

EXHIBITION BOOKLET

SECRET WARS

EXHIBITION

12 OCT. 2016

29 JAN. 2017

1.



AT THE HEART OF THE SECRET

Secret preparation for war is a mission carried out by the military apparatus of modern States. In the late 19th century, this led to the creation of permanent intelligence services. The First World War marked an important stage in their development: advances were made in the area of (de)coding and transmissions, and in organisation, with the setting up of spy networks. Governmental control of censorship, propaganda and misinformation was put in place. The Second World War extended and accentuated the previous developments. In a Europe submerged by Nazi Germany or Asia dominated by Japan, many governments in exile could only act in the shadows. This saw the start of the secret war and its associated methods of action: intelligence, clandestine operations, misinformation and destabilisation, going beyond the military and technical arenas into the

political and ideological domain. State or parastate secret structures increased to a degree that had never seen before. The Cold War saw the Western and Soviet blocs opposed against each other in a climate of extreme tension, fostered by public opinion on either side. The balance of force and awareness of the destructive character of their accumulated military capacities kept the two superpowers back from the threshold of outright conflagration. The secret war, in all its guises, therefore became their predominant mode of conflict, served by increasingly modernised technology such as computers and satellites. The degree of secrecy became increasingly thicker, particularly in the nuclear sector.

WHAT'S AN AGENT ?

Contemporary fiction, whether in the form of novels or cinema, often leaves its audience with a compelling image of a secret agent as a kind of superman for whom nothing is impossible, to the point where sometimes the fate of his country - or even the planet - depends on him alone. Beyond the fantasy and myth, the reality for players in secret wars is much more complicated and diverse. Strictly speaking, in order to be effective, agents must first of all operate with the greatest secrecy when their missions lead them abroad, either with diplomatic status or in a clandestine manner and sometimes, in the latter case, at a risk to their lives. Their missions are very varied: gathering of information, misinformation, destabilisation, clandestine action... Civilian or military, they form an integral part of the services in which other personnel organise their operations, prepare the materials which they need and analyse

information.

Last but not least, they do not work alone: an essential part of their role involves forming a network of sources and informants around them. The motivation for these 'sleeper' or active agents, who are sometimes just occasional and come from varied social and professional backgrounds, can be the need for money, character or behaviour traits, a painful personal or family history, but also patriotism or political or ideological conviction.

RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

2.



Working for an intelligence or action service is not always a vocation and «agents» follow many different career paths. Before the Second World War, the military attachés were Army-trained career officers. After 1940, the emerging secret services - BCRA, SOE, OSS - needed to recruit and train rapidly, but rigorously, volunteers who were often completely unfamiliar with this world. It could take several months to train an agent before they were sent out into the field. Special Training Schools were set up in Britain, where physical training, parachute jumps, shadowing, sabotage, coding and radio transmissions were all on the programme. On some secret programmes, the junior personnel did not always know what the project was actually about. This was the case with the Oak Ridge experimental centre in Tennessee, the heart of the Manhattan project into nuclear research.

Before the Cold War and the creation of

permanent institutions, some countries such as the United States and France set up special training schools, where the instructors were often former World War Two agents. The CIA found its recruits in university lecture theatres; from 1952, those intended for action on the ground were trained at a secret base in Virginia called the «Farm», where they were taught how to recruit a source or carry out clandestine operations abroad. The same year, in France, Robert Maloubier, a former SOE agent, founded the «combat divers» school at the SDECE (External Documentation and Counterespionage Service).

CONSTRUCTING A STORY

Within his or her own service, a secret agent may use a false name or pseudonym. On the ground, he or she may have one or more code names, for different external contacts. In Free France and the Resistance, for example, Daniel Cordier, a BCRA agent (French Central Bureau of Intelligence and Operations), went under the names of BIP W, Alain and Michel, among others. Others have passed into posterity under a single pseudonym, such as Passy (André Dewavrin, Head of the BCRA), H 21 (Margaretha Geertruida Zelle, known by her stage name Mata Hari), and Farewell (the Soviet dissident Vladimir Vetrov). For the purposes of a mission, an agent may also disguise themselves: by using make-up and dressing in various extravagant ways, a woman can take on several appearances; false tattoos or a false scar, easily identifiable by any witnesses, can be removed once the mission is complete; a pair of well-chosen glasses can significantly alter a face... The «story» is much more than that however: it is a fictional identity, sometimes requiring several years to be constructed and put in place, then

become effective. In order to blend into the environment where they must operate, the agent, given new identity papers, may learn a new job and possibly change their appearance for good. Unlike agents who benefit from diplomatic cover, those who operate under a fictional identity are «illegals» who cannot hope for any protection if they are arrested.

THE AGENT'S METHODS



spying. The purpose was to identify any preparations for war on either side of the Iron Curtain. Special silenced or concealed weapons continued to be used until the early 1960s, but gradually disappeared in favour of highly discreet cameras and audio recorders. Using great ingenuity, the workshops of the Soviet, American, French and British secret services managed to create devices camouflaged as ordinary objects, which allowed them to photograph documents in formats that were small enough to be concealed, transported and then analysed.

Most of the services that carry out intelligence activities have specialist workshops capable of producing equipment for the specific needs of the missions. The *James Bond* films popularised «Q», an inventor of some very extravagant gadgets. This legendary character was not the product of Ian Fleming's imagination, he was in fact modelled on Charles Bovill, Head of the British Special Operations Executive (SOE) technical department, who supplied equipment to the agents who parachuted into occupied Europe to support the various Resistance movements.

Legendary weapons, such as the Welrod silenced pistol and various types of daggers were developed to carry out discreet assassinations, while a whole arsenal of sabotage devices was specially designed in the SOE and OSS workshops. With the advent of the Cold War, the secret services refocused their attention on



----- **OBTAINING INFORMATION** -----

Supplying crucial information is one of the oldest tasks of the intelligence services. Through the collection of precise and verified facts, the services endeavour to help decision-makers, the political authorities that is, to become acquainted with the detrimental resources and plans which continue to be the two dimensions of any threat. After obtaining so-called 'raw' data, which has not been used or assessed, it has to be analysed and processed and put to good use. Research can be 'open' where it relies on a source of information which is legally and freely available (press, radio, books, conferences...) or 'clandestine', where it involves protected information. For that, the services do not have a particular preferred method, but combine different modes of action depending on the intended purpose. They can use human means by benefiting from the involvement of local sources, sometimes in the midst of the opposing camp or agents who are targeted, recruited, trained and controlled. Information obtained is also gathered from shadowing

or surveillance operations, or even intrusion into a secure site.

The interception of communications, encrypted or otherwise, is also a means of collecting information. With the development of new means of communication (telegraphic, radio, cable...) interception, which came about during the First World War, developed considerably during the Second World War, before becoming, during the Cold War, the primary source of intelligence of modern states.

CLANDESTINE AND SUBVERSIVE OPERATIONS

Clandestine operations have been one of the main components of secret service action since the Second World War. They have been used either in wartime, during confrontation between two armies behind the lines, or in peacetime during conflictual relationships between States, against international organisations and hostile individuals, when diplomatic action is ineffective and traditional military intervention is impossible.

In the first case, they help to unbalance and disorientate enemy armies, by non-conventional methods used against their rear action, to reverse the power balance in places where the main effort is engaged. In the second case, they act illegally to counter the positions of a hostile country, without identifying the manoeuvring governments.

In both cases, these actions are carried out by men and women specially trained in specific, complex know-how related to clandestine operations, essential to the secrecy of the operation and the safety of its agents. Only the secret services are authorised to carry out such operations and are capable of doing so. They intervene in guerilla or resistance movements, offering military support and technical assistance. They also carry out sabotage actions on civil or military installations, often through third parties, plus physical elimination of leaders or opinion leaders.

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

The concept of psychological warfare appeared in the early 20th century with the emergence of «total war» during the First World War: the separation between combatants and non-combatants became increasingly difficult and the civil population played a major role in the conflict. Psychological warfare, which uses manipulation, propaganda and misinformation techniques to act on people's minds, aims to boost the morale of the troops and the civil population, while undermining that of the enemy.

During the Second World War, the psychological actions conducted by the British and the Americans were mainly designed to deceive the German military chiefs about the Allies' true intentions and the embarkation locations in Italy and France, but also to arouse in the German population a feeling of defeatism, weariness with war and a loss of confidence in their leaders.

During the Cold War between the Americans and the Soviets, psychological warfare played a major, continuous role. Each of the two camps tried to defend and propagate their own ideology and values, to the detriment of the other. The KGB used a multitude of influential agents to spread Communist ideas in authorised environments and, in Western Europe, manipulated vast popular peace and anti-nuclear weapon movements. The CIA, meanwhile, financed anti-Communist organisations in the West and disseminated propaganda broadcasts in the East, to counter the influence and expansion of Communism.

FROM THE SHADOWS INTO THE LIGHT, SECRETS REVEALED

By their very nature, secret war operations must remain unknown to the public. Sometimes, however, due to chance and/or errors in the conception or execution of these enterprises, their failure is exposed and events take a spectacular, resounding turn. The media seizes hold of it, the political classes debate it and public opinion is stirred up by it, up to a certain point at least. In several famous cases, all very different in origin and scope, scandals have been caused by immediate or subsequent revelations, such as the British «Cambridge Spy Ring», the American «Bay of Pigs Invasion» or the French «Rainbow Warrior». Even in the Soviet Union, where information was controlled by a totalitarian regime, the Stalinist paranoia about espionage and betrayal resulted in repeated scandals, widely reported by the official media. By contrast, successful operations stay in the shadows. We have to wait until the main players withdraw or disappear, or publish their memoirs, or for historians to cross-match their research following normal (according to legal declassification periods) or exceptional opening of the archives (following the collapse of the apparatus of State or the regimes in question), to obtain a more completed, nuanced, balanced view of events. This is the only way that ordinary citizens can learn, for example, about the successful British «Ultra» operation, the American «Venona» project, the French «Farewell» dossier or the Soviet «Stockholm Appeal»... The light emerges from the shadows.

6.



Captions

1. Electro-mechanical encrypting typewriter Enigma

Second World War
DGSE- MINISTÈRE DE LA DÉFENSE
(c) musée de l'Armée / Pascal Segrette

2. Automatic gun Wather PPK/S, 9 mm, with a serial number starting with A007 referencing James Bond

Cold War
Maldon, Combined Military Services Museum
(c) musée de l'Armée / Emilie Cambier

3. Miniature camera Tessina 35 mm hidden in a pack of cigarettes

Cold War
DGSE - Ministère de la Défense

4. Bulgarian umbrella

Cold War, 1980s
Maldon, Combined Military Services Museum
(c) musée de l'Armée / Pascal Segrette

5. Transmitter-reciever SE 90/40 type, used during the

Carthage mission
Second World War
(c) musée de l'Armée / Pascal Segrette

6. *Tais-toi (Stay Quiet)*, in French and Arabic.

French propaganda poster against espionage
Anonymous
BDIC - (c) Coll. BDIC

EXHIBITION

Curators

Christophe Bertrand
Curator of the Contemporary
Department, musée de l'Armée

Carine Lachèvre
Assistant curator of the Historial
Charles de Gaulle, musée de l'Armée

François Lagrange
Head of the Department of Historical
Research, Educational Action and
Outreach

Emmanuel Ranvoisy
Assistant-curator of the Contemporary
Department, musée de l'Armée

Exhibition design

Set design

frenak + jullien architectes
assisted by Clémence Monin

Graphic design

Agence Téra-Création

Catalogue

Catalogue published by Somogy
Publishing
19 x 26,5 cm
212 pages
32 euros

Around the exhibition

Young audience guided tours aiming to
families and school students.

Information and booking :
jeunes@musee-armee.fr

Conferences

3-17 November 2016

Shadows and lights over secret wars

Austerlitz auditorium
Booking essential
histoire@musee-armee.fr

Concerts

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A cycle of eight concerts echoes to the
exhibition

Cinema

Secret objectives, secret wars under the camera lens

22 November – 2 December 2016
Explore every aspects of secret agents
world throughout this two week cycle

Full programme and ticketing
musee-armee.fr

INFORMATION

Tickets

8.50€ exhibition or 12€ exhibition and
permanent collections
Free - 18 year old
Group rate (+10 persons) 7,50€
Online ticketing musee-armee.fr

Guided tours

Families, schools and students :
jeunes@musee-armee.fr
Adults : benedicte@cultural.fr
+33 (0)1 42 46 92 04

Gift store and book-shop

The exhibition catalogue and a selection
of books and products d'ouvrages
et de produits spécifiques à l'exposition

Café-Restaurant

Le Carré des Invalides, located by the
ticket office, Vauban entrance

The museum app is downloadable on

