



III. PROFESSIONAL INSIGHTS

When Intelligence Made a Difference

Part IX

Peter C. Oleson

Modern American SIGINT came into its own in France in World War I. This edition of *When Intelligence Made a Difference* includes three related articles. Former NSA historian **Betsy Rohaly Smoot** describes the often-critical contributions of the Army's early SIGINT efforts in the St. Mihiel offensive of September 1918. Another NSA historian, **Gregory Nedved**, profiles the controversial figure of legendary cryptologist **Herbert O. Yardley**, author of the 1931 tell-all book *The American Black Chamber*. Also, we reprint here NSA's "The Black Chamber" about America's first national, civilian intelligence organization in peacetime.

On the same topic – cryptology – but a war removed is an article by **Joshua Holzer & Tobias T. Gibson** on how Churchill used Ultra intercepts for political purposes and how he scaled back sharing intelligence with the US without getting something in return.

Dr. Jonathan Clemente writes about how a secret US Army medical team went behind North Korean and Chinese lines in 1951 to determine whether there had been an outbreak of the "Black Death" that could threaten UN forces and the South Korea population.

The final article is **Peter Oleson's** recounting of intelligence in MacArthur's Southwest Pacific campaign of World War II in which SIGINT played such an important role.

AFIO is always looking for interesting historical stories of how intelligence made a difference. Previous authors have included former intelligence professionals, professors, students, and others from many countries. Student articles that are accepted will give them a professional credit of being published in an internationally recognized professional journal. Articles are also posted on-line after publication. Email your suggestions to peter.oleson@afio.com.

When Intelligence Made a Difference

Intelligence History Project

AFIO's educational project "When Intelligence Made a Difference" seeks writers to identify events throughout history involving any nation or organization when the outcome was affected significantly by intelligence.

AFIO has been publishing edited submissions serially in *Intelligencer: Journal of US Intelligence Studies* released two to three times a year.

Those readers interested in contributing an article, should email peter.oleson@afio.com stating briefly what event you have in mind and include your bio. [AFIO will identify authors by name and current or former title only—no multi-line biographies.] If your suggestion is a good fit for this project, we will respond asking for your comments on that event, not to exceed 2,500 words (excluding footnotes). AFIO uses the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

IMPORTANT: When you send your article and bio, let us know if you have ever had prior employment or contract work within the US Intelligence Community—and, to meet pre-publication review requirements, supply a copy of the official approval letter or email naming the article you are sending us. Without this, we are unable to consider or include your article in the publication.

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