

## **ENIGMA 2000 NEWSLETTER**

**Articles, news reports and Items of interest:**

<http://reachus.at/enigma>

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**Nov 00**

**Issue 1**

Welcome to the first edition of the ENIGMA 2000 Newsletter.

Following the decision of the "original" ENIGMA organisation to cease publication of the very popular hardcopy "Newsletter " a group of members decided to establish ENIGMA 2000 to provide an ongoing service to the Numbers community. This will primarily be internet based but will also provide its Newsletter on disc or hardcopy, on a "cost" basis, to those unable/unwilling to obtain internet access, thus serving as wide an audience as is reasonably practicable.

The ENIGMA 2000 Newsletter will be published bi-monthly and distributed via the "Numbers & Oddities" web site of Ary Boender, to whom we give thanks for his support and encouragement, which is already well known within the Numbers community, along with WUN and SPOOKS.

We wish to correct the misconception that "ENIGMA" no longer exists, it does - but will be concentrating its resources on research into very specific areas of the Numbers Scene, and continue to publish the " Attention -123!" series of articles in Short Wave Magazine. ENIGMA can still be contacted via the previously used mailing address & Fax number.

ENIGMA 2000 is a completely separate organisation to ENIGMA, however we will work in parallel with them and exchange information of mutual interest, as with all the other related " listener" groups, and give due "credit" to material originators, unless otherwise requested.

It is pleasing to see that more Morse stations are being logged, the morse "Numbers" activity being far greater than the voice ones. (Who said that morse is "dead"). To cater for this increased interest we will be providing more detailed Station Profiles in future and producing a Simple Guide to CW Stations.

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\*Please note that News/Articles submissions should be sent as ".txt, .doc, or .rtf "

## **MORSE STATION NOTES**

Enigma 2000 seeks your help in gathering information on the morse stations. Any logs or requests for information will be answered. Send to either **[enigma.box@centrenet.co.uk](mailto:enigma.box@centrenet.co.uk)** or **[e2k\\_news@hotmail.com](mailto:e2k_news@hotmail.com)**

If anyone is interested in logging one of the groups there is much more information available on request.

M1 Will be on to a new ID and frequencies. Will be on these until end of February.

Sunday 0700 5464 Tuesday And Thursday 1800 5320 2000 4490 Saturday 1500 5810

ID 197

Over the last year the Group counts have been less than the usual 40 to 42.

On 12 October was logged the lowest for M1, 28 Groups

M1A Only transmits on the last Thursday and Saturday in the month. Length of transmission varies, some recent ones have been very short. They can also start with 333 instead of the usual ID. The pauses in the transmissions vary a lot in length. Have been logged at 2.5 minutes.

M1B. Some present skeds Monday & Wednesday 1818 5220 719 Monday 2110 4991 298  
Tuesday and Thursday 0723 6320 043 1823 6283 382 Thursday 2132 5737 302  
Friday 2202 5441 271

M3 The regular 1630 daily sked is at present on 5830 ID 287. Saturday 0800  
8187 ID 624. There are still many daily regular skeds, sometimes sending  
the same message that it sent the previous year. Also sending some strange  
messages with group counts in the 30s, the first and last 2 groups are  
always 77777 77777  
Some IDs active at present are 010 011 017 040 041 211 287 501 503 522 624  
976

M4 Only comes on once a month, on the second week of the E23 schedule, and  
is then only on during the day with a weak signal, so not easy for many to  
copy. Last heard 13 September. Was not heard in October

M7 Not logged very often as it has no fixed skeds, and can be on anytime  
during the hour

M10 Still on with many regular skeds

M10E Only one known sked, every 28 days on 5019 at 1000. Next transmission  
on 16 November, last 19 October.

M12 Activity has been reduced recently, although there is still some  
regular activity

M13 There is much activity at present, quite useful is the fact that M13  
uses the same frequency from one year to the next, so having once found it,  
you will know where to find it next year. It is possible that a lot of the  
evening skeds are repeated again the next day at 0400 0500 0600. Any logs  
from the USA would be appreciated. Remember that if you hear one in  
progress, keep on listening as the ID Message number and Group count are  
repeated.

Recently logged was the lowest heard frequency for M13 Saturday 14 October  
2100 on 3657. M13B ID 473. This group sends a different ID each month, uses  
longer than normal messages up to 60 groups, and can send two different  
messages each month.

M14. Very little activity only one recent log

M14A Still continues its regular Monday and Friday transmissions

M23 Still on 7795 at 0930 and 1500 weekdays, sending same messages that  
were first sent a year ago. Not so frequent is on at 1000 on 7800, call is  
either 00000 or 11111. There are some of the 3 figure transmissions about,  
but are only of short duration. One log, Monday 16 October 1000 on 6848 ID 555  
Also daily 0800 & 1400, 8307//9285, "579"

M24 The high speed version of M14, there seems to be many more of these at  
present

M29 Many more transmissions than G4 the voice arm of the group.  
Sunday and Wednesday 2100 and 2130  
Monday and Tuesday 0700 0730 1300 1330  
Tuesday 0900 0930  
Tuesday Friday and Saturday 1800 and 2000

M40 Only occasionally heard although there are many transmissions, only CQ747 and CQ 515 can be heard in the UK

M45 Same format as M1 but always starts at 2 minutes past the hour. It is hand sent slowly, but always excellent sending, mistakes very rarely,

M51 Still sending endless 100x51 messages. Can be on up to 5 hours continuously. Always changing frequency.

M76 Not heard as yet, usually appears early in November. Only 3 known frequencies 3280 3290 and 3820

M83 See below.

## NEW STATION PROFILE: M83

M83 A new station started in July 2000.  
Frequencies used are:

4800 5277 5288 5291 5320 5325 5380.

Seems to be on a different frequency each week.  
As it uses the same times as M51 UTC+2, possibly part of that group.  
Uses 4 digit call signs that keep on changing. Can send one call sign just to keep frequency open. Some auto and some hand sending. Uses long Zero.

Format is:

XXXX DE XXXX QTC AR

XXXX DE XXXX QTC 220020907

220 the serial number 02 the date and 0907 the time UTC+2  
Then sends a message of 20 either letters figures or mixed digits,  
The next transmission will have the serial number increased by 100

Also sends  
XXXX DE XXXX 129 420 384 324 924 920 379 COL 129 420 384 324 924 970 379 AR

## SELECTED VOICE STATIONS

Please send your voice logs to either **enigma.box@centrenet.co.uk** or **e2k\_news@hotmail.com**

E03 As per usual frequencies

E04 Info required please

E06 Monday/Tuesday 1910 13835 2010 9225

E07 Monday/Wednesday 2100 Frequencies change each Month. Please advise ENIGMA 2000 when found.

E18 ID 307 Second Wednesday Each month 2200 2300 on 6545 November 8, December 13

E23 Did have a regular sked, but not heard so often.  
Last Monday 16 October 1157 on 8188 USB

G04 Thursday/Sunday 2105 2135. October frequencies 4580 4680 another that  
changes frequency each month.

G07 2110 5435 2130 5185 2150 4560 ID 267 (November frequencies).

S06 Tuesday 0808 9840

S10E Thursday to Tuesday 1300 10642. On every 28 days, next transmission 16 November.

S11A ID 971 First & Third Wednesday 2100 on 4015 November 1, 15, December 6, 20

S17C Daily 1250 on 6545 // 8190

S21 Tuesday/Thursday 1842 4454 // 4954 ID 454. November 1842 3323 // 3383 ID 323

V02a Monday 0700 9330

## ODDITIES

XPH Tuesday & Friday November 0700 11635, 0720 13435, 0740 14835 ID 648  
December 0700 11025, 0720 11225, 0740 13925 ID 029

Also on at 2100 2120 & 2140 Frequencies not known.  
Please advise ENIGMA 2000 when heard.

S28 The Buzzer 4625

Teleprinter 4710 All reports on this FSK transmission welcome. Has been heard on.  
4710 [24hr] as well as 6702 and 9000

Slot Machine 8588.0 // 8703.5 USB Please advise ENIGMA 2000 when heard.

More Info on 'oddities' can be found on Brian of Sussex excellent web pages:

<http://dSPACE.dial.pipex.com/brogers/page2.html>

## ENIGMA 2000 ARTICLE

### MV Gaul H243. An Intelligence Gatherer?

On 13<sup>th</sup> March, 1998 the Ministry of Defence issued a press notice 068/98 entitled "British Trawlers Help in Intelligence Gathering: Information made Public."

The document described how the Armed Forces Minister, Dr John Reid, made public a paper describing the contribution of British Trawlers to Intelligence during the Cold War period, explaining the advantage of using fishing vessels as low-level intelligence gatherers in the North Cape and Barents sea.

Dr Reid stated that intelligence gathering involved little more than reporting the position of any vessel of interest and a photograph taken if possible. He further stated that this action represented a long tradition of support by the fishing fleet to the Royal Navy; by following their business of fishing and volunteering such information they thought right to report. Dr Reid also mentioned that junior Royal Navy officers were allowed to gain valuable sea going experience by embarking on Merchant vessels and deep-sea trawlers. This scheme, he said, provided an added dimension in the low-level intelligence gathering activity.

Twenty seven years earlier, prior to the issuing of document 068/98, a Stern trawler, the Ranger Castor SN18 [later renamed MV Gaul] was completed and launched on 6<sup>th</sup> December 1971. The vessel was of 'all welded steel construction', had an overall length of 66 metres, a breadth of 12 metres, weighed 1,106 tons and a capacity to hold 478 tonne of mixed load. The vessel, it was stated, had one of the best constructions, including a reinforced bow, made to specifications above those required by Lloyds, capable of resisting the harsh Arctic conditions of the Barents Sea.

It was, by definition, a super-trawler, and one of the best ever manufactured of that type.

On 27<sup>th</sup> January, 1974 MV Gaul left Hull for the fishing grounds in the North Cape area.

Aboard the trawler Stallo an eyewitness to this last voyage claimed that the Gaul was steaming at speed into the middle of an Arctic storm and remembered the colours of the ship as it sped past his position into one of the most ferocious storms he had ever seen. He noted that the Gaul was not fishing, had no nets out and that all hatches were closed. He also noted that the Gaul had no damage and no obvious steering or engine problems.

It has been suggested that the Gaul was lost sometime between 1109 and 1630 hours on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 1974. The receiving of routine radio traffic from the Gaul just before 1109 and the absence of a scheduled report at 1630 used as the yardstick. No distress message was ever received and all 36 crew aboard perished. A series of emergency calls to all vessels in the area were made during the two days after the Gaul failed to report and any sightings were requested to be reported. The first reports that the trawler was missing were made on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 1974. A search of the area started three and a half days after the loss. A full-scale search was made, involving the Royal Navy, Norwegian Emergency Rescue Centre and the Norwegian Navy and Coastguard service. The Royal Air Force and that of Norway were also involved, as were 23 trawlers in the area. Ships involved in a nearby NATO exercise, code-named 'Clockwork', made their way to assist. The entire search operation at sea was co-ordinated by HMS Hermes, an aircraft carrier. The search operation at sea was eventually called off at 1600 hours on 15<sup>th</sup> February, 1974 although RAF Nimrods continued a little longer. The weather during the search was bad and visibility poor. Nothing was found to indicate the position of the Gaul or give witness to its fate.

Rumours abounded in Hull that the Gaul was involved in spying. The subsequent discovery of a small life buoy marked 'Gaul Hull' on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 1974 by a Norwegian fisherman did nothing to allay those fears. The life buoy was returned to Hull for close examination and was found to have samples of a marine growth found only in fresh water areas. The opinion of the investigators being that the life buoy had not been in seawater for some three months.

The fisherman who found the life buoy was the subject of a book written later. In the book he is mentioned as stating that it was not only the British trawlers who were used in 'spying' activities. He indicated that Norway, and other Western Intelligence agencies, involved their fishing vessels for that purpose whilst fishing.

Despite the location of the Gaul being unknown a Formal Investigation ended in October 1974 by concluding that the Gaul had capsized and foundered in heavy seas.

In November 1975 the Norwegian vessel 'Rairo' reported the position of MV Gaul to HM Government.

Twenty two years later, on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1997, a British television company, Channel 4, screened "The Mystery of the Gaul," and included footage from an expedition to locate the wreck of the Gaul made in August 1997.

Revelations made in the Channel 4 programme suggested that a Commander John Brookes "ran an elaborate spy network" from the White Sea Fish Authority, based in Hull. The earlier rumours that had persisted were further boosted by this disclosure and Hull Members of Parliament called for a public enquiry to raise answers about the vessel found approximately 70 nautical miles north of Norway, from Hammerfest, and 280 metres down on the seabed.

The Gaul, apparently too difficult to find, according to HM Government, had been located by a Channel 4 television crew using commercial Sonar equipment and an underwater camera.

On the seabed next to the Gaul was a cable that could be clearly seen. At its discovery it was believed to be part

of a submarine location network, SOSUS, used during the Cold War.

The television crew followed the cable in a loop to nearby Soray Island. Damage to the strengthened bow of the Gaul was also discovered during the survey.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1997 a Rear-Admiral Michael Kyrle Pope revealed to the Hull Daily Mail newspaper details of a spying network using Hull trawler men at the height of the Cold War. He explained that it was 'common and acceptable' to use trawler crews to gather information on Soviet submarines off the Russian coast and around the Norwegian Cape. He further revealed that radio and photographic equipment, would have been passed on by the Secret Service, MI6.

He also mentioned that Commander Brookes would have been given the task of approaching skippers and crew if he knew that they were going fish in any areas of interest. He acknowledged that Hull played an important part in these operations, the trawler men serving their country well.

An official survey of the Gaul was held up due to inclement weather but in early August 1998 the survey ship Mansal 18 slipped its moorings with relatives of the lost crewmen and a BBC television film crew aboard.

During the short delay in sailing the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, warned relatives about talking to the media enforcing that such statements could hamper any future enquiry.

As the survey ship made its way to the site of the Gaul a former skipper revealed the use of Hull trawlers for intelligence gathering. He said that he was requested to take his trawler, the MV Invincible H96, to an area of the Barents Sea known as the Duck's Back, about 50 miles from the Soviet Northern Fleet base in Murmansk. That mission took place in 1972. The skipper said that special satellite equipment was fitted to the Invincible and that a naval officer, a commander, joined the ship to operate it. He was told that the purpose of the mission was to locate a lost Soviet underwater camera, but later discovered that he had been misled, the real purpose being the discovery of the location of a Soviet test missile.

The First Mate aboard the Invincible for this mission was also First Mate on the Gaul on her last tragic voyage.

The official survey by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch [MAIB] started on 10<sup>th</sup> August, 1998.

Subsequent claims by MAIB suggested that new and important evidence had been found which supported Model experiments that were made up to January 1999.

Three bodies had been discovered on the coast of Northern Russia shortly after the loss of the Gaul. DNA samples were later taken and compared with samples offered by relatives of the lost crew. Positive matches were not forthcoming.

The Marine Accident Investigation Branch report 4/99 indicated that the Gaul "was lost due to down flooding through open weather tight doors and hatches after being 'knocked-down' by several very large breaking waves."

The Channel 4 television survey film showed that the four windows on the bridge were intact, despite the vessel having been 'knocked down'.

Damage to the Gaul's strengthened bow has fuelled further speculation about Cold War involvement. According to one independent view the damage is believed to have been caused by collision with a semi-submerged object at speed, leaving at least one gaping hole in the bow, although the MAIB describe it as pressure crushing damage.

The NATO exercise, "Clockwork", was taking place west of the position where the Gaul went down.

There would have been monitoring by Russian and NATO submarines and it is envisaged that the Russians would have placed their 'Trawlers' in the area for intelligence gathering.

Independent experts have suggested that the Gaul could lie on top of a secret monitoring device, the cable being visible on C4's video footage.

The other immediate mystery is that of the three unidentified bodies washed up on the Russian shore and described by Russian investigators as 'English'.

In a Press Notice of UK Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions [DETR],

DETR News Release 459, 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2000, Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott said that he would not risk diver's lives on an expedition to investigate the loss of the Gaul. Mr Prescott said that experts had advised him that it was too dangerous, the proposed dive being at the very limit of current certification of saturation diving equipment.

The depth involved appears well beyond recent diving experience in the North Sea. He went on to state that nets surrounding the wreck and a fairly constant sea current would pose further risks.

The Gaul Families Association solicitor wrote a letter, dated 27<sup>th</sup> July 2000, to them in answer to DETR Press Notice 459. In the letter he indicates that Experts who have advised the solicitor say that a manned dive is possible and safe.

In September 2000 the Gaul Families Association approached the diver who salvaged gold from HMS Edinburgh, over 240metres down, in an attempt to force the governments hand on a manned dive.

The original recommendation for a manned dive on to the wreck was made by the wreck Commissioner, high court judge Sir David Steel, in June 2000, suggesting that the dive be made that summer. Mr Prescott, however saw fit to suggest to the Court that the use of a remotely operated vehicle may offer a way forward but admitted that technology would need to be developed to achieve the aims of the dive. Such a dive would require the search to be postponed until the summer of 2001. [Twenty-seven years after the loss of the Gaul].

Three Hull trawlers named by Dr Reid as having been involved in intelligence gathering in the mid 60's and early 70's were: MV Arctic Galliard H195, MV Invincible H96 and MV Lord Nelson H330. A combined total of five specific intelligence gathering missions were made by those trawlers, the last being in September 1973. Information in the public domain documents the arrest of a British trawler, the Swanella, on 26<sup>th</sup>September, 1950. The trawler was held for 5 days, the Russian investigator noting that the vessel was in a prohibited zone, the Kola Sound.

A further report from the then Head of Intelligence [Russian] Northern Fleet made note that during October 1950 65 British trawlers were seen in the Barents Sea, occasionally approaching the shore and violating territorial waters.

During February, April and July 1952 another trawler, the Lord Ancaster H573, was noted in the Barents Sea by Russian observers. It was seen photographing a Russian submarine. The observers noted that the trawler's call sign was MSZX and that it was equipped with dish radar.

At one stage as many as 12 trawlers were found to be within 3 to 4 miles of the Kildin Island area where mine laying exercises were being made by Northern Fleet squadrons. Later a submarine was 'hampered' by a British trawler. Despite being ordered to leave the 'military base exercise area', which the trawler ignored, it apparently prevented the submarine from completing its operational requirements.

A letter to a Soviet Defence Minister, in 1952, outlined that many English trawlers possessed high power transmitters and radar equipment and were designed more for intelligence gathering rather than fishing.

On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>September, 2000 a British newspaper carried an article concerning a statement made by a Royal Naval Commander serving in the Defence Intelligence Staff.

His statement concerned the investigation of the use of fishing trawlers in the activities of gathering intelligence and in particular the Gaul.

He stated that information given in his statement was obtained from Ministry of Defence [MoD] records and had no knowledge of other records that may be held by other departments.

He confirmed that some trawlers had been used for low level intelligence gathering and on occasion specialist personnel were carried aboard trawlers for passive listening whilst the vessels fished.

Up to 40 trawlers were used in this way as confirmed by government information released in 1998. The Commander said that he had seen references to Cdr Brookes as an intelligence liaison officer with fishing crews in Hull but also understood that he was a member of the secret intelligence service until his death in 1971.

Concerning the use of the MV Gaul or its crew being engaged on intelligence gathering, a confirmation was made that none of the crew had been briefed on intelligence collection, or issued with radio or photographic equipment, in the 12 months prior to the loss.

No record, he said, was held by the MoD of any member of the Gaul who was, or had been, involved in intelligence activities for the Royal Navy and therefore could not state with any certainty that no member of the crew had been involved in intelligence.

In the body of the report the Commander made reference to the cable, possibly connected to SOSUS equipment, and confirmed that it was not, because he had consulted MoD staff who had access to such information on SOSUS.

A layer of water exists where sound propagates to good effect, It is this layer that SOSUS [sound surveillance system] exploits, looking for sounds in the 25 to 200Hz range, with peaks at 100Hz using long acoustic sensors [hydrophones] installed across ocean beds.

Documentation in the public domain states that the SOSUS arrays were set in oceans at depths of 300 to 600 metres. Channel 4's television crew made no mention of having seen a SOSUS array, although they followed the cable some 140 miles to Soray Island. The statement, from the Commander, may well be accurate that it not a part of the SOSUS system. It could of course be another totally different system, perhaps based on a magnetic anomaly caused by the passage of a large vessel, such as a submarine, within its field of influence. Commercial induction sensors are available with a frequency band from 1Hz to 1kHz and have been used for submarine detection. It is obvious that any SOSUS records would make no reference to a totally different system.

Former Hull fishermen had previously made testimony to the First Mate and Skipper of the Gaul as having been involved in intelligence gathering in the Barents Sea on other vessels. Another skipper aboard Channel 4's survey ship demonstrated an actual camera, issued by Cdr Brookes, as being capable of taking 48 frames in quick succession. He also disclosed a vessel identification book also given to him as containing outlines of various vessels, including submarines.

The original question, asking if the Gaul was involved in intelligence gathering, still remains unanswered.

Or does it?

Paul Beaumont.  
ENIGMA 2000

## BOOK REVIEW

Blind Man's Bluff, The untold story of Cold War submarine espionage.

By Sherry Sontag and Christopher Drew with Annette Lawrence Drew.

Published by Hutchinson, London at £18.99

Reading the book I found it fascinating and informative, backed up with diagrams, descriptions and decent photographs. The list of interesting characters grows as one proceeds through the book as does the table of events and the modification or building of submarines from conventional battery powered types through to the dawn and development of the modern nuclear craft.

The description of the various successes or failures of different operations is first class with the description of the techniques of the gathering of technical intelligence, sometimes classic naval, involving the shadowing of specific Russian craft, to the attaching of the 'Ivy Bells' to Russian undersea cables laid deep in hostile waters. The attempted lifting of a crippled Soviet submarine is described in good detail and a surprisingly humane event is also stated.

The book describes the compromise of such operations by Naval personnel who were working for the Russians.

A number of accidents occurred between submarines of the opposing players and some of the collisions are documented in a most descriptive way, putting the reader amongst the crew. Sadly some of the accidents caused fatalities amongst the crew or actual loss of crafts on both sides and lists of the boats or crew members are included. The loss of the USS Thresher is also covered and the apparent cause is interesting to say the least.

"Nobody had to be told that the closer *Parche* moved in, the more she risked discovery. Sonar crews monitored the constant traffic above as *Parche's* divers began their work. Nothing but luck could keep the crew safe from a direct hit by a Soviet sonar ping. If that happened, there were 150 pounds of HBX explosives on board, just as there had been on *Halibut* and *Seawolf*.

The spooks were crammed into *Parche's* now-locked torpedo room, their eavesdropping equipment sitting on racks designed to hold weapons. While *Halibut* had the Bat Cave, *Parche* had no more space than any other late-generation Sturgeon sub. In fact, to make room for the spooks, most of *Parche's* torpedoes had been ditched. Now she carried just four live warshots, the minimum number any attack sub was allowed to carry on a mission. It would take the spooks at least two weeks to sift electronically through the hundreds of lines running through the cable and choose which lines to record-and at what times-over the next year. The process relied on educated

guesses and luck. Certain channels would probably be best in the summer months when the ice cleared from the Barents and the Soviets conducted naval exercises. Missile tests tended to be seasonal as well. But lines connected directly to headquarters could be active and profitably tapped year-round.”

Twelve chapters, two appendices, notes, acknowledgements and photo credits in 352 pages make for good reading.

Sherry Sontag and Christopher Drew are investigative journalists of note and Annette Lawrence Drew is the books researcher.

This book is a mine of information and a worthwhile account of little known submarine actions by the players in the Cold War, mentioning not only American operations but also gives credit to those by the Royal Navy and the Russian Navy.

## NEWS ITEMS

Mossad: A Sentence and Strike action.

In February 1998 an Israeli agent, now known only as Yitzhak Ben-Tal, was arrested in Switzerland by two Swiss Policemen after being caught attempting to place a wire tap on the telephone line of a suspected Hezbollah operative. Abdullah el-Zein a Swiss citizen of Lebanese descent denied any connection with the Hezbollah and claimed to run an Islamic Centre. The centre, Ahl Al-Beit Islamic Centre has links with Lebanon and Iran. El-Zein was also described as a 'car salesman'.

Ben -Tal was a member of a team of five Mossad agents tasked to perform the operation in Kenitz, a town near Berne, the others quickly making their escape due to the inability of the Swiss Policemen to realise that they were dealing with a case of espionage. Ben-Tal was caught carrying a bag, of diplomatic origin, containing bugging equipment. The equipment was listed as a cell phone connected to 24 batteries, which when plugged into Abdullah el-Zein's telephone line, would have called a monitoring centre every time el-Zein picked his handset up.

In court the Swiss Police officers recounted how they caught Ben-Tal, and others, installing listening devices in the home of the Lebanese car dealer.

Ben-Tal, at the time of his arrest admitted his part in the surveillance operation and was remanded. This process took place because the technical equipment was contained in a Diplomatic Bag known to have entered Switzerland via Israeli diplomatic mail. Ben-Tal was later released on £2 million bail, paid by Israel in return for a promise that the agent, Ben-Tal, would return to Israel to face trial.

The hearing, two years later, was held in front of 5 judges and Ben-Tal was found guilty of acts committed illegally for a foreign state, of political espionage and of repeated use of false identity documents. The trial lasted a week and at the conclusion the charge of illegal phone tapping was dropped.

The presiding judge, Hans Wiprachtinger stated that "The crimes were considerable. Switzerland's sovereignty was violated in a callous way." Ben-Tal was barred from entering Swiss territory for five years, fined 100,000 Swiss Francs and received a suspended sentence of twelve months. The prosecution had originally asked for a 5,000 Franc fine and a jail term of 15 months.

Ehud Barak, Israel's prime minister expressed satisfaction at the sentence attracted by Ben-Tal. However the decision to allow Ben-Tal to stand trial was made by the head of Mossad, Ephraim Halevy. This decision led to anger within Mossad and the agents apparently considered strike action, the greatest anger said to be within the specialist units charged with data hacking, electronic eavesdropping and assassination.

This obvious humiliation has led to Halevy curbing the agency's activities in Europe of spying on Arab Embassies and other counter-terrorism activities. Even actions in the Arab world were known to have ceased. It is reported that Ehud Barak offered Halevy's post to Ami Ayalon, but as yet there has been no appointment. Ami Ayalon is the head of Shin Beth, the Israeli internal security service.

Cypriot Journalists arrested for spying.

Turkish Cypriot Police arrested four staff members of the left wing Avrupa Newspaper for espionage and

seeking to overthrow the government. The Publisher and three staff members were arrested after the newspapers offices, in Nicosia, were searched.

Security Officials were stated as saying "This spy ring used the guise of a daily newspaper to publish vicious and immoral statements with the goal of undermining the state and traffic in military secrets."

The owner and editor-in-chief, Sener Levent was later arrested.

Apparently the paper had called for the police to be placed under the control of the civilian authorities.

KGB Spy codenamed 'Sonya' dies.

The spy who helped Klaus Fuchs smuggle the British atomic bomb research secrets into the Soviet Union in the Forties has died in her native Berlin.

Ruth Werner was born on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1907 as Ursula Ruth Kuczynski the daughter of German-Jewish parents. She was recruited in Shanghai during 1930 by the Russo-German agent Richard Sorge after witnessing atrocious scenes whilst with her first husband, Rolf Hamburger who was serving with the British Municipal Council. They were both Communists and it is stated that her husband was also a Soviet agent. Richard Sorge, later hanged as a spy by the Japanese, was responsible for the codename 'Sonya'.

She engaged in spying against Nazi Germany but in 1941 met an Englishman in Switzerland, Len Beurton, whom she married to obtain a British passport under the watchful eye of her Soviet masters. The marriage lasted for 50 years! During that year they moved to Oxford and 'Sonya' made radio transmissions from their home to Moscow. Meeting Fuchs, already willing to send technical detail to the Soviets, 'Sonya' was the perfect conduit. Apart from the atomic espionage 'Sonya' also used one of her brothers to cultivate senior civil servants eventually allowing her to gather and send a wide range of political and military intelligence to Moscow. In 1947 she was interrogated by MI5 and Special Branch, those investigations never being followed up. However with the arrest of Fuchs 'Sonya' and her husband, Beurton, quickly travelled to East Berlin. 'Sonya' published an autobiography in 1991 'Sonya's Report' and pursued a successful career as a novelist. She was 93.

Spy's Tourist Agency.

Cubalinda.com sells package tours that encompass what every modern traveller would expect; Hotels on the beach, Car-hire facilities, Underwater Swimming, Fishing Trips and so on.

Whilst this company aims its market at Europeans it also targets the US via its website and a parent company in the Bahamas.

The company is owned by the 1970's CIA whistleblower, Philip Agee who wrote a book about his experiences destabilising foreign governments and causing a furore in Latin American. His publishing of named CIA agents in his book "Inside the Company: CIA Diary" over 22 pages did enough damage to have him declared as a threat to US National Security.

Agee has the last laugh though. With the US embargo banning US Citizens from spending money in Cuba, and the threat of penalties of up to 10 years in gaol, or massive five figure dollar fines for those who do, one would perhaps think that he has backed a loser. With his internet company and Bahamas parent company no actual money technically enters Cuba. However, some US tourists may take a leaf from Agee's book and live a little dangerously.

Agee is living in the Cuban district of Vedado in a fourth floor unit in a block of flats needing repair. Served by a likewise badly serviced lift Cubalinda's offices are across the hallway from his front door.

British Destroyer at risk in Gibraltar.

During the 1982 Falklands conflict four members of the Argentine Special Forces, marine services force flew to Madrid on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1982. It was intended to sink a destroyer and support vessel at anchor as a revenge for the sinking of the Belgrano, it has been disclosed. The special forces men were equipped with limpet mines smuggled to them by the Argentine Embassy in Madrid. The mines were of Italian manufacture, semispheres, and around 60cm in diameter, and each filled with 25 kg of the explosive Trotyl. The group rented a car and evaded British Military defences to carry out reconnaissance of the targets. Communications concerning this

operation by the Argentinians were intercepted by the French Intelligence Service and passed to British intelligence.

The operatives were arrested in Cadiz on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1982, the ships having already departed from Gibraltar. One of the agents, Maximo Nicoletti, 50, stated that the group had penetrated British security twice prior to their arrest.

Nicoletti described how one morning he awoke to find that his bedroom was full of Spanish Police officials and he assumed that the groups communications were intercepted by the Spanish. His companion, nicknamed 'the martian' and himself were then arrested. The two other operatives, Hector and Latorre were arrested as they attempted to renew the rental on their vehicle.

Whilst in custody they were relieved of their passports but never interrogated. They were flown to Madrid within hours and then put on a plane to Argentina.

### US Fighter planes abort mission over Iraq due to Russian Technology.

US aircraft that regularly launch missiles at Iraq whilst on patrol were caused to veer from their mission and return to base thanks to a Russian device being used by the Iraqi military.

These aircraft rely on Global Positioning Satellite signals, GPS, to find their way about and this one link has been determined by a Russian University, as being capable of being technically attacked by jamming.

The scientist, Valentin Kashinoy, who developed the devices claims that the units send jamming signals on 1.578GHz and that he took the specifications for the GPS transmissions and the US Military 'Navstar' satellites from a magazine 'Radiotekhnika'. There are several manufacturing companies that possess the ability to make these units which are compact enough to fit into a truck.

The devices weigh 3 kilograms and it is believed that Iraq have two such units in their possession.

Use of these 3kg devices up to a range of 200 kilometres would jam Navstar signals adequately to interfere with the Tomahawk Cruise Missile or Joint Direct Attack Munition Missile.

The cost of each of these units, to effectively jam the multi million dollar Navstar project, is said to be US\$18,000 each.

### Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

A radical new Act has been passed through Parliament and received Royal ascent giving British Security agencies and the Police powers to intercept communications . This covers all telephone calls, mobile or landline. Emails and other internet data transfers and surveillance.

In addition to those communications the act has the power to demand passwords and keys required to decode any data that had been encrypted. The obvious excuse of 'forgetting' the relevant word, phrase or whatever is not acceptable and penalties are stated within the act to deal with those who have 'forgot'.

The Act also gives the government powers to demand that Internet providers connect relevant hardware and use software to allow Britain's internal security service, MI5, to off load what data it may need to. This would still be done under a warrant.

Britain is the only member of G-7 industrial nations with specific legal powers to demand that companies provide the security services with the keys needed to decrypt data that has been protected by encryption.

The cost of the provision of these 'black boxes' has been estimated between £20M and £640M and the government have been instructed by Parliament to pay a fair proportion of the cost.

### Holiday Birdwatcher Arrested for Spying in Cyprus

A British Birdwatcher was arrested and accused by the police of spying when he photographed locals trapping an endangered migrating birds by the thousands. The Birdwatcher works for an environmental body. The birds are sold as a local delicacy.

Australian Intelligence Officer attempted to sell Official Secrets.

Simon Lappas, 25, an intelligence officer in Canberra's Defence Intelligence Organisation, appeared in Court in Australia accused of attempting to sell Official Secrets to a foreign power.

Also appearing with him was a Sydney Business woman Sherryl Ellen Dowling, also 25.

They were both charged with the theft of secret documents said to contain details of briefings of Britains Secret Intelligence Service.

The foreign power was not named but Lappas's diary contained the name of a Russian contact.

The arrest of the two followed after the removal of the secret documents from the boot of Simon Lappas's car.

Americans have automated email intercept system.

An electronic system called 'Carnivore' is run by the FBI to actively trawl through millions of emails a second. It works by utilising specialist software and is a personal computer installed at the Internet Service Provider, ISP, of the target.

The device scans all emails passing through the ISP to check that they are intended for the target or are being sent by the target. The Targets emails are then copied, full-text, to a removable hard disc drive that an FBI agent would collect daily.

The system is called 'Carnivore' by the FBI because it rapidly finds the 'meat'.

Use of this system has provoked a large number of protests from the American Civil Liberties Union.

A congressman, Bob Barr, described the system as "frightening."

Foreign Office get windfall for Communications

The FO has received an unexpected and most generous increase in its capitation.

This funding will be used to modernise communications systems in no uncertain way.

The £245M will be used replacing the transmitters for the BBC World Service and for a change in the FO's own communications system with the creation of a private network to service 135 posts world wide. This system is expected to cost in the region of £318M and will take ten years to be completed. Some funding will also be made available for coordinating peacekeeping forces in the worlds less peaceful areas between the FO and the Ministry of Defence.

MoD's research facility to be sold.

Most of Britain's Ministry of Defence research establishments are to be sold. Criticism is rife from MPs and unions concerning the sale.

The Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, DERA, is to have at least three quarters moved to the private sector by the end of 2000. The remainder would remain under MoD auspices.

The sale is expected to top £250M whilst DERA has an annual turnover of over £1Bn. The 9000 staff affected by this sale will move to the private company although 3000 key scientists and staff will remain in the MoD owned agency.

Bowman Radio Project Collapses.

The £340M project collapsed as a disastrous failure amid the announcement that the MoD would start a new competition to find a supplier capable of meeting the requirement.

The previous preferred supplier for the contract to supply more than 56,000 battlefield radios was going to miss the in-service date breaking the £2.2Bn budget.

The MoD announced that the new competition would cover old ground seen in the previous bidding.

Bowman had cost 3 times as much as the original budget since the project launch in the 1980's. Originally launched to replace Clansman, the 1970s technology based system, the project ran 7 years late leaving the armed forces to rely on old technology.

Acutely aware of the limitations of the Clansman system the government are keen to revitalise the intended

Bowman procurement as the costs inevitably spiral.

A third of the Clansmen sets in use with the Paras in Kosovo did not work and those that did offered no communications security for the operators meaning that Serbs, Kosovan Liberation Army, Journalists and anyone else armed with a suitable receiver could monitor the transmissions. The Paras were apparently upset that the opposition was using modern communications sets available in Dixons or Tandy whilst they used an outdated and hopeless system.

Russian junior Diplomat Sentenced for Spying.

Platon Obukhov aged 31 was sentenced to 11 years gaol and the confiscation of all his possessions for spying for Britain in the mid-1990's.

Obukhov, a son of a former deputy foreign minister and arms-control negotiator, was arrested by the FSB in April 1996. Working as a second secretary in the Foreign Ministry's North America Department his arrest led to the biggest spying scandal between London and Moscow since the end of the Cold War.

As a result Moscow expelled four British Diplomats whilst London retaliated by expelling four Russians. The actual case lasted for more than four years whilst Obukhov's family and lawyers tried to prove insanity. Obukhov had stated that he had been recruited by MI6 18 months previous to his arrest whilst he was working as a diplomat in Norway, actively spying upon his return to Moscow six months after his recruitment.

He accused the British Secret Service MI6 of blackmailing him into spying by gathering 'compromising material' on him.

An appeal has been lodged with the Russian Supreme Court.

MoD Laptop Theft.

A laptop computer containing secrets stolen from a train has been recovered. The thief, David Stone aged 28 of Paddington, West London sold the unit to enable him to buy drugs.

Stone was remanded in custody by magistrates at Horseferry Road Magistrates courts for sentencing.

Stolen ENIGMA machine recovered.

An encoding machine used by the German war machine originally stolen from the museum situated at Bletchley Park has been found in the mail room of the British Broadcasting Corporation. Apparently three rotors were missing. The unit was in a box, the package being addressed to Broadcaster and presenter of University Challenge Jeremy Paxman.

A ransom of some £25,000 [around US\$ 38,000] had previously been demanded to secure the safe return of the machine, one of only two on display world wide, apparently from a collector who had purchased the wrong item. The original letters, written in a peculiar manner, threatened destruction of the device, worth at least £100,000 [US\$161,000] on non-payment of the ransom.

The postmark on the package indicated the postal area of Birmingham.

\*PLEASE SEND NEWS ITEMS OF INTEREST, STATING SOURCE AND DATE TO:

**Error! Reference source not found.**

## RELEVANT WEB SITES

**Error! Reference source not found.**

**Error! Reference source not found.**

<http://www.sontagdrew.com/blindmansbluff.html>

<http://www.radio.gov.uk/>

## REQUESTS

Please make your requests via **Error! Reference source not found.** or 076 2 627 6417 pager.

We would be grateful to receive any information on the signalling system 'MEROD'.

We would be grateful for any information on CHIRPSOUNDERS.

Info required concerning a turning off the M6 motorway [UK] noticed on the west side whilst proceeding north between Preston and University of Lancaster. A sign reads "Unauthorised Entry Will Result In Prosecution. There is exactly the same sign and turning opposite on the East side of the M6 [southbound carriageway]. This is strange as there are no side roads leading off from motorways. What is at the end on these roads situated in rural farmland? No gate exists.

Do you have any Embassy buildings or other buildings sporting large antenna arrays in your everyday surroundings? If you do you might like to pen a short article about the building and its possible use.

ENIGMA 2000 would be most interested to hear from anyone who lives or has travelled overseas with their radio to monitor number stations.

## STOP PRESS

The UK Radio communications Agency, RA, has issued an updated form RA169, which sets out the conditions that a radio receiver can be used under. The only appreciable change appears to be the insertion of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 [RIP] clause on page 2. However there may be some subtle changes to the 'designated person' who can specifically authorise you to listen to things that you shouldn't. <http://www.radio.gov.uk/> for further info.

ENIGMA 2000 would like to hear from any one wishing to pen the ODDITES column.

<p><b>Please note that all items intended for publication in the next ENIGMA 2000 newsletter should be received in good time. Please send your articles, new items and requests via the above e-mail address. Please indicate if you wish to be contacted direct. If you wish to be credited with your article please indicate, otherwise all work will be treated as 'Anon'.</b></p>
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