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When Intelligence Made a Difference

Part XIII

Peter C. Oleson

his issue of When Intelligence Made a Difference has two main articles. James Roth, a former CIA officer, revisits the story of The Trust, a Bolshevik deception operation in the 1920s targeted at its opponents in Europe. His in-depth examination reveals that deception, lies, and myths have enveloped the history of this counterintelligence effort, and today much remains clouded about the truth. In Korea, despite having good intelligence on Chinese movements, General MacArthur's handling of intelligence failed to prevent the disaster at the battle of the Chosin Reservoir. Alan Cunningham dissects the problems within MacArthur's intelligence elements.



By the time you have read this I will have retired as "senior editor" for The Intelligencer and principal editor (and sometimes author) of articles for the series "When Intelligence Made a Difference." I started this series in 2018 in reaction to media stories that, to me, seemed biased against the field of intelligence, always emphasizing the negative and rarely the positive contributions that intelligence has made over history, many topics, and countries. Many have contributed excellent articles for the series for which I am most grateful. I learned a lot, which was rewarding. There are so many stories yet to be told, but telling those must fall to others.

Since 2010 I have been a volunteer for AFIO, as a member of the board, chair of its academic outreach committee, editor of AFIO's Guide to the Study of Intelligence, contributor to AFIO's Intelligence as a Career booklet, member of the speaker's bureau and lecturer, editor of many Intelligencer articles and monographs written by AFIO members, and book reviewer. Now my focus will return to my initial love of history and to completing a book on the role of intelligence in the Pacific campaigns of World War II.

Thank you AFIO for the opportunities and relationships you have provided me.

When Intelligence Made a Difference

The Final Chapter of this Intelligence History Project

With this issue of the journal, AFIO's educational project "When Intelligence Made a Difference" [WIMAD] comes to an end. Over the years we sought writers to identify events throughout history involving any nation or organization when the outcome was affected significantly by intelligence. Many exceptional articles were sent to us and most of those were published. Thank you for your participation.

AFIO has been publishing these edited submissions serially in Intelligencer: Journal of US Intelligence Studies, our hybrid journal-member newsletter, released two times a year.

We wish to thank all those authors and readers who contributed articles. Many of these WIMAD articles are now online at https://www.afio.com/21_publications.htm.

AFIO published under the broad, pro-educational Creative Commons copyright. Authors retained the right to use their articles anywhere else they wish after publication in Intelligencer. Eight weeks after our release of your contribution, the articles appeared on AFIO's website for general public/educational access at that link cited above. And we are pleased to inform you that these WIMAD articles have been accessed tens of thousands of times each year.

Again, we (as well as all the professors, students, researchers, librarians, serving officers, and others who accessed these articles) thank all of you for your years of interest and support of this history project.

