



New Document Releases

MI5 Files

Introduction

These pages offer a brief overview and description of some of the most interesting files within the latest release of Security Service records.

This is the seventh and largest Security Service release, consisting of approximately 200 files, bringing the total number of MI5 records in the Public Record Office to 919. As with previous releases, the bulk of records are personal files, relating to agents, double agents, intelligence officers and renegades, or those under suspicion of being so, the large proportion of which relate to Germany during the period 1939-45. However, this release does include a number of files under new categories, including refugees (KV 2/469-482), pre-war Soviet intelligence officers (KV 2/483) and agents (KV 2/484-485), right-wing extremists (KV 2/486-497), communists, communist sympathizers and communist front organisations (KV 2/498-513). There are also a number of policy and subject files.

Highlights of the release described in these pages include:

- Double agent SNOW (KV 2/444-453)
- Double agent GW (KV 2/468)
- Double agent ZIG ZAG (KV 2/455-463)
- Double agent TREASURE (KV 2/464-466)
- Eamon De Valera (KV 2/514-515)
- Leon Trotsky (KV 2/502-505)
- Grigori Zinoviev (KV 2/501)
- Harold Cole (KV 2/415-417) - A British soldier who betrayed Allied escape lines, resulting in the deaths of over 50 people.
- Otto Skorzeny (KV 2/403) - SS officer who liberated Mussolini in September 1943 and trained a group of special agents.
- Kurt Wieland (KV 2/400-402) - Leader of a small German/Arab paratroop subversive group directed against Jews in Palestine.
- 'MI5 Game Book' (KV 4/112-114)- a compendium of prosecutions attributable to Security Service evidence.

New Document Releases

Double-Cross System

The Double-Cross System was one of the greatest intelligence coups of the Second World War. As stated by J.C. Masterman, the Chairman of the Double-Cross Committee, "we actively ran and controlled the German espionage system in this country". The Double-Cross Committee was known as the Twenty Committee because the Roman numerals for twenty, XX, form a double cross. Initially the Double Cross System was used for counter-espionage purposes and for tracking down enemy agents, but it quickly proved to be an excellent tool for deception and for passing false information to the enemy. Its most important success culminated in the D-Day deception, known as FORTITUDE. This plan misled the Germans into believing that the Pas de Calais, was the real objective of the D-Day landings rather than Normandy. Further successes were achieved in U-boat and V-weapon deception. The German agents 'dropped' into this country were picked up and 'turned' and thus began working against their original masters. The preferred communication was by wireless telegraphy (W/T), although secret ink, microphotography and, in some cases, direct contact with the enemy was employed.

Double Cross Agents

SNOW (KV 4/444-453)

The SNOW case was in many ways the cornerstone of the Double Cross system. SNOW was not only the first double cross agent from whom all others stemmed, but he also threw a great deal of light on the mysterious Abwehr organisation (German Secret Service), of which, up until the outbreak of war, little was known. More significant, however, were the methods of German wireless codes and procedures that emerged from the SNOW case. The codebreaking work at Bletchley Park was greatly assisted by the fact that messages prepared by MI5, on behalf of SNOW, were relayed to Berlin on an Enigma generated code. Comparative analysis of these intercepts with the original MI5 text was crucial to the 'early and complete mastery of the whole...German Enigma based communications'. Ultimately SNOW proved to be a difficult agent to run, but J.C. Masterman described him as the W.G. Grace of the double cross world.

Sometime before 1936, SNOW, a Welsh born electrical engineer, had been sporadically passing to the Naval Intelligence Directorate (NID) technical information which he had obtained during his business trips to Germany. Having asked to become a regular agent, SNOW was then passed on to MI6 who recruited him. However, it came to the attention of MI5, through the interception of a letter sent to a known cover address (postbox 629 Hamburg) that SNOW had in fact been in contact with the Abwehr. SNOW finally admitted this contact, but his correspondence continued to be intercepted by MI5. From time to time SNOW would voluntarily pass on information to MI6 and Special Branch. This state of affairs was allowed to continue until the outbreak of war, by which time SNOW had built up a notional group of twelve to fifteen sub-agents. In January 1939 the case took on new importance: SNOW informed Special Branch that he was due to receive a wireless transmitter. However, it was not until 4th September, after SNOW had been served a detention order, that its location, at Victoria Station cloakroom, was revealed. SNOW was arrested and the transmitter was taken to his cell in Wandsworth Prison and contact with Germany, under MI5 control, was soon established. SNOW was released shortly afterwards and continued his double agent work under the close control of MI5. His case collapsed in early 1941 after a visit to his German 'controller', Nikolaus Ritter alias 'Dr. Rantzau', in Lisbon. SNOW claimed to have divulged everything after being accused of being a double-cross by Ritter. CELERY who accompanied SNOW on this visit (he arrived separately sometime later) was not aware of this revelation and as a result CELERY was taken to Germany for an intense and aggressive interrogation, which he survived. Surprisingly both men were then dispatched back to England with £10,000 and new sabotage material. SNOW and CELERY's accounts seemed to contradict one another and the truth could not be established, it was therefore decided to wind down the case altogether.

KV 2/444 - As do most of the files on this case up to the outbreak of war, this first file deals with intercepted correspondence (from Sept 1936) and detailed observation reports on SNOW's movements. SNOW is described as 'a typical Welsh "underfed" type, very short, bony face, ill-shaped ears,

disproportionately small for size of man, shifty look', unfortunately there is no photograph. Also included is a statement by SNOW regarding his first meeting with 'Mr Pieper' his initial German contact. Artifacts include an aviation magazine and a booklet on military vehicles, which SNOW presumably passed off as intelligence material.

KV 2/445 - Included in this file is a long interrogation report with veteran Hinchley-Cooke (MI5) and Special Branch representatives at Scotland Yard on 24 September 1938. This report and other papers mention the use of wireless and German codes (p.3, p.6). The file also mentions SNOW's approach to the British Union of Fascists on behalf of the Germans.

KV 2/446 - Is similar to the files above but includes the introduction of double agents GW and CHARLIE (see below and KV 2/454) and a visit to Antwerp to meet SNOW's German 'controller' Major Ritter, alias Dr. Rantzau. Papers refer to SNOW's estranged wife, who informs on him as a German agent and a detention order for SNOW's girlfriend 'Lily' is also included. The file deals with SNOW's first radio contact with Germany whilst under MI5 control. There is also reference to a German paymistress, Mrs Mathilde Kraft, who was laundering money through Selfridges.

KV 2/447 - includes false information regarding Britain's airpower. As SNOW's controller, Major Ritter, held the position of Leiter of I. Luft, (Head of Air Intelligence) much of SNOW's early 'information' was regarding the RAF. Reports by SNOW's MI5 case officer, T.A.R. Robertson, begin to question SNOW's loyalty.

KV 2/448 - deals with MI5's efforts to obtain a fishing trawler in order to meet German submarines in the North Sea. Such a meeting was scheduled to take place between SNOW and BISCUIT (a new double agent recruit) and German spymaster, Major Ritter. On 19th May 1940 the trawler left Grimsby, but during the trip SNOW and BISCUIT fell out violently, both accusing each of betrayal. The papers within this file cover this confusing episode, which was never fully resolved. A second meeting was planned in which it was decided to capture Ritter, but he failed to turn up at the rendezvous. SNOW's second detention order is included in this file as well as the first mention of SUMMER, a German parachute agent. (Files relating to SUMMER are already available from the reading rooms KV 2/60)

KV 2/449 - deals with the introduction and relations between SUMMER, TATE & CELERY. There is also a reference to a meeting with an Infra Red agent in regard to infra-red techniques used to detect shipping, night fighters and illicit beacons. It is also noted that SNOW has a bad habit of 'only wearing his false teeth when eating'. This file reflects the decline in the SNOW case.

KV 2/450 - contains photographs of camouflaged bombs brought back by SNOW from his last trip to Lisbon. This file generally deals with the termination of the case including a long interrogation (10th April 1941) report with case officer T.A.R. Robertson and J.C. Masterman, Chairman of Double Cross Committee. SNOW is criticized for being 'tremendously idle...living of

the fat of the land with an enormous salary - a salary that would make a cabinet minister's salary look stupid'. There is also a note referring to 'SNOW Junior' who offered his services. His advances were declined and a detention order was served.

KV 2/451 - includes a discussion to resurrect the SNOW case, but it is rejected due to technical difficulties and pending further interrogation. There is also a summary of the case from the German perspective by spymaster Major Nikolaus Ritter, alias Dr. Rantzau and notes regarding SNOW's continued employment as a stool pigeon in Dartmoor Prison and Camp WX in the Isle of Man. A good summary of the whole case can be found at the beginning of the file, presumably written by J.C. Masterman.

KV 2/452 & 453 are supplementary to the main files and include some duplication. KV 2/453 does have some interesting photographs and information regarding SNOW's wireless equipment and codes, which was significant in the initial 'break' of the German enigma codes. This file also includes examples of miniature photography taken by double agent CHARLIE. GW & CHARLIE (KV 2/468 & 454)

Two early agents that were closely associated with SNOW were GW and CHARLIE. SNOW's first transmission was in relation to the recruitment of a Welsh Nationalist, who was required by Germany for industrial sabotage. MI5 nominated a retired Welsh Police Inspector, (GW), for the role. GW was later to act independently of SNOW and continued to operate after SNOW's collapse. During 1941 GW represented the only safe channel to convey documents too bulky for wireless transmission and thereby was the most reliable for passing on misinformation. His case was unfortunately concluded due to the arrest of Luis Calvo, the Spanish press attaché in London. GW had cultivated Calvo, but the decision to arrest him left GW 'exposed' and so the case was wound up. Both SNOW and GW made several successful trips to Antwerp and Lisbon to meet their nominal controller Major Ritter. After the first such meeting SNOW was put into contact with CHARLIE, a German born photographer who was working for the Germans under duress, due to threats on his brother still in Germany. CHARLIE was employed to take illicit photographs and report on shipping movements as well as undertaking microphotography for the sending of SNOW's reports; these were often secreted under stamps (examples are in KV 2/453 & 454). CHARLIE's case was ended when SNOW was interned in 1941.

KV2/468 - The file includes report of recruitment of GW, his handwritten notes about his first meeting with German secret service, his correspondence with the Belgians and later the Spanish, including Luis Calvo. A summary by Masterman of the success of the case can be found on p.107a.

KV 2/454 - shows that CHARLIE had nothing but English sympathies; an account of his 'recruitment' by the Abwehr shows that he was threatened with reprisals against his family in Nuremberg. The file includes many examples of photography and microphotography, which were often sent under stamps or within sweet wrappers.

ZIG-ZAG (KV 2/456-463)
Treasure (KV 2/464-466)

Eamon De Valera

Eamon De Valera was born in New York in 1882 of a Spanish father and Irish mother. He was later sent to Ireland and educated there. During the Easter uprising in 1916 he commanded the Irish Volunteers battalion, and was captured by the British, but he was not executed due to his American connection. From 1917-1926 De Valera was a key member of Sinn Fein and the IRA. In 1926 he founded his own party Fianna Fáil. In 1932 he was elected Eirean Prime Minister. During WWII all ties with Britain were severed. He was Prime Minister again in 1951-54 and from 1957 to 1959 he was President.

KV 2/514 - includes newspaper clippings and summaries of De Valera's speeches, movements and contacts. There are notes with reference to documents found on De Valera when he was arrested on 17 May 1918 which include a note book (not on the file) showing a system of Sinn Fein communication and organisation of the Irish Army. One piece of intercepted correspondence discusses an arms seizure (p151) and short interrogation with a German, Mia Burns. A group photograph of Sinn Fein members shows De Valera in uniform.

KV 2/515 - contains newspaper clippings; traces of movements, and reference to his dramatic escape from Lincoln Prison in February 1919 as well as his subsequent trip to the USA. Papers also show scrutiny of letters sent to De Valera whilst he was in Lincoln prison, reports of him being elected Prime Minister of Ireland and his invitation to the Paris Peace Conference whilst still detained. There is a physical description of De Valera and photographs.

Leon Trotsky (KV 2/502-505)

Zinoviev

Gregori Radomyslsky was born in 1883, became a Russian Bolshevik leader, and adopted 'Zinoviev' as a nom-de-guerre whilst in secret opposition to Tsarism. With Lenin, he returned to Russia from exile in 1917. From 1920 to 1926 he held a high position in the Third International or Comintern; it is in this capacity that he is supposed to have sent the 'Zinoviev' letter to British Communists, urging them to promote revolution. The letter was published in the press just prior to the 1924 general election and contributed to the defeat of Labour Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald. There were claims that the Zinoviev letter was a fake. In 1926 Zinoviev broke from Stalin as a supporter of Trotsky. In 1935 he was imprisoned for treason and in 1936 he stood trial for a second time charged with plotting with enemy powers. He was executed in August 1936.

KV 2/501 - includes intercepts of telegrams; one dated 29 March 1921 to Litvinoff is in regard to arms and funding for Sinn Fein 'germ cells'. There is also a letter dated 29 March 1921 from the cryptographer Cmmdr Alistair Denniston to Guy Liddell of MI5 regarding decrypts of papers, stating that

there was no trace of wireless transmission from Moscow to Reval and no telegrams signed by Zinoviev. There are copies of SIS reports from Russia reporting on Zinoviev's activities.

Harold Cole

Harold Cole, a British Soldier, was sent to France in 1939. He was taken prisoner in 1940, but managed to escape to Lille and then Marseilles, where he helped run British escape lines. In 1941 he was re-arrested and 'turned' by the Gestapo, betraying a whole French resistance unit which resulted in the deaths of over 50 people.

KV 2/415-417 - The files relate to MI5's hunt for Cole at the end of the war and his final arrest whilst posing as a US intelligence officer in liberated France, complete with French mistress and Mercedes car. The papers show his second escape from US custody and his final discovery in Paris in 1946, where he was killed during a shoot out with French Police. Unfortunately the file has been reconstituted from microfilm and in places is difficult to read.

Otto Skorzeny

Scar-faced Otto Skorzeny was a SS-Obersturmführer who gained fame as the man who liberated Mussolini in September 1943. He was later to become responsible for all sabotage and subversion behind Allied lines and headed up SS-Jagdverbände, special team units developed out of the Brandenburg Division for this purpose. The successful and daring escape of Mussolini was known as Operation WEREWOLF, after a hero from C.D Loen's novel about the Thirty Years War. Himmler instructed Skorzeny to select paratroopers from various SS-Sonderkoanden to form a special unit for the Operation. On 12 September 1943, 11 gliders and two planes flew into Gran Sasso plateau, stormed the hotel in which Mussolini was staying and flew him out to Avezzano. Skorzeny was decorated for this successful mission.

KV 2/403 - The file contains a summary of interrogations of Skorzeny which relate to his activities in Operation WEREWOLF and the training of special agents for behind lines operations. Papers include the development of a special Nazi training camp for these special agents, many of whom were selected because they had 'nothing to hope for', however, they were required to have at least one foreign language, one-to-one combat training, sabotage experience and peak fitness. Wireless decrypts cover the period 31.7.43 to 29.3.45. There is also a plan of the training camp at Friedenthal (p.55b), a summary of German sabotage operations and development of special equipment, including poisoned bullets, as well as lists of specially trained troops. Photographs show the scar-faced Skorzeny in his SS uniform and a handwritten statement in German bears his signature (page.62a).

Kurt Wieland

'MI5 Game book'

KV 4/112 & 113 - These two books include a list and summary of each prosecution case where Security Service evidence was used to prosecute. There are 96 cases from the period 1909 to 1937. Notable cases include, Karl Ernst (which includes photos), mention of Gustav Steinhauer, the first German

spymaster (he was not convicted), Roger Casement, Compton MacKenzie, Norman Baillie-Stewart and Hans Lody (shot at the Tower). KV 4/112 contains the index for both volumes.

New Document Releases

ZIG-ZAG

Document References: KV 2/456-463

Eddie Chapman, alias ZIG-ZAG, is without a doubt the most flamboyant double agent during the war and, although his story is already well known via film and publication, this series of files is perhaps the highlight of this current release.

ZIG-ZAG arrived in Britain in December 1942. Much was known about him before he arrived due to decrypted wireless intercepts; he was a highly trained in sabotage, parachuting and wireless telegraphy. Prior to his wartime activities, Chapman had been jailed in Jersey for a string of offences including safecracking and burglary. After German occupation of the Channel Islands, Chapman was released and trained as an agent. Once in England however he immediately informed the authorities and began acting as a double agent. His main mission was to conduct sabotage at an aircraft factory in Hatfield, where Mosquito bombers were produced. This sabotage was carried out notionally by MI5 and reported in the press, ZIG-ZAG then returned to his German 'masters' where he received great praise in the form of the Iron Cross and huge remuneration. He spent the next 15 months in relative luxury and acted as an Abwehr instructor. In 1944 ZIG-ZAG was returned to Britain for an espionage mission, bringing with him a great deal of information on the German Secret Service, weaponry, bomb damage and morale. However, his case was terminated due to his tendency to talk about his work and the fact that he had revealed his true identity to a Norwegian girlfriend whilst on the continent.

KV 2/455 - This file shows how much detail MI5 knew about Chapman before his arrival and the lengthy preparations for his arrest. His army record shows him to be of above average intelligence and sober character. ISOS intercepts show Chapman's practice wireless transmissions whilst he was training. In a note marked 'Most Exceptionally Secret' Chapman's code is revealed; at this time he was known by his German code name Fitzchen. The file includes reports of his initial arrest, list of possessions, information on his code and a whole series of subsequent interrogation reports from MI5's interrogation centre, Camp 020. The file also discusses Chapman's first transmission to Germany.

KV 2/456 - contains further interrogation reports and discussion as to his mission and whether to send ZIG-ZAG 'back to the other side'. Included is an interrogation by Lord Rothschild (p.92.d), who at this time was head of B.1.C Section of MI5, which dealt with sabotage, inventions and technical equipment. The interrogation reveals details of sabotage techniques and the training of IRA dissidents by Germany (p.19).

KV 2/457 - includes the main Camp 020 report, which does not deal with double cross work, but Chapman's suitability for this type of work. Amongst the papers can be found a description of Chapman's early criminal career (p106); a map of where he should land (p.109); notes on two German saboteurs, Hermann Wojch and Franz Schmidt, who were responsible for sabotage activity that was previously attributed to the IRA (p128a); photographs of sabotage equipment and of real and notional sabotage sites; a questionnaire prepared for his return to the continent.

KV 2/458 - is perhaps the most interesting file within the release, it includes complicated details on preparations to send ZIG-ZAG back via Lisbon; photographs of faked damage to the Hatfield site and a letter to the Times indicating this ruse (173b); a handwritten note or 'will' by Chapman requesting 'that if anything should happen to me I want the things that I have arranged for my daughter Dianne Shayne to be carried out' (p.182m); Newspaper clippings and aerial photographs regarding notional sabotage. (206a); A handwritten note book written by one of ZIG-ZAG's minders - Two Field Security Police (FSP) were employed to 'look after' Chapman and accompany him, one studied his character, whilst the other concentrated on factual information. The notebook is friendly in demeanor and amongst other things mentions an episode of 'Eddie's desire to find a woman' - which they duly did, Doris and Helen.

KV 2/459 - Includes photographs of Chapman, press cuttings and papers dealing with his cover story and return to the continent; papers following Chapman's progress via wireless intercepts and mis-information to be passed by him; Operation Plan Damp Squib which was a self appointed task to blow up the City of Lancaster (the ship that took Chapman to Lisbon); a note by Duff Cooper that shows Churchill's personal interest in the ZIG-ZAG case; and further interrogations after Chapman's return to UK show some concerns over Chapman's loyalty.

KV 2/460 - includes photographs of ZIG-ZAG's Norwegian girlfriend, Dagmar (392a); photographs of flying bomb damage; papers regarding the closure of the case or possible continuation to mislead with V-1 damage and anti-submarine detection devices; includes an original Abwehr index card (presumably stolen by ZIG-ZAG from Abwehr II in Paris); copies of ISOS wireless traffic.

KV 2/461 - A supplementary file relating to operation Damp Squib, includes photographs of a 'Coal bomb' designed to blow up the City of Lancaster.

KV 2/462 - A supplementary file of retained documents relating to the ZIG-ZAG case, includes: photographs of wife and daughter (not identified), Norwegian girlfriend (not identified), detention order, travel permits, Chapman, map showing landing place of Chapman, Jakobs and GOOSE, national registration card, British Seaman identity card (under name of Anson) and travel permit between UK/Ireland.

KV 2/462 - contains newspaper clippings regarding the publication of Eddie Chapman's book.



2 Particulars

(1) Surname ANSON
(BLOCK CAPITALS)

(2) Christian or First Names HUGH

(3) Date of Birth 5/9/1913

(4) Place of Birth Glasgow

(5) Colour of (a) eyes Greyish Blue (b) hair Brown

(6) Complexion Pale

(7) Height 5 ft. 11.5 ins.

(8) Distinguishing Marks None

(9) Nationality—see Panel 7.

3 ^{CASE} Photograph of Holder

C.R.S.53

M.M.O. Embossing Stamp

4 Particulars—continued

(10) Dis. A. No. 13 267997
(To be entered in all cases)

(11) Certificates held—
Grade None No. -
(Including E.O.H., Ship's Cook, Lifebost, etc.)

(12) Rank or Rating if not a certificated Officer
(If A.B. Suplt. to verify and initial)
Yeoman

(13) National Service Registration No.
M.M.G. 12/64729

(14) Is holder an Armed Forces Reservist? no
(Reservists include R.N.S.R. and H.M.S. "Gordon.")

Signature of Holder Hugh Anson

LEFT-HAND FINGERPRINTS
(Plain Impressions of four fingers)

THUMBS—PLAIN IMPRESSIONS
LEFT RIGHT

RIGHT-HAND FINGERPRINTS
(Plain Impressions of four fingers)



New Document Releases

Treasure

Document References: KV 2/464-466

Nathalie Sergueiew, alias Lily, codenamed TREASURE was a French woman of Russian extraction who was known to MI5 through ISOS wireless traffic. She declined the first attempts of recruitment by the Abwehr, but having found herself in occupied Paris she accepted. After extensive training she was sent to Spain with intention of getting to the UK. It was agreed that she would be brought to the UK for interrogation and possible double-cross work. Treasure proved to be a useful deception agent especially in regard to Operation Fortitude, the deception operation for the Normandy Landings. She initially communicated using secret writing, but after a visit to meet her German contact, Kliemann, in Lisbon, she progressed to wireless transmission. Treasure, however, proved to be 'exceptionally temperamental and troublesome'; at one point she threatened to resign due to the fact that her pet dog had not been brought across from the continent as promised by British intelligence. After a rather acrimonious split with MI5 she returned to a liberated Paris and joined the French ATS. Shortly after, Treasure's Abwehr contact Kliemann was arrested and detained in Britain. As Treasure's wireless had continued to be used by an MI5 controller in her absence, the case had the unusual scenario whereby her German contact was in Britain and she was in France, but the wireless traffic assumed the opposite.

KV 2/464 - contains identification of Treasure via 'secret sources', which reveal attempts by the Abwehr to recruit her and her intention to obtain a visa and travel to UK via Madrid; various traces and contacts; explanation of the code taught to her in Paris; sketches of accommodation where she trained; report of her mission and information required by Germans

KV 2/465 - includes microphotography, explanation of codes; report on her threat to resign due to the absence of her dog and the failure to bring it to UK (p.127a), an admission by Treasure that she had fallen in love with USAAF Lieutenant, Kenneth Larson, whilst in Madrid, and her real intentions to work for the British (204a); papers regarding the need to get a wireless set to Treasure to be used for Normandy landings deception.

KV 2/466 - contains photographs of Treasure and Abwehr controller Major Emile Kliemann; copies of French passport, visas, photographs of her dog; papers showing the decline and cessation of case, including a severe reprimand and concerns of her bona fides by MI5's T.A.R Robertson. There is also mention of concern over a manuscript of a book describing her

double-cross activities; some newspaper clippings and correspondence in a separate incident referring to the murder of her sister.





N° 1368427

Série B

CARTE D'IDENTITE

PREFECTURE DE POLICE

Nom

Sergueiev



Prénoms :

Nathalie

Né le

25 Janvier 1912

a

Petrograd

département

Russie

Nationalité : Française.

Profession :

Sans

Domicile :

Paris 14^e
19, rue Souffray

SIGNALEMENT

Taille

1m 65

Nez

Dos rect

Base hor

Cheveux

ch.

Dimension

mez.

Moustache

Forme générale du visage

ov.

Yeux

bleus

Teint

ord.

Signes particuliers

Empreinte digitale



Signature du titulaire

Sergueiev



20 NOV 1941

LE PREFET DE POLICE.





New Document Releases

Leon Trotsky

Document References: KV 2/502-505

Trotsky, a Ukrainian Jew, was born Lev Davidovich Bronstein in 1879. He was arrested in 1898 as a revolutionary. After 3 months solitary confinement he was exiled to Siberia, from where he escaped and joined Lenin in London in October 1902. He returned to Russia in 1905 only to be arrested and again escaped, spending several years traveling extensively. He returned to Russia for the October Revolution in 1917 and later became Commissar for Foreign Affairs and delayed the signing of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk by clever debating skills. During the civil war he was appointed Commissar for War and created the Red Army. After Lenin's death Stalin gradually pushed Trotsky out of office, eventually expelling him from the Party and deporting him in 1927. Trotsky established himself in Mexico where a Stalinist agent murdered him.

KV 2/502 - includes newspaper articles and papers regarding his travels and detentions, as well as reference to his contact with the Germans brokering possible peace deals. There are various biographies of Trotsky and other prominent communists. One intercepted postcard from Trotsky to Tchitchrine, his Soviet contact in London, bears his signature (a translation of this is included). There is one paper from Claude Dansey, a well-known MI6 agent, regarding an agent provocateur in Russia.

KV 2/503 - includes reports on the activities of Trotsky, some intercepted correspondence and comments and extracts of speeches and writings. There is a translation of a chapter entitled 'Terrorism and Communism' from his book, as well as newspapers clippings.



B.15.25. 25.11.16.

From
Trotsky,
Pmk. Cadiz.

To
E. (Tchitcherine)
12 Chancery Square
London N.W.

Date of pm. 16.11.16.

Comment.

Ref. M.I.5.g./132042/6.11.16.

Vide Slip B.13267

G.B.L.

(From Trotsky, late editor of Iskne Slovo, Social Democrat paper recently suppressed in Paris. About ten days ago I sent up a p.c. from him describing how he had taken refuge in Madrid but I failed to read the signature).

Dear Comrade,

I have just wired to you about my position. I was arrested in Madrid, three days imprisonment, brought to Cadiz and told "to-morrow at 8 a.m. you will sail for Havana" (as a criminal with 30 duros (duro = 5 pesetas) in my pocket). A few protests, a telegram to Romanones, etc. they gave me leave to stay here till November 30 under supervision. On the 30th there is a steamer from here to New York. I wired in all directions, among others to you, without being at all sure that the telegrams would get through.

I press your hand warmly. Allow me to say in taking leave of you that I only really came to recognise your full worth at the time of the present great crisis. I hope that we may meet once again in the ranks (or fighters for the) common (cause).

Yours,

Trotsky.

Card attached.

W.M.W.

G.W.M.

127/762.

25.11.16.

New Document Releases

Kurt Wieland

Document References: KV 2/400-402

Kurt Wieland was a leader of a five-man joint German/Arab parachute team sent into Palestine in September 1944. This was one of the last German efforts in the region to attack the Jewish community in Palestine and undermine British rule - this particular operation was aimed at Jewish targets by supplying cash, arms and sabotage equipment to local Palestinian groups. Operation ATLAS (as it was known) was doomed by bad planning, accidents and mismanagement; Wieland was put in charge of the technical side of the operation whilst the Arab Abdul Latif was in charge of policy direction. This operation was not helped by the fact that a great deal was known about German operations in the area due to the defection of Abwehr agent Enrich Vermehren earlier in February 1944. The group was picked up shortly after landing and interrogated at length.

KV 2/400 - papers include personal information of each individual from the 5 man team; summaries of interrogations and list of possessions, including 2000 gold coins and a quantity of poison.

KV 2/401 - deals with planning of Operation ATLAS mentioning the use of a captured B17 bomber (known as KG 100). A summary of the operation can be found on page 35a and an account by Wieland on page 30.

KV 2/402 - Contains photographs of the five parachutists in Arab clothing and Wieland in German uniform (under his Arab dress). Papers also include discussions about whether or not to prosecute them. There were problems due to the fact that Wieland was dropped in uniform (under his Arab dress) and was therefore a POW rather than a spy, and in the end a trial was rejected.



