MI5 INVESTIGATOR'S HANDBOOK

FOR YOUR EYES ONLY

complete intelligence service glossary and 3 “one time” decoding pads
Aldermaston Britain’s nuclear bomb factory and atomic research establishment.

Apostles An elite left-wing undergraduates club at Cambridge University in the thirties. A number of members went on to work in intelligence, some became traitors.

ASIO (Australian Security Intelligence Organization) Responsible for counter-espionage.

ASIS (Australian Secret Intelligence Service) Responsible for intelligence gathering.

ASLEF (Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers & Firemen) The train drivers’ union.

Barbican A new sprawling civic and cultural centre in London.

Beast Nickname of General Van Der Berg who was head of BOSS.

Blenheim Building containing the vast archives of MI5. Accessible on a phone link via CENCOM.

BOSS (Bureau of State Security) The former South African security agency now replaced by NIS.

Building Security A Cabinet Office section charged with upgrading security in sensitive Government properties.

‘C’ Nickname for the Chief of MI6. The first Chief was Mansfield-Cummings hence ‘C’ (also hence ‘M’ in the James Bond stories).

CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) American organization responsible for gathering intelligence abroad.

Cabinet The Prime Minister and her senior ministers of the crown, i.e. the committee that runs the UK.

Cabinet Office Government department responsible for working directly for the cabinet.

Cabinet Secretary The senior civil servant of the UK. The permanent non-political head of the Cabinet Office.

Capstick, Bertie Brigadier in charge of MoD security.

CENCOM (Central Communications Computer) Computer at MI5.

Charles Street The headquarters of MI5 in Charles St.

Chequers Official country residence of the PM in Buckinghamshire.

Chief The head of MI6 has the title ‘Chief’ not DG. Also used as a slang word indicating a superior officer.

Chummy Police jargon for a suspect. Also used by the intelligence services.

Cleaves (Central Intelligence Agency) American organization responsible for gathering intelligence abroad.

CID (Criminal Investigation Department) The plain-clothes police.

Civil and Public Servants Association Recognized Trade Union for the clerical grades in the Civil Service.

Clearway A fast road, where no stopping is allowed, but not up to motorway status.

COBRA (Cabinet Office Briefing Room) A safe room, two floors below Whitehall.

Codes During WWII British intelligence agents used poem codes but both ‘5’ and ‘6’ have now switched to one time pads which are now de rigueur in intelligence circles.

Computer Security A Cabinet Office section charged with preventing the KGB or, more importantly, hackers from breaking into sensitive computer files.

Coordinator of Intelligence Chairman of the JIC.

Cork Street An MI5 building in Cork St.

D6 Legal advice section for the Home Office.
Defect  Intelligence jargon for an agent changing sides or shifting allegiance. Also called ‘turning’ an agent.

Department of the Environment (DoE)  Large Government department responsible for town planning, buildings, parks and ancient monuments, etc.

Department of Trade (DoT)  Government department responsible for trade, imports and exports, etc.

Deputy Director General (DDG)  A rank in both MI5 and MI6 for heads of sections.

DI (Detective Inspector)  A rank in the CID.

Director General (DG)  The rank of the head of MI5.

Economic and Trade Security Section  Section of the DoT concerned with the control of sales of sensitive commercial products to foreign powers.

EEC (European Economic Community)  A European trading partnership of eleven nations.

Emergency Telephone Number  999 is dialed to summon the emergency services: fire, police, ambulance.

Establishments (Estabs)  Personnel and administrative section of a Government department.

False Flag  Where an agent is recruited to work for a specific country which he/she favours but is in fact duped since the information is passed to a third power which the agent does not support. In other words, the recruiter is operating under a ‘false flag’.

FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation)  American national police force which has additional responsibilities for counter-intelligence.

‘5’ (Five)  Intelligence nickname for MI5.

Flannery, Sir Martin  Cabinet Secretary.

Flat-foot  A policeman.


Forsyth, Frederick  Born in 1938, England. Highly successful author of political thrillers. Noted for the accuracy of his information. Possibly has contacts within the intelligence community.

Fox, Allen  Senior CIA liaison officer in London.

Freedom of Information Act  Britain doesn’t have one.

Friends  MI5 jargon for MI5 personnel.

Funnies  Civil service jargon for the intelligence services and all pertaining to them.

Garden Girls  The secretaries at No. 10 Downing Street (who work in a room facing a garden).

GCHQ (Government Communications Headquarters)  The electronic espionage centre of the UK, based at Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Glen Diamonds  Four diamonds brought back by the Earl of Margate from South Africa in 1905. They were stolen along with the NATO documents.

Gordon Street  An MI5 building in Gordon St. Preston works here.

Grades in the Civil Service  The mainstream administrative Civil Service has the following grade structure:

  Clerical grades: Clerical Assistant (CA), Clerical Officer (CO).
  Executive grades: Executive Officer (EO), Higher EO (HEO), Senior EO (SEO), Principal (P), Senior Principal (SP).
  Senior grades: Assistant Secretary (AS), Under Secretary (US), Deputy Secretary
(DS), Permanent Secretary (PS), Cabinet Secretary (CS).
In addition there are a wide variety of 'specialist' grades and at the time of writing (1987) the whole system is under reorganization.

**Gun Calibres** A variety of calibres (measured in parts of an inch) are used for pistols by the security services. The larger the calibre the greater the stopping power of the weapon but the more difficult it is to control.

**Hacker** A home computer enthusiast who specializes in breaking into other people's home computers over the phone lines via a modem.

**Harcourt-Smith, Brian** DDG of MI5. An ambitious and rather spiteful man.

**Health and Safety Committees** All Government departments have H&S committees to monitor working conditions.

**Hemmings, Sir Bernard** DG of MI5. A very sick man, he has delegated much of his authority to Harcourt-Smith.

**Hollis, Sir Roger** DG of MI5 until 1965. A 1981 statement by the PM in the House of Commons stated that there was no evidence that he was a Soviet agent.

**Home Office** Government department covering domestic affairs including policing and MI5.

**Home Secretary** Minister in charge of the Home Office.

**Houses of Parliament** Seat of Government in the UK.

**Illegal** Spy using false credentials to operate illegally in a foreign country.

**Interpol (International Police)** A communications network between European police forces. It has no field agents.

**Ironmongers** A shop selling hardware.

**Irvine, Sir Nigel** Chief of MI6.

**Joe** Intelligence jargon for a suspect.

**JIC (Joint Intelligence Committee)** Large committee dealing with security matters which includes representatives from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA.

**Jones, Sir Peregrine** A senior manager in MoD.

**JPSMoDN (Joint Planning Staffs Ministry of Defence)** High-level naval strategy planning section in MoD.

**Juggernaut** A large articulated lorry.

**K1** Liaison office between MI5 (K branch) and MI6.

**KGB** Committee for State Security. Although this organization carries out the same duties as MI5, MI6 and Special Branch, it has far greater powers and many other tasks to secure the privileges of the Soviet elite. It has 200,000 men under arms acting mainly as border and internal security guards.

**Leconfield House** The old headquarters of MI5.

**Make** When a suspected illegal is spotted he is photographed and the results compared with shots of known enemy agents in vast archives to get a 'make', i.e. an identification. The USA and the USSR have giant computers to assist in this task. Britain uses a more efficient system – an elderly lady called Bodwyn.

**Mandarin** Civil Service jargon for one of the senior grades.

**Marlborough Street** An MI5 building in Marlborough St.

**Medical Security** A small section which advises the intelligence services on medical matters, mainly psychology, and which runs a small pathology laboratory.

**Member of Parliament (MP)** Person elected to the House of Commons.
In the Fourth Protocol, the Game, a sequence of numbers will appear. The numbers are crucial to the Game, which word can only be deciphered by following the Pad with the relevant code in the Handbook.
MI5 (Military Intelligence 5) The counter-espionage department of the UK. It has the following subdepartments:
A branch responsible for policy, data processing, legal advice and watchers.
B branch responsible for recruitment, personnel, vetting and promotions.
C branch responsible for security in the Civil Service and military services.
K branch responsible for countering Soviet Penetration of the UK.
E branch responsible for countering international communism.
F branch responsible for observing extreme political groups of both left and right.

Minister Politician administering department of state; appointed by the Prime Minister.

Ministry of Defence (MoD) Government department which controls the armed forces and all pertaining to them.

NATO Military defensive alliance of countries bordering the North Atlantic and Northern Mediterranean coast. Specifically set up to check Soviet expansion.

NFA (No Further Action) Stamp on the front of a file at MI5 to indicate that an investigation is closed.

NIS (National Intelligence Service) The South African intelligence service which succeeded BOSS.

No. 10 Number 10 Downing Street. The Prime Minister’s official residence and office in London.

NZSI (New Zealand Secret Intelligence Service) The New Zealand espionage agency.

Official Secrets Act A law in Britain which loosely states that everything is secret unless the Government specifically states otherwise. Cynics say that it is used more to protect officials from the consequences of their blunders than to protect secrets.

Old Boy Network Informal network of personal contacts of those who attended the elite public schools (expensive private schools) and Oxford and Cambridge universities. Many senior people in British society could be described as belonging to the ‘network’ or ‘magic circle’.

One Time Pad One time pads are now in vogue as an unbreakable code in every intelligence service in the world. In principle they are simple, an array of letters which can be used to turn numbers into sentences. They are unbreakable because each array is only used for one message. The sender and the receiver both have a copy of the same array (in this game the arrays are used over and over again).

Our Friend Intelligence jargon for a suspect.

Paragon Subcommittees of JIC concerned with tracing the source of the lost documents.

Pienaar, Henry The General in charge of NIS.

Plumb, Sir Anthony Chairman of JIC and the Prime Minister’s personal coordinator of intelligence.

Poem Code In WWII British intelligence used poem codes as a way of converting strings of numbers into letters, according to their position in the poem. Each agent would have a personal poem either specially written or a well known poem with certain changes or spelling ‘errors’ to confuse code-crackers. Poem codes were replaced by one time pads which are less easy to break because they are only used once. Nevertheless, it is usual for MI5 agents to have personal poems which can be used where one time pads would be clumsy or unnecessarily complicated.
Polonium  A rare metal used in the triggers of nuclear weapons or in certain medical treatments.

Prime Minister (PM)  The leader of the party controlling the most votes in the House of Commons and hence the person running the country.

PSA (Property Services Agency)  The Government's estate agent, part of the DoE.

PTO (Professional Technical Officer)  One of the specialist grades in the Civil Service.

Pub (Public House)  An establishment licensed for the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages. In British society they are more than just bars as they tend to be social centres.

Safe House  An address used by an intelligence agency to hide and debrief defectors, agents, etc. It is 'safe' because it is unknown to the opposition.

Saffron Walden Hotel  A hotel north of London with an excellent restaurant much frequented by those in the electronics industry.

Secret Documents  There are various levels of secrecy in the UK stamped on Government papers. They are as follows: Confidential (everything), Restricted Circulation, Secret, Top Secret and For Your Eyes Only.

Secret Intelligence Service  MI6.

Security Service  MI5.

Sentinel House  The headquarters of MI6.

Service, The  Civil Servants' jargon for their own particular department.

SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe)  NATO military HQ in Europe.

Sinclair C5  An electrically powered tricycle. The latest bright idea of Sir Clive Sinclair, inventor of the cheap home computer and designer of the ubiquitous Spectrum mini komputer.

Sitrep (Situation Report)  Agents in the field such as watchers are encouraged to send regular sitreps back to CENCOM.

SIX  Intelligence nickname for MI6.

Skinheads  A youth cult noted for shaven heads and associated with gang violence.

Special Branch (SB)  Police department dealing with security and political matters. MI5 personnel have no powers of arrest so if they want a suspect 'picked up' it has to be carried out by Special Branch.

StB  Czech espionage service. Largely under Soviet control this agency is very useful to the Russians because Czechs have greater freedom of movement in the UK than Soviet personnel.

St James  Club frequented by senior Government officials.

Strickland, Sir Patrick (Paddy)  A senior civil servant in the Foreign Office.

Subway  A pedestrian underpass under a busy road or leading down to a tube station.

Surete  French police organization in charge of security.

Sweden  In Sweden counter-espionage is the responsibility of the police.

Thatcher, Margaret  Prime Minister of the UK.

Toxin  Poison. The KGB have specialized in the use of toxins for murder. Recently they have tended to use their Bulgarian stooges as middlemen.

Tube  The underground train system in London, run by a separate authority from British Rail.

Turn  Defect.
Umbrella  This innocuous British accessory is used by Bulgarian hit squads to murder for the KGB.

Veld  Open country in South Africa, neither cultivated nor true forest

Villiers, Sir Hubert  A senior civil servant at the Home Office.

Watchers  MI5 jargon for their surveillance agents. Normally six to a team, four teams rotating every 24 hours.

Weeding  Intelligence jargon for destroying files deemed obsolete or irrelevant. Unfortunately, in British intelligence this job has often been passed to enemy agents!

Wise Men  After the Hollis affair it was decided that the DG of MI5 would be appointed by outsiders rather than inherit the job in the fullness of time in the usual service manner. The Wise Men include the Chairman of the JIC, the Cabinet Secretary and senior civil servants from the Home Office and MoD.