

# The Cold War Times®

*The Newsletter of The Cold War Museum®*

Spring 2021



## Letter from the Executive Director

Things aren't normal for the Cold War Museum. They're actually a bit better, surprisingly, given the continuing COVID situation.

Unlike many museums in this country and around the world, we're in sound financial shape, with the strongest projected income we've seen since I came to the Museum about 6 years ago. That's due to a lot of things, including grants we got over the summer to keep us going, strong support from the Museum's Members, a lot of successful Presentation Series events in our still-new Zoom Room, and especially an intense effort late in 2020 on Giving Tuesday, which has now become our fall fundraising event, matching our spring efforts with Give Local Piedmont. Thanks especially to our Board and particularly the efforts of Board Chairman Chuck Wilson, Giving Tuesday gave us a big end-of-the-year bump up that, with an increased number of scheduled and in-the-pipeline Presentation Series events for 2021, has set us up with a little more breathing room than previously.

There are a lot more details inside about what we've done since the last newsletter, and what we plan to do in 2021. Hope you can take a few minutes to get up-to-date with the areas that interest you.

None of this is possible without the continuing support that you and your fellow Members of the Museum provide. Every museum in this country tries to generate income in many different ways, but I don't know of even one that could survive without the moral and financial support, and the volunteer time and effort, of many, many people who believe that what it does is worth that attention and effort.

Just can't be done without you, simple as that.

So thanks again.

The Cold War Museum•  
P.O. Box 861526  
7142 Lineweaver Road  
Vint  
Vint Hill, VA 20187  
(540) 341-2008

Executive Director  
Jason Y. Hall  
Jason@coldwar.org

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is a 501(c)(3) charitable  
organization

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big difference!

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# Our Lecture Series

The Cold War Museum's Presentation Series, where we present eyewitnesses to, and expert accounts of, key Cold War events, has been a key method by which the Museum educates about the Cold War for our audience (which normally averages about 40-50 people), a resource for future scholars (since we film all of these events including the question-and-answer sessions), and a significant source of income for our operations.

As we reported in the Winter 2020 issue of *The Cold War Times*, with the support of Museum Members we were able to present four Presentation Series events in 2020 before the COVID-19 pandemic forced the closure of our venue, Old Bust Head Brewery-and, for a time, the closure of the Museum itself. Those events had to end for a while after the February 23, 2020 event.

I'm very happy to report that also thanks to our Museum Members, and to the many others to whom we reached out who also like and appreciate what we're trying to do, we were able to open our doors again in a few months, unlike many other museums, AND to resume our lecture series on 8/30/20, after a 6-month hiatus, in the Zoom Room that the Museum acquired over the summer. Finding that attendance was very good in the Zoom format, with an average of about 40-50 attendees per session, and now from around the country and some from overseas, we increased the number and topics for our lectures as follows:

8/30/20-Ambassador Charles Ray explained how Ambassadors work with their station chiefs and other intel professionals to provide accurate information at the local level and for the

State Department to inform U.S. diplomacy.

9/27/20--Col. Hork Dimon (USAF, ret.) talked about the preparations for a secret second Berlin Airlift during the 1961 Berlin Crisis, something in which he was directly involved.

10/21/20-Prof. Kevin Riehle of the National Intelligence University informed us about Soviet defectors in WWII and focus on the Cold War and discussion of what they were able to do for us.

11/15/20-Prof. Volker Benkert of Arizona State University did a presentation on Youth Behind the Wall:

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## The Cold War Times

*The Newsletter of The Cold War Museum*

**Article Submission Deadline for  
Summer 2021 Issue:  
July 15, 2021**



## Message from the Chairman

*Chuck Wilson*

Dear Members of The Cold War Museum®, Cold War Veterans, and Friends, we hope that you and yours are safe and well! While our wonderful museum and many of our associates are challenged by the pandemic, we continue to persevere!

As you may know we have reopened on weekends and even though wintertime is traditionally slow, we are receiving many visitors! Our treasurer reports that we are fiscally sound, and, in that regard, this past December The Cold War Museum® participated in "Giving Tuesday," the worldwide fundraiser for nonprofit charities, and you helped us exceed expectations! We look forward to our next fundraising event with Give Local Piedmont in May. [Do follow our announcements and donate!](https://www.givelocalpiedmont.org/organization/coldwarmuseum) <https://www.givelocalpiedmont.org/organization/coldwarmuseum>

Our Cold War Museum® website <https://coldwar.org/> has generated a lot of interest and brings us many inquiring visitors such as teachers looking for remote help with Cold War information, History Day for students, artifact donors, sign-ups for our Presentation Series events, and opportunities, in several sections, for visitors to make donations. All areas have been quite successful!

Our Presentation Series has been a remarkable success. Since the last Cold War Times®, one of those presentations, by former CIA Chief of Disguise Jonna Mendez, author of *"The Moscow Rules"*, informed us how the agency evaded the KGB, known by many as the best counterintelligence surveillance organization in the world. Another featured David Hatch, PhD., the Historian of the National Security Agency, speaking on *"VENONA: The Secret Tool That Found Key Spies in the Early Cold War"*, and we can't leave out John Fox, the Historian of the FBI, who briefed us on "Ultimate Betrayal: Robert Hanssen, People He Got Killed, and the Lessons Learned". Those not able to attend a given event who sign up and make a small donation also can view the recording of the event they signed up for. To see our schedule of presentations, click on this link: <https://coldwar.org/default.asp?pid=16883>

We look to the future to be bright. Our Board of Directors continues to be refreshed and is undergoing realignment enabling it to focus on museum growth. With over 2000 square feet of Cold War artifacts in storage we continue to plan on expansion. Our Presentation Series will continue to provide the real people who have done the real things such as SR-71 Pilot Col. Buz Carpenter presenting "By Order of the President: My Most important Mission." Our membership is growing past 6,000 active members and may exceed 8-10,000 by year end. Feel free to join us, or increase your membership level, at this link: <https://coldwar.org/default.asp?nid=7413>

Our vision is "to inform the present and influence the future through an understanding the past, with exhibitions of artifacts, documents and events related to the Cold War Era." To realize that vision we need your continued support. Do visit our wonderful museum frequently, do attend our presentation series of Cold War speakers, and do continue to donate to this worthy endeavor to preserve the history of the Cold War!

Thank you so much for all that you do for us!



## Museum Staff

**Jason Hall, Ph.D., CAE**  
Executive Director (Historian)

**John DePerro, Chief Curator & Key**  
Tour Guide  
(Army veteran)

**Bill Rinehart, Collections Chief &**  
Chief Exhibit Builder  
(Air Force veteran)

**Paul Schaya, Imagery Intelligence**  
Collections/Exhibits  
(Marine veteran and former CIA imagery veteran)

**John Suter, Imagery Intelligence**  
Collections/Exhibits & Museum  
Photographer  
(NRO imagery veteran)

**Gene Eisman, Director of**  
Public Relations &  
*Cold War Times* contributor

**Chris Sturdevant, Chairman**  
Midwest Chapter of CWM & *Cold*  
*War Times* contributor  
(Air Force veteran)

**Kevin Knapp, Special Events Support**  
(Army Special Forces veteran)

**[Name withheld], Signals Intelligence**  
Technology Specialist

**Stan Manvell, Chief Fabricator  
(construction industry)**

**[Name withheld], Chief Technology  
Officer & Key Tour Guide  
(Vint Hill Army veteran & former  
FBI electronics engineer)**

**Doug Harsha,  
Civil Defense Expert &  
Social Media Lead Staffer**

**Birgitte Tessier, Registrar/Archivist**

**Bryan Zwanzig, Lead Staffer  
Private Tour Arrangements &  
Presentation Series staffing  
(Vint Hill Army veteran)**

**Karen Zwanzig, *Cold War Times*  
Lead Staffer**

**John Welch, CWM Co-Founder &  
Vice-Chair Board of Directors,  
Membership Records, Website**

**Joseph Felice, *Cold War Times*  
Editor**

**Clayton Vieg, Imagery (Intelligence  
Community)**

## Meet Your Board of Directors



The Cold War Museum® Board of Directors is the governing body of our nonprofit organization. This governance is high level: strategy, oversight, and accountability of the overall activities of the museum. Our Board is made up of thirteen seasoned senior executives of varying professional backgrounds who work pro bono for the benefit of the museum. Our Board members meet, usually each month, to discuss and vote on the affairs of our organization.

Meet our Board of Directors at this link: <https://coldwar.org/default.asp?pid=15593>

## Soviet Humor

When life is tough, you make jokes. Or at least that's what apparently happened in the Soviet Union, given the vast number of pretty funny pieces of mordant wit going around. Here are a few:

The regional KGB headquarters in Arkhangelsk suffered a major fire and was almost completely destroyed. Shortly after, a man called looking for help. "I'm sorry, we can't do anything," said the receptionist. "The KGB has burned down." Five minutes later, the receptionist received another call. "I'm sorry, we can't help. The KGB has burned down." Another five minutes passed, and the phone rang again. The receptionist recognized the voice as the man who'd twice called previously. "Why do you keep calling? I told you that the KGB has burnt down." "I know. I just like hearing it."

A schoolboy wrote in his weekly essay: "My cat just had seven kittens. They're all communist." The following week, the boy wrote: "My cat's kittens are all capitalist." The teacher called him up and asked him to explain the sudden change. "Last week, you said they were all communists!" The boy nodded. "They were, but this week they all opened their eyes."

## Rescue of Lieutenant Dengler USN

The Vietnam War was perhaps the best-known confrontation of the Cold War. For most veterans of the war in Southeast Asia, 20 July 1966 was just another day in America's longest war; for two Douglas A-1 "Spad" pilots, it was a day that their lives intersected in a miraculous series of circumstances. For Dieter Dengler, a young Navy Lieutenant, five months of imprisonment followed by three weeks evading in the jungles of Laos ended. For Gene Deatrick, a veteran Air Force Lieutenant Colonel, it was another day in his command of an A-1 squadron in South Vietnam. Dengler crawled through the dense jungle near the end of his endurance, then tumbled into a shallow river. Struggling to stay afloat, he found the strength to climb onto a large flat rock. He heard a rumbling noise-it was a plane! Deatrick was in a banking turn when he saw a flash of white below. He went back for another look and saw the form of a man. His wingman urged him to forget it, but Deatrick summoned rescue helicopters. The lead "Jolly Green" lowered a tree-penetrator 200 feet into a narrow canyon. Dengler, weak and confused, fumbled with the device and then finally climbed onto it and was hoisted to safety!



Eugene Payton Deatrick in 1966



Deatrick and Dengler in 1968

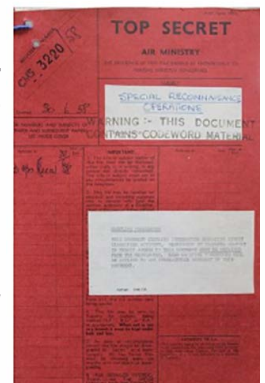
This rescue, one of the most famous in the Vietnam War, was recounted in the documentary *Little Dieter Needs to Fly* and in the feature film *Rescue Dawn*.

## British U-2 Flights: At Last, the Declassified Files!

It took a very long time, but the UK Ministry of Defence finally released the Royal Air Force files on British participation in the CIA's U-2 program to overfly the Soviet Union in the late 1950s. And fascinating they are, containing everything from operational cables and reports, to policy deliberations within the Air Ministry and the Foreign Office, and memoranda to the Prime Minister, seeking his approval for the illegal flights.

Actually, the files were released in 2019, but there are 23 of them containing 2,700 pages, so it has taken me a while to copy and review them! They reveal significant new detail, including just how worried the British government was that the RAF's role would become public knowledge, and how anxious it was to please the US, its senior partner in this unique intelligence-gathering effort.

In this post, I will cover the highlights from the newly-released files from 1958-60, concentrating on the political aspects. I will post further stories on this website at a later date: the operational details concerning the overflights make very interesting reading. Meanwhile, you can find my earlier research in my book *50 YEARS OF THE U-2*. You can also find a good account of the British involvement in the January and February 2019 editions of *THE AERO*



Cont. p. 9

## Our Lecture Series

### *Our Lecture Series, cont. from p. 2*

- ◆ 12/6/20—Jonna Mendez, former Chief of Disguise for CIA, on her career at CIA with her husband Tony (himself a former Chief of Disguise for the Agency, and the real-life person played by Ben Affleck in *Argo*). Jonna drew from her book *The Moscow Rules*, where she discusses the how we managed to very successfully run agents in Moscow, definitely the hardest environment for HUMINT during the Cold War because of the high level of skill of the KGB. We did it mostly with innovations in both disguise and operational procedures.
- ◆ 1/17/21—Historian of the NSA Dave Hatch talked to us about VENONA—the project’s origins during WWII, and its critical importance in the early Cold War with respect to the revealing the existence of the Rosenbergs, the Cambridge Five, and many of other Soviet agents.
- ◆ 2/7/21-- Historian of the FBI John Fox told us about Robert Hanssen, the most devastating Cold War spy against the U.S. and one of the damaging spies in U.S. history, including on how he was caught and what we learned from that.
- ◆ 2/28/21—General Bob Parker (USAF, ret.) discussed both his time as commander of 1,000 U.S. strategic nuclear missiles and what he saw later as Director of Site Inspections for many of our Cold War Arms Control treaties.
- ◆ 3/21/21—Historian of the CIA David Robarge talked about CIA covert actions during the Cold War—what worked, what didn’t, and what we learned from that experience.

THERE MANY MORE EVENTS ALREADY SCHEDULED FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR. Please see the Upcoming Events article in this issue for access to those events.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ACCESSING THE DIGITAL VIDEOS OF ANY OF OUR PRIOR EVENTS, please contact Executive Director Jason Hall ([jason@coldwar.org](mailto:jason@coldwar.org)); there is a modest charge for that.

## From Our Archives

One of the Museum’s strengths is in artifacts and photographs relating to the Deutsche Demokratische Republik (DDR), AKA East Germany. This includes in an exhibit on the cultural competition between the East and West during the Cold War that contains connections to the DDR. While we normally think of that competition as between American and other Western movies, popular music, clothing styles, and visual art vs. Soviet and East Bloc ballet, symphony orchestras, and chess, another area, athletics, especially Olympic competitions, figured largely as well. The DDR was especially active in this area, and especially infamous for its female athletes with masculine voices and bodies, highly suspicious for apparent abuse of steroids and other banned substances.

One notable exception to that practice was the brilliant DDR ice skater Katerina Witt, winner of two Olympics (1984 and 1988), four out of five World championships, and six

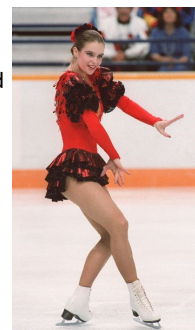
European championships in the late Cold War period of 1984-1988. Very personable, photogenic, and articulate, she helped the DDR overcome the image of questionable wins, as you can see in the photo of her skating for the gold medal at the 1988 Olympics. She continues to be active in film and TV since Germany reunited. But much less known is her additional role in selling the regime to people of the DDR. Through the research of one of our Key Staff, Clayton Vieg, who is fluent in German, we’ve recently added to our archives these non-skating historical photos of Witt acting in that role as well.



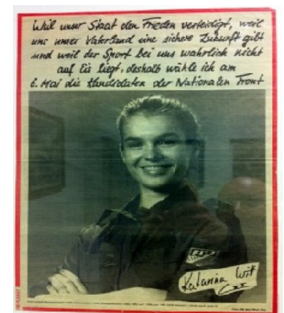
*Listening to a Honecker speech  
October 6, 1989*



*With Erich Honecker  
(leader of the  
DDR 1971-  
1989)*



*As Carmen—1988*



*Representing the National  
Front, a coalition of  
political parties controlled  
by DDR*



## Upcoming Events

**NOTE: New lectures may be added from time to time. Keep up with us on Facebook! All lectures in the Zoom Presentation Series start at 2 p.m. Participants arrive in the Zoom room online between 1:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.. Tickets to all events are available at Eventbrite; for the specific link to each of the upcoming events please click on this link to the Events page on our new website: <https://coldwar.org/default.asp?pid=16883>**

◆ 4/11/21--Dr. Boria Sax on *Stealing Fire*, his book on a Cold War childhood in the U.S. where his father was an atomic spy who was NOT caught, and how he learned the truth as result of his documentary research much later.

◆ 5/16/21-Buz Carpenter on his most important Cold War SR-71 mission-a faster-than-a-speeding-bullet flight over the Middle East during a crisis that was ordered and monitored directly by the President.

◆ 6/6/21-Chris Pocock, the world authority on the history of the U-2, on its history from Cold War origins to present day continuing operations-the story of one of the successful and adaptable airborne intelligence platforms ever created.

◆ 6/27/21-Dori Jones Yang, former *Business Week* Hong Kong bureau chief for eight years in the 1980's, on the effects of Deng's radical economic changes in the 80's that created the modern Chinese economic powerhouse. Fluent in Mandarin, she witnessed those changes on the ground in Hong Kong, Beijing, and elsewhere on the mainland.

◆ 7/18/21-Olga Sheymov on *Tower of Secrets*, the story of how her husband, Victor Sheymov, a high-ranking KGB officer, became disenchanted with the Soviet system and started working for the West, with the two of them being exfiltrated as the KGB closed in.

◆ 8/29/21-Former USAF Generals David Deptula and Al Mink on the air war during Desert Storm, the last major conflict of the Cold War period-they were in charge of the strategic and the operational sides.

## Private Tours - An Important Source of Museum Income

The increasing number of private tours we arrange provides a significant percentage of the Museum's operating income, so it's an important part of our many income streams, helping to stabilize our operating income from month to month.

As with every other museum in this country and around the world, our ability to hold such tours was necessarily eliminated for several months by COVID health concerns, and we are still much constrained now that we can do them again, needing to keep to 50% visitor capacity, 100% masks, and social distancing at the time I'm writing this. Operating within those rules, we have still been able to go ahead with some tours.

Here is an example of the private tours conducted by museum docents since the last newsletter:

12/2/20-Two groups of approximately twenty NATO-country Military Attaches and their wives visited the Museum with their DoD handlers; this visit was as a result of the enthusiastic response of the prior attache group on which we reported last time, with this photo.



100 challenge coins were donated to the museum as a fundraiser. The coin is available for \$15. The coin pays homage to Vint Hill as an *active* listening post from 1942-1997 and features the Cold War Museum on the reverse side.



### Private Tours

To arrange a private tour led by one of the museum docents, please contact

**Bryan A. Zwanzig**

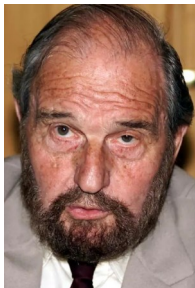
703-408-2039 | [bryan.z@coldwar.org](mailto:bryan.z@coldwar.org)

**Cost: \$20 /person for groups of 10 or fewer  
\$15/person for larger groups**

**No cost for active duty military personnel ever!**

# In Memoriam

Here are the stories of a few of the many Cold Warriors who have passed on recently. Some you may have heard of, some not. All are worthy of our remembrance and respect, in part because of what they did to protect the rest of us during the Cold War. In many cases they were ordinary people who were called upon to do extraordinary things, and who were then happy to step back from any spotlight, knowing that they'd done their duty.



**GEORGE BLAKE.** (December 26, 2020) "A British intelligence official who betrayed closely guarded secrets to the Soviets and was among the most damaging traitors of the Cold War, then made a daring escape from a London prison in 1966 and lived out his days as a national hero in Moscow, has died at 98. Perhaps one secret to his successful treachery was that he hid in plain sight. As one of his friends, a Salvation Army executive, told a reporter at the time, Mr. Blake resembled 'a typically blasé bowler-hatted, rolled umbrella government official.' "

"In fact, he was the last high-profile survivor of a string of British turncoats who spied for the Soviet Union during the 1950s and 1960s, a badge of dishonor that included the Cambridge Four: Anthony Blunt, Guy Burgess, Donald Maclean and Kim Philby.

He is best known for betraying to the Soviets "a joint mission between British and U.S. intelligence known as Operation Gold. The goal was to dig a tunnel underneath East Berlin to tap Soviet phone lines in the early 1950s. Mr. Blake sabotaged the multimillion-dollar operation before a shovel had ever struck German soil." [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/george-blake-notorious-cold-war-double-agent-who-helped-soviets-dies-at-98/2020/12/26/be090600-477b-11eb-b0e4-0f182923a025\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/george-blake-notorious-cold-war-double-agent-who-helped-soviets-dies-at-98/2020/12/26/be090600-477b-11eb-b0e4-0f182923a025_story.html)

## **COL. GENE DEATRICK:**

"Eugene Deatrick, a retired Air Force colonel, test pilot, Cold War Veteran and Vietnam War hero, died December 30, 2020 at his home in Alexandria, Virginia from complications of leukemia. While serving in Vietnam as the commanding officer of the 1st Air



Commando Squadron, he located and initiated the rescue of Navy Lt. Dieter Dengler who had escaped from a Laotian prison camp weeks before. The escape and rescue were recounted in movies and literature. Deatrick was born in 1924 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and grew up in Morgantown, West Virginia where his parents were professors at West Virginia University. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY in 1946 and flew B-17 bombers for the Army Air Forces after World War II.

Colonel Deatrick was a staunch supporter of The Cold War Museum® who made significant donations (Freedom Circle 3X) and attended many of the lectures at our Presentation Series. (See the personal remembrance of Col. Deatrick by CWM Board

Chairman Chuck Wilson, and his recounting of the famous Vietnam War rescue that Col. Deatrick successfully made. In this issue.)

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/community-deaths/2021/02/02/17234096-657e-11eb-8468-21bc48f07fe5\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/community-deaths/2021/02/02/17234096-657e-11eb-8468-21bc48f07fe5_story.html)



**DAVID GINGERICH:** "He joined the Air Force at age 16 and was first sent to Japan for 2 ½ years to assist with the occupation. When he returned to the U.S., he remained in the Air Force until he retired in 1966. When Dave was stationed in Rapid City, SD, he met and fell in love with Dorothy Valentine, from Egan. They married and had two daughters, Susan and Julie. While Dave was in the Air Force, he and his family lived across the

United States, including Maine, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Georgia, Colorado, Missouri, Florida, and Mississippi. Among the highlights of his military service were serving in a special envoy to help develop the Chinese Air Force in Taiwan, and serving as a crew member for the Snark and the Atlas F missile systems during the Cold War."

**BOB HENDRIX:** "He attended TCU in Fort Worth, Texas, then served in the United States Army 485th Engineer Combat Battalion from 1953 to 1955. He trained in Regensburg, Germany before being stationed in Passau, Germany during the height of the Cold War, where the Soviet forces were 20 miles away." "<https://www.mintonchatwell.com/obituary/Robert-Hendrix>



**John le Carre:** "John le Carré, who lifted the spy novel to literature, dies at 89." [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/john-lecarre-dead/2020/12/13/88817eda-1a13-11eb-befb-8864259bd2d8\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/john-lecarre-dead/2020/12/13/88817eda-1a13-11eb-befb-8864259bd2d8_story.html)



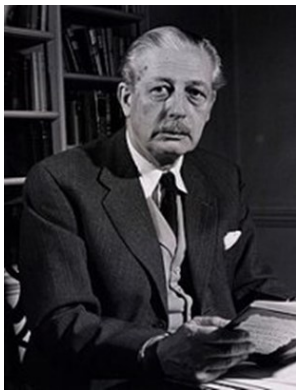
Cont. p. 13



## *British U-2 Flights, con't.*

PLANE magazine, available by mail order [here](#). But those two articles largely consisted of information from a CIA history, and they were written before the British files surfaced in The National Archives.

The RAF were invited to join the U-2 project in late 1957. President Eisenhower was refusing to approve many of the overflights that the CIA proposed, after some of the earlier ones had been detected by Soviet radars, leading to a protest from Moscow. Project Director Richard Bissell believed that their frequency could be increased if the UK could make some of them, and take responsibility if anything went wrong. A joint effort might also confuse the Russians, he thought. The RAF was only too pleased to gain entry to this above-top-secret, high-tech undertaking. Although detected, the previous overflights had proved that Soviet fighter-interceptors could not reach the U-2's cruising altitude of around 70,000 feet.



Prime Minister Harold Macmillan agreed to talks in late February 1958, and in anticipation of a successful outcome, the RAF sent four pilots to the Laughlin AFB in Texas for training in late March. Thereafter, the key point of discussion was to what extent the RAF would operate independently of the US.

Eventually, an integrated operation was arranged. The British activity was allocated a separate codeword. The first two of these were short-lived, before "Oldster" was adopted.

The 'cover story' was a key concern to the government. For public consumption, it settled on "meteorological research", to match the CIA's cover story. But because knowledge of the project was so strictly confined within Whitehall and the Air Ministry, there was even a separate cover story for those with Top Secret clearances who might become suspicious: radar reconnaissance and the air sampling of nuclear weapons fallout. The U-2 did indeed also perform those missions, but Project Oldster was all about taking photos of the Soviet Union.

There was a protracted and convoluted debate about whether the British U-2 pilots should be civilians to aid in deniability, again matching the American practice. The PM

favoured this. Some in Whitehall suggested that the pilots could be portrayed as working for a commercial company that was under contract to the Meteorological Office. All this time, meanwhile, the four chosen pilots were training at Laughlin in full RAF uniforms!



*(left to right) Sqn Ldr Chris Walker and Flt Lts John MacArthur, Mike Bradley and Dave Dowling*

In the end, it was agreed that they should remain as RAF officers. But when they were deployed to Adana, Turkey, the primary base for the CIA's U-2 operations ('Detachment B'), they would wear civilian clothes and pretend to be working for the Met Office.

Three RAF pilots and a flight surgeon (Flt Lt John Clifford) arrived at Adana in mid-November 1958. The fourth pilot, Sqn Ldr Chris Walker, had been killed in a training accident at Laughlin. He was due to become the British commander within Det B; his replacement was Sqn Ldr Robbie Robinson (pictured) who arrived at Adana in early January, together with a navigator eg mission planner (Flt Lt Collingwood).



In an exchange of telegrams in December 1958, MacMillan and Eisenhower agreed that if there was an incident during an overflight, the country whose pilot was at the controls would accept responsibility. Sir Patrick Dean, the senior civil servant in the Foreign Office, was surprised. "It would require a brave PM to authorize the flights at all," he wrote.

On 7 December 1958, Detachment B sent a U-2 to RAF Watton in East Anglia for two weeks (Left). The PM had insisted on this, to lend credibility to the cover story. A statement was inserted into the official Meteorological Magazine explaining that

*Cont. p. 11*

# Artifact Donations to the Museum

Like almost all U.S. museums, CWM has no funds for acquiring new artifacts for its collections, so we rely on artifact donations, often from the private collections of former Cold War professionals who served in the military, the intelligence community, or both. Some of these are what you might expect, such as additions to our excellent collections of Soviet and East Bloc military uniforms. Others are literally one-of-a-kind artifacts, such as Mao's Ear, made by the CIA's technical staff for the Agency's image analyst staff to solve some difficult photo interpretation problems. And others are simply very rare, such as our U-2 camera that was adapted for use in the SKYLAB satellite.

People around the world, including from Russia and other countries, who are interested in, and often veterans of, Cold War activities contact us frequently to see if we might be interested in the often-remarkable artifacts they've acquired over the years, often related to former official duties.

If readers of the *Cold War Times* have artifacts you might consider donating to the Museum, we would welcome contact about that, to Executive Director Jason Hall ([jason@coldwar.org](mailto:jason@coldwar.org)). Museums normally need historic artifacts-the real thing, artifacts from the time that exemplify some event or activity-in order to anchor the stories of those events or activities, so your artifact donation could literally make it possible for the first time for us to educate visitors about that aspect of the Cold War.

## Soviet Pinups

There was nothing amusing about most aspects of Soviet life, from Stalin's purges and his starvation of 3.9 million of his own Ukrainian citizens further collectivization, to endless lining up for toilet paper and other basic goods, to constant surveillance. But even really bad systems have their moments of amusement, often unintentional.

Take Miss KGB, for example. Oh, yes, there WAS one, in the late Cold War era. And quite pretty. It seems that in 1990, at least part of the KGB was looking for what we in the West might call a brand makeover-something to soften the image. So someone inside had the bright idea of holding a beauty contest-contestants secret, of course-to show the world that not all Instruments of State Security were grim old interrogators.

The winner was Katya Mayorova, a secretary in Lubyanka, the KGB headquarters building in Moscow with the infamous prison of the same name attached. In the interests of the historical record, not to mention livening up our newsletter's visuals, we present Katya in some of her Miss KGB publicity photos. Needless to say, it didn't take too long for additional higher-ups to recognize that this maybe WASN'T such a good idea, so Katya's 15 minutes of fame went poof. Plus the KGB itself was replaced in 1993 by the FSK and then in 1995 by the current FSB.

But since you like Cold War history, we thought you'd want to know this factoid. If you'd like more details, look at this *Washington Post* piece from 1990: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/lifestyle/1990/10/31/miss-kgb-images-of-the-past/6641d39d-ad5a-43d3-a781-15ac8413a4d2/>. For more photos, view this article: <https://www.rbth.com/history/332286-miss-kgb-russia-1990>.



### *British U-2 Flights, con't.*

the US was loaning two U-2 aircraft for weather research flights in the UK by RAF pilots. Unfortunately, the severe frost and fog allowed only one such flight. (Det B made two more excursions to Watton, in May and October 1959. Some more “weather” flights were made over the UK, and the deployments also served to practice the “Fast Move” technique that had been developed by Det B – deploying the U-2 to staging bases with minimum support equipment, to help disguise and speed operations).

In London, flight clearance procedures were drafted by the small Oldster team within the Air Ministry. A proposed schedule for the next three months would be submitted for approval by the Secretary of State for Air, the Foreign Secretary, and the Prime Minister. The RAF optimistically wanted to fly six overflights of Russia in the first three months of 1959, plus up to two flights each month over the Middle East. Final approval for each flight would be requested from the PM 24 hours before the scheduled takeoff.

But the British U-2 effort was hardly independent. The detailed planning for each mission was to be done in Washington, at the CIA's U-2 Project HQ. An RAF Wing Commander, Norman Mackie, was assigned there for liaison with London. At Det B, the CIA was responsible for the maintenance of the aircraft and their sensors, secure communications, and most of the other operational necessities. The US Air Force provided significant support, including airlift.

The PM wrote to the President on 12<sup>th</sup> December confirming the flight clearance procedures that he had made. “We should ensure that our policy at any one time is the same”, he added. The President replied seeking a clarification. “The idea of maintaining your separate authority has seemed to me essential to the project”, Eisenhower wrote. He was apparently reassured by a subsequent discussion between US Secretary of State Foster Dulles and British Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd.

On the last day of 1958, an RAF pilot flew the UK's first operational mission, an overflight of Egypt, Syria and Jordan. Imagery from the flight was shown to the Prime Minister on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1959. He was “greatly impressed”. A further 18 Middle East missions would be flown by RAF pilots from Det B over the next 15 months, all conducted without the knowledge of the overflown countries. None of the flights were detected. However, the PM took a keen

interest in the routes, and refused permission to overfly Israel.

But the primary purpose of the RAF joining the U-2 project was to fly over the Soviet Union. In early 1959, planning for a British overflight codenamed Operation Marshland began. The Soviets had not yet installed early warning radars opposite Pakistan, so the mission planners hoped a U-2 could enter ‘denied territory’ from there without detection. The British High Commissioner gained permission from Pakistan President Ayub Khan (pictured) for a U-2 to fly out of Peshawar. London did not tell the British diplomat the true purpose of the flight. He – and therefore also Ayub Khan - was told that an electronic intelligence mission along the Soviet border would be mounted. US transport aircraft would support the mission, and would refuel enroute to Pakistan via one of Britain's colonial possessions in the Gulf.



However, political approval for this operation never came. Sir Patrick Dean believed this was not an opportune time to seek overflight permission from the PM. Nevertheless, MacMillan was informally approached during his tour of RAF stations on 1<sup>st</sup> April, probably by the Chief of the Air Staff, but to no avail. The RAF's optimism about flying regular missions over the Soviet Union was dashed. Throughout 1959, East-West diplomacy and the possibility of a thaw in the Cold War, served to reduce Whitehall's appetite for the potentially risky and provocative U-2 missions, despite their obvious intelligence value.

In the event, the targets deep inside the Soviet Union that had been planned for Operation Marshland were covered on 9 July 1959 by an American mission that President Eisenhower approved. Codenamed Operation Touchdown, it was a complete success, and by taking off from Peshawar, managed to avoid tracking by Soviet radars.

But there were plenty more places where the Soviets were thought to be designing, building and testing advanced weaponry, especially nuclear intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). British intelligence suggested some of the locations to their American counterparts. In an attempt to motivate the Brits, the two most senior American intelligence officials in the U-2 project flew to London in late October. Photo interpretation expert Art Lundahl and intelligence targets chief Jim Reber briefed

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### *British U-2 Flights, con't.*

MacMillan, Lloyd, senior Whitehall mandarins and the RAF hierarchy on the success of Operation Touchdown, and showed them high-resolution imagery of the ICBM launch site at Tyuratam and other key intelligence targets.

It was an impressive presentation, and it worked. In November, a new request to the PM for a Soviet overflight codenamed Operation High Wire was painstakingly re-drafted eight times by the Oldster cell, the RAF leadership, then the Secretary of State for Air, and finally the Foreign Office, before it reached Macmillan. The multi-page proposal was signed by the Secretary of State for Air, George Ward. It included the detailed route and the major targets.

"The intelligence prize is great. There is a risk, but the U-2 is still ahead of the Russian defences," Ward wrote. As for the delicate task of gaining approval to use Peshawar again from Ayub Khan, the PM was told that "the U-2 is only on the ground there for a few hours, and this in darkness." As with the 9<sup>th</sup> July American flight, the Pakistan President would be misled into thinking that the U-2 would only be flying an electronic intelligence mission along the Soviet border.



***The planned flight track for Operation High Wire is shown as a black line, and the actual track in red.***

The PM approved the flight, and the intricate Operation High Wire swung into action. The RAF arranged for the C-130 transporting the support crew and equipment to be refueled enroute to Peshawar in Bahrein. Early in the morning of 6<sup>th</sup> December, Sqn Ldr Robinson took off and headed north over the Soviet border. Cruising at 70,000 feet, he flew as far as Kuybyshev where two bomber

factories were located. Then he turned southwest to overfly the operational bomber base at Saratov, and the large test complex for most of the Soviet Union's medium-range missiles at Kapustin Yar. As well as these three high-priority targets, there were plenty more along the way. After a 3,600-mile flight lasting over eight hours, Robinson landed back at Adana, Det B's home base in Turkey.



***A ballistic missile launch site on the Kapustin Yar test range***

The overflight was another success. It was not detected. The quality of the imagery was excellent. Western intelligence had not seen aerial photographs of most of the targets since the Second World War. The U-2 Project HQ in Washington cabled congratulations to the RAF "on such a fine, professional performance". The CIA Director Allen Dulles told the Chief of the Air Staff that "the entire intelligence community is extremely gratified by the excellent and timely results."

Success brings its own rewards: on the last day of 1959, PM Macmillan agreed to another overflight. There were preferred and alternative flight plans. Operation Knife Edge would fly north to cover Kazan, another strategic bomber base, and then go west to survey aircraft factories and missile facilities. Like the previous British overflight, it would takeoff from Peshawar and land at Adana.

Operation Square Deal which would fly east, to investigate the nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk and the air defence missile test range at Saryshagan. This would also takeoff from Peshawar, but the landing would be in Zahedan, and airbase in northern Iran, which had been used for the same purpose by the American overflight the previous July. As with previous overflights, the actual day of operation would depend on a good weather forecast. If the primary route was cloudy, the alternative route would be flown.

*Cont. p. 13*

## *British U-2 Flights, con't.*

In the event, Operation Knife Edge was flown, but not until 5<sup>th</sup> February 1960 because of poor weather over the key target areas. Flt Lt John MacArthur covered 3,000 miles in a flight lasting 8 hours 40 minutes. He flew over new Soviet radar and surface-to-air missiles sites, missile test and launch facilities, a key military shipyard, arms factories and nearly 100 airfields. At Kazan, the U-2's camera captured a previously-unknown supersonic bomber aircraft, later identified as the Tu-22 Blinder.



***On snow-covered Kazan North airfield, a line-up of new supersonic bombers were discovered***

Despite the success of Knife Edge, the attitude in Whitehall towards another mission was to “let sleeping dogs lie for a time”, noted Gp Capt Colin Kunkler, the RAF officer in charge of the Oldster cell in the Air Ministry. The Foreign Office was more nervous than ever about the illegal flights.

In Project HQ meanwhile, there was renewed optimism that President Eisenhower would approve an American overflight. But permission to takeoff from Pakistan was still the key to success. Wg Cdr Mackie cabled London from Project HQ: “the feeling here is that Ayub Khan knows a lot more about our purpose for using Peshawar than he has been told.” There was speculation in Washington, that the Pakistan President would extract a price for continued use of the airbase: the US to supply his air force with supersonic F-104 fighter-interceptors.

On 29 March, the Air Minister and RAF chiefs showed the results of the most recent overflight in Whitehall. “Thanks for today’s impressive presentation,” Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd (pictured) told George Ward. “These flights must give us a lot of credit with the Americans”.



The next overflight took place on 9<sup>th</sup> April: the operation codenamed Square Deal that had been mooted two months earlier. Some of the planning had been done in

London, but it was flown by an American pilot. Like the three previous overflights, it took off from Peshawar. Ayub Khan had been pacified: he got his F-104s. But the Soviets had closed their early warning radar gap, the U-2 was tracked for much of its journey, and fighter intercepts were attempted, unsuccessfully.

In a [previous post](#), I have described how this experience might have led the CIA to cancel future overflights. But the imperative to gain further insight into Soviet nuclear missile development in particular, led the CIA to plan another overflight, which President Eisenhower approved. Operation Grand Slam was mounted from Peshawar on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1960. The flight was again detected on entry by Soviet radar, Gary Powers was shot down over Sverdlovsk, and in the resulting furore, the hoped-for thaw in East-West relations never happened.

The RAF pilots were withdrawn from Turkey immediately, but the navigator was kept on as a liaison officer, “partly as a gesture to the Americans and partly to retain our stake in the U-2 program,” according to one of the RAF files. In London, the government agonized about how to keep the British participation secret. It was public knowledge that Sqn Ldr Walker had been killed in 1958 during U-2 training. The media suspected a cover-up. The Labour opposition tabled questions in Parliament.

“The general policy here is to say nothing,” Gp Capt Bingham-Hall cabled to Project HQ from the Oldster cell in the Air Ministry. “Once any explanation is attempted, the door is open for lower class peasants to force it wider.”

The policy succeeded. In Washington, however, President Eisenhower decided that he had no alternative to a full confession. He banned future overflights, and the overseas detachments were withdrawn. But a slimmed-down U-2 unit was established by the CIA at Edwards AFB, with the capability to deploy at short notice. The RAF assigned two pilots, a navigator and a flight surgeon to this unit throughout the 1960s and early 1970s.

A key reason for staying involved was “to maintain strong intelligence ties with the US,” according to an Assistant Chief of the Air Staff. In particular, the RAF wanted to participate in a successor to the U-2 that the CIA was planning: the even higher-flying, supersonic Blackbird. But the invite never came.

*Cont. p. 14*

## In the News



We occasionally run across media articles that relate to the Cold War and may be of interest to our Members. Here are some, for your information; none is intended to reflect an official opinion of the Museum. We will provide these from time to time.

- ◆ Xi Jinping warns of 'new cold war' if US keeps up protectionism: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jan/25/china-xi-jinping-warns-of-new-cold-war-us-protectionist-policies>
- ◆ AP Cold War hub:
  - Remains of Cold War-era Russian sub seen in film catch fire
  - Virtual event to mark 'Iron Curtain' speech anniversary
  - China says Japan-U.S. security treaty a product of Cold War
  - Biden's pick for UN post calls China 'a strategic adversary', etc. - <https://apnews.com/hub/cold-war>
- ◆ OW [Deutsche Welle] Cold War hub (in English)
  - Gorbachev's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday
  - Biggest UK defense spending since the Cold War, etc.
- ◆ Wikipedia article on Second Cold War: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second\\_Cold\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Cold_War)

*British U-2 Flights, con't.*

The US Air Force had been flying 'overt' U-2 missions all the time since 1957. In 1974, the 'covert' CIA unit was disbanded. But an updated version of the jet is still in service with the Air Force today.

*By Chris Pocock, with thanks to Lin Xu for extracting the imagery of Kapustin Yar and Kazan from the US National Archives*



### The Cold War Times

*The official newsletter of The Cold War Museum*

#### **Production Staff:**

————— Karen Zwanzig, [newsletter@coldwar.org](mailto:newsletter@coldwar.org)



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**Article Submission Deadline for Summer issue: July 15, 2021**

*To request publication guidelines, please contact the editor.*

*In Memoriam, cont. from p. 8*



**Douglas V. Murray:** "As a Naval Academy trained commissioned submarine officer, for the second half of his total 27 years of service, he was often called 'Captain'. In spite of the fact the rule dominated submarine legend Adm. Rickover did not gravitate to Doug Murray's clever common sense with a flair for adventure and improvisation, the rest of the Navy valued his intellect and leadership to make him the Chief of Staff to a nuclear sub squadron in New London."



**Peter Semler:** "Peter Semler, Career Diplomat During Cold War, Dies at 89. A well-traveled Foreign Service officer, he had posts across Europe from the 1950s through the collapse of the Soviet Union. He died of the coronavirus." <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/11/obituaries/peter-semler-dead-coronavirus.html>

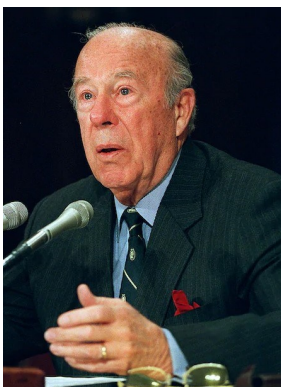
**DeWayne "Russ" Norville:** "Russ enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1952 and retired from it in 1975. He served throughout the United States, and in Europe, North Africa, and Southeast Asia, including a full year tour in Vietnam, then another three years on Okinawa and at Utapao, Thailand with the B-52 bombing operations during the war...He earned and was awarded the Bronze Star for his war efforts. He received numerous other awards during his Air Force career and was one of the very few to attain the rank of CMSgt in less than 20 years. When not directly involved in the Vietnam War, he spent most of his years with the Strategic Air Command's nuclear operations in the course of the Cold War with the Soviet Union and other Communist countries." <https://obituaries.galesburg.com/obituaries/register-mail/obituary.aspx?n=dewayne-norville-russ&pid=197930755&fhid=10620>



**Chuck Yeager:** "Chuck Yeager, test pilot who broke sound barrier, dies at 97" [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/chuck-yeager-dead/2020/12/07/d88a6bc8-3906-11eb-9276-ae0ca72729be\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/chuck-yeager-dead/2020/12/07/d88a6bc8-3906-11eb-9276-ae0ca72729be_story.html)



**Frank Yukon, Jr.:** "He was a 1953 graduate of The Rayen School, and was a very proud veteran of the Army, serving in Nuremberg, Germany during the height of the Cold War. He was honorably discharged from the service in 1959." <https://www.vindy.com/obituaries/2021/03/frank-yukon-jr-1934-2021/>



**George Schultz:** "George P. Shultz, counsel and Cabinet member for two Republican presidents, dies at 100" [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/george-shultz-dead/2021/02/07/08a6feaa-c6a1-11e8-9b1c-a90f1daae309\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/george-shultz-dead/2021/02/07/08a6feaa-c6a1-11e8-9b1c-a90f1daae309_story.html)



## Mission Statement

The Cold War Museum is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to education, preservation, and research on the global, ideological, and political confrontations between East and West from the end of World War I to the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

## The Three Main Goals of the Museum:

- ◆ To keep knowledge of the Cold War and its significance alive for coming generations.
- ◆ To honor the service of those who had professional Cold War roles.
- ◆ To use the Museum's extensive collection of rare and, in some cases, unique artifacts in Cold War signals intelligence (SIGINT) and image intelligence (IMINT) to show how intelligence collection and analysis supports our policy, diplomacy, and military action.

## Museum Membership

- Individual Membership: \$25/year
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*(including all prior issues)*
    - Listed as a "Founding Member"
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