



III. PROFESSIONAL INSIGHTS

When Intelligence Made a Difference

Part X

Peter C. Oleson

When in 1943 the campaign in North Africa was drawing to a successful close, the Allies' next strategic target was painfully obvious to anyone who could read a map. "Everyone but a bloody fool would know it's Sicily," said Winston Churchill. The British in the Middle East had already developed a level of expertise in strategic deception that was used against the Nazis. "The Man Who Never Was" is one of the more fascinating stories of World War II deception operations that were highly dependent upon the allies' intelligence capabilities and ingenuity. **General David T. Zabecki**, a well-known military historian has written an article on Operation Mincemeat and how it was carried out.

Before there was a nationally-oriented intelligence organization in the US, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt depended on friends and acquaintances to provide insight into world and domestic events. Frances Perkins was FDR's Secretary of Labor. But she was much more. **Derek Leebaert**, a technology executive and award-winning book author has written about Frances Perkins in this part of When Intelligence Made a Difference.

In 1769 Captain James Cook was in Tahiti as captain of the HMS *Endeavor*. He was accompanied by a Polynesian named Tupaia. Tupaia was a master navigator who knew the stars, the ocean currents, the details of the various islands, whether the people were friendly, the food, and many other aspects. He was what today we would label a "geospatial-intelligence" or GEOINT expert. **Peter von Buol** has written about Tupaia for Hawaiian Airlines *Hanahou* magazine and now for AFIO.

Finally, **Peter C. Oleson** continues his series of articles about intelligence and the Pacific campaigns of World War II. His article "Across the Pacific: The Role of Intelligence in the Island-Hopping Campaign from Tarawa to Okinawa" supplements his earlier articles

on intelligence and the Southwest Pacific campaign of General Douglas MacArthur, the Solomons campaign, the Doolittle raid, the breaking of the Imperial Japanese Navy's JN-25 operational code, and the pre-Pearl Harbor Japanese intelligence operations leading up to the attack.

AFIO solicits from readers drafts of articles or ideas for articles that fit the theme of "when intelligence made a difference." Email 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 3,000 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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