IV. PROFESSIONAL INSIGHTS

When Intelligence Made a Difference

Part III

Part III 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.

We use the modern term “geospatial intelligence,” but knowing the layout of the land has been a critical element in warfare for millennia. Robert Clark explains how GEOINT was important at the Battle of Gettysburg. Sharing intelligence with adversaries can sometimes have important effect. Robert Alden writes about how video intelligence led to the US-Soviet Incidents at Sea treaty. China has been the victim of industrial espionage in the past, as explained by Joel Wickwire. Communications security is absolutely critical. The consequences of poor communications security led to early Russian defeats in WWI. Quil Kibak details the Battle of Tannenberg. Most articles and books on Pearl Harbor focus on the failure of US intelligence to warn of the Japanese attack. But what did the Japanese do to prepare for the attack? Peter Oleson addresses that in his article.

More articles will appear in future editions of Intelligencer. AFIO is indebted to those authors who have contributed to this project. We invite anyone to propose an article on how intelligence made a significant difference. Reader’s comments are most welcome. Email peter.oleson@afio.com.

When Intelligence Made a Difference

Intelligence History Project
Association of Former Intelligence Officers

Project Description and Requirements:

The Association of Former Intelligence Officers (AFIO) is beginning a new educational project entitled “When Intelligence Made a Difference.” AFIO invites anyone to identify events throughout history involving any nation or organization when the outcome was affected significantly by intelligence. AFIO plans to publish edited submissions serially in this print-only member magazine, Intelligencer: Journal of US Intelligence Studies. The publication appears two to three times a year.

If you are interested in contributing an article, please email peter.oleson@afio.com. Briefly state 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, please 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.

As with most nonprofit academic publications, contributors will not be paid, however AFIO will publish it under the broad, pro-educational Creative Commons copyright. Therefore, authors retain the right to use their articles anywhere else they wish, after its publication in Intelligencer. Eight weeks after publication of your contribution in the print-only version of Intelligencer, the article will then appear on AFIO’s website for general public/educational access. Since the time of 1) an article’s acceptance, and then 2) appearance in print, and then 3) inclusion online can run eighteen months to three years from start-to-finish, a title-author listing of all accepted forthcoming articles (but no summaries) will be included in the printed editions of Intelligencer. So, it is imperative authors be patient as these articles are released on this serialized basis, in two or three journal issues per year. By submitting an article authors acknowledge and accept these provisions.

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