IV. Professional Insights

When Intelligence Made a Difference

Part IV

Part IV continues our series of articles on how intelligence has affected significant events. Articles that have been in previous editions of the Intelligencer are on-line at https://www.afio.com/22_intelligencer.htm.

The Doolittle Raid on Tokyo and four other cities in April 1942 had impact far beyond the slight physical damage done. The intelligence aspects are largely unknown. Peter Oleson’s article lays out what intelligence the US developed for the raid and what intelligence the Japanese had beforehand. As Maria Papageorgiou writes, the Greek capital of Athens was terrorized by “17 November” in the mid-to late-1970s. Through reforms and good analysis (and some luck), Greek intelligence eventually broke up the terrorist group. The Stuxnet cyberattack on the Iranian nuclear program is believed to be the first destructive uses of malware — a “guided cybermunition.” Al Lewis examines Stuxnet and its implications.

William Weisband was a Soviet agent within the Army’s Secret Intelligence Service who tipped Moscow off that the US had broken its codes. As Naomi Gonzalez explains Weisband’s treachery deafened the US to SIGINT indications of the North Korean invasion of 1950. FBI historian Ray Batvinis recounts the Bureau’s successful roll-up of the Nazi spy ring – the Duquesne Spy Ring – in the US in the summer of 1941, which eviscerated Germany’s intelligence from inside the US. The issue of Jammu and Kashmir has poisoned Pakistani and Indian relations since 1947 and resulted in repeated wars and terrorist violence. Pakistani elements tried to seize Kashmir in October 1947, but as Australian scholar Christopher Snedden describes, India had foreknowledge and acted in time to frustrate the Pakistanis.

AFIO will be publishing articles in this series across a wide range of eras, regions, and topics. Prospective authors are invited to suggest topics to the editor. Those teaching about the history of intelligence might assign their students to select and write about a topic. Accepted articles will give the student credit for publishing in a recognized professional journal. We thank those who have already contributed to this project. Email: peter.oleson@afio.com.

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 1,500 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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For instructors this project would make a good class assignment. Accepted articles would give students a publication credit in a recognized journal.