fully operational, despite the impact of COVID-19. The experienced intelligence man, who is departing MI5 after 37-years of service, told the BBC his organisation had to rapidly adapt. "At this time, maybe even more than normal, it is vital the nation's national security machine is working so that the national emergency we are in now isn't further complicated or compounded by other events," he said.

In respect of how its personnel are working in these difficult times at the Service's Thames House headquarters in London, Sir Andrew was a little more coy. "You will understand if I don't go into



© MI5/CROWN COPYRIGHT

MI5's main entrance features blue lighting in support of Britain's health service workers and carers

exactly the ways in which we are working and what shape we are in."

In respect of on-going threats, he made reference to the fact that like most of the population, some of those under investigation and surveillance are themselves having to adhere to the 'lockdown' rules. "That makes a difference to behaviour, but does not eradicate the threat," he said.

Interestingly, he revealed MI5 provided security and guidance to the "design and construction" of Britain's new 'Nightingale hospitals' which were rapidly built to help those with the virus.



Sir Andrew Parker



America's National Center for Medical Intelligence (NCMI), allegedly through the interception of wire and computer communications, plus spy satellite imagery of unusual traffic and life pattern movements in Wuhan, suggested something unusual was occurring in the city. ABC news and a number of media houses then cited an alleged line in a report produced by the intelligence body that exists specifically to monitor, investigate and provide assessments: *'Analysts concluded it could*



A drive-through test centre in New York manned by military emergency workers

VIRUS OUTBREAK BLAME GAME

Russian Scientist Accuses Wuhan Institute of Virology

Internationally renowned Russian microbiologist Professor Petr Chumakov, said the COVID-19 pandemic, can be placed firmly in the hands of scientists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. Chumakov, who is lead investigator and researcher at the Engelhardt Institute of Molecular Biology in Moscow, accused the Chinese of “doing absolutely crazy things in their laboratory.”

In a widely publicised rebuke, first published in the *Moskovsky Komsomolets* newspaper, Chumakov said: “In China, scientists at the Wuhan Laboratory have been actively involved in the development of various Coronavirus variants for over



Professor Petr Chumakov

ten years. Moreover, they did this, supposedly not with the aim of creating pathogenic variants, but to study their pathogenicity. For example, inserts in the genome, which gave the virus the ability to infect human cells. Now all this

has been analysed. The picture of the possible creation of the current Coronavirus is slowly emerging. There are several inserts, that is, substitutions of the natural sequence of the genome, which gave it special properties.

He also believes that an investigation will take place and that new guidelines and rules will be “developed to regulate the work with the genomes of such dangerous viruses.”

Chumakov tempered his comments by stating, “It’s too early to blame anyone.”

Veronika Skvortsova, head of Russia’s Federal Medical-



Veronika Skvortsova

Biological Agency (FMBA) and former Health Minister, also commented on the theory the virus was man-made. Speaking to journalists in Moscow, Skvortsova said: “This question is not that easy. It demands a very thorough study. None of the versions can be ruled out.”

THE CHINA CONSPIRACY Continued



John Cohen

be a *cataclysmic event*. One military and intelligence source supposedly familiar with the report said: “It was briefed multiple times to the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), the Pentagon’s Joint Staff and the White House. The timeline of the intel side of this may be further back than we’re discussing, and that it was something the military needed to take a posture on.”

He added that the NCMI assessment prompted a number of intelligence agencies to start circulating internal bulletins through secure channels to senior management. And that by Thanksgiving (28 November), US intelligence



Scientists at the Wuhan Institute of Virology

chiefs were reporting China’s Government was aware that the virus was “out of control.”

Another former intelligence official who spoke on condition of anonymity, said if the US Intelligence Community had been caught out by the virus, it would have been a “massive intelligence failure on the order of 9/11, but it wasn’t... they had the intelligence.”

Former head of intelligence-related operations for the Department of Homeland Security, John Cohen, also appeared to back claims an NCMI assessment exists, and was critical of

President Trump’s response. “When responding to a public health crisis or any other serious security threat, it is critical that our leaders react quickly and take steps to address the threat identified in the intelligence reporting,” he said. “It’s not surprising to me that the intelligence community detected the outbreak; what is surprising and disappointing is that the White House ignored the clear warning signs, failed to follow established pandemic response protocols and were slow to put in place a government-wide effort to respond to this crisis.” ➤

MI6 CHINA SPY FEARS

BRITISH INTELLIGENCE URGE CHINA RELATIONSHIP RETHINK

Intelligence sources have suggested officials from MI6 and MI5 have met with Government policy drivers, and discussed genuine fears about the UK's future relationship with China, once the COVID-19 pandemic has ended.

The move comes as officials at MI6 and CIA have reportedly conveyed concerns about the number of deaths reported by the Chinese Government and other relevant facts. Beijing initially reported around 3,300 citizens died as a result of catching the virus, while analysts believe the figure is much greater. Now China has revised the figure, but worldwide, most governments remain sceptical.

CIA and MI6 officials agree that China could have been more open about COVID-19 once detected, a view shared by President Trump, who has called the country's leadership "very secretive." He also insisted China had missed an opportunity to warn the world months earlier.

British politician Michael Gove, Minister for the Cabinet Office, is just one of a number of officials to accuse China of attempting to downplay the impact of the virus in Wuhan. "Some of the reporting from China was not clear about the scale and nature of this infectious virus."

SECURING SECRETS

Away from the virus itself, yet still relevant to China and the intelligence world, British



2019. Michael Gove pictured with former US National Security Advisor John Bolton

Intelligence has again warned that tighter controls on strategic industries and the technology sector must be implemented. The Service believes new measures must be introduced to protect intelligence being secured by China's National Intelligence Agency, a massive component of the country's Ministry of State

Security (MSS). MI6 also warned that far more attention should be paid to the Chinese takeover of domestic and international high-end technology companies which could be a cover for future espionage endeavours.

The warnings come just weeks after MI5 and MI6 said they had



Cell phone mast already outfitted with 5G upgrade in Germany

few concerns about allowing Chinese telecommunication company Huawei, help Britain build part of its 5G network (radio mast and antennas). However, intelligence sources believe Prime Minister Boris Johnson is set to review Huawei's role after Britain's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) said it is examining the wider risks that might be posed by US sanctions.

Faced with new calls to block the move, Huawei's UK controller Victor Zhang said excluding the company from a future role would be a mistake and a "dis-service to Britain."

A decision on the UK time-frame of the 5G roll-out is expected later this year, but close to 40 politicians have already raised fears that the move could lead to security breaches and an increase in espionage.



President Trump discusses the Coronavirus at a White House press briefing



British and Turkish troops off-load a cargo flight of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



Mick Mulroy

His views were dismissed and a number of intelligence officials said they were “intended to damage the President’s credibility.”

Former US Deputy Assistant Defense Secretary Mick Mulroy, speaking of the supposed NCMI report said: “It would be a significant alarm that would have been set off

by this. And it would have been something that would have been followed up by literally every intelligence collection agency.”

Of the NCMI’s intelligence used in the alleged report, Mulroy said analysts would have taken into account all medical information, and other sourced intelligence, such as HUMINT, SIGINT and visual and photographic intelligence. “They are taking those pieces of information and then looking at the potential for an international health crisis.”

FAKE NEWS

This was followed by other US media reports which reported agencies such as the CIA may have produced circulars warning of the pandemic in November. However, this too has been denied by NCMI’s head - Colonel R. Shane Day. “As a matter of practice, the National Center for Medical Intelligence does not comment publicly on specific intelligence matters,” he said. “However, in the interest of transparency during this current public health crisis, we can confirm that media



COVID-19 treatment centre at the Imam Khomeini Hospital in Tehran, Iran

INTEL INSIDE NCMI

National Center for Medical Intelligence

America’s National Center for Medical Intelligence (NCMI) is an element of the Defense Intelligence Agency, and headquartered at Fort Detrick, Maryland. Its primary mission is to monitor and detect emerging and current threats to the US population and the impact on government and defence sectors. It is the only organisation in the world with such an intelligence mission and its work is highly valued by all federal agencies.

NCMI can trace its origins to the Office of the Surgeon General of the US Army in World War Two.



US Defense Secretary Mark Esper

reporting about the existence/release of a National Center for Medical Intelligence Coronavirus-related product/assessment in November of 2019 is not correct. No such NCMI product exists.”

THE NOVEMBER ALERT

Several senior US intelligence officials have also contradicted the so-called ‘November Alert’, as some have referred to the report. “State assessments about the outbreak only began to circulate in mid-January,” John Hyten, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff told media houses. “We amongst many received warnings in January 2020.”

And perhaps more importantly, US Defense Secretary Mark Esper, when asked about an alleged intelligence briefing to the National Security Council on the virus in December, he responded: “I’m not aware of that.”



The billboard messaging in Times Square, New York City, has featured thousands of COVID-19 warnings and guidance



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who survived the virus, talks to the media from Downing Street

Neither the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), nor the White House commented on the alert issue, but Eye Spy intelligence and media sources said the existence of an NCMI report, produced in November and circulated thereafter is almost certainly false. Indeed, the first reference to the virus received by the President came on 3 January, and was documented in the White House Daily Brief, just four days after China declared an emergency.

One intelligence man with inside knowledge and connections to numerous government bodies, many who work with relevant agencies, including the United Nations, is former MI6 Chief, Sir John Sawers. He too believes China could have been more transparent and alerted the World Health Organisation much sooner. Sir John said: "There is deep anger in America at what they see as having been inflicted by China. And China is evading a good deal of responsibility



Acting Director of the Office of National Intelligence Richard Grenell

for the origin of the virus... for failing to deal with it initially. Intelligence is about acquiring information which has been concealed from you by other states and actors.

"There was a brief period in December and January when the Chinese were indeed concealing this from the West."

Sir John added it would be best to direct anger at China rather than the United Nations and WHO. ➤



Prior to his post as Chief of MI6, Sir John Sawers (centre) served at Britain's Permanent Representative to the United Nations

PROFESSOR SHI ZHENGLI

DISAPPEARING COMMENTARY & INSIGHT

In recent weeks, much commentary and previously available materials from China's Wuhan Institute of Virology, has disappeared. However, in January, Eye Spy sourced this glowing description of Professor Shi Zhengli from a 2015 report produced by the institute.

'Recently, the Ministry of Education issued a notification, announcing that Professor Zhengli from Wuhan Institute of Virology is approved to enjoy the 2014 Special Government Allowances of the State Council. In addition, she has been awarded as Young and Middle-aged Expert with

Outstanding Contributions of Hubei Province.

'The Special Government Allowance, set by the State Council as a reward to high-level professional and technical personnel and high-skilled talents, showing the care and support from the central government and the State Council to the majority of those personnel and talents, has played a significant role in strengthening and improving the qualified personnel development.

'Focusing on etiology and mechanism of emerging viruses infection, Professor



Shi's studies on isolation and identification of emerging viruses, molecular epidemiology and mechanism of emerging viruses infection have yielded a series of major achievements. She is the principle investigator of the

projects funded by the National Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), publishing 28 papers in international journals as a first/ corresponding author in recent five years'.

NOT MAN-MADE

After weeks of speculation and debate on the theory that COVID-19 was "created by scientific hands" in the Wuhan Institute of Virology, America's Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), agreed with the "wide scientific consensus" that Coronavirus was not "man-made or genetically modified."

A statement read: *'As we do in all crises, the Intelligence Community's (IC) experts respond by surging resources and producing critical intelligence on issues vital to US national security. The IC will continue to rigorously examine emerging information and intelligence to determine whether the outbreak began through contact with infected animals or if it was the result of an accident at a laboratory in Wuhan'.*



The total number of people who have sadly died due to the virus, remains a point of contention with many scientists

ODNI also backed the accepted circumstances that the virus originated in China and that it will continue to investigate.

Officials at the office of French President Emmanuel Macron, also doubted a link exists between the institute and the deliberate

creation of COVID-19. "We would like to make it clear that there is to this day no factual evidence corroborating the information recently circulating that establishes a link between the origins of COVID-19 and the P4 research laboratory in Wuhan."

In 2004, France signed an agreement with China to help establish a laboratory on infectious diseases at the institute

CLOSED DOOR STANCE

Former Director CIA, and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was not so forgiving. He said there "is significant evidence that this came from a laboratory in Wuhan." And, contrary to the ODNI stance, he added: "Look, the best experts so far seem to think it was man-made. I have no reason to disbelieve that



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo participates in a COVID-19 briefing via the Internet



Professor Shi Zhengli

IN THE FIRING LINE



President
Xi Jinping

Germany's foreign intelligence service BND, reportedly issued an advisory to senior officials of a conversation between China's President Xi Jinping, and WHO chief Tedros Ghebreyesus, that took place on 21 January. A line from the report allegedly read: 'Xi Jinping asked Ghebreyesus to hold back information about a human-to-human transmission and to delay a pandemic warning'.

Der Spiegel, which sourced the report said the BND estimates that four to six weeks were lost in the fight against the virus. If the BND findings are correct, this would support widespread intelligence belief the virus is China-centric.

Xi-Jinping dismissed the report and has assembled a special task force to deflect criticism of his country's response to the outbreak of COVID-19. Many dissidents in China have been purged from speaking about Beijing's handling of the situation, including its stance on not cooperating with other nations.

FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE

ITALIAN MEDIA CLAIM GRU OFFICERS AMONGST AID WORKERS DESPATCHED BY THE KREMLIN



Italian media claimed that a 104-strong group of Russian doctors, consultants and chemical and biological specialists despatched by Moscow to help Italy tackle its coronavirus outbreak, also included several GRU intelligence officers. The team worked alongside Italian doctors and nurses and were based in Begramo, the epi-centre of the virus outbreak.



Part of the Russian aid convoy

One former NATO chemical weapons expert supported the allegation. "Without a doubt, there are GRU officers among them," said Hamish De Bretton-Gordon, a retired British Army officer and former head of the UK's Joint Chemical Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Regiment and NATO's Rapid Reaction CBRN Battalion. "We can assume that they will want to find out as much about Italian forces as possible and establish intelligence networks."

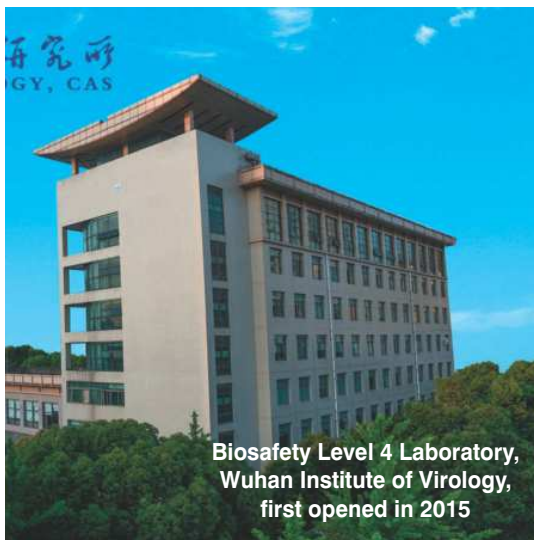


Hamish De Bretton-Gordon

Sergio Germani, Director of Rome-based think-tank, Gino Germani Institute for Social Sciences and Strategic Studies, called Russia's aid to Italy and other countries, including America, "half-intelligence [operation] and half propaganda." Germani, a Russian specialist, said Moscow used the COVID-19 outbreak to, "strengthen anti-European feelings, make propaganda gains and gather intelligence at the heart of NATO."

De-Bretton's words ignited a major spat between the countries; a defence official at the Russian Embassy in Rome condemned the reports, calling them "Russophobic Cold War fake news." *La Stampa* was singled out as the main newspaper responsible for the spy allegation. A Russian spokesperson accused the media house of "hiding behind the ideals of free speech to spread bogus stories reminiscent of anti-Soviet propaganda."

Defence Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova also dismissed the reports calling them "defamatory." She noted the first Russian aid convoy was met with "applause and cheers" when it arrived in the north of Italy.



Biosafety Level 4 Laboratory,
Wuhan Institute of Virology,
first opened in 2015



US Cyber Command Operations Center, Fort Meade, Maryland

at this point.” Pompeo also claimed “China has a history of infecting the world,” referencing poor cleaning and security procedures. He also commented on the 2002 SARS outbreak, noting it too “originated in China.” Strangely, after being reminded of what the ODNI had said, he told reporters, “that’s right, I agree with that.”

Just hours after the ODNI statement was issued, President Trump was asked by a reporter: “Have you seen anything at this point that gives you a high degree of confidence than the Wuhan Institute of Virology was the origin of this virus?” The President responded: “Yes... yes I have. And I think the World Health Organisation should be ashamed of themselves because they’re like the public relations office for China.”

Journalists at the briefing asked for clarity, but the President replied he could not comment, adding, “I’m not allowed to tell you that,” suggesting the instruction had come directly from US Intelligence. “Whether they [China] made a mistake, or whether it started off a mistake and then they made another one, or did somebody do something on purpose?” He had earlier said the possibility that “man was behind the virus makes sense.”



RAF personnel deliver medical supplies to the Caribbean

Some serving and former US intelligence officers have also cited unverified reports that between 7 and 24 October 2019, there was virtually no cell phone usage at the institute, suggesting a major incident had occurred. Described as an “anomaly” it is understood the data is being examined by various intelligence agencies, including the NSA.

All of this served to confuse and develop more conspiracy theories that Wuhan scientists were working on a bioweapon. However, scientific opinion is divided. British Professor David Robertson, head of viral genomics and bioinformatics at the University of Glasgow, speaking to the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee, said it was “unlikely.” His views were not shared by Australian Professor Nikolai Petrovsky, a virus specialist. He said it is so “perfectly adapted to infect humans that the possibility it was made in a Chinese laboratory can’t be ignored.”

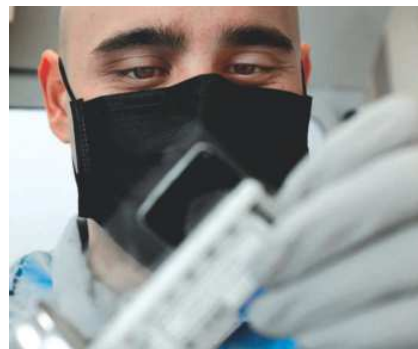
COVID-19 MANUFACTURED?

The comments of another high-profile intelligence man, which cannot be ignored, were made by Sir Richard Dearlove, former Chief of MI6 in early June. After reading a report produced by Professor Angus

Dalgleish, University of London, and Norwegian virologist Birger Sorensen, which claimed the virus was manufactured in a laboratory, he said: “I do not think this started as an accident.” He suggested scientists in Wuhan could have been in the process of conducting research on bats when the virus accidentally escaped. An earlier version of

CYBER OPERATIONS CENTER

May 2020 marked the second anniversary of US Cyber Command since it was elevated to a unified combat command. The organisation has reported numerous attempts by hackers targeting scientific and medical institutions, many based in China, to secure information on research into the virus



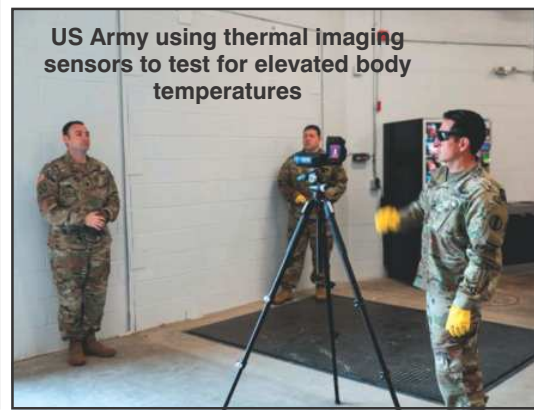
the report contained a line that ‘*beyond all reasonable doubt the COVID-19 virus is engineered*’.

THE CHINA DOSSIER

Away from the global conspiracy platform and countless theories, one fact is evident: many intelligence organisations believe the virus was under investigation at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, and that its spread or release was due to an accidental laboratory escape.

Several Western media houses have cited a 15-page overview of the ‘*outbreak point*’, allegedly produced by the Five Eyes intelligence collaboration (USA, UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand communications’ and listening agencies).

Much reference is on the virology institute, and its senior research scientist Shi Zhengli. A question raised in the report is ‘*what happens if China lost control of a dangerous sample*’ and how it would be concealed. It goes on to say Beijing was ‘*engaged in suppression and destruction of evidence*’. The report adds: ‘*Millions of people leave Wuhan after the outbreak and before Beijing locks down the*





Sir Richard Dearlove

city on January 23. Thousands fly overseas. Throughout February, Beijing presses the US, Italy, India, Australia, Southeast Asian neighbours and others not to protect themselves via travel restrictions, even as the PRC (People's Republic of China) imposes severe restrictions at home'.

The report's authors, are also scathing of the subsequent attempt to conceal the extreme seriousness of the virus: 'Despite evidence of human-to-human transmission from early December, PRC authorities deny it until January 20'.

It is likely this report, though unconfirmed, was the stimuli behind President Trump's and Mike Pompeo's comments.

Despite the evidence, from within China and collected by the intelligence world, Beijing claims the virus could not have escaped from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, or any other laboratory contained within the complex. However, officials from the WHO and other organisations wanting to engage with the Chinese to uncover the truth, have not yet been allowed access to data, or travel permits to question those who may provide answers, including key staffers at the institute such as Shi Zhengli. Similarly, the Chinese have not provided WHO with samples taken from animals months ago from the Wuhan market which many scientists believe is central to the outbreak.



US Integrated Cyber Center

Pompeo too criticised China's "closed door stance," noting that censorship has damaged opportunities to shed light on the outbreak. "We've seen journalists kicked out, medical professionals silenced, and they have removed scientific research papers previously published on the web."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Despite numerous claims and theories made by those who work in the intelligence community, including the origin of the virus, how it evolved, and the gross under-reporting of its deadly impact on Humanity, the intelligence world has been shaken. Most sources and intelligence people we have

engaged, all believe the truth lies in Wuhan - more specifically the Virology Institute. Have certain truths been concealed? Without doubt.

Several intelligence agencies have also confirmed that undoubtedly, some countries have used this catastrophic worldwide event as cover to launch all manner of intelligence operations, including cyber attacks. Many are already coming to light and being investigated.

Last word should go to the widely travelled former MI6 Chief Sir John Sawers... "the world will not be the same after the virus as it was before."



Following all manner of attempted cyber incursions from overseas countries, the United States Department of Defense, has joined others in the intelligence community, ordering all its employees and contractors not to use Zoom, a popular free video conferencing application for official business. The action was taken due to authentic concerns that foreign intelligence agencies have attempted to use the software to collect intelligence. The order applies to certain devices such as cell phones and computers.

Fearful that information, even within general conversation could be targeted, US security officials decided to act and circulated a worldwide advisory.

Pentagon spokesman Lt. Colonel Robert Carver (US Air Force) issued the official statement, but added that Pentagon employees could still utilise Zoom for their personal use. "The department requires our workforce only use DOD-approved platforms when conducting official business," said Carver.

The Pentagon announcement followed quickly behind a directive issued by the US Senate advising its members to refrain from using Zoom for Congressional business.

Zoom video conferencing software, owned by Zoom Video Communications, Inc., a NASDAQ-trading software firm headquartered

Continued on Page 82

THE THREAT MANAGERS



Ken
McCallum



MI5 headquarters, Thames House, London

NEW MI5 DIRECTOR-GENERAL APPOINTED

Britain's Security Service has chosen one of the country's most experienced counter-terrorism officers to head the organisation following the retirement of Sir Andrew Parker in April.

Britain's Home Secretary, Priti Patel, announced Glasgow-born Ken McCallum, who has spent 25-years in service with MI5, has been appointed Director-General. According to MI5, it was McCallum who headed the investigation and intelligence response, following the attempted assassination of former GRU officer and MI6 agent, Sergei Skripal in Salisbury, UK, 2018. His briefings with colleagues in foreign agencies ultimately led to the expulsion of hundreds of Russian intelligence officers from numerous countries.

CAREER

McCallum spent a decade in charge of the Service's Northern Ireland Desk and helped broker peace in the country following decades of violence involving terrorist organisations, known as the 'Troubles'. By 2012, he oversaw most counter-terrorist operations in the UK and played a pivotal role in risk management, this as Britain hosted the London Summer Olympics. Confronting a plethora of authentic

threats from groups such as al-Qaida, McCallum introduced a number of protective measures which included deploying surface-to-air missile batteries to shield the Games from aerial threats.

A short break then ensued which saw the officer seconded to the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills. After his return to MI5, he continued to retain links with external bodies, serving as a Non-Executive Director on the board of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

In 2015, he was chosen to serve as Director General [of] Strategy helping to introduce new legislation and cement liaisons with the Service's partner intelligence agencies MI6 and GCHQ. Two years later McCallum was appointed Deputy Director-General, responsible for overseeing operations and investigations, which included heading the Service's response in respect of the 2017 London terrorist attacks. Thereafter he examined new cooperative methods in which MI5 worked with established, new and emerging partners.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Intelligence sources believe McCallum has expressed an interest in working with external



Sir Andrew Parker

technology bodies in using artificial intelligence to help counter a wide range of threats, including those posed by foreign spy agencies, hostile states and terrorists, including Right Wing extremists. Funds have already been secured to help the Service develop its Technology Division.

A decade ago, McCallum was reportedly responsible for MI5's cyber activities, hence his concern about the dangers posed by those intent on cyber warfare. Sources believe he is



Ken McCallum is the youngest officer to serve as MI5 Director-General

particularly focused on China. How this will impact of the UK's decision to allow Chinese technology giant Huawei to engage in aspects of Britain's 5G network is unclear.

Speaking of his appointment, McCallum said: "MI5's purpose is hugely motivating. Our people - with our partners - strive to keep the country safe, and they always want to go the extra mile. Having devoted my working life to that team effort, it is a huge privilege now to be asked to lead it as Director-General."

Sir Andrew Parker, 57, who served as Director-General for six years, welcomed the appointment: "Ken will make an outstanding Director-General. He's the right person to take MI5 forward and is already leading work to shape its future. He brings a wealth of leadership and national security expertise to the role, which is all the more important today as MI5 and the country deals with the impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic."

Home Secretary Patel, thanked Sir Andrew for his "dedication and commitment through a challenging period which saw the threat to the UK evolve rapidly." In respect of McCallum, Patel said: "I have worked with Ken and I'm

2012. Rapier missile system at Blackheath Common, London. The system was deployed to counter any aerial threat to the Olympic Games



The van used in the 2017 London terrorist attack

delighted to appoint him as Director-General. We are facing unprecedented national security threats and I'm confident that his experience and vision will allow the UK to meet those challenges head on."

Ken McCallum, a mathematician and former civil servant in his early 40s, is MI5's eighteenth Director-General.

LINKS: www.mi5.gov.uk

WATCHING AN 'UNSEEN' ENEMY

CT SPECIALIST TO HEAD BIOSECURITY CENTRE

Another vastly experienced intelligence officer and Director General of Britain's Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism (OSCT), Tom Hurd, 54, has been asked to head the UK's new Biosecurity Centre, which will monitor and analyse the on-going dangers posed by the COVID-19 virus.

Mr Hurd, the son of former Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, is a Middle East special-

ist, and one of three favoured intelligence people to take over as Chief of MI6, following the departure of Sir Alex Younger.

His appointment followed Prime Minister Boris Johnson's address that the UK was establishing "a new Covid alert system run by a new Joint Biosecurity Centre," as part of a "road map out of lockdown." The centre will calculate the alert level based on an array of



Tom Hurd

data, and advise officials on the correct response.

Eye Spy was told Mr Hurd's appointment is temporary, leading to further speculation

about the vacant MI6 Chief position. Also relevant, Dame Karen Pierce, another favourite for 'C', has been appointed the new UK Ambassador to the USA.

COUNTER-MEASURE OR INTERNAL FEUD?

SPY CATCHER

ASSASSINATED



Ali Mohammed Younes

Other sources believe that he was stabbed to make the killing look like an unprofessional sanction, while some news commentators believe Younes was killed following a falling out with colleagues over financial matters.

MOSSAD REFERENCED BY SOURCES

Hezbollah commander and Israeli spy hunter Ali Mohammed Younes, has been killed in a carefully prepared ambush near Nabatieh, Lebanon. Younes, a close associate of recently killed Quds Force leader Qassem Soleimani, was surrounded by men driving three vehicles and shot, before being “unnecessarily” stabbed. An associate with Younes at the scene, was injured but not killed.

According to Middle East sources, he was preparing a highly sensitive report which identified several Mossad collaborators leading to speculation that the Israeli intelligence service was responsible. However, this has been rejected by a number of senior editors, including Ali Al-Amin (left) of the anti-

Hezbollah website Janoubia News. He believes the manner of the killing does not reflect the work of Mossad, noting the police have detained one suspect.

Al-Amin said: “Hezbollah described Younes as a martyr, which means Mossad was behind his death. The area where he was killed is open and no Israeli agent could have carried out an assassination and hide so easily. Most likely this was an internal problem. Mossad had nothing to do with it.”

The incident follows the assassination of Anton Hayek, an aide to Amer al-Fakhouri, an alleged Israeli operative who had links to anti-Hezbollah groups and was exfiltrated out of the country by US military operatives.

This operation was condemned by Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah who said the action was a “clear violation of Lebanon’s sovereignty.” Hezbollah has not issued an official statement on the Younes incident.



Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah with Iran Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and former Quds Force commander Qassem Soleimani who was killed following a US military strike in Iraq in January



Esmail Ghaani

FAKE INTELLIGENCE?

As Qassem Soleimani's successor, Esmail Ghaani, head of Iran's Quds Force arrived in Iraq to take over his duties, President Trump accused Iran or one of its many proxies, of "planning new attacks" on US forces in the region. Trump tweeted: *'If this happens they will pay a heavy price indeed'*. Trump said any approaching Iranian gunboats that harass shipping or show menace will be destroyed.

In May, several B-52s were despatched to the Gulf after Pentagon officials said there were "clear indications" of threats to US forces and commercial shipping.

The US Maritime Administration (MARAD), also warned of an increased threat. A report from the threat advisory read: *'Iran or its proxies could respond by targeting commercial vessels, including oil tankers, or US military vessels in the Red Sea, Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, or the Persian Gulf. Reports [intelligence] indicate heightened Iranian readiness to conduct offensive operations against US forces or interests'*.

The new alerts follow a further tightening of sanctions on Iran by Washington, which eliminated waivers that has allowed some countries to buy Iranian oil. The US goal is to reduce Iranian oil sales to zero. Tehran said the new US security measures and warnings were all based on "fake intelligence and propaganda."



Gulf of Oman. The USS Normandy is just one of several military vessels providing security to traversing commercial ships

COVID-19 RESEARCH

GCHQ WARNS RESEARCH FACILITIES OVER HOSTILE STATE CYBER ACTIONS

Britain's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), a component of GCHQ, has issued a cyber attack warning to scientific institutes and universities involved with research into antibody tests and a possible vaccine for COVID-19.

While general cyber hacking attacks have remained constant over the past few months, hacking attempts linked to China, Russia and Iran, and focussed specifically on the virus, have increased.

"Any attack against efforts to combat the Coronavirus is utterly reprehensible, an NCSC spokesman said. "We have seen an increased proportion of cyber attacks related to Coronavirus and our experts work around the clock to help organisations targeted."

One leading research facility referenced by many media houses as being at the forefront of COVID-19 research and a vaccine, the University of Oxford, is being shielded and guided by NCSC. "Oxford University is working closely with NCSC to ensure our COVID-19 research has the best possible cyber security and protection," a university spokesperson said. AstraZeneca, the Cambridge-based pharmaceutical giant, is also working with the university to manufacture and distribute the vaccine if clinical trials in India prove successful.

Head of cyber security at the Royal United Services Institute and former National Crime Agency (NCA), cyber analyst James Sullivan,



NCSC Director Ciaran Martin



GCHQ Director Jeremy Fleming

said the pandemic had created an increase in hostile state cyber activity. "It is a new opportunity for intelligence gathering and disruption. We have seen the same with disinformation campaigns and cyber espionage. It is no surprise this is happening in an area such as the development of a vaccine."

In June, GCHQ was given access and oversight of the National Health Service network, in a move to help bolster security and protect the service from cyber attacks.

COVID-19 - NEW CHALLENGES

Speaking at the annual Cheltenham Science Festival which was streamed free between 2-7 June 2020, due to the Coronavirus, GCHQ Director Jeremy Fleming gave exclusive insights into the challenges posed to national security. "Whether it's states or criminals, they are going after things which are pretty sensitive to us. It's a high priority for us to protect the health sector." Fleming did not name China, who he described as an "adversary," as a lead entity involved with the Coronavirus cyber attacks, but sources believe GCHQ has discovered many of the probes were launched from locations in China.

"With the spread of Coronavirus globally, millions have turned to the Internet to support their day-to-day activities," he said. "An increasingly digital world brings huge opportunity for us all, but it also leaves us vulnerable to potential sources of harm, ranging from malicious emails to sophisticated cyberattacks. And all the while we continue to face traditional threats from hostile states, terrorists and serious criminals."

THE DOWNING OF MH17



SENIOR FSB INTELLIGENCE OFFICER LINKED TO SHOOTDOWN

The trial in absentia of four men accused of direct involvement in the downing of Malaysian Airlines Flight 17 in 2014 over eastern Ukraine, has been suspended to give defence solicitors more time to prepare after investigative platforms linked a senior FSB officer to the incident

In November 2019, Dutch investigators and court prosecutors released several relevant and intercepted phone calls made just prior to and after the incident, asking that persons who recognised the callers provide information. One man, described as a "key player" was named as 'Vladimir Ivanovich'. Since then, investigative web sites Bellingcat and The Insider claim that he is in fact Colonel General Andrei Burlaka, an FSB intelligence officer who also held the position of First Deputy in the Border Service, and was in touch with the 'attack team'.

Just as important, BBC News Russian also had the audio tapes professionally analysed and came up with the same result - Ivanovich is Burlaka. This was reportedly confirmed by a serving "secret service intelligence" officer, according to the media house.

Investigators allege Burlaka liaised with separatist militia leaders, who had control over the Buk surface-to-air missile system used to bring down MH17. This machinery was secretly provided by an element of the Russian Army - the 53rd Anti-Air Brigade based in Kursk, Russia.

Bellingcat and The Insider say they identified Ivanovich's true identity by searching through telephone and cell records, as well as travel and voice-comparison data.

A Bellingcat operator said: "This FSB general is the highest-ranking Russian official identified as a 'person of interest' in the criminal investigation. Burlaka was in a crucial position to supervise the movement of weapons from Russia to Ukraine, and thus would have had to authorise the transfer of the



**Colonel General Andrei Burlaka
A.k.a. Vladimir Ivanovich**

Russian BUK missile launcher that shot down MH17 after crossing the border."

When a BBC journalist confronted President Putin's Press Secretary, Dmitri Peskov, and the identification, he replied: "We do not know what you are talking about." Eye Spy was told



**JIT Coordinator and
Chief Prosecutor Fred
Westerbeke discusses
the shootdown**



**The trial is being held at
the Judicial Complex**



Investigators recover parts of the aircraft from the crash site in eastern Ukraine



Investigators carefully recovered the front fuselage debris and painstakingly reconstructed the parts. Once assembled, the evidence showed the airliner had suffered catastrophic damage from a missile exploding outside the aircraft - note metal curvature inwards (circled)

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

PLUS 250 ASSOCIATED LONDON INTELLIGENCE SITES

THE ULTIMATE SPY SITES TRAVEL GUIDE OF LONDON



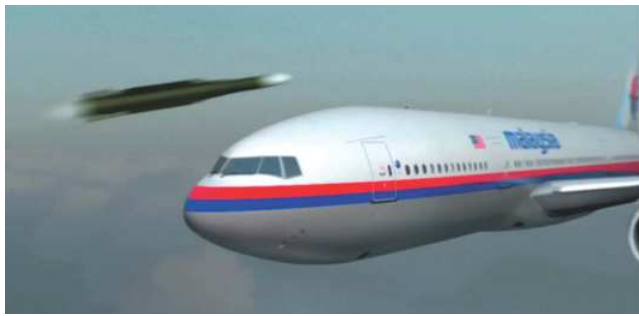
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Stills from the JIT video showing the missile exploding near MH17's cockpit. The aircraft was flying at 10,000ft when it was struck

after the shootdown, Burlaka, who graduated from the FSB Academy in 1995, received the Hero of Russia medal.

THE TRIAL

In respect of the four men officially named by the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) - Igor Girkin, Sergey Dubinskiy and Oleg Pulatov, as well as Ukrainian Leonid Kharchenko, all will stand trial for murder. However, their whereabouts are unknown, but all are believed to be in Russia. In May, Girkin said he took "moral responsibility" for the action. Dutch prosecutors claim the men "obtained and deployed the BUK TELAR system at the firing location with the aim of shooting down an aircraft." Kharchenko is alleged to have headed the combat unit in the Donetsk region of Ukraine and received direct orders from Dubinsky, a GRU (military intelligence) officer.

The trial of the suspects, all of whom have military links, is taking place near Schiphol, at the judicial complex, close to Amsterdam Airport from where MH17 departed on 14 July 2014 en-route to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The case is most complex, made more so because the suspects can't be questioned. However, Pulatov's solicitor said his client was not involved in the incident, and argued that he needed more time to prepare a defence. The Dutch court agreed, hence the suspension of proceedings.



PRIME SUSPECTS: Clockwise from top left: Leonid Kharchenko, Oleg Pulatov, Sergey Dubinskiy and Igor Girkin

Russia has denied involvement in the attack and said the investigation is "prejudiced against Moscow." Kremlin Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova, accused several nations of "putting pressure on the Dutch court," using "friendly media." Her concerns were dismissed internationally. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said: "We have the utmost confidence in the Dutch legal system to establish the truth and to do justice in this case. We support the ongoing investigatory work of the Joint Investigation Team comprised of the Netherlands, Australia, Belgium, Malaysia, and Ukraine. We again urge Russia to cease its continuing aggressive and destabilising activities in Ukraine."

Just as relevant to the case, the Dutch court ruled that statements made by witnesses (threatened if they give evidence) can be heard. Eye Spy understands thirteen people have come forward to provide crucial evidence against the defendants.

The Boeing 777 was flying at 10,000ft when it was struck by a missile killing all 298 on board. Nearly 200 of those who perished were Dutch nationals.

- Ukraine's intelligence service were the first agency to publicly blame Russia for the attack, supported by the CIA and MI6. This stance has been adopted by the Dutch Safety Board and the JIT, after examining a plethora of evidence. Russia continues to refute such conclusions.



INTELLIGENCE & SPACE

US Space Launch Successes as COVID-19 Impacts Other Secret Spy Satellite Launches Around the World

The newly established US Space Force has overseen its first successful launch of a military satellite, this after a short delay in the countdown. Incorrect readings on hydraulic equipment had

stopped the clock for 80 minutes. Once resolved by technicians from United Launch Alliance (ULA), which operate the Atlas 5 rocket, the \$1.4bn Advanced Extremely High Frequency (AEHF-6) communications satellite was launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida, and placed in orbit 22,000 miles above the Earth. It is the sixth and final satellite of the AEHF constellation to be launched.

Some intelligence watchers believed the COVID-19 virus outbreak could have impacted on the operation, as has been the case with other launches, but Lieutenant General John Thompson, Commander of the Space and Missiles Systems Center in California, said: "It is a really, really important launch. There are critical things, or mission essential things, that the US Department of Defense does every day. Even in the face of a global pandemic we must continue to perform mission essential tasks."

"The satellite supports the President and other world leaders with critical communications around the planet. This launch extends that communication into a timeframe beyond 2030."

The satellite, built by Lockheed Martin, carried an array of new communications technology that is intended to provide secure voice and



Lieutenant General John Thompson



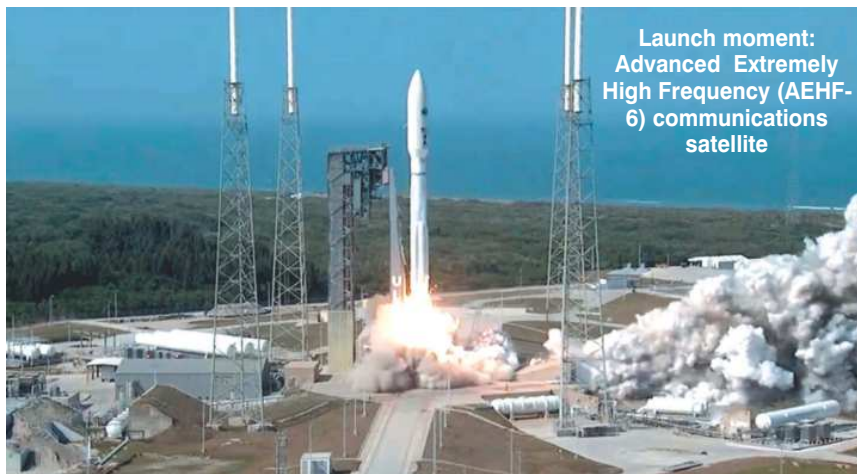
data connections for various US Government services, including intelligence and security agencies. Similarly, it will support live video conferencing from the United States to overseas allies and military command centres.

A Lockheed statement read: 'It is designed to provide survivable, protected communications capabilities for national leaders and tactical warfighters operating across ground, sea and air platforms. The anti-jam system also serves international allies to include Canada, the Netherlands, United Kingdom and Australia'.

Main: America's "mysterious" and secret - the X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle



En-route to Space: Advanced Extremely High Frequency (AEHF-6) communications satellite



Launch moment:
Advanced Extremely
High Frequency (AEHF-
6) communications
satellite



Gary Wentz Jr., United Launch Alliance (ULA) Vice President of Government and Commercial Programmes, and former senior executive at NASA said: "We are proud to launch the first National Security Space mission for the US Space Force and look forward to delivering the final AEHF asset to support our nation's national defence and the warfighter community."

THE SECRET SPACE PLANE

A far more secret launch took place on 17 May. Described as "mysterious" by many space watchers, the X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle (OTV-6) space plane was carried into orbit by an Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.

After its mission, the unmanned re-usable spacecraft glides back to Earth and lands like a normal aircraft. First launched a decade ago, the USAF operate two such spacecraft, but officials are naturally reticent to disclose details. The latest launch was shrouded in secrecy. United Launch Alliance CEO Tory Bruno said: "It's a classified mission..."



Gary Wentz Jr.

therefore we have to stop the live broadcast so that we do not make it easy for our adversaries to figure those things out regarding flight and deployment."

The launch was the X-37B's sixth mission and officials have revealed several NASA experiments will be performed onboard. The OTV will also launch a small FalconSat-8 satellite.

On the side of the Atlas rocket, a Poignant message read: *'In memory of COVID-19 victims and tribute to all first responders and frontline workers... America Strong'.*

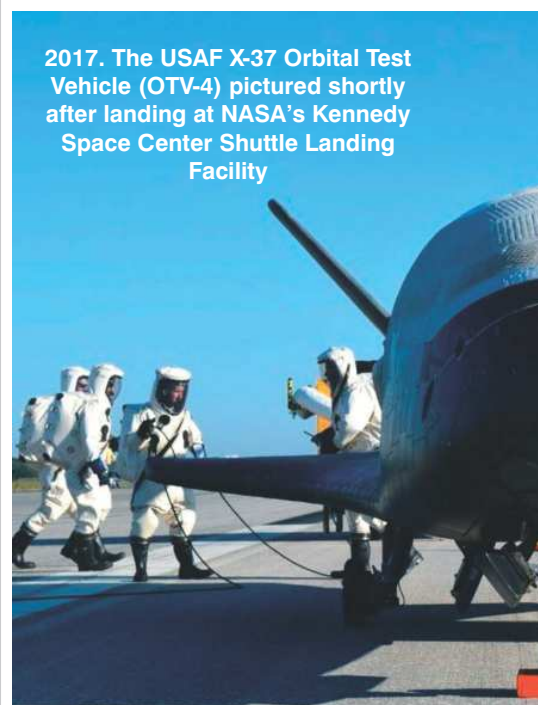
Former USAF Secretary Heather Wilson who resigned last year, commenting on the OTV, revealed its orbiting potential is unusual, noting that the craft can turn unseen. "This drives our adversaries nuts," she said. For the



Heather
Wilson



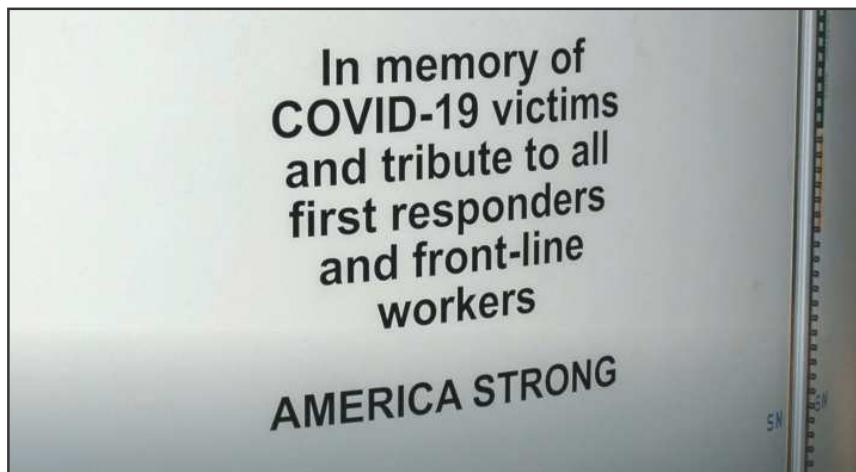
US Space Force Chief of
Space Operations
General John Raymond



2017. The USAF X-37 Orbital Test
Vehicle (OTV-4) pictured shortly
after landing at NASA's Kennedy
Space Center Shuttle Landing
Facility



Launch: X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle (OTV-6)



record, intelligence sources claim she opposed the establishment of US Space Force as an independent stand-alone intelligence/military organisation which upset President Trump.

The previous X-37B (OTV-5) mission ended last October, after the space plane spent a record 780 days in space. All such missions are now overseen by the US Space Force and highly classified.

COVID-19 IMPACT

Other space launches have not been so fortunate. An April-scheduled GPS satellite launch will now go "no earlier than 30 June to minimise the potential of COVID-19 exposure to the launch crew and early-orbit operators," the Space and Missile Systems Center said.

Rocket Lab also postponed the launch of three other US spy satellites from New Zealand,



Early artist's conception of X-37 showing its glide capabilities

C4ISRNET reported. A National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) satellite launch scheduled for June has been delayed until late August.

RUSSIA AND CHINA

Meanwhile Russia and China too continue to launch military rockets and test space weapons amid the Coronavirus pandemic.

Speaking to the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies, US Space Force Vice Commander Lt. General David Thompson said: "Unfortunately in the case of the Russians, their increasing penchant for unsafe and what I would consider unacceptable behavior in space has not slowed down. I can't tell you what they're doing with their crews and their individuals, but based on their macro-level



X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle (OTV-6), is readied for take off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida. Inset: United Launch Alliance CEO Tory Bruno



The re-usable X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle (OTV-5) returns after spending a record 780 days in orbit



US Space Force Vice Commander Lt. General David Thompson

activities, their cadence has certainly not slowed down."

Intelligence officials believe Russia tested a satellite 'killing missile' in April, attracting the attention of various intelligence agencies. One Pentagon official warned, "the missile system is capable of destroying satellites in low Earth orbit."



6 May 2020. X-37B (OTV-7) pictured inside fairing and readied for its journey into space

US Space Command recently criticised Russia for placing two satellites close to American satellites. "These satellites, which behaved similar to previous Russian satellites that exhibited characteristics of a space weapon, conducted manoeuvres near a US Government satellite that would be interpreted as irresponsible and potentially threatening in any other domain," a Space Command spokesman said. (See Eye Spy 127)

LAUNCH DANGERS

Also in April, a Russian rocket carrying a telescope disintegrated shortly after launch, leaving behind a debris field that now threatens other satellites orbiting Earth. In the same month, US Intelligence secured details of a Chinese rocket carrying an Indonesian satellite which failed to reach orbit.

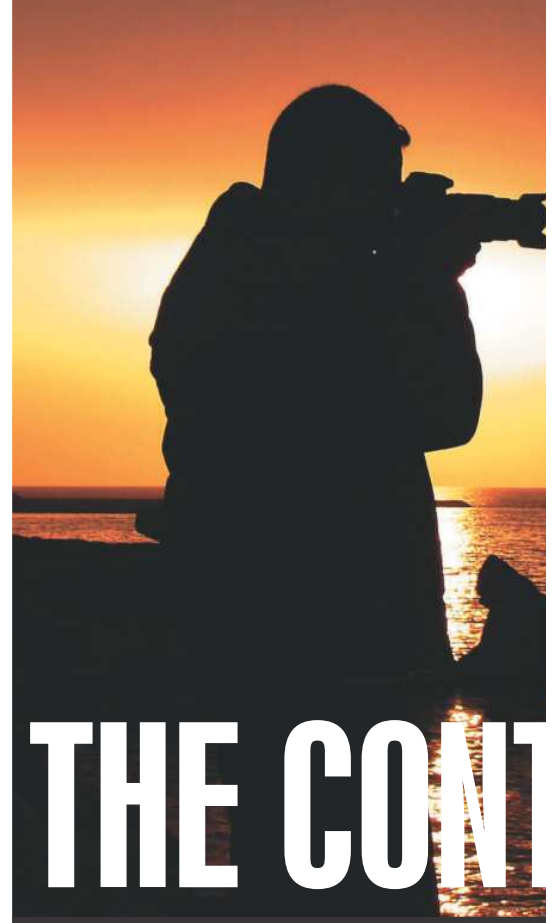
Signed into US law in December 2019, as a separate intelligence and security arm, the US Space Force will eventually handle all relevant space activities previously carried out by branches such as the US Air Force. The latest launches have been described as "a pivotal moment," in the organisation's evolution.

US ASTRONAUTS RETURN TO SPACE

On 3 June 2020, a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft carried the first US astronauts into space in nearly a decade. Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley lifted off from Launch Complex 39A, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida, for an extended stay on the International Space Station.



Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley



THE CONT

Intelligence Man Who Disappeared 13-Years Ago Proclaimed Dead

Following a legal ruling in America that stated Iran was responsible for the kidnap and torture of former FBI officer and CIA contractor Robert Levinson (See Eye Spy 127), US officials have now told his family that he is dead.

Levinson, a specialist in organised Russian crime who disappeared on the Iranian island of Kish in March 2007, was allegedly investigating oil profiteering, and almost certainly detained by Iran's intelligence service MOIS. Days later, President Bush said he was "disturbed" by Iran's refusal to provide information, and called upon Tehran to reveal his status.

In the years that followed, all manner of rumours and conspiracy theories surfaced, leading some to claim he had actually been working for the CIA on an unspecified, but rogue mission. This was reported in serious mainstream media by the Associated Press in 2013. For its part, Iran carefully created a story that he had been taken by a terrorist group, thereafter releasing imagery of the American in an orange jump suit reminiscent of those worn by Guantanamo Bay detainees.



CIA and FBI Hold Iranian Intelligence Responsible for Death of Robert Levinson

TRACTOR

UP TO \$20 MILLION REWARD FOR INFORMATION

Robert A. "Bob" Levinson, a retired FBI Special Agent, went missing during a business trip to Kish Island, Iran on March 9, 2007. Levinson retired from the FBI in 1998 and worked as a private investigator following his retirement. Since Levinson's disappearance, his whereabouts, well-being, and the circumstances surrounding his disappearance have been unknown.

Reward for Justice is offering a reward of up to \$20,000,000 for information leading to the safe location, recovery, and return of Robert A. Levinson. Absolute confidentiality is assured and relocation may be available. If you have information, please contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate, the FBI, or email info@rewardforjustice.net.

Reward for Justice • 1-800-USA-REWARD • Washington, D.C. 20533-0803 USA
www.rewardforjustice.net • @rewardforjustice

Since then, other official documents sourced in Iran have come to light, including one which states Levinson was using the cover of a tourist, whilst gathering information. Another states he was arrested by MOIS.

CIA LINK

There are also reports that a number of CIA officers linked to Levinson's disappearance have been disciplined, and at least three removed from office for "running an operation without proper authority." His family allegedly received a \$2.5 million payout from the CIA in order that his covert work for US Intelligence remain secret, this as Agency officials feared a lawsuit.

His family has now released a statement: "We recently received information from US officials that has led both them and us to conclude that our wonderful husband and father died while in Iranian custody. We don't know when and how he died, only that it was prior to the COVID-19 pandemic."

FBI Director Christopher Wray, also issued a statement to Bureau personnel which was shared with the public.

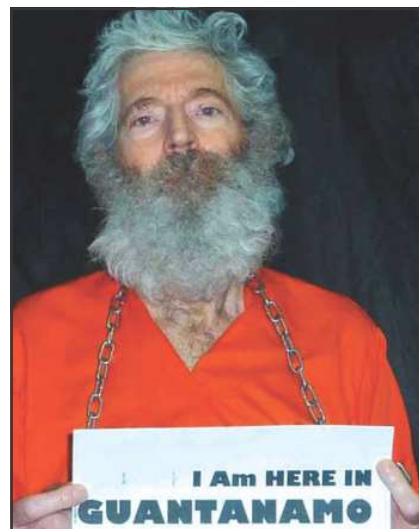
FBI STATEMENT

'Along with some of our interagency partners, I recently had the opportunity to meet again with Bob's family. I listened to the family talk about Bob, and most importantly, how they've always held out hope that Bob would one day come home. So has the FBI. Ever since Bob's disappearance from Kish Island in Iran in 2007, countless personnel - from agents, to analysts, to professional staff - all across the FBI, especially the Washington Field Office, have worked tirelessly to bring Bob home and provide answers to his family. And to get answers for ourselves.

'When I met with the Levinson family, we explained that the most credible evidence we have collected over the past 13-years points to the likelihood that Bob died in captivity. It



2012. Levinson's wife, Christine, pictured with former FBI Director Robert Mueller (right) at a news conference



One of several images released by his supposed captors was almost certainly created by Iran's MOIS to give the impression he had been abducted by a terrorist outfit

pained me to deliver that news, but I believe that we owed Bob's family a thorough and candid presentation of the information that we've collected.

'This does not mean that the FBI has given up on finding out what happened to Bob. We're going to keep working doggedly to determine the circumstances surrounding Bob's abduction and his time in captivity, to find the answers we all want and that the Levinsons deserve. We won't give up, because we don't give up on family, and Bob, his wife Christine, and all of their children will always be part of our FBI family.

In late May, discussing the case, former FBI Assistant Director Steven Pomerantz, a terrorism specialist who served with the Bureau for 27-years, said the affair "exposes the foolishness of trusting the Iranian regime."

MI5'S LECONFIELD HOUSE HQ



MI5 Director-General Roger Hollis



THE HOUSE OF SPIES AND TALES

Hotel Plans for Legendary Building

Property entrepreneur Robert Tchenguiz, has revealed plans to renovate and transform Leconfield House, the former headquarters of Britain's Security Service - MI5. Situated in the Mayfair district of London, the building will host a luxury 65 bedroom hotel, basement spa, wellness centre and private members' club. Atop the building, under a glass dome, a high-end restaurant will give diners a feel they are eating outside. A consultation document said it was to compete with the best five-star hotels in London.

The iconic building, built in 1939, and used by MI5 from 1945 to 1976, hosted some of Britain's best known and most notorious spies and traitors. Peter Wright of *Spycatcher* fame worked here and spent a good deal of time pondering if the building's most important worker - MI5 Director-General Roger Hollis was KGB; while in other offices, Kim Philby did all he could to persuade his interrogators he was not a KGB spy. And he did.

Many officers disliked the premises; former Director-General Stella Rimington on her arrival in 1969, commented that it was "dreadfully dirty and run-down" and had not "been painted in an age..."

In one of her books she said that on her first day working in the building, "some staffers opened their desks at mid-day, produced exquisite cut glasses and bottles of superior sherry, and partook in an elegant pre-lunch drink."

Of historical significance, the basement held the extremely important MI5 Registry which contained the names and case files of tens of thousands of persons of interest. Interestingly,



Dame Stella Rimington



MI5 officer Kim Philby (far right) celebrates with journalists after he successfully deflected accusations that he was a KGB spy

when it was first built, Leconfield House sported port hole-type windows - machine gun posts - directed towards Hyde Park where German paratroopers were expected to land should Hitler visit London.

It did have its own staff bar called the '*Pig and Eye*', though most officers still chose to use a plethora of famous pubs nearby.

Interestingly, when MI5 moved to its current headquarters at Thames House, all manner of rumours and speculation circulated that the bar/club "reopened" in the new premises - and the name was retained. However, because the location also hosted the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre, used by police, and fearful the name 'pig' was a derogatory reference to them, the name was changed to the '*Eye Club*'.

HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

KRYPTOS

SECRET SIGNALS, HIDDEN MARKERS, MASKED MEANINGS, GESTURES, CODES AND COVERT COMMUNICATIONS

Readers of Eye Spy tradecraft will be familiar with cases such as Operation Pimlico, the exfiltration of KGB officer and MI6 agent Oleg Gordievsky from Russia in 1985. Here planners opted for a simple signal to start the endeavour, asking that their agent carry a Safeway plastic shopping carrier bag at exactly 7.24am on a Tuesday as he passed a bakery on Kutuzovsky Prospekt in Moscow. An MI6 surveillance officer holding a green Harrods bag would signal to Gordievsky acknowledging his message had been understood by biting into a Mars bar as he caught Gordievsky's eye.

Such secret signals have been used by spies for millennium, and their ingenuity or simplic-

ity are limited only by the imagination of those involved in the craft; from a chalk mark on a lamppost to a ribbon left on a bridge, or a coded classified advert, spylore is littered with hundreds of examples. One unrepentant law binds them all - the spy and their handler must both understand the meaning of the signal.

But the subject of secret messaging is expansive and not solely confined to the intelligence world, as we will discover.

GESTURES AND HAND SIGNALS

Those engaged in active government surveillance operations often use non-verbal signals as substitute for words. And this varies from country-to-country. MI5 A4

Watchers have used some gestures for the best part of a century, many are unique to the Service and understood only by those involved. The same or similar rules apply in military

theatres, and some examples can often be found in war-themed motion pictures, where troops on the battlefield make hand signals fully understood by their colleagues. The origins of such actions date back thousands of years, the reason being sometimes speech and communication must remain covert or is impossible to enact at a distance, or in a crowded area.

Even in everyday life, often it's not always necessary to put things into words; a simple gesture can suffice - shaking your head to say "no," or a tap on the nose indicating it's a "secret and none of your business," for example. But non-verbal signals are also used to express things we can't afford to say in front of others.

Gestures, including eye movement and their meanings vary from county to country. For example, a thumbs-up in one country may mean "good job" while in another it is considered a rude and aggressive sign. Pointing at someone or something with only one finger is also considered very rude and impolite in parts of the Middle East, as is crossing your legs in front of someone. In ➤



Military personnel around the world often use gestures and other non-verbal instructions known only to associates



In sport, competitors and teams often use secret signals to convey a message

Kuwait, the 'OK' sign is very insulting as it denotes the 'evil eye'.

In sport, competitors and teams use a plethora of hand signals during games. From taps, touches, tugs and hand gestures... they carry complex messages understood only by colleagues, trainers and management. Often opposing teams will attempt to learn just what the instructions dictate. 'Spygate' was an incident during the National Football League's (NFL) 2007 season, when the New England Patriots were disciplined by the league for videotaping New York Jets' defensive coaches' signals from an unauthorised location during a game.

A MILITARY ADVANTAGE

From the outset of military warfare, communication often held the key to a decisive victory. Intelligence on the position of the enemy or remaining in contact with an allied force is crucial. Military communications have evolved

through the ages from drum beats, flaming arrows, smoke signals, runners and horse riders, to radio and messenger pigeons and eventually to the state-of-the-art satellite communication systems seen today.

SIGNALS AND SEMAPHORES

In Eye Spy 113, we touched upon various communication systems developed over time, including the use of signal flags. Long before the telegraph, telephone and radio, ships would communicate using a series of signal flags. Naval flag signalling can be traced back to medieval times but the first well documented case of communication utilising signal flags was that of the British fleet during the Napoleonic Wars. And two rules still apply today, whilst planning a naval venture, it is crucial all participants have the ability to 'talk to each' other and understand the message being imparted.



Claude Chappe

During the French Revolution in 1792, Claude Chappe invented the semaphore line system. This was a method of communication using a series of visual signals and rotating paddles. The message was encoded by the position of the paddles and can then be read. This system proved to be much faster than a horse and rider, and once in place, whether on a ship or land, was crucial in the speedy delivery of a message or instruction. Similar signalling is still used today by many navies and other maritime bodies, such as refuelling tankers and cargo transfer.

During the French Revolution in 1792, Claude Chappe invented the semaphore line system. This was a method of communication using a series of visual signals and



Civil War Wig Wag flags, torches, kerosene vessel and an early signal rocket

WIG WAG

Another long-forgotten associated craft linked to the semaphore system, is 'Wig Wag', developed by US Army Major Albert Myer during the American Civil War. Similar to Morse Code, each letter was represented by a series of dots and dashes. Here the operator would wave a flag back and forth to represent a letter, hence the 'Wig Wag' terminology.

Each letter had three principal movements: left down, right down or straight down. It was a lengthy process, for it could take up to five waves of the flag to donate a single letter. To those unfamiliar with the code, it appeared the signaller was simply waving a flag. Wig Wag was used by US Marines until the end of WWI. By the outbreak of WWII, a more modern system had been adopted.

As referenced in previous features, Semaphore had its problems, not least in respect of distance and signal recognition. And weather conditions too often impacted on the relay of a communication.

SIGNAL LAMPS AND STEALTH

Another form of communication used by the US military and pioneered by the Royal Navy in the late 19th century, was the electric signal



German WWI signal lamp - Blinkgerat

Flag signalling continues today



lamp. These devices can be likened to flags but the users often complained that signalling was hampered by a restrictive or unexpected problem in respect of line-of-sight. However, they did afford some protection when it was necessary for radio silence. During the Battle of the Atlantic, traversing Allied ships and supply convoys used the system to communicate with each other in silence, and warn of the constant menace of German U-boats.

Signal lamps can produce a pulse of light containing a message similar to Morse Code. In more advanced and larger models, this is performed by opening and closing shutters that are mounted in front of the lamp via a manually operated pressure switch. On earlier models, a mirror was tilted to focus the light into pulses.

SOS

A signal often associated with the maritime and aviation industry is the internationally accepted distress signal - 'SOS'. First adopted in Germany in 1905, the three letter message soon became a part of everyday language.

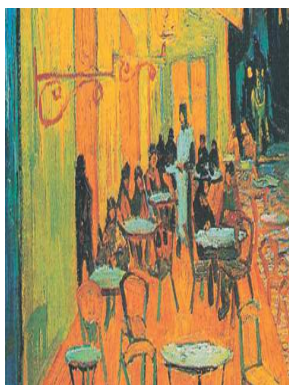
Interestingly, while it is often thought it means 'Save our Souls' or 'Save our Ship', it actually stands for nothing! The three letter signal was regarded as an easily remembered code, and is still as important and recognisable today, especially crucial in emergencies. SOS remained the official maritime distress signal until 1999, when the Global Maritime Distress Safety System was introduced.

ART AND CODES

Eye Spy readers are familiar with the many artworks and objects that have an intelligence relevance. Throughout history, especially in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, many famous artists chose to hide secret meanings



Early drawing depicting 'SOS'



'Cafe Terrace at Night' by Vincent Van Gogh

within their works of art, some which remain unexplained today, others are probably yet to be discovered.

During this period, people were often forbidden to express their opinion or beliefs publicly. Artists and creators of statues and sculptures recognised that their specialist fields enabled them to hide all manner of messages, including forbidden ones.

Vincent Van Gogh's 'Cafe Terrace at Night', is a priceless painting. Many art historians believe Van Gogh actually based his work on Leonardo da Vinci's iconic 'Last Supper'. Those who support this theory note Van Gogh was the son of a Protestant minister and very religious himself.

Exactly twelve people are sitting at the cafe in Van Gogh's painting, all of them centered around a long-haired figure that is either their waiter or Jesus himself. To make the theory more believable, there are several hidden crosses scattered around the composition, one of which is above the Christ-like figure.

Another painting which has long been researched and baffled codebreakers and art historians for its secrets, is Leonardo da Vinci's 'Mona Lisa'. Recently, Italian scholars have added another layer of intrigue by announcing that Da Vinci left a series of very small letters and numbers in the sitter's right eye. Viewed under a microscope, researchers discovered the letters LV. There are more symbols in her left eye, but not as visible as the others. They resemble the letters CE, or the letter B.

The arch of the bridge in the background of the work has an inscription - either the number 72 or the letter L and the number 2. Behind the painting, a number - 149 - and a fourth that has been erased. Researchers speculate that this was probably the year when the painting was made [Da Vinci was in Milan during the 1490s]. However, most historians believe the secret numbers and letters have yet to be deciphered and their real meaning was known only by Da Vinci himself.



Vincent Van Gogh's 'Mona Lisa'

PASSIVE VISUAL SIGNALS

In Victorian times, a woman talking to a male stranger was often frowned upon by those in the higher echelons of society. Nevertheless, there was a secret method a lady could use to show her interest in a gentleman - she would discreetly drop her handkerchief to the ground. If the man picked it up, he too was interested.





HM Queen Elizabeth uses her handbag to convey various secret instructions to Royal Household staff

A fashion item of the period was also used by women for imparting secret messages. Drawing a fan across the cheek supposedly meant 'I love you', while twirling it in the left hand signalled 'We are being watched'. A dropped fan meant that the women simply wanted to be friends. Other items such as gloves or parasols, were also used to relay secret messages.

And secret signals didn't end after Victorian times. Those associated with today's Royal Household are advised that HM Queen Elizabeth uses her handbag to send signals to her staff indicating when she's ready to end a chat. If the Queen moves her bag from one hand to the other, it is a sign that she's ready to move on from the current conversation. If placed on a table or chair, her ladies-in-waiting are aware that she wants to depart in five minutes. Another secret signal relates to the twisting of the Queen's wedding ring, some intelligence sources have revealed that this means she requires 'immediate extraction'.

US INTEL AND PROPAGANDA

Walt Disney often used hidden messages in his cartoons. Like a number of famous actors, film producers and well known media figures,



Walt Disney

his covert work can be found in 'The 101 Dalmatians', in this case a dog features the Nazi WW II swastika symbol on its back. In another production, a poster on a wall draws reference to the secret Illuminati.

It has been suggested Disney was a member of DeMolay International (A.k.a. the Order of DeMolay). According to the San Jacinto Masons, DeMolay was founded by Frank S. Land, a Freemason, and modelled after Freemasonry. It has also been suggested that the exclusive 33 Club, located at 33 Royal Street in New Orleans Square, Disneyland,

Disney chose to help the United States and its Allies in World War II by producing propaganda films. Disney had a penchant for concealing content and producing odd backgrounds surrounding his characters. An example of



Still from 'The 101 Dalmatians' - note Nazi swastika symbol



Note 'A113' registration plate

alludes to Walt Disney's rumoured status as a 33rd-degree Mason.

In more recent times, the secret code 'A113' mysteriously appears in Disney and Pixar films. It is in fact the number of the room at the California Institute of Arts where many animators learned their craft.

IN PLAIN SIGHT

Some codes not associated to the intelligence world are intended to be hidden in plain sight, others have a more poignant and relevant meaning and purpose.

British banknotes feature a specific pattern of dots called the 'EURion constellation' and are used to help prevent notes from being photocopied. Scanners in this case are programmed to identify the dots thus preventing the passing of fraudulent notes. And unbeknown to many Britons, if you assemble every coin under the one pound denomination, you can create the Royal Coat of Arms which features on the old pound coin.



Still with the monetary theme, every penny created by the US Mint since 1918 has three microscopic letters engraved on Lincoln's





A Hoboglyph

shoulder. The three letters - 'VDB' - are the initials of Lithuanian-American medalist Victor David Brenner. Brenner designed the portrait of Abraham Lincoln that has been used on the one-cent coin since 1908.

Other visual codes can be found all around us. 'Hoboglyphs' started to appear at the beginning of the 20th century and were markers placed across the United States by those who roamed the country and others seeking work. The so-called 'Hobo Code' was well known by those traversing by rail and also helped travellers find water sources or shelter. One mark warned that a location was not welcoming and unsafe.

Spray-painted markers seen on pavements in towns and cities all over the world adhere to codes understood by construction workers and engineers. In the UK, the different colours relate to types of cable or pipe. Blue references a water system; yellow a gas line and green CCTV or data wiring. In the United



Flags and coloured markers are used to indicate all manner of underground features



The white arrow is not immediately recognisable in the FedEx logo

States, coloured flags have long been used in the construction and power industry. And just like the UK's painted marks, each represents a certain underground feature. In archaeology, similar flags are used, police also use number fixtures at serious crime scenes, and sadly, coloured flags and posts are often used at the scene of conflict or mass graves.

On a lighter note, an oft-missed symbol inside passenger aeroplanes is a small black triangle on the inside of the fuselage. If the pilots are concerned about the attitude of wing slats or flaps, the crew can look through the window where the triangle is located, and see the numbers written on the slats/flaps. Passengers note - they are often found at seats providing the best view!

CORPORATE MESSAGING

The well known shipping and transport company FedEx, has one of the world's most recognisable logos. Unbeknown to some, the logo hides a secret symbol between the E and X where the negative space forms an arrow. The logo's designer, Lindon Leader, said: "The arrow could connote forward direction, speed and precision."

Baskin-Robbins, owned by Dunkin' Brands, is the world's largest chain of ice cream speciality shops, best known for its 31 flavours. The company's pink and blue logo depicts a large 'BR' that doubles as the number 31 (below).

Toblerone, was started in Bern, Switzerland, a city famously associated with bears. Now take



a closer look at the logo's mountain symbol. Within is a bear standing on its hind legs.

The Bronx Zoo, located in the New York City borough of Bronx, is one of the world's biggest zoos. The zoo's logo featuring birds and two giraffes pays homage to the site's home city. Between the legs of the giraffes, you'll see New York's iconic skyline.



Car manufacturer Toyota's logo certainly encompasses more than meets the eye. A Toyota official said: "The three overlapping ovals on American vehicles symbolise the unification of the hearts of our customers and the heart of Toyota products. The background space represents Toyota's technological advancement and the boundless opportunities ahead." And to those with an observant eye, within the overlapping ovals, the word 'Toyota' is spelled out. ➤



2015. Pope Francis is shielded by US Secret Service officers - all wear identical lapel badges issued for this part of his tour

Coca-Cola's winter-themed can featured a group of polar bears - plus a few hidden details. One observant researcher noticed that the bears' eyes are actually bottle caps, and the shiny marks on their noses small bottles.

On most makeup and beauty products a small symbol appears alongside wording that tells you how long an item can be kept or used after opening. The 'PAO', or Period After Opening symbol, appears on any cosmetic product with a shelf life of 30 months or more. It was introduced by the European Commission in 2005. The 'M' stands for months.

NO ORDINARY PIN

Returning to topics most associated with the intelligence world, the wearing of pin or lapel badges by those in the security and protection world is considered an intelligence trait. One particularly well known organisation using such decor is the US Secret Service. Here officers are rarely seen on duty without their pins. They are but one component of a larger system used to identify team members, and are accompanied by dark suits, earpieces, and sunglasses. Most members of the public are oblivious to the secrets such recognisable lapel pins are hiding.



To enhance security, during a security or protection mission, the badges are often changed at the last moment, colour, shape, insignia etc., this to thwart a possible

breach of security by an adversary. However, viewed at a distance, some intelligence watchers note they can look similar or are difficult to discern.

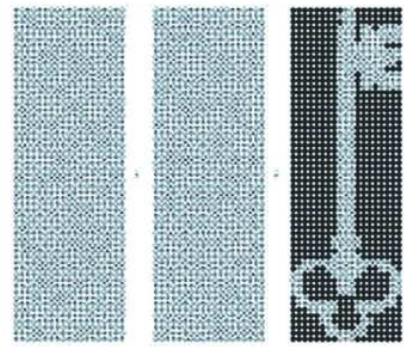
In 2018, Eye Spy learned a new range of pins carrying unique authentication technology called 'SmartShield' were being introduced. Each pin carries a tiny RFID transponder chip connected to a central command post listing all the necessary information needed to confirm the user and that it is relevant to the current task - protecting the US President on an overseas visit for example. In more recent times, various authenticated pins are worn by White House personnel, and others who have been granted access to restricted sites. This allows Secret Service officers to identify those with permission to enter and intercept and challenge others who do not.

VISUAL CRYPTOGRAPHY

Visual Cryptography is a cryptographic technique that allows visual information (including pictures, symbols, etc.) to be presented in such a way that the decrypted information appears as a visual image.



Moni Naor



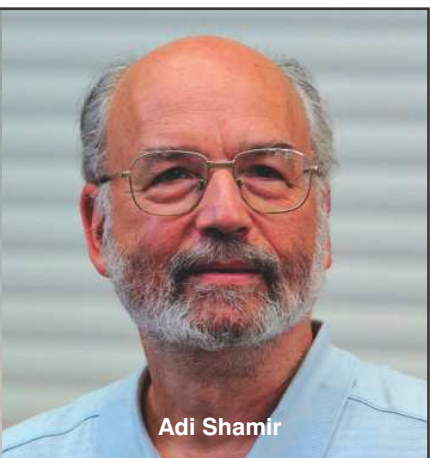
One well known technique, developed in 1994, was created by Israeli scientists Moni Naor and Adi Shamir. The men demonstrated a visual secret-sharing-scheme where an image was broken up into so-called ' n shares' so that only someone with all n shares could decrypt the image, while any $n - 1$ shares revealed no information about the original image. Printed on separate transparencies, decryption of the message was only possible by overlaying the shares.

Britain's listening and communication intelligence service GCHQ, recently deciphered secret codes hidden by the man behind British cult comedy character Frank Sidebottom, who appeared in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Creator Chris Sievey, who passed in 2010, drew cryptic symbols in artwork around the borders of some of Frank's fan newsletters, football programmes, record and audio tape sleeves.

Sievey told friends and family he was hiding important messages in code, but the years



GCHQ, Cheltenham, UK



Adi Shamir



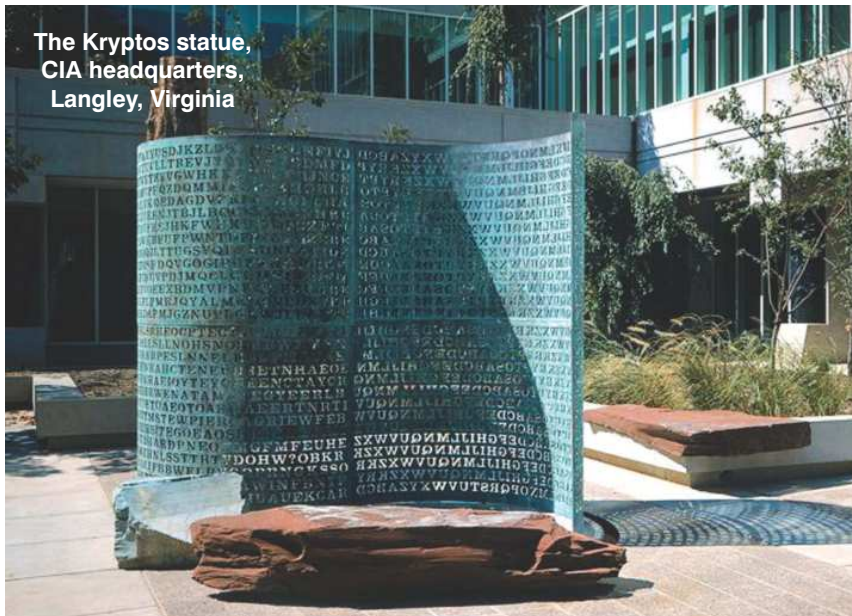
**Frank Sidebottom statue in
Timperley, Greater Manchester**

passed and their real meaning remained a secret. They then asked GCHQ codebreakers to help, and indeed, the organisation took it on as a light-hearted exercise. Thankfully, the messages did not impact on national security; they were “a combination of slightly autobiographical statements and silly statements about Frank’s world,” according to the organisation’s researchers.

THE CIA’S KRYPTOS STATUE

Kryptos, [Greek for ‘hidden’] stands in the grounds of the Central Intelligence Agency headquarters in Langley, Virginia, and has baffled codebreakers for years. The large, curved copper monument is covered with 1800 cut-out letters that together form four separate coded messages.

The sculpture was created by artist Jim Sanborn who was not an expert in codes. He learned about writing and breaking codes from Ed Scheidt of the CIA Cryptographic Center



**The Kryptos statue,
CIA headquarters,
Langley, Virginia**

and is credited as the designer of the Kryptos monument.

Kryptos was erected in 1990, less than a year after the fall of the Berlin Wall and end of Communist rule in Eastern Europe. Within a short time codebreakers from the National Security Agency (NSA), began work to decrypt the code. They were successful in solving the first three messages and in 1998, were joined by a CIA officer who also solved the three messages. But neither agency publicly announced that they had done it. A year later a non-government agency worker, Jim Gillogly, had similar success. These messages it transpired, are a poetic phrase - co-ordinates for a location on the grounds of Langley, and an account of the opening of King Tut’s tomb in Egypt.

But what of the fourth message which is the shortest and only has 97 letters? For more than two decades researchers have endeavoured to solve the mystery. Growing impatience, Sanborn, released a clue in 2010 and part of the code which spelled out the word



1989. Fall of the Berlin Wall

‘Berlin’. Yet its secret meaning remained elusive. In November 2014, Sanborn revealed another clue, a five word section of letters - code for ‘Clock’. But like before, this was not sufficient for anyone to break its full meaning, and today it remains one of the world’s most famous unsolved mysteries.

Hopefully the code will be broken in 2020, for in January, Sanborn said he was offering one final clue because, at the age of 74, enquiries from amateur sleuths had become exhausting. “Northeast joins Berlin and Clock,” he hinted. Codebreakers are now working feverishly to decipher the last section of Kryptos’ code:

OBKR

UOXOGHULBSOLIFBBWFLRVQQPRNGKSSO

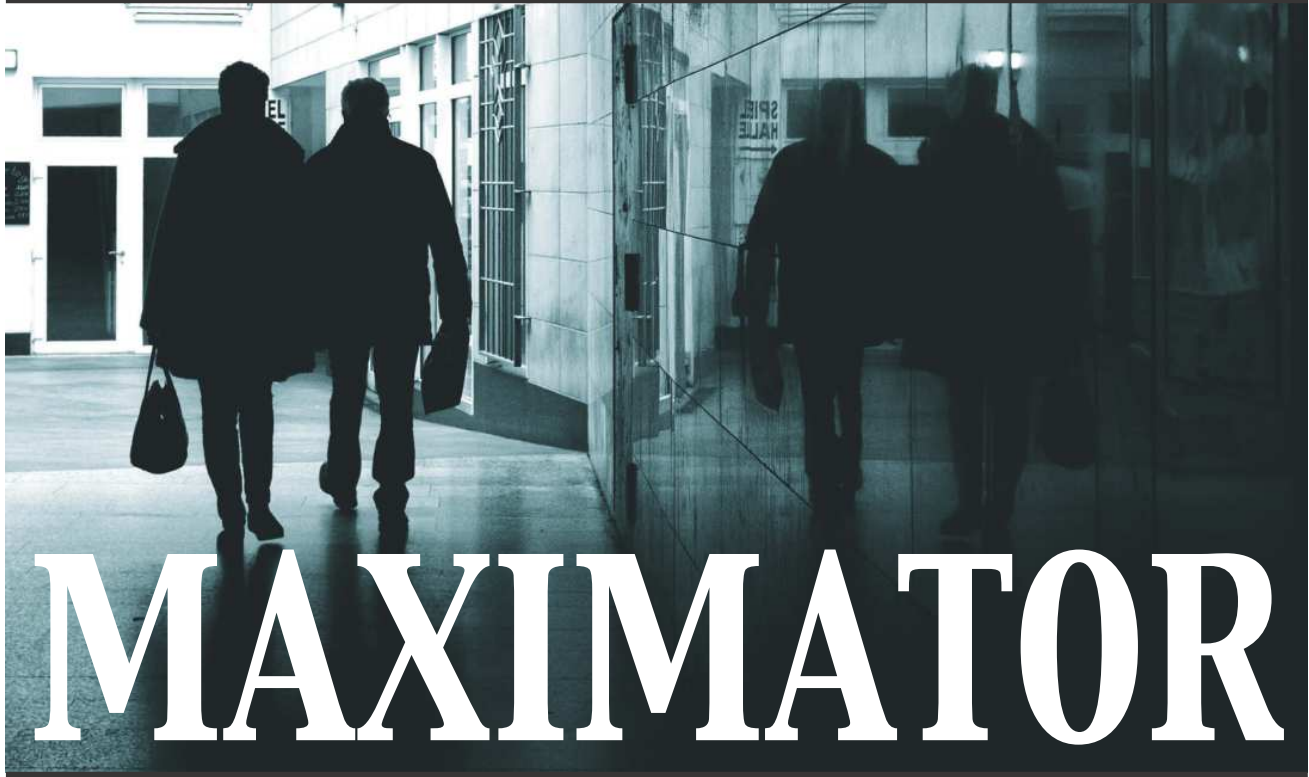
TWTQSQJSSSEKZZWATJKLUDIAWINFBNYP

VTTMZFPKWGDKZXTJCDIGKUHUAUEKCAR



Part of the code on the Kryptos statue has remained unbroken for decades, but some believe it is connected to the fall of the Berlin Wall





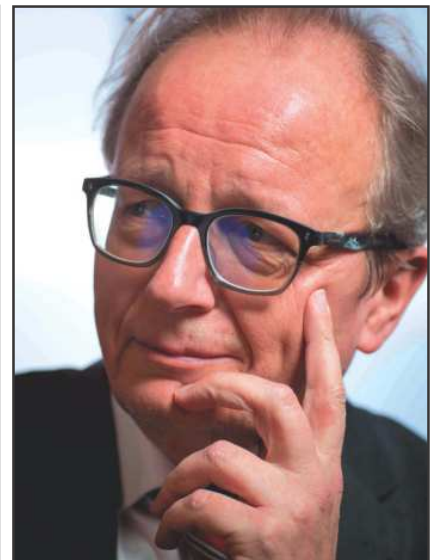
THE SECRET SIGINT ALLIANCE

New information has surfaced following the remarkable disclosures concerning Operation RUBICON - the CIA's and Germany's BND secret purchase and use of Crypto AG communications equipment allowing intelligence to be gleaned from deliberately compromised Crypto machinery. (See Eye Spy 127).

Now, an extensive evaluation report by Dutch Professor of computer security Bart Jacobs of Radboud University Nijmegen in the Nether-

lands, has revealed the existence of a little known covert partnership, described as Europe's very own Five Eyes SIGINT intelligence alliance.

Secret for over four decades, Professor Jacobs discovered five spy agencies operated as a part of a espionage alliance known as Maximator. Established in 1976, it brought intelligence services from Denmark, France, Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands together in a European SIGINT alliance, which reportedly continues to operate today.



Professor Bart Jacobs

Jacobs said one motivation to start cooperating more broadly in the field of communications, was the emergence of signals intelligence which required substantial investment. A second factor was to jointly work on technical interception challenges and exchange methods. The idea was to combine forces and divide tasks in order to reduce costs and so become more effective. The cooperation involved both cryptanalysis and



JSCU signals station in Burum, Holland

COUNTRY	SINCE	CRYPTONYM	AGENCIES
Denmark	1976	Concilium	FE (DDIS)
Sweden	1976	Thymian	FRA
Germany	1976	Novalis	BND ZfCh
Netherlands	1978	Edison	WKC, TIVC, SCIC (JSCU)
France	1985	Marathon	DGSE



signals analysis focusing on interception (and decryption) of diplomatic traffic. In the early days of Maximator, encrypted connections were almost exclusively used for diplomatic and military communications.

Within Maximator, participating countries have specific intelligence roles. In Germany the Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND) is responsible for [foreign] signals intelligence, whereas what was then called the Zentralstelle für das Chiffrierwesen (ZfCh), did the cryptanalytical work.

RUBICON AND THE CIA

CD-57 cipher machine first produced by Crypto AG in 1957. The company would fall into the hands of the CIA and Germany's BND in 1970. Under Langley supervision, it embarked upon a global operation to sell machines around the world - some specially adapted allowing supposedly secure communications to be intercepted. The initial operation was codenamed Thesaurus and later Rubicon. The entire affair is now being investigated.



In Denmark, Sweden, and the Netherlands these activities were combined by the Forsvarets Efterretningstjeneste (Danish Defence Intelligence Service - DDIS), the

Försvarets radioanstalt (FRA - National Defence Radio Establishment), and the Technisch Informatie Verwerkingscentrum (TIVC - Technical Information Processing Centre). French Maximator activities were part of the Direction Générale de la Sécurité Extérieure (DGSE).

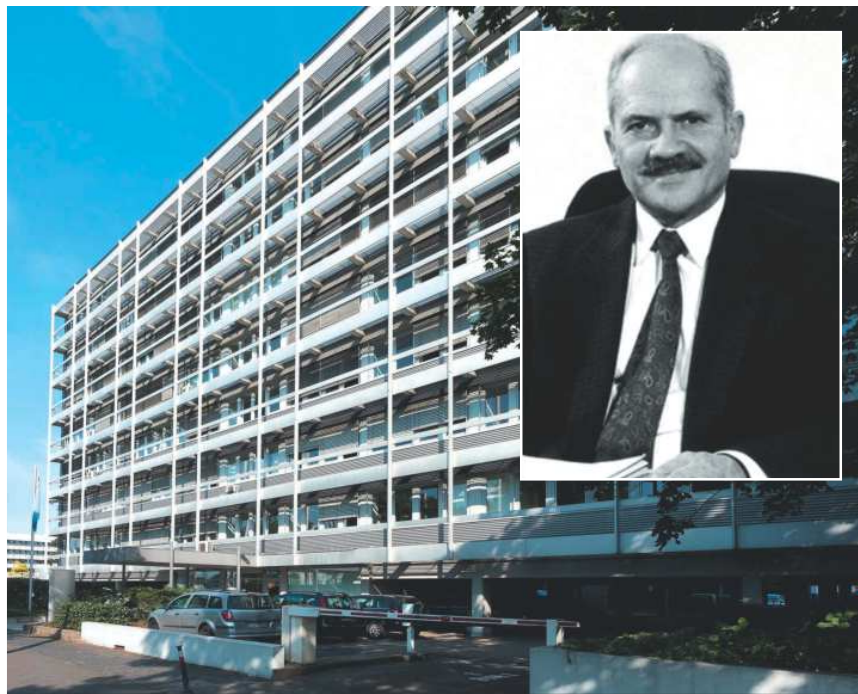
WHAT'S IN A NAME?

As for the actual name 'Maximator', this was drawn from the beer brand in the southern German region of Bavaria. Bavaria's capital is Munich, and its suburb Pullach was, until 2017, home to the BND.

At some stage in 1979, representatives of the emerging alliance arranged a meeting in the region and were reportedly enjoying a beer, while discussing what name would suit the organisation best. Jacobs said documents revealed, "they looked at their glasses, filled with Doppelbock beer of the local brand Maximator and reached a decision."



Argentinian troops captured during the Falklands War. The Dutch member of the European SIGINT alliance had provided the UK's GCHQ with intelligence on the conflict



Germany's Central Cryptography Office ZfCh was established in 1956. One of its most notable operators was Otto Leiberich (inset) who worked throughout the Cold War. He also played a lead role in the establishment of Germany's Federal Office for Information Security better known as BSI in 1991. The BSI oversees security in various critical infrastructure areas, cryptography and counter-espionage activities.

During his ground-breaking research, Jacobs also discovered TIVC, the Dutch communications and eavesdropping agency, one of the primary elements of Maximator alliance, assisted Britain's GCHQ. During the 1982 Falklands War with Argentina, TIVC helped GCHQ break Argentinian codes. "A directly involved Dutch source states that a specialist from TIVC travelled to GCHQ and explained how the HC500 Crypto AG devices for Argentinian naval and diplomatic communications worked; subsequent solution of the ciphers was left to GCHQ itself," said Professor Jacobs.

The Dutch-UK liaison over Argentina code cooperation has puzzled several intelligence analysts, for at the time of the incident, the US was the primary receiver of communications intercepted from Crypto devices and fully conversant with its algorithms. These were shared with the UK.



Discarded Argentine weapons

One theory is that at the beginning of the conflict, the United States hesitated to support its closest ally. Another that GCHQ asked both 'Five Eyes' alliances - the Americans and the Europeans - for assistance. The Dutch were the first to provide help. Thereafter of course, the United States provided the UK with key intelligence helping to defeat the Argentinians and reclaim the Falklands.

The public confirmation of Maximator's existence following so closely behind the ongoing investigation into Rubicon will continue to puzzle and intrigue historians, researchers and those with an interest in Cold War cryptography and SIGINT for many years.

PROFESSOR BART JACOBS



Bart Jacobs, 67, is a professor of computer security at Radboud University Nijmegen in the Netherlands since 2003. He spoke to multiple former Maximator personnel while compiling his paper into the origins and work of this previously secret alliance called 'European Signals Intelligence Cooperation From a Dutch Perspective'.

Jacobs work covers both the technical and the societal aspects of his field. Appearing often in the media and in parliament on topics like privacy, security and intelligence, he serves as a member of an external expert board to the independent Review Committee on the Intelligence and Security Services (CTIVD) in The Netherlands. He is also a member of the national Cyber Security Board and a member of the Academia Europaea.

Jacobs has published over 100 scientific articles.



COURTESY: BART JACOBS/RADBOD UNIVERSITEIT

Maximator meeting brochures. Note the booklet from Rheinhausen 1997 (far right) carrying the flags of the five participating countries

TRADING PLACES



Sweeping Changes in US Intelligence Community as Senior Officials Depart

John Ratcliffe was sworn-in as US Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) on 26 May 2020. The decision follows a new series of oustings, departures and appointments across the US Intelligence Community (USIC). Analysts said that since President Trump assumed office, a record number of senior intelligence officials have resigned or been sacked after clashing with the President.

One of the latest casualties was General Michael Atkinson. The former Department of Justice solicitor handled the complaint that triggered Trump's impeachment. For weeks leading up to the sacking, the President told insiders he no longer had the fullest confidence in Atkinson.



Michael Atkinson

The friction between the two men began last September when Atkinson alerted Congress about an "urgent complaint" he received from an intelligence official involving Trump's communications with Ukraine. This liaison allegedly centred upon White House pressure exerted on Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky to publish negative narratives of 2020 Democratic Party presidential candidate Joe Biden, and Russian interference in the 2016 United States General

Election. Some intelligence writers believe Trump threatened to withhold a military aid payment to Ukraine if Kiev did not support the action. Trump said he would be submitting a new nominee for the position to the Senate "at a later date."

In a memorandum circulated to various government departments and media houses, Trump wrote: *'This is to advise that I am exercising my power as President to remove from office the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, effective 30 days from today. As is the case with regard to other positions where I, as President, have the power of appointment, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, it is vital that I have the fullest confidence in the appointees serving as Inspectors General. That is no longer the case with regard to this Inspector General'*.

Senator Mark Warner, the most senior Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, condemned the move to fire Atkinson. "In the midst of a national emergency [Coronavirus], it is unconscionable that the President is once again attempting to undermine the integrity of the intelligence community by firing yet another intelligence official for simply doing his job."

Another departure is that of the FBI's most senior solicitor Dana Boente. He too was involved in the Russian affair, overseeing the counter-intelligence investigation. ➤



2017. John Ratcliffe staunchly backed President Trump over the investigation into alleged Russian interference in the 2016 General Election



26 May 2020. John Ratcliffe is sworn-in as Director of National Intelligence



Dana Boente



The divide between the USIC and White House was again noticeable in May 2020, when Trump criticised former ODNI Director James Clapper over his role in the investigation into the Russian affair. "He is not a smart guy," said Trump. "How do you not have a smart person heading up intelligence?" Trump's comment followed Clapper's assertion that intelligence agencies should have a degree of independence - something which most of those working in the industry agree with.



Russell Travers and Peter Hall

The latest acts, which have again impacted on the USIC, follows reports that Acting Director of the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), Russell Travers and his deputy, Peter Hall were dismissed. White House officials said this was part of a "wider and ongoing leadership shake-up." Travers was only installed as acting NCTC chief in August 2019, and the experienced intelligence officer has spent decades working in counter-terrorism and other areas of national security.

To counter criticism, some from serving officials in the USIC, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) said: "Travers had been offered a different position by Acting Director of National Intelligence Richard Grenell but had declined the offer and opted for retirement."

An ODNI statement regarding Travers departure was then released: *'Over the next few weeks, we expect Russ to step out of his current position to prepare for retirement. Russ' willingness to step up and serve as the Acting Director of NCTC multiple times is an example of his commitment to serve this vital mission.'*

'Acting DNI Grenell and the ODNI leadership have been discussing the many reform recommendations previously made by other Directors. Our hope is that these reforms will posture NCTC to lead the counterterrorism mission into the future.'

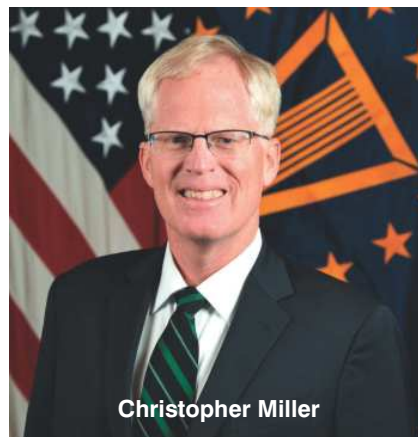
Peter Hall will continue to serve in US Intelligence and is reportedly returning to the National Security Agency (NSA). Travers' predecessor as NCTC chief, Joseph Maguire, who also served briefly, left the post in March.

CREATING A LEGACY OF MISTRUST

In the past 12-months several other high-profile intelligence figures have departed from office, including Dan Coats, ODNI chief. He left after a number of public disagreements with the President. He was quickly followed by his deputy Sue Gordon.

Other signature departures since Trump took office are of course FBI Director James Comey; Director CIA John Brennan; Michael Flynn National Security Advisor. Another key intelligence man ODNI Chief James Clapper, resigned just prior to Trump taking office.

As for Russell Travers' NCTC position, the White House has nominated Christopher Miller, a former US Army Special Forces officer and terrorism adviser to President Donald Trump. In January this year, Miller was sworn in as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (DASD) for Special Operations and Combatting Terrorism (SOCT).



Christopher Miller



**October 1944.
Himmler speaks to
troops in East
Prussia**

The Capture a HEINRICH

Intelligence historian, author and Eye Spy Associate Editor **DR HELEN FRY**, examines new documentation providing further insight into the capture of one of the most notorious figures in WWII. Plus, for the first time ever, a look at a number of historical artefacts never published before...

History marks the end of the Second World War as 7 May 1945, the day that Germany surrendered unconditionally to Allied forces. The following day, 8 May, was VE Day - Victory in Europe. Across the continent crowds gathered on the streets to celebrate, including the future British monarch Princess Elizabeth who slipped out of the palace in disguise with her sister Princess Margaret to join in the spontaneous commemorations. Adolf Hitler had committed suicide in his bunker in Berlin the previous month; the city of Berlin was 90% destroyed and millions of people were displaced across Europe. The four occupying powers of Britain, America, France and Russia faced a huge task in restoring democracy and



Heinrich Himmler photographed shortly after his suicide on 29 April 1945

and Suicide of HIMMLER



The gatehouse of Auschwitz concentration camp



SS Reichsführer Heinrich Himmler

reconstructing post-war Germany and Austria. Adherents of Nazism and Nazi ideology had to be removed from every facet of public life and employment. This process was called 'denazification'. A key part of the work centred on bringing to justice the perpetrators of the Holocaust.

On 11 April 1945, American forces had liberated Buchenwald concentration camp and

the British had opened the gates of Bergen Belsen four days later. The horrors and evil of the Nazi regime that had already been witnessed at the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp in January 1945 was visible to the world.

Bringing the perpetrators to justice was to be an enormous task. Many high-ranking Nazis

and leaders of Hitler's government had gone into hiding under false names, others were being smuggled out to countries in South America. The Allies compiled a list of the most wanted Nazi war criminals, and an extensive list of thousands of names of suspected war criminals. At the top of the list was SS head Heinrich Himmler, mastermind and chief architect of the Holocaust. He and the Nazi



Himmler carried an Entlassungsschein (identity paper) bearing the name Heinrich Hizinger

Civilian Internment - WESTERBURY -
ARREST REPORT.

SURNAME HIZINGER FIRST NAME(S) Heinrich
 ALIAS _____
 NATIONALITY CLAIMED German
 ADDRESS OF LAST RESIDENCE Flensburg
 OCCUPATION Feldwebel, Pa. Kp. z. b. V., detached to GFF (SD).
 IDENTITY DOCUMENTS Entlassungsschein dated 3/5/45.

DETAILS OF ARREST: (a) PLACE BREMENVORDE Bridge Control (9344).
 (b) DATE 22/5/45. (c) TIME 1700 hrs.
 UNIT MAKING ARREST 1003 FSRD.
 REASON FOR ARREST See attached report, also occupation as stated above.
 (Further details to be written on back if necessary)

WITNESSES: NAMES AND ADDRESSES
Sgt Britton 45 FSS.

STATEMENT AFTER ARREST
 (attach on separate sheet if necessary)

PROPERTY: (Property taken from prisoner to be listed on back, together with description and whereabouts of any other property relevant to the case.)

MILITARY OR CIVIL AUTHORITY TAKING CUSTODY OF THE PRISONER
WESTERBURY Camp.

Signature of person authorising arrest. [Signature]
 Date 22/5/45.
 Stamp: **45 FSS-1510-2 (RECEIVED)** **22 MAY 1945** **SHARP**

Himmler's Arrest Report

Regime were responsible for the murder of six million European Jews and five million others. The war was over but the peace had yet to be won...

HIMMLER'S FALSE IDENTITY PAPERS

On 22 May, SS Chief Heinrich Himmler and two other SS officers were seen near a British checkpoint at Bremervörde, a small town on the River Oste between Hamburg and Bremerhaven in northern Germany. It was an area controlled by British forces. Two men, both of military bearing and wearing long green overcoats, walked ahead of a third person (Himmler) who looked far less impressive in an odd selection of civilian garments and a blue raincoat. They glanced back at him periodically to check he was still

with them. This strange looking trio was picked up by a British infantry patrol, not knowing their identities, and brought to the checkpoint.

Sergeants Arthur Britton and Ken Baisbrown of 45 Field Security Section (FSS) Intelligence Corps, and Staff Sergeant John Hogg of 1003 Field Security Reserve Detachment, made a quick scrutiny of their identity papers and realised that all three were in an automatic arrest category. Sergeant Britton completed the arrest documents using the information contained on the 'Entlassungsschein' identity papers issued by the German Army for soldiers leaving service at the end of the conflict. Himmler had disguised himself by shaving off his distinctive moustache and wearing an eye patch. He looked dishevelled and held papers as 'Feldwebel (Sergeant) Heinrich Hizinger'.

The three prisoners were given refreshments and a floor to sleep on at the checkpoint that night. The following morning, they were driven to No 031 Civil Internment Camp at Barnstedt. On the way they checked in at the HQ of 45 FSS at Zeven where the Officer Commanding, Captain Excell, sent them straight on to the Internment Camp for full processing. At around 7.00pm that night, Himmler asked for an interview with the Internment Camp commandant, Captain Thomas Selvester (Intelligence Corps). At that point, Himmler chose to reveal his true identity. An intelligence officer was quickly sent by HQ 2nd Army, bearing a specimen of Himmler's signature which could be checked against the prisoner's signature and identification was complete.

Himmler was searched thoroughly but it failed to reveal any hidden poisons. At 9.45pm Colonel Michael Murphy (Chief of Intelligence at HQ 2nd British Army) arrived to take personal charge of the prisoner. He immediately arranged for a medical search to be carried

EXCLUSIVE



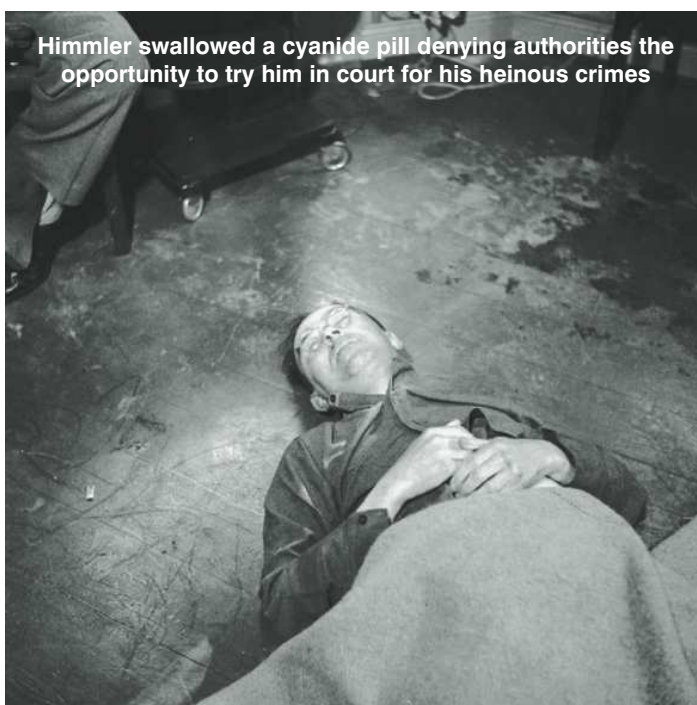
Photographs of Himmler's shaving cream, razors and braces published for the first time



1936. Himmler and Hitler's deputy Rudolf Hess view a model of Dachau concentration camp

out by Captain Wells of the Royal Army Medical Corps (the HQ Medical Officer). Having searched the prisoner thoroughly, Wells came to the mouth where he noticed a small blue object secreted in Himmler's left cheek. He slipped a finger into the prisoner's mouth to sweep out the object but Himmler immediately clamped down on the medic's fingers. As they struggled, Himmler wrenched his head away and crushed the glass capsule between his teeth. The cyanide pill killed him within ten minutes.

Himmler's body underwent an autopsy and formal identification by Allied staff officers and was then buried in an unmarked grave outside Lüneburg on 25 May 1945.



Himmler swallowed a cyanide pill denying authorities the opportunity to try him in court for his heinous crimes

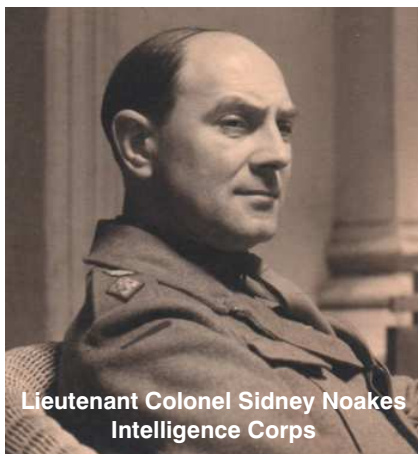


HIMMLER'S ENTLASSUNGSSHEIN 'HOISTED BY HIS OWN PETARD'

On Himmler's false identity document, a unit stamp was used that German authorities were unaware placed the holder in the automatic arrest and interrogation category. British Intelligence had come to recognise this stamp and unit because many other fleeing SS officers had used documents with the same, or similar unit, details and stamp.

LOST AND FOUND

In the aftermath of the capture and suicide of Himmler, some of his personal belongings were kept. Years later, the Military Intelligence Museum at Chicksands, Bedfordshire, England, was gifted his shaving foam tube and some razor blades. His false identity papers had disappeared and their whereabouts remained unknown for over 70-years. In 2019 Himmler's Entlassungsshein was donated to the museum, along with his braces that he



Lieutenant Colonel Sidney Noakes
Intelligence Corps

was wearing at the time of capture. They were presented by the great niece of Lieutenant Colonel Sidney Noakes of the Intelligence Corps. Noakes, a solicitor, had been seconded to MI5 during the war. On notes compiled for the documentation of Himmler's arrest, a single pencil annotation on the foot of the last page by Mr Neil McDermott Q.C. (formerly GSO1 [Int b] at HQ 21st Army Group) states: *'A gentle interrogation [of Himmler] by MI5 reps also took place'.*

The MI5 officers were not named, but it's likely that one of those interrogators was Noakes. He therefore acquired the Entlassungsshein and the braces.

The importance of finding this document lays to rest a further mystery. Himmler's original Arrest Report compiled by Sergeant Britton clearly shows the name Heinrich Hizinger. It has long been considered by historians that this spelling was a mistake by Britton and the real documentation was for Heinrich 'Hitzinger' [note 't']. With the original ID document having disappeared, this discrepancy could not be answered - until its donation to the Military Intelligence Museum in 2019. Himmler's Entlassungsshein clearly records his false name as Heinrich Hizinger. Sergeant Britton's professional diligence in correctly transposing the name from the ID document to the Arrest Report can at last be confirmed.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES SIDNEY HENRY NOAKES

Sidney was born on 6 January 1905, the second child of Thomas Frederick Noakes, a Civil Servant, and Ada Noakes. Sidney had an elder brother, Harold, and a younger sister, Phyllis.

Both his parents died within a year of each other before the First World War broke out and his brother Harold was killed in action aged 18 in July 1917 at Ypres, whilst serving with the Royal Flying Corps.

Sidney was then brought up by a foster family and sent to Merchant Taylor's School, Hertfordshire where he played rugby for the school and was a strong student, winning several academic prizes. In 1925 he went to Oxford to study Law (Jurisprudence) and was involved in many aspects - sporting and social - of St John's College, Oxford. In 1928 he graduated and was called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn. Sidney Noakes was commissioned into the Intelligence Corps in 1943, rising quickly to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. The details of his wartime career are sparsely recorded as he spent the majority of it with MI5. What we do know is that he was in a position to directly acquire the identity document and braces of SS Chief Heinrich Himmler.



Sidney Noakes had a successful 40-year legal career culminating as a Judge (above), holding multiple Judiciary appointments in the 1960s County Courts on the Surrey, Hertfordshire and Kent circuits. His peacetime hobbies were golf, walking and gardening and he was also a participating Freemason. He married briefly and had one daughter, remaining close to his sister Phyllis and her children and grandchildren, to whom he was affectionately known as 'Uncle Boiler'. He retired to Hove in Sussex and died there in February 1993.

LINKS:

THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE MUSEUM
www.militaryintelligencemuseum.org

FRIENDS OF THE INTELLIGENCE CORPS MUSEUM www.intelligencemuseum.org



THE SPY TOWER



Conference hall inside the European Commission's Berlaymont headquarters

Belgian Intelligence Investigates China's Brussels-Based Spy Threat

Belgium's domestic security service, Veiligheid van de Staat (VSSE), has started an investigation into a potential Chinese espionage threat within Malta's EU Embassy in Brussels. "There were Chinese people who were involved in the renovation of the embassy in 2007 and it caught our attention," said a VSSE official. He also acknowledged that alleged eavesdropping secreted inside could still be active.

The comments came after French newspaper *Le Monde*, reported on long-held VSSE suspicions that Chinese intelligence operatives, disguised as builders, painters and removal workers, had installed surveillance equipment in Malta's EU embassy in Brussels in 2007 - this after a Chinese firm renovated the building. Maltese officials said China had donated only furniture and televisions to augment the renovation, and these were subject in line with relevant security procedures, noting that 80% had since been replaced.

The embassy sits directly opposite the European Commission's Berlaymont headquarters in the city.

The VSSE had reportedly been advised of the covert operation by Britain's MI6, which said the Chinese were effectively using the embassy as a "spy tower," according to *Le*

Monde. However, a VSSE official said, "our suspicions arose without a foreign service having drawn our attention to this fact." Thereafter the agency passed on concerns to the then Belgian Foreign Minister, Didier Reynders. It was suggested that the Belgian authorities have been concerned "for years" that this equipment was still being used to spy on the EU's main institutions.

If Malta's EU Embassy had been compromised, it was a "grave security risk" not just because it overlooked the European Commis-

sion HQ, but because EU institutions and member states' "sensitive documents" flowed through Malta's IT systems there, Dutch liberal MEPs Bart Groothuis and Malik Azmani said. The men called for a "security review and full inquiry" into who knew what and when.

One intelligence source said: "In recent years, Malta has courted Chinese and Russian investment." Examples being Chinese firm, Shanghai Electric Power, which purchased a 33% stake in Maltese energy supplier



Enemalta in 2014. This was shortly before Enemalta became embroiled in corruption allegations linked to the assassination of Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia (left) in 2017.





**Former Belgian Foreign Minister
Didier Reynders**

Malta was also the first European country to sign a memorandum of understanding with Beijing on its 'Belt and Road' initiative, which involves investment in Europe, Asia and Africa.

A Belgian security official said the hypothesis of China-Malta collusion on EU espionage

cannot be ruled out. "When you see the recent stories coming out of Malta - the murder of a journalist, arms trafficking, and so on - everything is possible. Didier Reynders knew about the super-position of the Chinese [in the EU district] and he kept it to himself."

Maltese officials believe the story is fabrication and a clever 'Fourth Estate' response - the result of the country's withdrawal from the EU Naval Operation Irini, tasked to enforce an arms embargo in Libya.

The spy allegations follow a German Intelligence investigation of a former EU diplomat suspected of espionage on behalf of China's National Intelligence Agency.

The Chinese EU mission in Brussels and China's Ambassador to Belgium have denied any illegal activities in the country. Malta too has rejected the possibility that the building contains active spy equipment. As for the EU



Josep Borrell

itself, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell said: "If the Belgians have something to tell us [on the China-Malta threat], they will. For the time being that hasn't happened."

THE BILLION DOLLAR SPY CHINESE SCIENTIST CONVICTED OF PASSING TRADE SECRETS

Hongjin Tan, 36, has been sentenced to two years in prison for stealing trade secrets said to be worth \$1 billion from the American petroleum company Phillips 66. Tan pleaded guilty in November 2018 to downloading several computer files from the company's research facility in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Some of the files related to a research energy product aimed at the Chinese market.

"Unscrupulous individuals like Hongjin Tan seek to steal American



US Attorney Trent Shores

trade secrets to take home to China so they can replicate our technology," said US Attorney Trent Shores for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

The company began investigating Tan after he told his supervisors in December 2018 that he was resigning from the company and returning to China to care for his ageing parents. But Tan told a colleague a different story over dinner sparking concern. That conversation prompted Phillips 66 to dismiss him immediately - and contact the FBI.

ESPIONAGE INCENTIVES

FBI officers said Tan began accessing sensitive files around the time he applied to China's Thousand Talents Programme. Through this programme, China provides financial incentives and other privileges to participants who are willing to send back the research and technology knowledge they can access while working in the United States. Tan also called up the documents around the times he made trips to China, and he



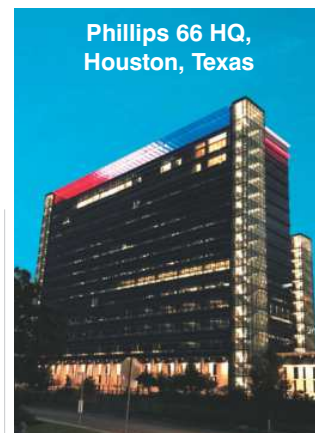
Hongjin Tan

accessed them for a final time on the day before he resigned.

The resulting investigation led to Tan's guilty plea and a 24-month prison sentence for stealing proprietary information that belonged to his company.

Tan had lived in the United States since 2012 and was a legal permanent resident. He earned his Ph.D. at an American university and had worked for a number of firms in California before making his way to the energy company in Oklahoma.

One of that firm's most innovative products was battery technology that employees had spent decades researching and developing. The technology also has a secondary, and perhaps even more valuable, use in melting metal. "If you got your hands on this information, you would be decades ahead of where you would have started out on this technology," said Special Agent Rebecca Day of FBI Oklahoma



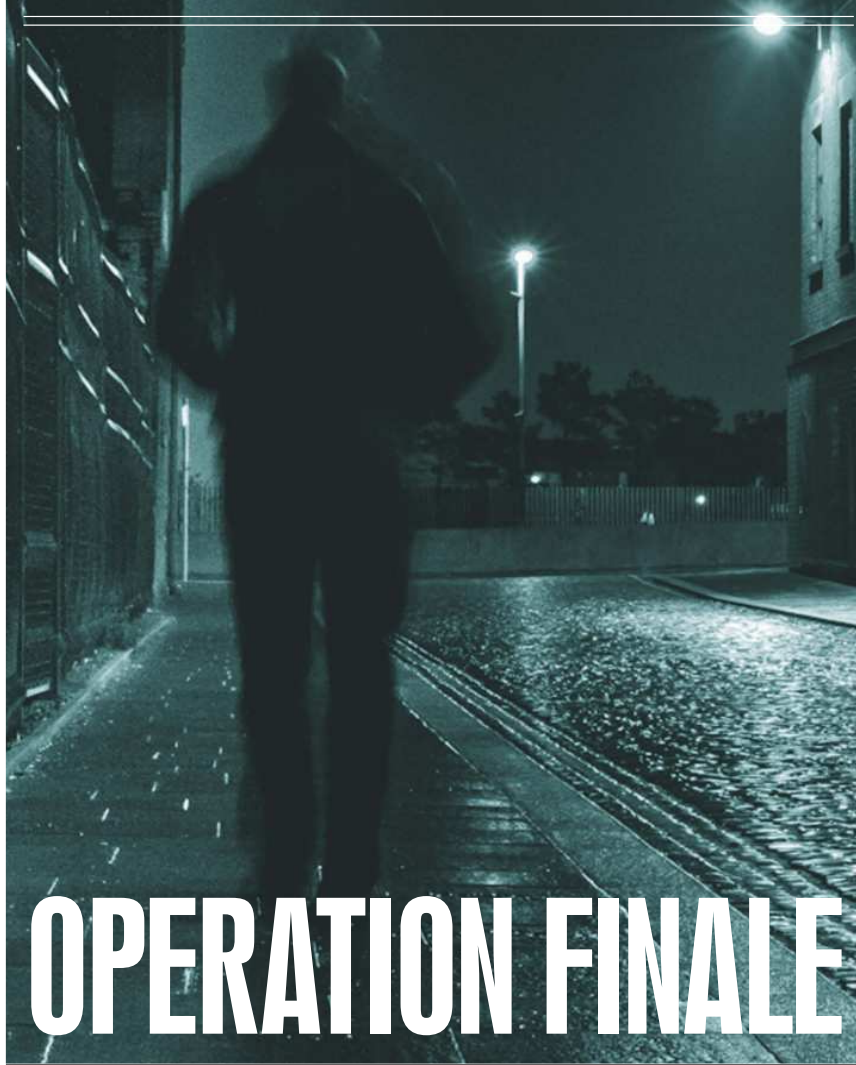
**Phillips 66 HQ,
Houston, Texas**

City's Tulsa Resident Agency. "We won't tolerate people who come into the United States to steal for the betterment of a foreign government or foreign company."

At a recent conference in Boston, FBI Director Christopher Wray addressed this disquieting threat: "We see Chinese companies stealing American intellectual property to avoid the hard slog of innovation and then using it to compete against the very American companies they victimised - in effect, cheating twice over."

Tan faced up to 10 years in prison, but was sentenced to two years, ordered to pay \$150,000 in restitution, the loss of his residency status, and will be deported when he is released.

THE MOSSAD'S



OPERATION FINALE

Rare Adolf Eichmann Capture Artefacts and Documents Released by Israeli Intelligence

Sixty years ago, Adolf Eichmann, one of Nazi Germany's most notorious war criminals paid the ultimate price for his role in helping orchestrate the mass extermination of millions of European Jews.

At the end of the World War Two, Eichmann was arrested by the US Army. He soon escaped from the detention centre and spent the next five years living in obscurity in Lower Saxony. Then, with the help of underground associates, he eventually made his way to South America where he used a passport issued by the Red Cross allowing him to enter Argentina. Using the assumed name Ricardo Klement, Eichmann believed he would never be recognised or captured.

However, in 1960, intelligence secured from a number of sources, including the famous Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal, was sufficiently impressive prompting officials in both Shin Bet and Mossad, to launch an investigation.



Simon Wiesenthal

After much planning a team of Israeli undercover officers was despatched to Argentina and the end game for Eichmann had begun.



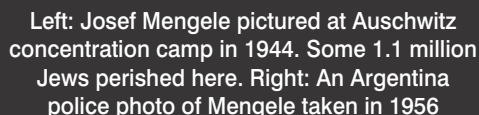
Otto Adolf Eichmann

ABDUCTION

On 11 May 1960, Eichmann was abducted near his home about 12-miles north of Buenos Aires city centre by the Israeli team. There they remained in a safe house until a plan was devised to covertly fly him back to Israel. A little over a week later, Eichmann was disguised as a butler and drugged. The team flew back on an El Al airliner to Tel Aviv on 20 May.

For the record, the same Mossad team had tried to locate another wanted Nazi, Josef Mengele - the 'Angel of Death' who they believed was also living in Buenos Aires. Like Eichmann, he too had used false identification papers to exit Europe using various names including Fritz Ullman and Fritz Hollmann. And





like his Gestapo counterpart, he too was issued with a Red Cross passport using the alias Helmut Gregor - this he used to secure passage to Argentina on a ship in 1949. Thus this part of the operation was not successful.

To mark the 60th anniversary of the operation, codenamed Garibaldi (Finale), Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency - ISA) has released previously unseen photos of equipment used in the endeavour, and letters sent by agents.

At the time of the operation, overseen by Mossad Director Isser Harel, he briefed associates: "That evening, I endeavoured to clarify to the people in the force the moral and historical uniqueness of the act which they are about to do. They are going to make sure that one of the biggest criminals in all of history, who for years has succeeded in escaping the hands of law and justice, will stand trial in Jerusalem, the capital of the nation that six million of its people were massacred by the murder machine that he headed."

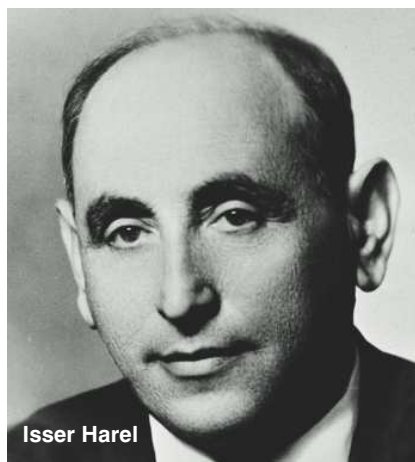
Speaking of the historic operation, current ISA Director Nadav Argaman said: "This was the end of a complex operation by the Mossad and the Shin Bet, far from Israeli territory, in a foreign and unfamiliar environment, which was based on rigorous and accurate operational planning. The execution [operation] demanded boldness, thorough planning, professionalism, determination, adherence to purpose and faith in the righteousness of the way."

Shin Bet released this photograph of the case used by the Mossad team to conceal a covert camera in which pictures were taken confirming their target was indeed Eichmann



**Covert photograph of Eichmann
taken by the concealed camera and
notes from the Mossad team
confirming his identity**

Some of the documents released included a photo of a specially converted surveillance

**Isser Harel**

ISA Director Nadav Argaman

case used to take undercover photographs of their target; these were used to confirm Eichmann's identity. Another page from the operational journal includes letters to and from Shin Bet regarding Operation Finale.

On 15 December 1960, Adolf Eichmann was sentenced to death for crimes against the Jewish people, crimes against humanity and war crimes. He was referenced as the appointed chief of Gestapo Jewish Affairs Division and later the head of the programme dubbed the 'Final Solution'. The trial drew major world press attention.

Eichmann was hanged on 1 June 1962, making him the only civilian executed to date in Israel. His body was cremated and his ashes scattered in the sea, far from the territorial waters of Israel.

THE ARRIVAL

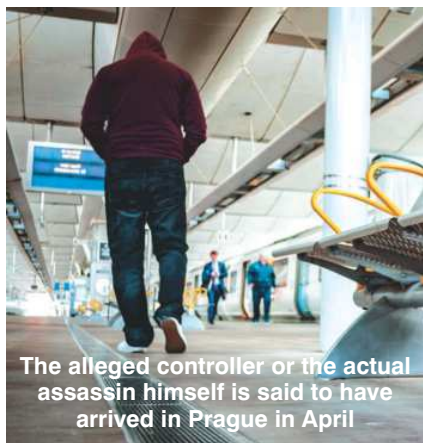


NEW POISON PLOT OR PROPAGANDA?

Alleged Russian Assassin Targets Three Key Czech Political Figures in Prague

Ever since Communism collapsed in Eastern Europe there has remained great suspicion between neighbours, especially the Czech Republic and its former controllers in Russia.

Espionage activities by Russia have increased dramatically in recent years and its capital city Prague, is now regarded as the new playground and platform for spy agencies from around the world.



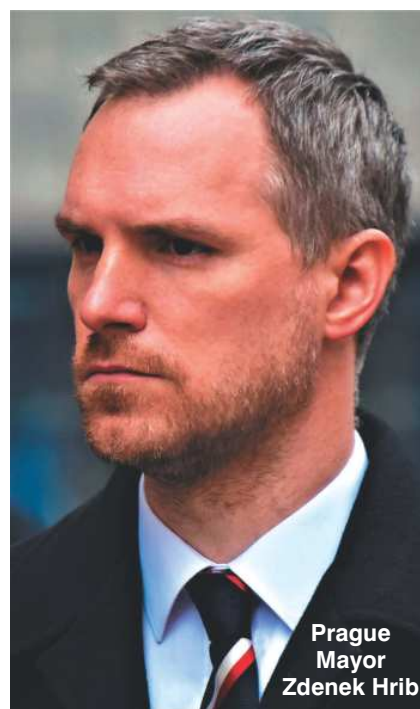
The alleged controller or the actual assassin himself is said to have arrived in Prague in April

The Czech intelligence agency BIS (Security Information Service), has long been influenced and relied upon organisations such as the CIA for guidance and information, this as for three decades it has sought to counter the covert operations of Russia's FSB, SVR and GRU. In 2018, following the attempted assassination of MI6 agent and former Russian GRU intelligence officer Sergei Skripal in the UK, the BIS moved quickly to join other agencies and helped eject three known FSB spy recruiters based at the Russian Embassy in Prague. In late 2019, BIS urged Czech citizens to be careful of potential recruitment by Russian spies, and issued an official report warning of the threat posed by Russian Intelligence.

All of this has served only to heighten tensions between Moscow and Prague, and now journalists in the Czech Republic have alleged three senior political figures were the target of a Russian assassin.

UNDER THE CHESTNUTS

Before examining the assassination plot, another point of contention worth looking at, and one that has deeply angered Moscow,



Prague Mayor Zdenek Hrib

involves a statue and a street name. Prague city planners have recently approved Mayor Zdenek Hrib's proposal to rename the square which sits directly in front of the Russian Embassy. Previously called 'Under the Chestnuts', the square is now called 'Boris Nemtsov',* in honour of the popular opposi-



Moscow officials say the last diplomatic arrival at the Russian Embassy in Prague was in March - weeks before the so-called 'assassin'



Ondrej Kolar

tion leader to President Putin who was assassinated close to the Kremlin walls in 2015 (See Eye Spy 97). In theory, this should have resulted in the embassy changing its address, but so annoyed by the Nemtsov move, an embassy spokesman said, "the embassy has decided to use 36 Korunovachi Street as its official address."

This is an address hundreds of yards away where Russia has a consular building. Mayor Hrib said: "It seems odd to me, for even President Putin said the murder of Nemtsov was wicked and cynical and its organisers must be punished."

Nevertheless, the Kremlin was further offended when the mayor of Prague's 6th district, Ondrej Kolar, ordered the removal of a statue of USSR-era commander, Ivan Konev, on 3 April. Regarded by Russians as a hero

for his efforts in World War II, many Czech citizens look upon him as a symbol of repression for the part he played in crushing the Hungarian uprising of 1956 and the Prague Spring of 1968. Russian prosecutors said they would launch criminal proceedings in connection with the decision.

A MAN WITH RICIN

Now away from the political dimension and drama of these acts, a new report titled *'A Man With Ricin'* published by Czech newspaper, *Respekt*, has once again raised the spectre of a Russian-backed assassination operation. The report's author, journalist Ondrej Kundra said, "reportedly, politicians in Prague were

targeted by a Russian assassin in retaliation for the affronts" (the square renaming and statue removal). He also referenced ricin as the "weapon of choice."

The report claims that three prominent Czech figures, Prague Mayor Zdenek Hrib, Mayor Ondrej Kolar, and political analyst Pavel Novotny, have been under police protection since early April. Both Hrib and Kolar have criticised Putin in recent months, but investigative journalists have failed to secure proper confirmation from Prague Police of the security move.

However, Mayor Hrib eventually confirmed he was under police protection, after approaching police in early April concerning a person who was seen following him on a number of occasions. And in a further twist, suggesting he is still under guard, he told the BBC: "I can't say why I'm under protection... if I had been killed, this would mean that Russian agencies had crossed a red line." Hrib added a caveat: "I don't know if such a plot existed or if it is connected to Russia... but there is a risk to my life." He concluded: "There is a Russian here who has been tasked with the job of liquidating me."

Respekt allege a Russian national carrying a diplomatic passport entered the country in early April carrying ricin in a briefcase. He was met at Prague Airport and driven to the Russian Embassy in a diplomatic vehicle. A line in the report read: *'As a diplomat, he* ➤



February 2020. Mayor Zdenek Hrib (with grey scarf) at the ceremonial renaming of 'Under the Chestnuts' Square to 'Boris Nemtsov Square'



Ivan Konev's statue in Prague has been removed causing anger in Moscow. It has stood in Interbrigady Square since May 1980. Konev has been a point of contention for many Czechs, for he was involved in the arrest and deportation of Czechoslovakian citizens of Russian birth who had fled from Stalin's brutal regime

would not be obligated under standard protocol to have been checked by Czech customs officials. That briefcase could have escaped customs inspection'.

Kundra too seemed puzzled, and said in an interview: "I cannot even find out how he could arrive in my country during the COVID-19 shut-down."



Tomas Petricek

Despite this, he said the operative "had been working for one of Russia's intelligence services."

Another Czech newspaper, daily *Denik*

N, claimed three intelligence sources confirmed the story, stating the man posed a clear danger to local politicians. Its editorial alleges the incident was discussed by Czech Foreign Minister Tomas Petricek and Russian Ambassador Alexander Zmeyerovsky.

THE ARRIVAL NAMED

In late May the alleged plot took another twist when Czech state television's premier investigative programme *168 Hodin* [168 Hours] named the Russian at the centre of the case as Andrei Konchakov, 34. Konchakov reportedly oversees activities and work of the Russian Centre for Science and Culture in Prague - an "extension of the Russian Embassy" according to the programme.

"Intelligence sources," presumably those with links to BIS counter-intelligence said they believe Konchakov is operating with non-official-cover (NOC), and an intelligence officer. The service was not named.

Czech news website Seznam Zpravy said Konchakov was met at the airport by a man identified only as Alexandr A (the driver). BIS reportedly suspect he is an FSB intelligence officer tasked with security, including the safe transport of materials including documents.

DISINFECTANT AND CANDIES

Konchakov opted to use the Czech news website Seznam Zpravy, to issue a response to the allegations. He strongly denied the accusations and insisted the case he was carrying contained "disinfectant and candies." When asked other questions by journalists he said he could not comment without first obtaining clearance from the Russian Foreign Ministry.

The affair then took another twist, when a Russian Embassy official said that they had spoken to Prague Police and asked that Konchakov receive protection because of "credible threats" to his person following the allegations against him by *168 Hodin*.

Media reports state Konchakov was born in Moscow in 1986, and reportedly graduated from the Moscow Engineering and Physics Institute (MIFI). He began working in Prague for Rossotrudnichestvo, a Russian state-run agency tasked with overseeing the well-being of nationals living abroad. The Czech Republic's Insider website lists MIFI as the institute where Konchakov studied, but identifies it as the National Research Nuclear University, whose acronym is MEPhI.



Prague was liberated by the Red Army in May 1945



Ambassador Alexander Zmeyerovsky



Respekt was established shortly after the fall of Communism in late 1989. Headquartered in Prague, the weekly magazine is described by the *New York Times* as 'influential'. Pictured is the magazine's first editor, Jan Rumi, former Minister of Interior

The head of Rossotrudnichestvo, Yelena Mitrofanova, called the reports an "unsubstantiated provocation."

RUSSIA RESPONDS

Angered by the collective features and growing international interest, Russia's Foreign Ministry dismissed the report as "baseless" and said there would be "serious consequences." Kremlin Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova warned: "Prague should fully realise how serious the consequences of such methods and manipulations could be." Russian Embassy officials in Prague said the claim was intended to "discredit Russia" and that the last time one of its staffers had arrived at the airport was in mid-March - not April.

Russia's powerful Kremlin figure - Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov - also mocked the media reports. "They found a deadly poison and let him in the country? Would any sound person believe in these fabrications? It is unthinkable."



Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis



Andrei Konchakov (right)



Russia Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov

However, giving some credence to the reports, Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis said he would "not tolerate any world power interfering in affairs." He added: "It is not acceptable... if true, for a foreign state to take action against our citizens here."

Czech Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Zuzana Stichova, was asked to comment on the alleged assassination operation. She too was a little vague, telling reporters she would not discuss "leaks to the media" but that her office works closely with the BIS and the security services. As for the man picked up at Prague Airport, Stichova said: "The fact remains that several weeks ago an appropriately accredited Russian diplomat returned to Prague from a business trip and was met at the airport by colleagues."

Eye Spy was unable to source any confirmation of the ricin delivery, though it's likely the information came from an anonymous intelligence source (tip-off). How he or she learned of the alleged delivery is also unclear, but Konchakov's role in the country was being investigated by the BIS. The Czech Foreign Ministry too has directed all questions on this important point to the BIS.

In respect of the surveillance operation conducted against Mayor Hrib, by a person or persons unknown, this we were told is true.



Boris Nemtsov was shot dead near the Kremlin on 27 February 2015

Much of the evidence however, is circumstantial... at this moment.

THE FINAL CURTAIN?

On 5 June Prime Minister Babis compounded the case further when he said the plot was "invented by Russian diplomats" and leaked to Czech Intelligence. "The entire case came to being as a result of an internal feud amongst people at the Russian Embassy," said Babis. "One of them sent false information about a planned attack against Czech politicians to the BIS." He then announced that two Russian diplomats had been expelled. Their identities are unknown.

Ondrej Kundra of *Respekt* said the new version of events does not offer an explanation. "It's hard to imagine the government would expel two Russian diplomats just because they said nasty things about each other."

* Several cities including Washington DC, Kiev and Vilnius have also named streets in honour of Boris Nemtsov.

SECRET LIAISONS

IRAN-US PRISONER EXCHANGE



BACK CHANNEL TALKS SUCCESSFUL BUT FUTURE COOPERATION REJECTED

Sirous Asgari, 59, an Iranian scientist charged in 2016 with stealing US trade secrets, has been freed and returned to Tehran. The alleged industrial espionage occurred while Asgari was on a sabbatical visit to a university in Ohio. A court ruled there was insufficient evidence for a conviction.

Some US intelligence sources claim officials from both countries had discussed the case with the objective being Iran would reciprocate, despite tensions between the countries.

Reports referenced former US Navy serviceman, Michael White, 48, who has been in captivity in Iran for two years, as a possible "returnee." However, State Department spokesman Morgan Ortagus said "Asgari is not, and never has been a participant in any prisoner swap with Iran."

Ken Cuccinelli, Acting US Deputy of Homeland Security said the cases are unrelated, and despite Iran Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif describing Asgari's return as "great news," his office said that "talk of a

swap was groundless."

The US attempted to fly Asgari back to Iran in March, this after he contracted COVID-19. However, with the cancellation of 97% of



Sirous Asgari



Michael White in isolation in an Iranian hospital

flights worldwide, and restrictions over air space in place until now, this was not possible.

As for White, he was detained whilst visiting an Iranian woman he had met on the Internet. He was sentenced to 13-years on less than convincing charges - insulting the leadership of Iran and posting a photograph of his new girlfriend and himself on-line. This led US officials to describe the incident as "politically motivated." Just like Asgari, he too survived after contracting Coronavirus.

24-HOURS

The affair took a strange twist on 4 June 2020, when Brian Hook, US Special Envoy for Iran flew to Zurich. And there he waited at the airport for a special flight from Tehran.

On the aircraft was Michael White, whom he greeted. Back in America, a federal judge approved a sentencing agreement for Matteo Taerri, an American-Iranian who had already spent two years in captivity for attempting to transport a filter component back to Iran without a licence. US security officials believed the part could be used for biological and chemical warfare purposes. The judge



Brian Hook and Michael White pictured in Zurich, Switzerland

said there are "numerous foreign policy interests that are furthered by this particular sentencing," an indication US-Iran talks through back channels (Switzerland) had taken place - but Asgari was not key - it was Taerri.

Prosecutor Tracia King confirmed the liaison: "The United States government and the government of Iran have been negotiating the release of a US citizen [White] held in Iranian custody. This case... is directly related to these negotiations."

Once the exchange was completed, Javad Zarif tweeted: 'Such deals can happen for all prisoners. No need to cherry pick. Iran hostages held in the US should all come home'. President Trump tweeted: 'It shows a deal can be done'.

White's family said there had been no news from officials over his possible release, until the recent development. White's mother Joanne, said "the nightmare is over."

United States interests are represented in Iran by Switzerland. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo thanked Hook and the Swiss Government for helping to secure White's release.

Iran is holding four US nationals on various charges, including espionage. Last December Iran released Princeton graduate Ziyue Wang, in return for an Iranian scientist who had been convicted of espionage.

MI6 WWII SPIES ON FILM

RARE FOOTAGE OF MI6 STAFFERS DONATED TO UK'S CODEBREAKING MUSEUM



A previously unknown 11-minute silent film showing MI6 and other British intelligence operatives in WWII, has been anonymously donated to Bletchley Park Trust, overseers of the hugely important Bletchley Park Museum, the site of the crucial wartime codebreaking centre. The footage, which was enclosed in its original cannister, shows personnel of MI6's

communication Section 8 at nearby Whaddon Hall in Buckinghamshire, just one of several sister sites used to decrypt intercepted signals and recovered German codes, as well as forward critical secret instructions to military commanders and agents abroad. The intelligence produced by the Government Code and Cypher School (GC&CS) at Bletchley, was known as ULTRA.



The rare film was donated in its original cannister

Whaddon Hall, led by Brigadier Richard Gambier-Parry, who was recruited by MI6 a year before the outbreak of the war, had a permanent staff of around 100. The Wireless Station was also utilised by other secret military elements. Its operational radio post was codenamed Main Line. Messages sent by Whaddon Hall reached important military commanders such as General George Patton and Field Marshal Montgomery.

The film shows off-duty personnel in civilian attire enjoying social chats and even playing sports. Some clips have been analysed by a lip reader which reveal part of staffers' conversations. Officials at the Museum said that this "brings certain section to life."

The rare footage has been authenticated by former codebreaker Geoffrey Pidgeon who began work at Whaddon Hall when he was just 17-years-old, and senior Bletchley Park



Left: Palermo, Sicily 1943. Field Marshal Montgomery (left) and General George Patton

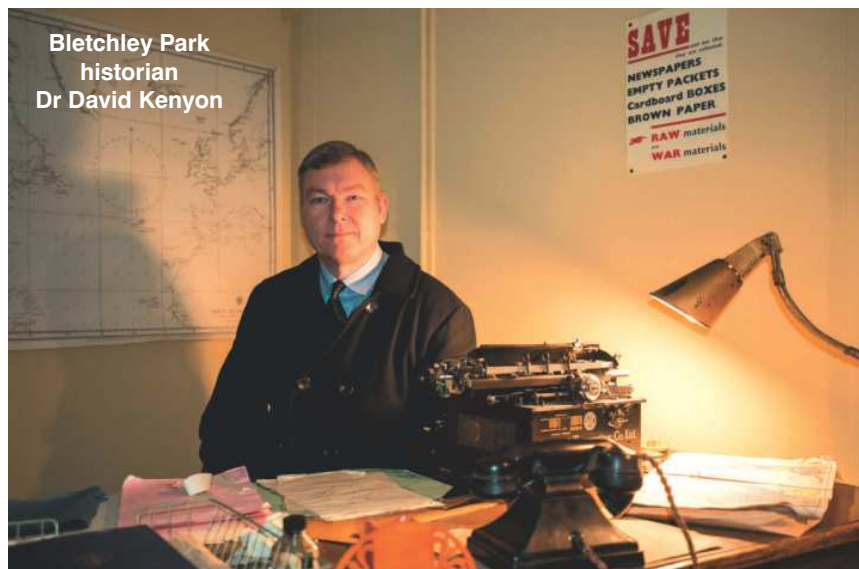


Whaddon Hall

management. Poignantly, a number of clips feature Geoffrey's father Horace who worked at the MI6 centre from 1940-1945, helping provide equipment to field operatives. Commenting on the film, Geoffrey said: "I had never seen my father on a cinefilm before. I was very surprised and moved to watch it for the first time. It is a remarkable find."

Head of Collections and Exhibitions at the museum, Peronel Craddock, said: "Not only does it show us the place and people in wartime, but it's the first piece of film footage we're aware of that shows any of the activity associated with Bletchley Park itself. It can be cared for and help tell the story of the huge team effort that underpinned Bletchley Park's successes during World War Two."

But what would have been the implications if the footage had fallen into enemy hands? Dr David Kenyon, Research Historian at the Museum said: "No other film footage of a site intimately connected with Bletchley Park exists. We don't know who filmed it and the footage doesn't give away any state secrets or clues about the work the people in it are doing. If it fell into the wrong hands, it would have given little away."



Bletchley Park historian Dr David Kenyon



Horace 'Pidge' Pidgeon

No doubt the communications between Bletchley Park and Whaddon Hall, was channelled through the secret, but tiny MI6 room sited high in the tower of the Mansion House at Bletchley Park, known as Station X - the Service's tenth such site (see opposite).

An edited version of the film can be found on the Bletchley Park Museum's website. And the Museum has appealed to viewers to try and help identify some of those who feature in this unique footage.

LINKS: www.bletchleypark.org.uk



THE TOWER

INSIDE STATION X - THE TOP SECRET MI6 COMMUNICATIONS' ROOM

In 2008, Eye Spy was allowed a unique glimpse of the room used by MI6 radio operators at Bletchley Park to communicate with key personnel, including operational spies in Europe, Allied commanders and other signal stations

Access to the tiny communications room was via this ladder



THE LAST WWII INTERCEPTED MESSAGES

GCHQ Release Thought Provoking Communications

To coincide with VE Day (Victory in Europe) and the defeat of Nazi Germany, Britain's listening agency, GCHQ, has released two of the very last messages sent by German radio operators; these were intercepted by codebreakers at Bletchley Park.

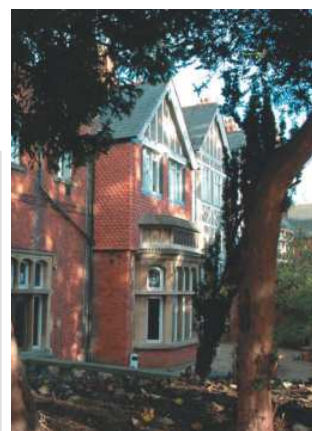
On 7 May 1945, as British forces approached Cuxhaven on Germany's northern coastline, the location of much rocket research and testing, a German message was sent warning of their arrival. *'British troops entered Cuxhaven at 1400 on 6 May. From now on all radio traffic will cease...*



German radio operator

wishing you all the best'. It ends with 'Closing down forever - all the best - goodbye'.

The message, sent at 07:35 by Lieutenant Kunkel from a military site, was part of a radio network codenamed BROWN and extended across Europe. This was the name given to the Enigma key operated by the Luftwaffe's radio and



Bletchley Park

research regiment. GCHQ historian Tony Brown said: "It was anomalous for such a relatively small unit to have its own key and a significant effort went into breaking it, something achieved in the Autumn of 1940."

Much of BROWN's traffic carried updates on the development of experimental weapons. Kunkel's



Churchill waves to crowds in London celebrating the defeat of Nazi Germany



Tony Brown

German communications secured by Bletchley Park also dispelled fears that German troops would make one last stand.

Away in the East Asian theatre, Axis Japan continued to fight on - and now the codebreakers and 9,000 other workers at Bletchley Park focussed their attention on Tokyo.

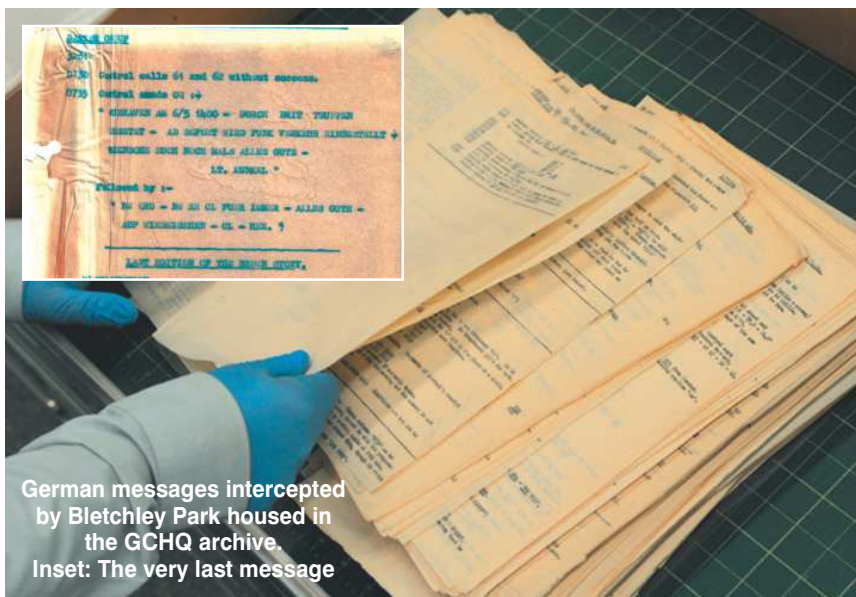
Tony Brown said the messages provide a "small insight into the real people behind the machinery of war." He added: "While most of the UK was preparing to celebrate the war ending, and the last stand of the German military commanders, Bletchley staff, like today's GCHQ workers, carried on helping to keep the country safe."

- GCHQ has uploaded a major indepth feature written by Tony Brown on the intercepts called *'The Brown Story'*.

LINKS: www.gchq.gov.uk

words would be the last ever message intercepted by Bletchley Park in the European theatre of war... but not elsewhere.

Another message intercepted just days earlier also provided a tiny insight into the dire situation faced by German troops. One radio operator sited on the Danish coast asks if anyone can spare a cigarette. A message came back... 'No cigarettes here'. Other



German messages intercepted by Bletchley Park housed in the GCHQ archive.
Inset: The very last message

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- Volume Fourteen numbers 105-112 • Volume 15 numbers 113-120 • Volume 16 numbers 121-128

N-BOMB BREAKOUT

MOSSAD WARNS IRAN EDGING CLOSER TO NUCLEAR BOMB

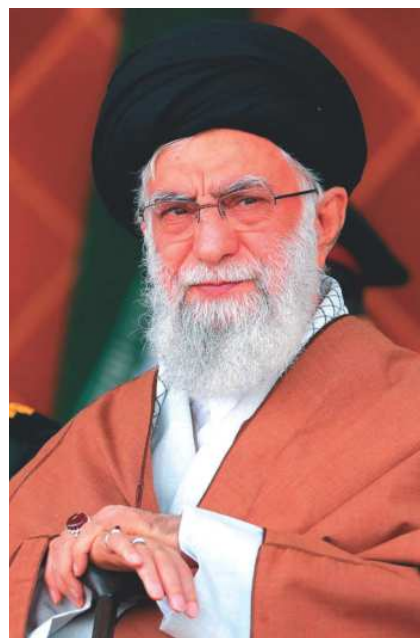
Israeli intelligence and military planners assembled as pre-emptive counter-measures considered... including military strikes

Senior Israeli intelligence, military and government officials have met to discuss the latest intelligence on Iran's nuclear weapons ambitions, this as Supreme Leader Ayatollah Al Khamenei is set to agree a push towards 20% uranium enrichment. This figure is way beyond that agreed by Iran in the 2015 nuclear deal (JCPOA - Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action). Also discussed was the prospect that Iran has secretly moved to enrich small amounts of uranium to the 90% level when it becomes weaponised.

Mossad Director Yossi Cohen and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have both

referred to the "point of no return," and "breakout timeline." This is a multi-factor collection of actions, including carrier rockets and sufficient uranium, whereby Iran has all the pieces in place to ready a nuclear weapon in a very short space of time. Mossad recognise there is no distinguishable chronological order needed, simply viable and working components.

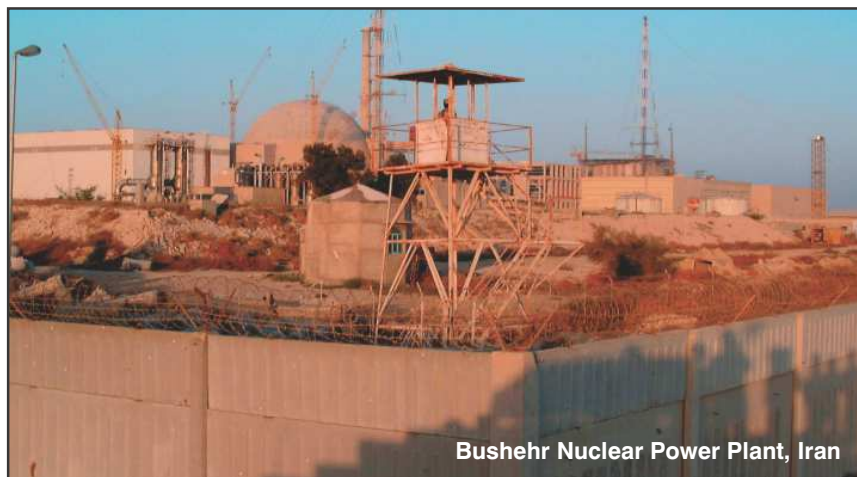
Also referenced by senior Mossad and CIA officials, Israel would be forced into a pre-emptive strike fearful of waiting to see if Iran's medium range carrier missile, Shahab 3 or other missiles, would be able to deliver the bomb. Intelligence secured by Mossad from



Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Al Khamenei

inside Iran, suggests work on this aspect of the bomb has been ongoing despite the nuclear deal being in place. Now media houses in Israel, quoting the officials, believe Mossad strongly favours military action. This stance is opposite to many senior commanders in the Israeli Defence Force (IDF), including IDF Chief of Staff General Aviv Kochavi, who believes Iran will not become a viable nuclear threat until late 2021, and this is dependent on the enrichment level.

Also investigated by Mossad and IDF analysts is the actual nature of any Israeli military



Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant, Iran



IDF Chief of Staff General Aviv Kochavi

action. So-called 'surgical strikes' have been referenced - targeting specific locations used to produce uranium, construct missiles and equally important, a suspected underground launch site protected by natural landscapes and heavily equipped missile batteries.

All the analysts believe a strike, whether successful or not, would lead to further military confrontation with Iran and its proxies, which could draw other nations into conflict, some from outside the Middle East theatre including the United States and Russia.

Prior to the nuclear deal, Iran had sufficient stockpiles of enriched uranium to manufacture ten nuclear bombs.

One Israeli news editor referred to the secret Mossad plans as a "massive internal storm that may be coming," and despite the



**Shahab-3
medium-range
missile**

NUCLEAR CONCEALMENT

IAEA CONCERNS ABOUT NUCLEAR PROGRAMMES CONTINUE

**IAEA Director General
Rafael Mariano Grossi
discusses the Iran
situation**



International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi, again called upon Iran to grant access to a number of undisclosed facilities. "The Agency has identified a number of questions related to possible undeclared nuclear material and nuclear-related activities at three locations not declared by Iran," he said. He also referenced the nuclear activities of North Korea, mentioning his organisation has collected information from various sources including spy satellites. IAEA inspectors were removed by the Communist state over a decade ago and not allowed to return, this as the country hastened its quest for a nuclear bomb.

The CIA secured intelligence that both North Korea and Iran have secretly shared technology on their respective weapons' programme.

Israeli and US officials have provided the IAEA with voluminous intelligence on Iran's and North Korea's nuclear activities. This includes thousands of documents stolen by the Mossad from a warehouse in Tehran.

Coronavirus delaying the action, "it will not stop it." Earlier this year, an IDF official said the Iran quest for a nuclear bomb constitutes a red line and "Israel will know exactly when the foot will be put on it or very near to it."

UNITED STATES

The United States Intelligence Community is also watching Iran's advance towards a nuclear weapon, this as tensions between ➤



Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Reuven Rivlin and Mossad Director Yossi Cohen attend an award ceremony to honour 'thirteen outstanding Mossad operatives'



Arak Nuclear Plant



IAEA inspectors have been denied access to three nuclear facilities in Iran

the two countries remains high following numerous incidents in the region and the killing of Quds Force leader Major General Qassim Suleimani. Defence analysts at the Pentagon have secretly provided assessments on Iran's weapons programme and like their counterparts in Israel, believe it would take Iran until mid-2021 for a nuclear weapon to be built and several months thereafter to be fitted. An array of Israeli and US spy satellites continue to monitor developments over Iran and any test linked to the programme would be viewed as a "breakout moment," according to CIA sources. "Iran's objective, like that of



General Kenneth McKenzie



Eric Brewer

"This would be used as a 'bargaining chip' in all manner of discussions, including the lifting of sanctions."

Eric Brewer, a former member of President Trump's National Security Council who advised on Iran's nuclear capability, and a DIA Iran Desk intelligence analyst, also believes the breakout timeline is "continuing to shrink and will do so until Iran stops its enrichment activities." If not, he warned, it could lead to US military strikes on the country's nuclear sites.

US Central Command chief, General Kenneth McKenzie spoke of the unpredictability of Iran's regime in the current COVID-19 climate. He said the situation "probably make them, in terms of decision making, more dangerous."

DECEPTION

The new intelligence warnings follow more analysis of over 500,000 nuclear-related documents secured from a warehouse in Tehran by the Mossad in 2018, when its spies engaged in a most audacious operation. International researchers believe Iran's unregistered secret nuclear facility at Shadid Mahallati in Tehran, could have made cores for the first bomb parts. A new report by Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security published in April, also notes that Iran has engaged in deception throughout the JCPOA, during which time it could have already built four nuclear warheads.

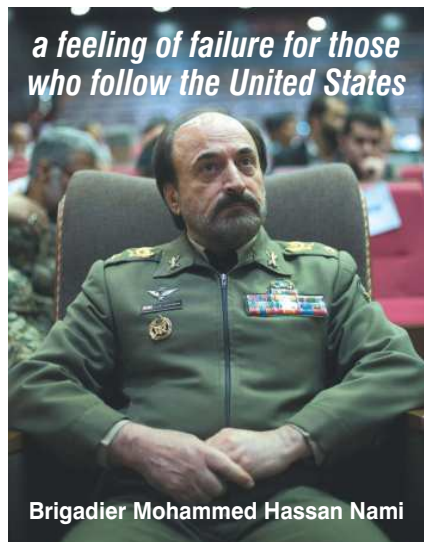
North Korea, is to build a bomb capable of reaching the United States mainland," one US weapons monitor told Eye Spy.

THE PRE Iran Military Sa CODENAM

Intelligence officials in the West believe Iran used sanctioned missile technology to launch a spy satellite in April

Discussing the April launch, an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) spokesman said: "The first satellite of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been successfully launched into space by the IRGC." Codenamed Nour (Light), the satellite was carried by a Qased (Messenger) rocket and launched from a site in the Markazi Desert, and is in orbit some 250 miles above Earth.

A UK Foreign Office spokesman speaking of the event, said: "Reports that Iran has carried out a satellite launch using ballistic missile technology are of significant concern and inconsistent with UN Security Council Resolution 2231. The UN has called upon Iran



a feeling of failure for those who follow the United States

Brigadier Mohammed Hassan Nami

CURSOR atellite Launch ME LIGHT



not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons. Iran must abide by this. We have significant and long-standing concerns, alongside our international partners, over Iran's ballistic missile programme, which is destabilising for the region and poses a threat to regional security."

MISSILE AND N-BOMB LINKS

Several intelligence and military officials believe the launch, which follows a number of failed attempts, is directly linked to the country's nuclear weapons' ambitions.

Israel's Foreign Ministry described the launch as, "a facade for Iran's continuous develop-



ment of advanced missiles." A French Government Spokesman also acknowledged a link. "We call on Iran to immediately halt any activity related to the development of ballistic missiles designed to be able to carry nuclear weapons, including space launch vehicles. German Foreign Ministry Spokesman Christofer Burger agreed, and warned: "The Iranian rocket programme has a destabilising effect on the region and is also unacceptable in view of our European security interests. Given that the technology used for space launches is very similar to that used for ballistic missile launches, this launch directly contributes to the extremely troubling progress made by Iran in its ballistic missile programme."

The controversial launch, monitored by America's National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), follows Iran's failed attempt to launch an Earth-imaging and communications satellite in February.

At a Pentagon news conference senior officials called the satellite launch a provocation. David Norquist, US Deputy Secretary of Defense, said: "We view this as further evidence of Iran's behavior that is threatening in the region."

IRAN COMMENTARY

The head of the Revolutionary Guard, General Hossein Salami, was unconcerned about the international reaction and said: "Today, the



"...intelligence defeat for the enemies of Iran"

Major General Mohammad Hossein Bagheri

world's powerful armies do not have a comprehensive defence plan without being in space, and achieving this superior technology that takes us into space and expands the realm of our abilities is a strategic achievement."

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Bagheri, said the satellite was an "intelligence defeat of the enemies of Iran, in particular the United States."

Commander of the IRGC Aerospace Force Space Division, Brigadier General Ali Jafarabadi said Iran now plans to place satellites into the geostationary orbit some 22,000 miles above the planet.

"The launch has improved the geopolitical stance of Iran and a feeling of failure for those who follow the United States," Iran Army Brigadier Mohammed Hassan Nami, former Minister of Communications and Information Technology said.



"this superior technology... expands the realm of our abilities"

General Hossein Salami



Daniel Pearl

CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER

Daniel Pearl and the 'Rogue British Agent'

PAKISTAN INTELLIGENCE MOVE TO BLOCK RELEASE OF MURDER SUSPECT AFTER CIA OBJECTIONS

Pakistan security services are refusing to release a number of al-Qaida terrorists convicted of the killing of US journalist Daniel Pearl in 2002, this after a new ruling prompted calls for their release. One of the men is British-born Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, 46, who has been on death row since the incident. In April 2020, he had his sentence reduced to just seven years for

kidnapping, and it was expected this ruling would be cause to grant him his freedom. However, a judge has now ordered his further detention along with three other persons connected to the Pearl death because of fears the group "would act against the interest of the country."

Some believe the intervention was prompted by concerns raised by officials at Pakistan's



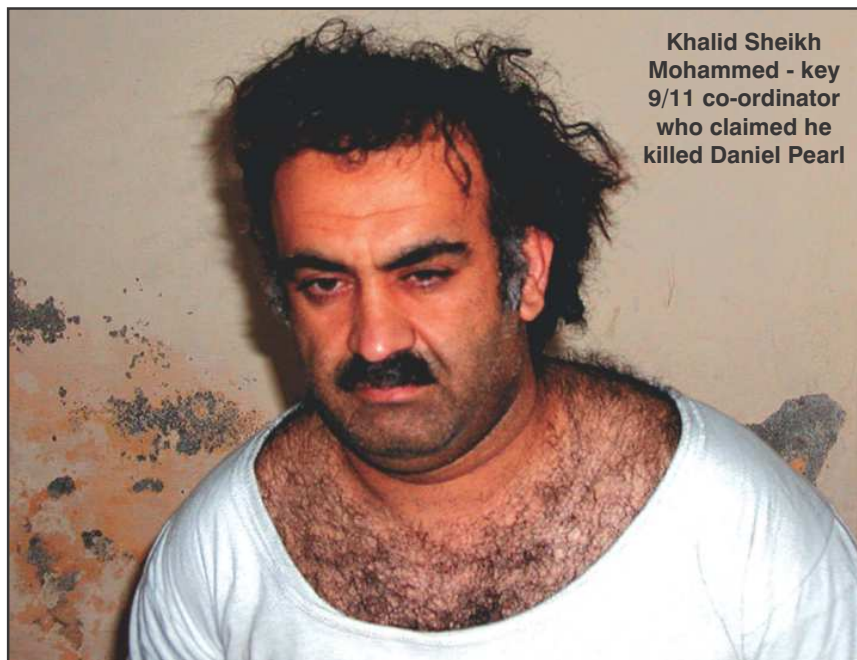
Photograph of Daniel Pearl taken by his al-Qaida kidnappers

Inter Services Intelligence Agency (ISI), following secret discussions with the CIA.

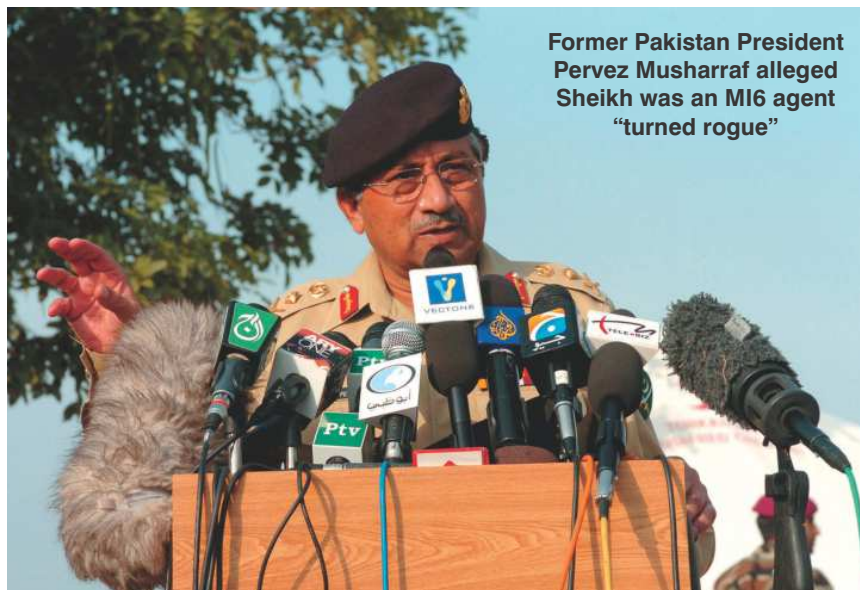
On a more public front, Ambassador Alice Wells the diplomatic head of America's South and Central Asia Desk condemned the acquittals calling them "an affront to victims of terrorism everywhere." However, she welcomed the new decision on Sheikh and his associates: "Those responsible for Daniel's heinous kidnapping and murder must face the full measure of justice."

During his original trial for Pearl's death, Sheikh's solicitor said he was in Lahore at the time of the incident, therefore could not be responsible.

Daniel Pearl was working for the *Wall Street Journal* investigating the background of the



Khalid Sheikh Mohammed - key 9/11 co-ordinator who claimed he killed Daniel Pearl



Former Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf alleged Sheikh was an MI6 agent "turned rogue"

THE ABDUCTION OF DANIEL PEARL

On 23 January 2002, Pearl journeyed to a restaurant in Karachi, where he believed a meeting had been arranged with Sheikh Mubarak Ali Gilani, founder of The Muslims of America.

At 7.00pm he was kidnapped near the city's famous Metropole Hotel by a militant group calling itself the National Movement for the Restoration of Pakistani Sovereignty. They also said Pearl was a spy and issued the United States several demands, including the release of terror suspects: all of course were impossible to fulfill. Pearl, 38, was murdered nine days later.

infamous 'shoe bomber' Richard Reid when he was abducted in January of that year. Reid of course had attempted to blow up American Airlines Flight 63 from Paris to Miami in 2001, but explosives contained within his boots had failed to ignite. A few weeks later, the terror group released a gruesome video of Pearl's

beheading, but not before US diplomats at the country's consulate in Karachi received their copy.

Investigators said Pearl had been lured by Sheikh to a meeting in Karachi with an Islamic cleric and thereafter was not seen again.

Further probes into the militant's background linked him to an alleged money transfer to one of the al-Qaida pilots who flew a hijacked airliner into the World Trade Center on 11 September 2001. He had previously been arrested and jailed for other incidents, including the kidnappings of Western tourists

THE LAND-BASED ALCATRAZ



SPIES AND TERRORISTS AT USP FLORENCE ADMAX

Pearl's investigative target - London-born **RICHARD REID**, was sentenced to three life terms plus 110-years without the possibility of parole for his attempt to blow-up American Airlines Flight 63 in 2001. He is serving his sentence at United States Penitentiary, Administrative Maximum Facility USP Florence ADMAX, Colorado. Other notorious convicted terrorists held here following their imprisonment, include:

ZACARIAS MOUSSAOUI - part of the 2001 al-Qaida 9/11 airliner hijack group.

RAMZI YOUSEF - 1993 New York City World Trade Center bomber.

UMAR ABDULMUTALLAB - attempted to blow-up Northwest Airlines Flight 253 using concealed explosives in his underwear.

DZHOKHAR TSARNAEV - 2013 Boston Marathon bomber.

THEODORE KACZYNSKI - the infamous domestic terrorist known as the 'Unabomber'.

TIMOTHY MCVEIGH - domestic terrorist who killed 168 people in the Oklahoma City bombing of a federal building

Away from the world of terrorism, several notable spies are held at the facility: **ROBERT HANSSEN** - FBI officer who spied for Russia for two decades beginning in the early 1980s.



Richard Reid



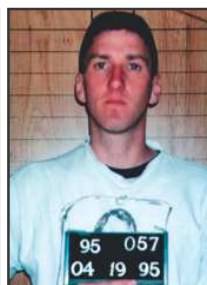
Umar Abdulmutallab



Zacarias Moussaoui



Theodore Kaczynski



Timothy McVeigh



Dzhokhar Tsarnaev



Ramzi Yousef



Harold Nicholson



Robert Hanssen

HAROLD NICHOLSON - highest ever ranked CIA officer convicted

of espionage who betrayed US secrets to Russia in the 1990s.



Jordan 2017. Alice Wells pictured with Marine Corps General Dunford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

in India in 1994. Five years later he was released and with the help of Taliban associates moved to Afghanistan.

ROGUE MI6 AGENT

In 2006, former President of Pakistan Pervez Musharraf caused ripples in British Intelligence, when he published his book - *In the Line of Fire*. He alleged Sheikh had been recruited by MI6 while studying at the London School of Economics (LSE). After operating in the Balkans "he became a rogue or double agent," Musharraf claims.

The killing of Pearl was further complicated by a statement made by key 9/11 planner Khalid Sheikh Mohammed in 2007. He made public that he was the killer. "I cut off Pearl's head with my blessed right hand," he said.

An investigative team, known as the Pearl Project at Georgetown University, Washington DC, agreed. Following a three-year probe they concluded Mohammed was responsible.

All of the arguments regarding Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh's, re-arrest will be heard in court in the following months.

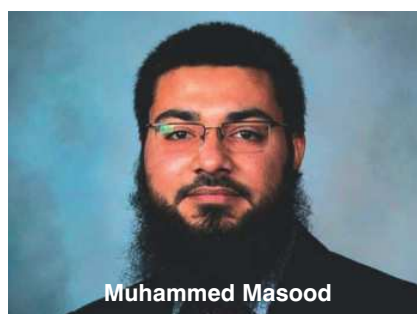
FBI STING

PAKISTANI DOCTOR ARRESTED IN UNITED STATES OVER ISIS LINKS

The FBI have arrested a 28-year-old Pakistani doctor and former Mayo Clinic research coordinator named Muhammed Masood at Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport. He is accused of providing material support to ISIS.

Masood had also pledged his allegiance to the terror group, expressing his "desire to execute lone wolf attacks" in the United States. He had been living in the country for two-years at the time of arrest, on an H-1B visa.

Masood graduated in 2016 from the Riphah International University in Islamabad, which supposedly produces professionals with Islamic morals and ethics. He worked at the Pakistan Railway Hospital, Federal Government Polyclinic Post-Graduate Medical Institute and the Government of Punjab's Healthcare department in Rawalpindi before joining Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota



in the United States as a research trainee in February 2018.

During its investigation, FBI analysts learned that Masood encrypted Social Media Platform (SMP) as user 'BB' who wanted to travel to Syria and help ISIS carry out their acts of terror.

FBI officers furnished computer records and conversations between two reliable sources that the Pakistani doctor mistook for as ISIS commander in a careful sting operation.

If proven guilty, he faces 20 years in prison.



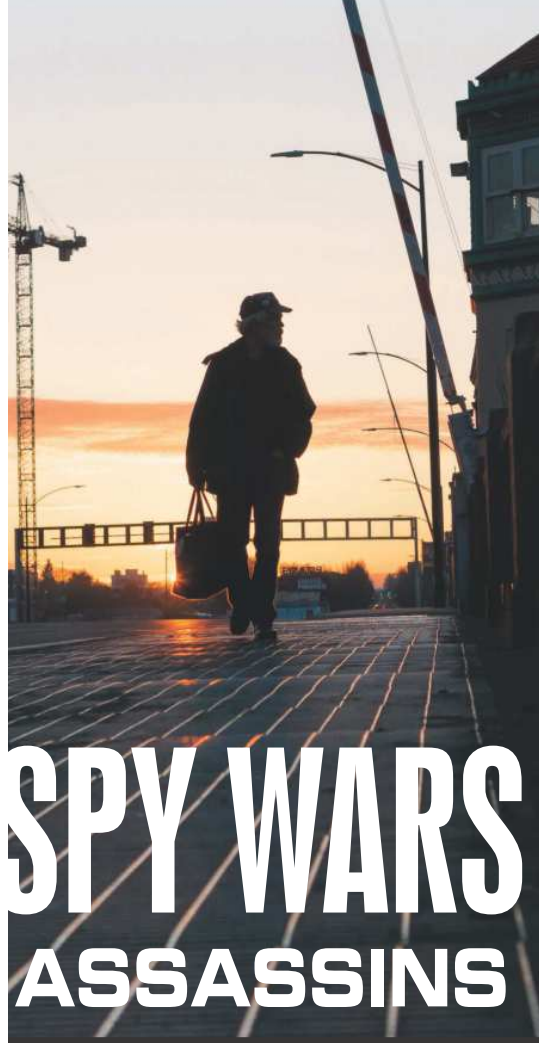
ALLEGED TARGET
Ukraine Interior Minister
Arsen Avakov

FSB-SBU S SPIES AND

Ukraine Intelligence Thwart Alleged Assassination Plot as Several 'FSB' Agents and Assets Arrested and Charged with Espionage and Treason

A serving senior officer with Ukraine's Security Service (SBU), has been arrested on charges of high treason and terrorism. Major General Valerii Shaitanov was detained after the SBU suspected he had liaised with FSB operatives in a covert operation that the country's Deputy Interior Minister, Anton Gerashenko suggested could have led to the death of Ukraine's Interior Minister Arsen Avakov. However, some confusion remains, as Vitali Mayakov, Deputy Chief of the SBU said he deals with evidence only, and that at the moment the evidence leads him to believe "no actions (assassination) were being prepared."

Shaitanov was a member of the SBU's Special Operations Center A and first established links with Moscow in 2014.



SPY WARS ASSASSINS

According to the SBU, Shaitanov had been approached by the FSB and “turned” by FSB Colonel Ihor Egorov, a former KGB officer and Order of Courage medal winner. The Russian was a senior official in the organisation’s Department of Counterintelligence Operations Number 1. This unit reportedly specialises in planning, organising and performing reconnaissance, as well as handling more darker actions including sabotage and military actions.

After allegedly agreeing to work for the FSB, Shaitanov was given the codename ‘Boby!’.



FSB Colonel Ihor Egorov (right)

Thereafter the SBU state he passed on all manner of important intelligence, including how the Service recruits personnel, works with friendly intelligence agencies in the West, including MI6 and the CIA, and performs covert operations.

Avakov’s deputy, Anton Gerashchenko, confirmed Shaitanov was arrested alongside another SBU officer (unnamed) in Kiev, also under Egorov’s control. Besides targeting the Interior Minister, the suspects allegedly



Closer detail of FSB Colonel Ihor Egorov



UNDER SURVEILLANCE: Major General Valerii Shaitanov caught on camera allegedly liaising with his Russian contacts



Major General Valerii Shaitanov

conspired in a plot to assassinate Adam Osmayev, who led a Chechen volunteer force against Russian-backed fighters in the war in the east of Ukraine. In 2017, whilst travelling in a car with his wife Amina, also a volunteer fighter, near a railroad bridge outside Kiev, the couple were ambushed by an alleged FSB-



SBU counter-intelligence officers arrest Major General Valerii Shaitanov



Major General Shaitanov's official SBU identification card



Gun cartridges recovered during the wider SBU investigation



Assassination target - Adam Osmayev

controlled assassination unit. He survived, but his wife was killed in the incident.

Following the arrests, officers from the SBU searched at least two addresses linked to the men. An SBU spokesman said: "Officers found a large arsenal of firearms and ammunition. They seized an RPG-26 hand-held anti-tank grenade launcher, a pistol complete with silencer, rifles also with silencers, other grenades and detonators as well as 9,000 cartridges of various calibers."

Besides the sanction operations, the materials were also to be used for other attacks. "If these happened, Shaitanov would have been paid \$200,000 by the FSB," an official said.

The SBU also said it has secured "invaluable evidence on the espionage" in the form of audio and video recordings, calling the investigation "a complicated, long-term multi-level operation." Revealing the investigation spanned several countries, including France, Germany and Croatia, SBU Director Ivan Bakanov said: "Unfortunately a man who had served to protect Ukraine in fact worked against it." He described the operation as "the most important conducted by the SBU since independence."

The SBU later released a transcript of one wiretap made during a conversation between Shaitanov, another asset called 'N', and their handler Egorov. "We are currently working on one guy... on Osmayev," Egorov explains. "Send him to a land of eternal hunting..." The world "liquidate," was also heard.

THE FSB ASSET

In another SBU counter-espionage operation actioned on 6 May, a man described as an "FSB asset" was arrested in Luhansk, following a surveillance operation. According to officials, the unnamed operative was involved in securing classified information on advanced missile systems' technology used by the Ukraine military.

The SBU said the suspect was asked by his FSB handler to make contact with key military personnel in the Joint Forces Operation zone, and source secrets. Unfortunately for him, one of the military workers he offered money to, reported the exchange to the SBU.

After his arrest, SBU officers searched his residence and discovered a secure cell phone



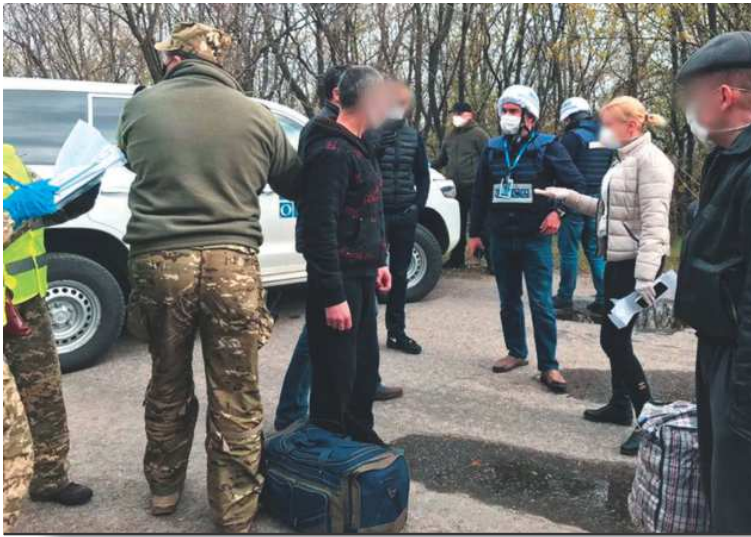
SBU Director Ivan Bakanov

allegedly provided by the FSB in which he was to forward the information.

In yet another spy case, the SBU detained a resident of Mykolaiv, who attempted to sell



SBU officers detain alleged FSB asset in Luhansk, Donbass region



Ukrainians make their way home after an exchange of prisoners was agreed and actioned upon by the FSB and SBU

ship-building technology to a suspected FSB agent. Both suspects have been charged under the Espionage and High Treason Acts.

COUNTER-ACTION

Just hours after the arrests, the FSB said a female Russian Army officer and a Ukrainian national had been arrested in annexed Crimea on charges of espionage. "Both individuals conspired against Russia on behalf of Ukraine," an FSB spokesperson said. "Acts of



Cell phone seized by the SBU which was provided to the Luhansk-based asset by his FSB handler

sabotage and terrorism on facilities of critical social and military infrastructure were to be committed."

The FSB state the officer had worked for the SBU and collected intelligence on behalf of Kiev. The Ukraine operation, which was enabled two years ago, was controlled by Ukraine Army Colonel Oleg Akhmedov,

Director of Military Intelligence based in the southern Ukrainian city of Kherson. Akhmedov was first mentioned in an FSB directive involving another suspected spy identified in January.

Before the latest incidents between these fierce rivals, an exchange of prisoners between Ukraine and Moscow-backed separatists was due to take place in May. Some intelligence watchers doubted this would happen, however, through SBU and FSB liaisons with separatists in the east of Ukraine, a deal was struck. This led to the return of 20 Ukrainians from the volatile Donetsk region.

Since the outbreak of hostilities between fighting factions primarily in Donetsk and Luhansk, over 13,000 people have perished.



SBU headquarters, Kiev



UnderCover Book Releases



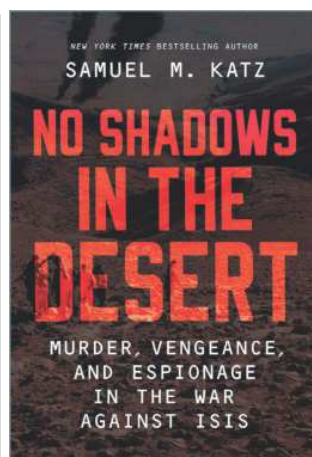
AVAILABLE FROM
EYE SPY INTELLIGENCE MAGAZINE

NO SHADOWS IN THE DESERT: Murder, Vengeance, and Espionage in the War Against ISIS

Samuel M. Katz
Hanover Square Press

Samuel M. Katz reveals the untold story of the behind-the-scenes fight against ISIS - one coordinated by heads of state and ultimately fought in the alleyways and open deserts of the Middle Eastern battlefield by spies and soldiers. Katz draws upon his sources within the global intelligence and counter-terrorism community, as well as the international special operations and espionage fraternity, to tell the story of the covert campaign against ISIS by the operatives who ventured deeply and secretly into enemy territory.

In this first-ever look at the secret inner workings of an Arab secret service, Katz tells the story of Jordan's GID, the masters of human intelligence on the espionage battlefields of the Middle East, who proved pivotal and crucial go-to allies of the CIA and America's other intelligence agencies in the war against ISIS and the war on terror. With revealing and intimate insight of the intelligence officers who fought ISIS, Katz provides a rare glimpse into how a strategic partnership helped change how



terrorism is fought in the Middle East and beyond. Hardback 368pp

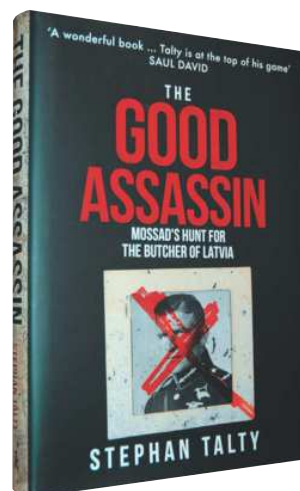
Available from Eye Spy Ref: ES/1788
UK £27.00. USA \$42.00 ROW £29.00

THE GOOD ASSASSIN: How a Mossad Agent and a Band of Survivors Hunted Down the Butcher of Latvia

Stephan Talty
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Before World War II, Herbert Cukurs was a famous figure in his small Latvian city, the 'Charles Lindbergh of his country'. But by 1945, he was known as the Butcher of Latvia, a man who murdered some thirty thousand Latvian Jews. Somehow, he dodged the Nuremberg trials, fleeing to South America after war's end.

ALL PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE (AIR) AND PACKING



By 1965, as a statute of limitations on all Nazi war crimes threatened to expire, Germany sought to welcome previous concentration camp



Herbert Cukurs

commanders, pogrom leaders, and executioners, as citizens. The global pursuit of Nazi criminals escalated to beat the looming deadline, and Mossad joined the cause. Yaakov Meidad, the brilliant Mossad agent who had kidnapped Adolf Eichmann three years earlier, led the mission to assassinate Cukurs in a desperate bid to block the amnesty. In a thrilling undercover operation unrivaled by even the most ambitious spy novels, Meidad travelled to Brazil in an elaborate disguise, befriended Cukurs and earned his trust, while negotiations over the Nazi pardon neared a boiling point.

The Good Assassin uncovers this little-known chapter of Holocaust history and the undercover operation that brought Cukurs to justice. Hardback 320pp

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THE TWINS: The SOE'S Brothers of Vengeance

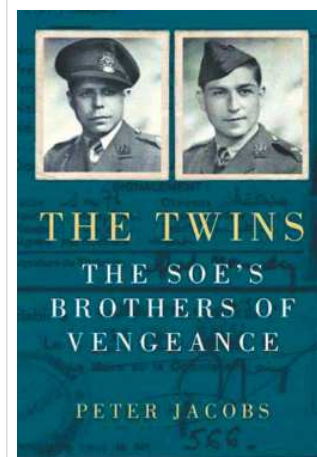
Peter Jacobs
The History Press

December 1941. After setting up one of the first resistance organisations in Vichy France and escaping over the Pyrenees into

Spain, brothers Henry and Alfred Newton received devastating news. The SS Avoceta, carrying their parents, wives and children to the safety of Britain, had been torpedoed by a German U-boat. All of their family were dead.

From that moment on, the Newton brothers were consumed by revenge. Recruited by SOE, and known to everyone simply as the 'Twins', they returned to France and waged their own personal war against the Nazis. For nine months they lived on the edge before they were betrayed, and the net finally closed. They were caught by the Gestapo and tortured at the hands of Klaus Barbie, known as the 'Butcher of Lyon', before being taken to the dreaded Buchenwald concentration camp.

For the first time in over sixty years, acclaimed historian Peter Jacobs reveals the full story of Henry and Alfred Newton. Drawing on personal archives and new research, *The Twins* is a dramatic tale of courage steeped in vengeance and of the bonds of brotherhood in the face of hell on Earth. Hardback 256pp

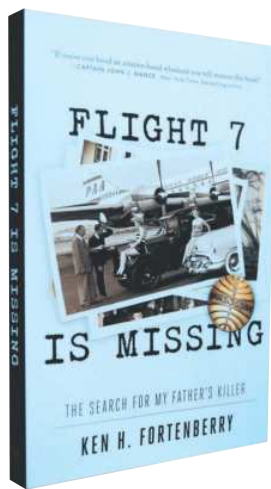


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FLIGHT 7 IS MISSING: The Search for my Father's Killer

Ken Fortenberry
Fayetteville Mafia Press

Described by *The New York Times* as one of the 'most vexing and unexplained mysteries in aviation history', the crash of Pan American World Airways Flight 7 in November 1957, resulted in 44 deaths and remains officially unsolved to this day.



Ken H. Fortenberry, an award-winning journalist whose father was the co-pilot and navigator aboard the ill-fated plane, has devoted nearly sixty-years of his life to unravelling this cold-case mystery, and has come to a staggering conclusion: that the victims of the crash were murdered.

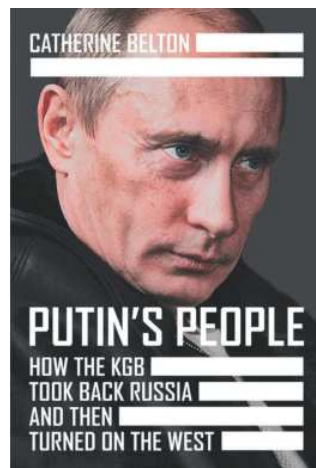
A remarkably researched book packed with information and emotion, *Flight 7 Is Missing* is a gripping page-turner that reads like a fast-paced murder mystery. Join Fortenberry on his crusade as he tirelessly tracks down every possible lead and eventually exposes the person he believes responsible for this tragic crime. Utterly absorbing. Softback 350pp

Available from Eye Spy Ref: ES/1791
UK £21.00. USA \$30.00 ROW £25.00

PUTIN'S PEOPLE: How the KGB Took Back Russia and the Took on the West

Catherine Belton
William Collins

The hacking of the 2016 US elections; sponsorship of extremist politics in Europe and war in Ukraine. In recent years,



Vladimir Putin's Russia has waged a concerted campaign to expand its influence and undermine Western institutions. But how and why did all this come about and who has orchestrated it?

In *Putin's People*, former Moscow correspondent and investigative journalist Catherine Belton tells the untold story of the rise of Vladimir Putin and the small group of KGB men surrounding him. Delving deep into the workings of Putin's Kremlin, Belton accesses key inside players to reveal how Putin replaced the free-wheeling tycoons of the Yeltsin era with a new generation of loyal oligarchs, who in turn subverted their country's economy and legal system and expanded its influence in the West.

The result is a chilling and revelatory expose of the KGB's renaissance and how Russian black cash is subverting the world with stark consequences for Russia's inhabitants and, increasingly, the world. Hardback 640pp

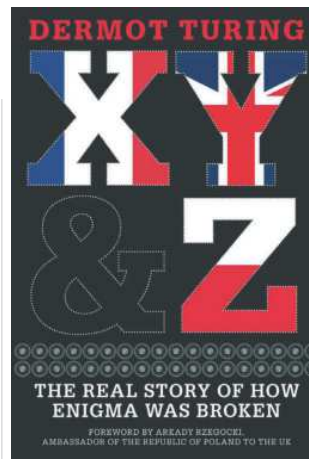
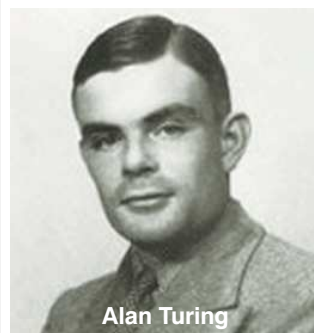
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X, Y & Z: The Real Story of How Enigma Was Broken

Dermot Turing
The History Press

In the bathroom of a Belgian hotel, a French spymaster photographs top-secret documents - the operating instructions of the cipher machine - Enigma. A few weeks later a mathematician in Warsaw begins to decipher the coded communications of the Third Reich and lays the foundations for the codebreaking operation at Bletchley Park. The co-operation between France, Britain and Poland is given the cover-name 'X, Y & Z'.

It is the middle of World War Two; The Polish code-breakers have



risked their lives to continue their work inside Vichy France, even as an uncertain future faces their homeland. Now they are on the run from the Gestapo. People who know the Enigma secret are not supposed to be in the combat zone, so MI6 devise a plan to exfiltrate them. If it goes wrong, if they are caught, the consequences could be catastrophic for the Allies.

Based on original research and newly released documents, *X, Y & Z* is the exhilarating story of those who risked their lives to protect the greatest secret of World War Two. Hardback 320pp

• Dermot Turing is the nephew of famous mathematician and Bletchley Park codebreaker Alan Turing.

Available from Eye Spy Ref: ES/1793
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HOLLYWOOD DOUBLE AGENT: The True Tale of Boris Morros, Film Producer Turned Cold War Spy

Jonathan Gill
Abrams Press

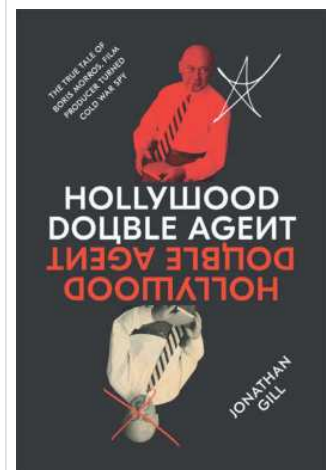
Boris Morros was a major figure in the 1930s and '40s. The head of music at Paramount, nominated for Academy Awards, he then went on to produce his own films with Laurel and Hardy, Fred Astaire, Henry Fonda, and others. But as J. Edgar Hoover would discover, these successes were a cover for one of the most incredible espionage tales in the history of the Cold War. Boris Morros also worked for Russian intelligence.

Morros's assignments took him to the White House, the Vatican, and deep behind the Iron Curtain. The high-level intelligence he provided the KGB included military secrets



Boris Morros

and compromising information on prominent Americans: his friends. But in 1947, Morros flipped. At the height of the McCarthy era, he played a leading role in a deadly tale. Jonathan Gill's *Hollywood Double Agent* is an extraordinary story about Russian spies at the heart of American culture and politics, and one man caught in the middle of the Cold War. Hardback 336pp

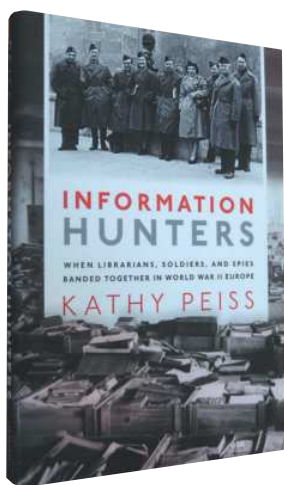


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INFORMATION HUNTERS: When Librarians, Soldiers and Spies Banded Together in WWII Europe

Kathy Peiss
Oxford University Press

While armies have seized enemy records and rare texts as booty throughout history, it was only during WWII that an unlikely band of librarians, archivists, and scholars travelled abroad to collect books and documents to aid the military cause. Galvanised by the events of war into acquiring and preserving the written word, as well as providing critical information for intelligence purposes, these American civilians set off on missions to gather foreign publications and information



across Europe. They journeyed to neutral cities in search of enemy texts, followed behind advancing armies to capture records, and seized Nazi works from bookstores and schools. When the war ended, they found looted collections hidden in cellars and caves. Their mission was to document, exploit, preserve, and restitute these works, and even, in the case of Nazi literature, to destroy them.

In this fascinating account, cultural historian Kathy Peiss reveals how book and document collecting became part of the new apparatus of intelligence and national security, military planning and postwar reconstruction.

Peiss tells the story of the men and women who went to Europe to collect and protect books and information and in doing so enriches the debates over the use of data in times of both war and peace. Hardback 296pp

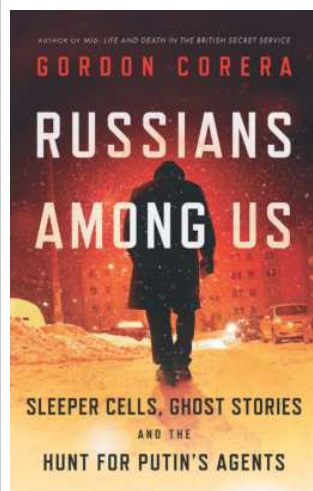
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RUSSIANS AMONG US: Sleeper Cells, Ghost Stories and the Hunt for Putin's Agents

Gordon Corera
William Collins

The urgent, explosive story of Russia's espionage efforts against the West from the Cold War to the present - including their interference in the 2016 presidential election.

Like a scene from a le Carre novel or the TV drama *The Americans*, in the summer of 2010 a group of Russian deep-cover sleeper agents were arrested. It was the culmination of a decade-long investigation, and ten people, including Anna Chapman, were swapped for four people held in Russia. At the time it was seen simply as a throwback to the Cold War. But that would prove to be a costly mistake. It was a sign that the Russian threat had never gone away and more importantly, it was shifting into a much more disruptive new phase. Today, the



Gordon Corera

danger is clearer than ever following the poisoning of one of the spies who was swapped, Sergei Skripal, and the growing evidence of Russian interference in America.

In this meticulously researched and gripping, novelistic narrative, Gordon Corera uncovers the story of how Cold War spying has evolved - and indeed, is still very much with us.

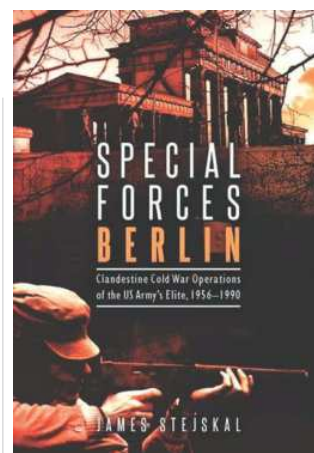
Russians Among Us describes for the first time the story of deep cover spies in America and the FBI agents who tracked them. In intimate and riveting detail, it reveals new information about today's spies - as well as those trying to catch them and those trying to kill them. Hardback 448pp

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SPECIAL FORCES BERLIN: Clandestine Cold War Operations of the US Army's Elite, 1956-1990

James Stejskal
Casemate

This book relays the history of a little known and highly classified US Army Special Forces Detachment that was



stationed in Berlin, Germany from 1956 to 1990.

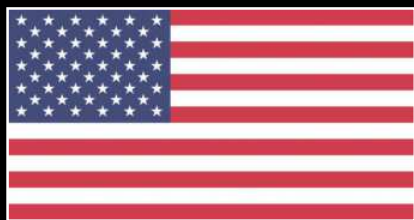
The first 40 men who came to Berlin in mid-1956 were soon reinforced by 60 more and these 100 soldiers (and their successors) would stand ready to go to war in a hostile area occupied by nearly one million Warsaw Pact forces until 1990. If war came, some of these men would stay in Berlin to fight the enemy, while others would cross the most heavily defended border in the world and disappear into the countryside to accomplish their tasks behind Soviet lines.

The Detachment were also involved in operations elsewhere, including participation in the attempted rescue of American hostages from Tehran in 1979. Softback 334pp

• James Stejskal is a former US Army Special Forces soldier and senior CIA Case Officer.

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THE LIGHTER SIDE

THE SPY ARTEFACT COLLECTOR



ESCAPE AND EVASION AUCTION

In May, East Bristol Auctions Ltd, featured a number of fascinating items linked to the world of intelligence from the collection of the late Arthur Muggeridge, born 18 December 1919.

It is believed Arthur spent most of WWII in the Royal Artillery and was at Dunkirk in 1940 during the evacuations. Here he suffered minor injuries on a ship following a Luftwaffe bombing raid. He later took part in a special raid called Operation Claymore on 4 March 1941 in Norway, where he suffered shrapnel injuries. Muggeridge was injured a third time when a field artillery gun misfired causing deafness which is believed to have resulted in him being discharged from the military.

In later life he collected military items, particularly spy and clandestine objects. Whilst visiting Devon in the 1960s he became acquainted with the legendary Charles Fraser-Smith (below) who had worked for the British



intelligence organisations MI6 and MI9 in the war. He reportedly was the inspiration for Ian Fleming's James Bond quartermaster character 'Q'.

Smith designed many famous items



© EAST BRISTOL AUCTIONS LTD

linked to the world of intelligence and covert action for the SOE and others organisations.

Some of the auctioned items included a pipe, exploding coal, games, matches, compass ring, shaving brush and much more.

Muggeridge died aged 91 after a short illness on 27 Feb 2010.

GAMES OF THE CIA!

TACTICS FOR NEW RECRUITS

Originally classified as Top Secret, 'Collection Deck' was a game designed by CIA Analyst David Clopper and used to teach new Langley recruits about intelligence collection techniques. News of the project surfaced three years ago. The CIA declassified the game and Douglas Palmer and Mitchell Kotler secured its public release through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). In the United States, works created by the federal government are generally considered in the public domain.

'CIA: Collect It All' is a competitive card game based on 'Collection Deck'. Players take on the role of

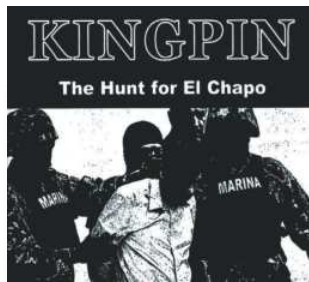


officers securing intelligence and tackling threats over multiple rounds. Drawing from a deck of over 150 cards, players start each round with a handfull of intelligence tactics and must devise strategies to successfully defuse various crises. The tactics and crises all contain aspects - Political, Military, Economic and Weapons - and players can only tackle crises if they have tactics with matching aspects.



However, rival players also have 'reality check' cards that they can play to complicate their opponents' efforts.

Another authentic in-house CIA table top game was called 'Kingpin: The



Joaquin 'El Chapo' Guzman

Hunt for El Chapo - named as such for the lengthy operation to capture Joaquin 'El Chapo' Guzman, the Mexican drug runner and Sinaloa Cartel crime syndicate overlord. He was captured by Mexican police in 2016 and extradited to the United States a year later.

LINKS: www.techdirt.com/ciagame



Continued from Page 25

ZOOM INTEL BREACH FEARS

in Jan Jose, California, became popular during the COVID-19 outbreak, as people from every walk of life, including government, kept in touch during nationwide lock-downs.

INTEL COLLECTION

The FBI circulated a warning advising hackers could exploit a number of security weaknesses in Zoom's software: 'Malicious users could use Zoom to steal sensitive information, target

individuals and businesses performing financial transactions, and engage in extortion'.

The FBI's counter-intelligence directorate reportedly monitored intelligence services in three countries involved in the activity - Russia, Iran and North Korea. Here hacking groups attempted to acquire financial, personal, product development, research, and intellectual property information and leads, on US Government and corporate targets, according



Lt. Colonel Robert Carver moderates a Pentagon COVID-19 news conference

to three intelligence officials familiar with the activity.

An approved option - Zoom for Government - is still available to Pentagon and contracting agencies. This is because it has been issued with a Federal Risk and Authorisation Management Programme (FedRAMP) provi-

sional authorisation. The programme has increased security for government agencies.

Use of Zoom for Government has a caveat attached. It can be used only to transmit or discuss publicly released DOD information not categorised as 'For Official Use Only'.

LAST WORD

ELON MUSK

Tesla and SpaceX founder Elon Musk and his partner, Grimes, a musician, have named their newborn baby (in part) after the Lockheed A-12 spy aeroplane built for the CIA during the Cold War.

Musk said the baby boy's name is **X Æ A-12**, and Grimes tweeted that the A-12 is representative of the predecessor to her and Musk's favourite aircraft, the SR-71 Blackbird.

The A-12, which could fly at Mach 3 at 90,000 feet, was operational for only a few years before it was retired and replaced by the SR-71.

In the mid-1950s, the CIA began looking at a successor to the U-2 spy plane because it desired a difficult-to-detect aircraft that could fly at very fast speeds and at high altitude.



Lockheed A-12

The A-12 was the 12th in a series of designs under the codename Archangel developed by the aviation-engineering supremo Clarence 'Kelly' Johnson and Lockheed Martin's famous Skunk Works that ultimately won a CIA contract for Project Oxcart in 1959.



Elon Musk

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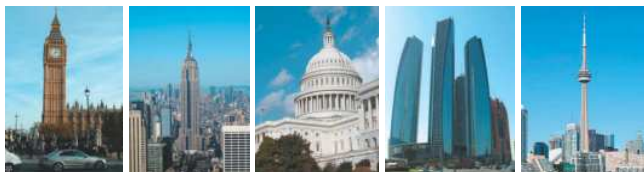


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