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408

PF 604582 / V3	PF 604582 / V3
B L U N D E N, JAMES.	
HISTORICAL FILE CLOSED	
S Form 924A	

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S. 960 Edn2

PF 604582 / V3
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MINUTE SHEET

120

27.9.52

B.2.A. note chiefly re HEWIT.

120z

13.10.52.

B.2.A. note re BLUNT.

120a.

24.10.52

Copy of letter from Foreign Office

121b

*Handwritten:*  
D.B., through B.2. *6.11.*

*Handwritten:*  
122. Secret X reference in *Copied to PF 604,861 PLAYFAIR* } 5/11/54  
PF 604,861 - PLAYFAIR. B.2.A (C.A.G.S) to see also.

Owing to the successive absences from town of all the people concerned, I have only now succeeded in dealing with your note at 117b.

The position is that the information contained in your note was derived from J.H.Peck of I.R.D., to whom Sir Anthony Bevir had made an approach. The latter, to whom I have now spoken, in turn derived it from Sir Owen O'Malley, a former Ambassador to, I think, Portugal who is his neighbour in Ireland. In the course of a purely social conversation a propos of nothing in particular, O'Malley remarked that everybody knew that Anthony BLUNT was or had been a Communist. No allegation was made against PLAYFAIR, whose name comes into this merely because it was he who suggested to Bevir that Anthony BLUNT would be a suitable person to become director of the National Gallery, and Bevir, acting, to use his own words, *ex abundante cautela*, thought it his duty to bring to official notice the fact that PLAYFAIR, in recommending BLUNT, did not at the same time say that he was a Communist.

PLAYFAIR and his father and mother are very well known indeed to Bevir, who has known PLAYFAIR himself since he was a boy. He does not in the least think that any suspicion attaches to PLAYFAIR. I told Bevir that this particular incident did not in my view give rise to any misgivings in respect of PLAYFAIR, but I did let him know that the allegation against BLUNT was substantially accurate. He told me that he was not much concerned about BLUNT since, if I understood him correctly, he had already decided to dismiss BLUNT from any National Gallery calculations. I now understand from you that in this respect he had probably been prompted by Peck.

I ought to say that my conversation with Bevir was over the telephone and was complicated by the elaborate *double* talk in which he indulged. I have not arranged to see him, but I can do so if thought advisable.

Meanwhile I have had a belated look-up on PLAYFAIR, which shows that he was on intimate terms with John LEHMAN in 1934 and was obviously well known to Yvonne KAPP in 1937. An assessment of these traces is now being made and will be submitted to you. My preliminary reaction is that we should take no further action. PLAYFAIR is a 3rd Secretary at the Treasury where he has been for many years, and he was vetted N.R.A. in 1947. His name has never come up in our extensive researches into

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[OVER



Min.122, contd.

Cambridge University Communism in the thirties.

B.1.  
5.11.52.

*J.H. Marriott*  
J.H. Marriott.

123.

8.11.52 To G.P.O. suspending BLUNDEN T.C.

123a

124.

21.11.52. B.2.B. Note re. BURGESS/MACLEAN files.

124a

26.11.52 Ext. from T/C on PHILBY - conversation between PHILBY & BASSETT  
ment. BLUNDEN.

124b

125.

2.12.52. B.2.B. Note re. SCHEERER, Elsa.

125a.

126.

22.12.52. B.2.B. note or duties undertaken by BLUNT in Section B.1.B.

126a

127.

29.12.52 Note re interrogation of LONG report

127z

30.12.52. B.2.A. minute re conversation with D.D.G. on note at 126a.

127a.

128.

10.7.53 Vetting application from F.O. re BLUNT's employment as  
sponsored lecturer in Germany

128a



MINUTE SHEET

Reference PF. 604,582

*B2a -  
Proceed as suggested please  
B2 14/7*

*13.7*  
~~D.B. through C.1. and B.2.~~

*Stk 10.7.53* 129.

Please see at 128a a Foreign Office vetting enquiry about the employment of Anthony BLUNT as a sponsored lecturer.

I have discussed this with C.1, who says that these appointments are vetted because it is contrary to public policy to engage people who are politically untrustworthy or who espouse the communist side in the present world situation - you will recollect the Foreign Office got into hot water recently over Professor POWELL.

C.1 also confirms my recollection that we had a similar enquiry about BLUNT from the Foreign Office some months ago. We then told Carey Foster that there was no objection to his employment and that we did not want to make a written report on BLUNT because of the delicacy of our information. At the same time, we could not reply N.R.A. I am sorry to say that by an oversight for which I must take responsibility there is no record of this on the file.

That BLUNT was thoroughly communist in his outlook in the thirties is probable (70a, 99a, 100b, 117a), although I do not think we could prove that he was ever a Party member. There is no evidence that he now has communist sympathies, and if he has, they are certainly not notorious in any way. So far as we know, he ~~has~~ not associated with any of the "front" organisations for intellectuals. May we therefore deal with this enquiry in the same way as the earlier one ?

*C.A.G. Simkins*

B.2.A.  
10.7.53

C.A.G. Simkins

130.

*and 16/7*  
B.2.A./CAGS.

I have spoken to Talbot on the lines of paragraph 3 of your minute 129. He agrees to withdraw the vetting enquiry at 128a, and, if necessary, to square I.R.D.

*G.R. Mitchell*

G.R. Mitchell.

C.1.  
16.7.53.



File with  
order. to  
man

MINUTE SHEET

131.

- 1.4.53. B.2.B. note re. BLUNT. 131a.
- 20.5.53. Extract of Note on interview with Michael STEWART. 131b.

132.

- 14.9.53. Copy of PHILBY T/C ment. Anthony (possibly BLUNDEN) 132a

133.

- 16.9.53. Copy of PHILBY T/C ment. Anthony (possibly BLUNDEN) 133a

134.

- 3.12.53. Ext. from interview with PROCTOR ment. BLUNT. 134z
- 30.12.53. S. Form 306 re-imposing T/C on all lines. 134a

135.

- 30.12.53. D.1.A. note re. interview with Mrs. BASSETT ment. BLUNT. 135a.

136.

- 22.1.54. Extract from note on interview with POPE-HENNESSY. 136a.

137.

- 24.3.54. Copy of T.C. on BLUNDEN. 137a.

138.

- 26.3.54. To G.P.O. suspending T.C. on BLUNDEN temporarily. 138a.

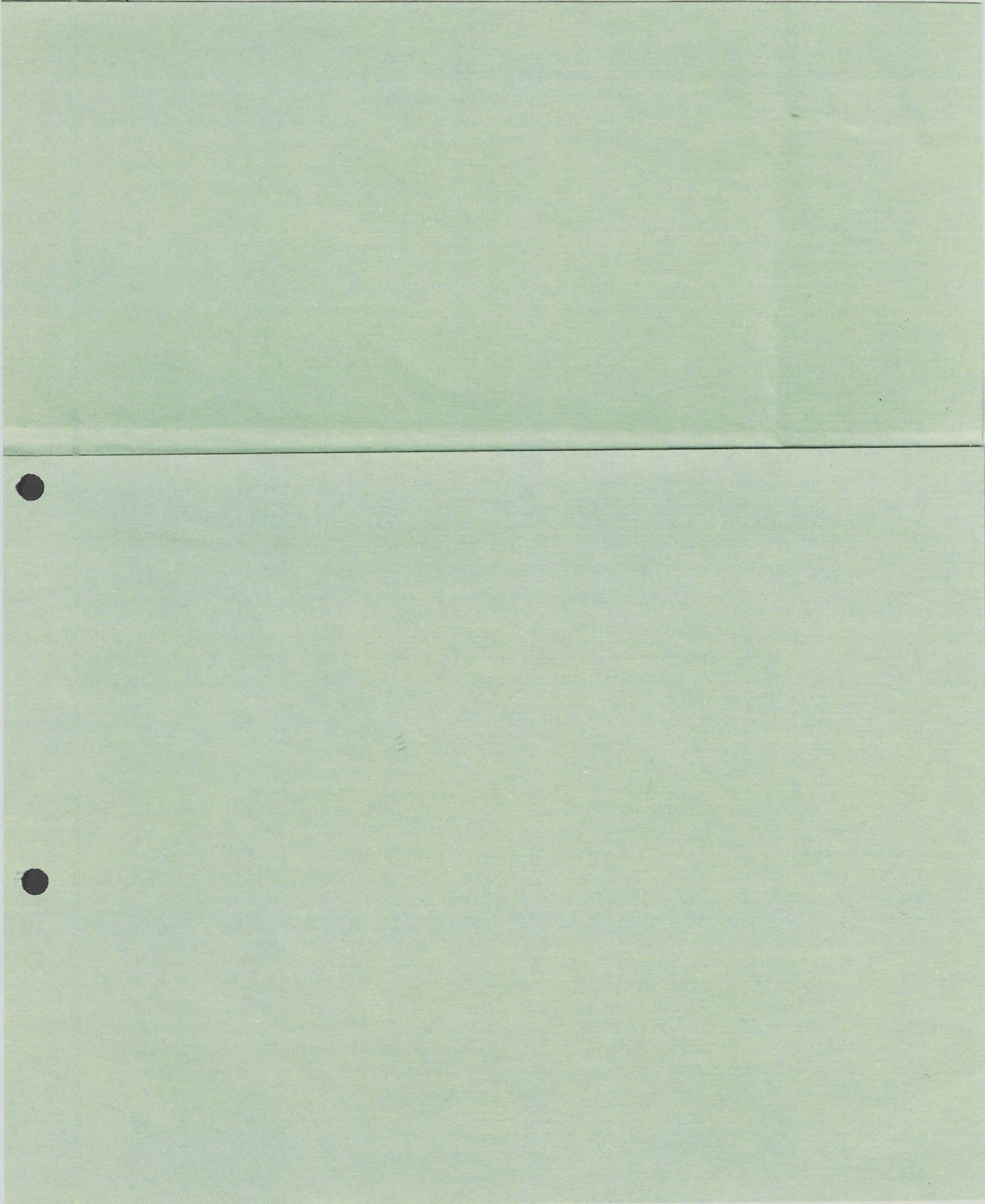
139.

- 27.3.54. Copy of T.C. on BLUNDEN. 139a.



MINUTE SHEET

Reference.....



144.

6.5.54.

To G.P.O. suspending T.C. on BLUNDEN indefinitely.

144a.

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*[Handwritten signature]*  
D.I.A./EMCB.

146.

Please see note at 145a.

*A.R. Mitchell*

G.R. Mitchell.

D.  
11.5.54.

147.

- 16.8.54. Copy of int. letter
- 21.8.54. Ext. from T/C
- 27.8.54. Note by D re discussions with FO re vetting of BLUNT.

147z  
147za

147a

148.

D.I. *[Handwritten initials]*  
20/8

Reference serial 147a.

You will see from Minutes 129 and 130 that a similar enquiry came to us in July 1953, and that the then D.B. approved a way of handling the matter which was subsequently dealt with by D and Lord Talbot. Do you think perhaps we might do the same with this enquiry ?

D.I.A.  
27.8.54

*R.T. Reed*  
R.T. Reed.

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MINUTE SHEET

PF. 604,582  
Reference... Vol. 3

	149.	
30.8.54	D.1 note further to 147a and minute 148,	149a
	150.	
16.7.55	Note by D.l.A re imposition of telechecks BLUNDEN/REES/FLANAGAN/PEACH.	150a
	151.	
16.7.55	Note by D.l.A re change of BLUNDEN's telephone number.	151a
	152.	
22.7.55	Note by D.l.A re imposition of telecheck	152a
	153.	
10.8.55	Extract from telecheck on C.P. H.Q. mentioning BLUNT	153a
	154.	
25.8.55.	Note re restarting of checks on BLUNT.	154a.
	155.	
25.8.55.	Form reimposing TC 2147.	155a.
	156.	
25.8.55.	Form reimposing TC 2136.	156a
	157.	
25.8.55.	Form reimposing TC 2135.	157a
	158.	
25.8.55.	Form reimposing TC 2138.	158a.



30.8.55. Form suspending temp. TC 2147.

159a.

160.

30.8.55. Form suspending temp. TC 2135.

160a.

161.

30.8.55. Form suspending temp. TC 2138.

161a.

162.

30.8.55. Form suspending temp. TC 2136.

162a.

163.

31.8.55. Loose minute from F.4. to D.1.A.

163a.

164.

*Handwritten:* D.1. 5.9.

I think you might like to see the minute at 163a which I have received from F.4. It is possible that BLUNT may tell us of this invitation he has received to Eastern Germany for if he goes there he may well ask us for advice should he meet our old friend von FUTLITZ.

*Handwritten signature:* R. T. Reed.

D.1.A.  
5.9.55.

30.9.55 Note re work of Chapman PINCHER

164b

165.

7.10.55. Summary on BLUNT sent to F.O. under cover of FF 604558 Supp. C.

165a.

7.10.55. Ext. from SB report ment. BLUNT as member of A.I.A.

165b

166.

7.10.55. F.4 loose minute re exhibition in Dresden.

166a.

167.

26.10.55. F.4 note on contribution by BLUNT to Com. journal "Realism".

167a.

15.11.55. Loose Minute (copy) *re KUSNECOFF*

168y

15.11.55. Record of call from P.O. re BLUNT.

168z.

16.11.55. Note for file re BLUNT applying for passport.

168a.



MINUTE SHEET

17.11.55.	Loose Minute (Copy) KVSNECOTT	169z
	169.	
24.11.55.	Note for file by D1A re suspension of T.C.s on BLUNDEN, REES, FLANAGAN.	169a.
	170.	
24.11.55.	Form suspending TC no. 2135.	170a.
	171.	
24.11.55.	Form suspending T.C. no. 2138.	171a.
	172.	
24.11.55.	Form suspending T.C. no. 2147.	172a.
	173.	
24.11.55.	Form suspending T.C. no. 2843.	173a
	174.	
30.11.55.	D.1 note for file.	174a.
	175.	
16.12.55	Ext. from loose minute to D.1. re HOWs.	175a.
	176.	
21.12.55	Form cancelling telecheck on BLUNDEN.	176a.
	177.	
29.12.55	D.1 note on Hypothetical Case against Anthony BLUNT.	177a.
	178.	
29.12.55.	D.1 note to D attaching D1A note on M and B and ment. BLUNT.	178a.



*13.2*  
*14/2*  
D.D.G. through D and D.1.

As you are aware on Saturday evening 11 February BURGESS and MACLEAN made a statement to TASS in Moscow. We are most anxious to discover the reactions of BLUNDEN to this statement and I am therefore applying for a telephone check upon the four lines which are installed at the Court auld Institute at 20 Portman Square. They are Welbeck 1074, Welbeck 1388, Welbeck 1389 and Welbeck 4181 and the necessary forms are attached.

A telephone check has been in operation upon these lines sporadically for some years and the application was cancelled on 21.12.55 because we assumed that the check would no longer be required.

*[Signature]*  
for R. T. Reed.

13.2.56.  
D.1.A.

180.

14.2.56. HOW form for BLUNT telecheck.

180a.

181.

14.2.56. To GPO re BLUNT telecheck.

181a.

182.

20.2.56 Extract from telecheck on BLUNT

182

183.

6.3.56 Extract from int. letter from BURGESS to Mrs. BASSETT mentioning Anthony BLUNT.

183a

184.

7.3.56 ~~Extract~~ Material ~~Extract~~ from telecheck on BLUNT.

184a

185.

8.3.56 ~~Extract~~ Material on telecheck on BLUNT.

185a

8.3.56 Extract from D.1.A. minute commenting on extract at 183a.

185b



186.

*D. 4.*

As you know, BLUNT is at the moment in America, but we continue to run the telephone check because we frequently obtain information from it about BLUNT's intentions. It is rather interesting, therefore, that at the moment that BURGESS has hinted to his mother that he might try to make some arrangements so that BLUNT can see some pictures behind the Iron Curtain (183a), BLUNT should be - so far as I can see quite independently - planning to go to Dresden to see some pictures, as you will see from the telephone checks filed at 184a and 185a. This project has been on the cards for some time and we did indeed receive a report about it from F.4. at 163a.

D. 1. A.  
9.3.56

*R. T. Reed*  
R. T. Reed

187.

*9.3.56*

9.3.56. Note by L. A. ment. BLUNT. 187a

188.

15.3.56. Extract from note on discussion with RESS mentioning BLUNT. 188a

189.

15.3.56. Copy of note to D. mentioning BLUNT. 189a

190.

16.3.56. Copy of minute ment. BLUNT. 190a  
19.3.56. Ext. ment. BLUNT 190b

191.

20.3.56. Ext. from letter to S.L.O. Washington. 191z  
23.3.56. Minute from F.4. re BLUNT. 191a



26.3.56. Extract from note on discussion with REES mentioning BLUNT.

192a

193.

26.3.56. Copy of minute on REES ment. BLUNT.

193a

27.3.56. Loose minute to D.

193b

194.

Copy of Minute 179 in PF.604,583.

D.G.

You will be interested to see Mr. Reed's report at 177a and his minute 178.

We have laid our plans for future action. Their central feature is a proposed interview with BLUNT as soon as possible after his return from the U.S.A., which is expected early in May. I shall be making concrete proposals to you on this matter a little nearer the time.

REES, in our judgment, is co-operating with us freely, except for some reservations not of the first importance. Since the interview recorded at 177a he has sent us a message to the effect that, with his wife's help, he has remembered some further points which may be of interest. I do not yet know what these are. The reference in minute 178 to his "smarting under his treatment at our hands" relates to a state of mind on his part which I think Mr. Reed is right to attribute to him, however unreasonable the state of mind may have been.

D.

G.R. Mitchell.

28.3.56.

195.

16.4.56. Note for file ment. BLUNT.

195a

196.

17.4.56 To Mr. Dickson asking him to have a talk with D.1.

196a

197.

20.4.56 Note by D.1. re discussion with Mr. Dickson

197a



198.

2.5.56.  
2.5.56.

Ext. ment. BLUNT

Draft outline for interrogation of BLUNT.

198z  
198a.

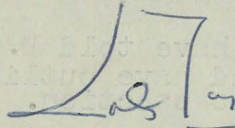
199.

D.D.G. through D.

Please see at 198a the suggested plan for the interview with BLUNT. How closely we can stick to it will of course largely depend on BLUNT's attitude. I do not think that it is a particularly brilliant one but it is the best way that D.L.A./RTR and I can conceive of playing our somewhat tatty hand of cards. I have no high hopes that it will be a particularly productive interview though we may get a little more. It does, however, clear us of any imputation that might be made that we are anxious to make much of the mote in other people's eyes while ignoring a possible beam in our own.

2. I will be submitting applications for telephone checks upon HARRIS and REVAI for imposition immediately before the interview. We may get some reaction from this. I will also be asking for A.4. coverage immediately after the interview as BLUNT's actions may give us some clue as to his state of mind. I think it unlikely that he will do anything silly but I think we should take out this small insurance.

3. Perhaps D.G. should glance at 198a as I have rather arbitrarily cast his Secretary in a talking on role.

D.L.  
2.5.56.
  
Courtenay Young.

200.

D.D.G.

Please see Minute 199, and a suggested plan for interviewing BLUNT at 198a.

You are already familiar with the events which have led up to this, but you may care to refresh your memory by looking at the summary at 177a, which sets out the evidence - inconclusive as it is - against BLUNT. Since 177a was written we have, as you know, obtained from REES further information which may be useful in the interview with BLUNT - particularly REES's statement that BLUNT visited him on 28 May 1951 and attempted to dissuade him from getting in touch with the Security Service.

I consider that the chances of BLUNT making any admission, or indeed providing us with any information of any real value, are very slight. Nevertheless I am sure that we are right to undertake the interview, if only for the reason given in Minute 199 (second sentence of Para. 1).

*last*



Minute 200 contd.

As to the manner in which the interview is conducted, 198a is described rightly as an "outline". As D.1 states, the course of the interview will necessarily be determined to a considerable extent by BLUNT's attitude. It is probable that he will realise at an early stage that we cannot prove anything substantial against him, and that having realised this, he will thereafter rest confidently on the defensive. With this in mind, I have pointed out to D.1 that he would be well advised not to play all his intelligence cards (as summarised at 177a) at once, or too closely together.

I have not yet informed the Director General of the plan for the interview, my intention being to do so as soon as the plan is finalised. Meanwhile I should be grateful for any comments you may have to make, in the light of your extensive knowledge of the background.

*J. C. Robertson*

J. C. Robertson.

D.  
3.5.56.

201.

~~D.~~

I have told D.G. about the proposal to interview BLUNT and have outlined the plan to him. He has given his sanction.

There is little that I can add to minutes 199 and 200 in the way of comment. There is nothing to be gained by waiting and I think we should start operations during the coming week. I shall be ready to play the part suggested in paragraph 1 of 198a. Perhaps you, D.1. and Mr. Reed would have a preliminary discussion with me on 7 May.

*G.R. Mitchell*

G.R. Mitchell.

D.D.G.  
5.5.56.

202.

~~D.1.~~

Reference Minute 201.

As agreed with D.D.G. this morning, you can now go ahead. The telephone call to BLUNT (Para.1 of 198a) is provisionally to be made on Wednesday next, 9 May, and the interview to take place on Monday 14 May, or as soon as possible thereafter.

If (as agreed with D.D.G.) BLUNT says that he will only come here accompanied by his solicitor, we should agree, but the place for the interrogation would be changed to Room 070 at the War Office, BLUNT being asked to go to Room 055. L.A. will have to be present if this happens.

/.....



Minute 202 contd.

If, in the course of an interrogation in this office, BLUNT refuses to proceed without taking legal advice, you will have to agree to this. You will however be within your rights in pointing out to him, as you have suggested, that the subject matter of your talks with him is covered by the O.S.A.

Will you please inform L.A. of the position, and show him this minute.

J. C. Robertson.

D.  
7.5.56.

203.

14.5.56. To A.4.

203a.

204.

16.5.56. A.4. report.

204a.

205.

28.5.56. Transcript of interview with BLUNT.

205a.

206.

31.5.56. Telecheck.

206a.

207.

5.6.56. D.1. note on interview with BLUNT.

207a.



~~D.~~

Please see at 207a the report of Reed's and my interview with BLUNT. The full transcript is at 205a. I have sidelined the interesting portions of it.

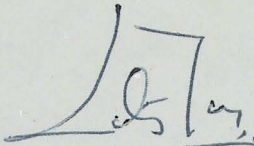
2. Reading the interview in cold print I do not think that I conducted it as well as I thought I had at the time!

3. Clearly either BLUNT or REES is lying and I see no way of ever knowing which. My own feeling, and it is only a feeling, is that BLUNT was telling the truth.

4. I think he has a slightly guilty conscience in that there was a great deal of insecure gossip at Bentinck Street and he was probably frequently guilty of breaches of physical security as regards documents - probably more than he admits.

5. I still cannot quite believe that someone as intelligent as BLUNT and on such intimate terms with BURGESS must not at some period or other between 1938 and the time of the flight have had some sort of inkling that BURGESS was not always working for the British. That, however, is not evidence.

D.1.  
6.6.56.

  
Courtenay Young.

~~D.1.~~

Reference Minute 208.

I think you do yourself less than justice in your Para. 2. It was clearly difficult to carry out this interview without antagonising BLUNT. You succeeded both in keeping the interview at an easy conversational level, and in obtaining information which in my view has advanced/at least one step further in our reconstruction of events. /us

I do not want to burden the file with further speculation. As regards your Para. 3, however, my own opinion is that we have not yet had the truth from either REES or BLUNT. I attach importance, nevertheless, to your feeling that he was truthful, and in much of what he said I agree that he probably was. In particular, I consider that the first sidelined passage on Page 38 of the transcript rings true. This is where BLUNT referred to Guy having "built up imaginary sub-agents". I believe myself that this is just what BURGESS probably in fact did - or rather that he used his imagination freely, when reporting to the R.I.S. information received from real but in most cases unconscious sub-agents.

/.....



Minute 209 contd.

I do not myself feel much doubt that BLUNT was one of the sub-agents in question. As to whether he was conscious or unconscious, I am more than doubtful, and this we may well never be able to prove one way or the other.

The following passages in the transcript seem to me to deserve particular comment.

Page 2. I think we ought to find out whether a telegram was sent, in the sense suggested, to the British Ambassador in Moscow at the time of Cordell Hull's visit there.

Pages 15 and 43. BLUNT appears to be unable to explain at all satisfactorily his jumping to the conclusion (before there had been any publicity about the disappearance of MACLEAN and BURGESS) that MACLEAN was the "friend in trouble" whom BURGESS had previously mentioned. Can you yourself think of any satisfactory explanation for this?

Page 23. I understand that the "memorandum" shown by REES to AYER, is the same as that which REES gave us. If not, it is for consideration whether we should see AYER ourselves. I think I am right in saying that MACLEAN and AYER were in contact during the period of the investigation.

Page 32, sidelined passage at the bottom. This, read in conjunction with the passage to which I have already referred on Page 38, is in my opinion probably the key passage in the whole interview. We shall probably never know to what extent BURGESS had direct access to M.I.5 files taken home by BLUNT.

Page 42. I should like to know whether we have a record of BURGESS's alleged warning to Capt. Liddell that REVAI might be a Soviet agent or undercover Communist. There is probably a reference to this in Capt. Liddell's diary.

The references on the same page of the transcript to REVAI and KESSLER are interesting, in the light of BURGESS's recent letter to POLLOCK on which D.D.G. has commented in BURGESS's P.F.

Page 45. I understand that BLUNT's reference to further property of BURGESS, which is in his possession, is in fact a reference to books and furniture. Perhaps you would confirm this.

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When you have noted these points, please pass the file to D.D.G.

*J. C. Robertson*  
J. C. Robertson.



210.

D.D.G.

You will wish to see D.1's report at 207a and his comments thereon in Minute 208.

Please see also my own comments in Minute 209.

*(Please see also Min 214)*

J. C. Robertson.

D.  
8.6.56.

211.

8.6.56. Suspension of T.C. on BLUNT.

211a

212.

13.6.56. To F.O. re 207a.

212a.

213.

13.6.56. To [redacted] re 207a.

213a.

214.

D. *jd*  
Reference your minute 209, the following points refer to the points raised by you on the transcript:-

Page 2. I have written to Street.

Pages 15 and 43. Captain Liddell told BLUNT that BURGESS had gone off with a Foreign Office official. BLUNT's explanation is that he knew MACLEAN to be a homosexual, BURGESS had told him that he might have to go away with a friend who was in some sex trouble, and put two queers together. BLUNT may also have known that BURGESS had consulted MACLEAN over his draft despatch which he had written in Washington which is a further tie up.

Page 23. I myself have no doubt that the "memorandum" shown by REES to AYRE was in fact the manuscript we have in our possession. AYRE could of course be seen but I fear that if this course is considered desirable it would have to await the instalation of a MACLEAN and BURGESS case officer.

Page 32. I entirely agree. I myself feel it is highly likely BURGESS was left alone in BLUNT's office in St. James's Street for periods. BURGESS had an insatiable magpie curiosity and would certainly have read any file he could lay his hands on. The same would apply to any files taken home to Bentinck Street by BLUNT. I doubt if we will ever know whether BLUNT actually showed his files to BURGESS and if so whether he did it with an inkling of his R.I.S. role or in BURGESS's capacity as VAUXHALL to assist VAUXHALL in his activities, or whether BLUNT used the VAUXHALL motive as his excuse to cover up his possibl



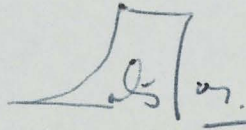
Minute 214 (continued)

inkling of BURGESS's R.I.S. role. This is a mass of psychological imponderables.

Page 42. I will ask Captain Liddell to look when next I see him.

Page 45. Yes, the property in question was books and furniture.

D.1.  
13.6.56.

  
Courtenay Young.

*D.1. Pl. Ltr D.D.G.'s Comment 215.  
TJL  
19.6.*

I have read with great interest the entire transcript at 205a and the other papers to which you refer me. D.1. and Reed conducted the interview with pertinacity and skill. If we have not achieved very much more than the primary purpose of the interview - namely, that of examining the case of a suspect formerly in this office as closely as other suspects - we have at least performed that task thoroughly. It remains to show that we have done so - and for that reason I strongly endorse the penultimate paragraph of minute 209.

Please let me know if any of the other lines of action proposed in that minute leads to anything of importance.

*G.R. Mitchell.*

D. D. G.  
15.6.56.

G. R. Mitchell.

~~FILE CLOSED~~ 216

1.8.56.

Re-imposing T.C.

216a

~~FILE CLOSED~~

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213a

TOP SECRET PERSONAL

PF.604582/D.1.

13 June, 1956.

Dear

As I told you the other day, Ronnie Reed and I interviewed Anthony BLUNT here. Nothing particularly startling came out of the interview but we did manage to clear up one or two points; I think at one or two places have got a little closer to the truth, and have certainly proved a conflict of testimony between BLUNT and REES.

2. This letter is to apologise in advance for not letting you have a report upon this interview. As you know, Ronnie Reed has been reft from me and I in addition to everything else have to act as case officer for MACLEAN and BURGESS. This being the case I trust you will forgive me if there is some delay before a full report on the interview gets over to you. I will do it as soon as I can but you may have to wait a bit.

Yours

Courtenay Young.

TOP SECRET PERSONAL

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ACT 1958 December 2022.



HIST/1 c'd

212a

Copy: PF.604529

TOP SECRET PERSONAL

13 June, 1956.

PF.604582/D.1.

As I think you know, we recently had a further talk with Professor Anthony BLUNT to go over once again his connections with BURGESS with especial reference to certain new points brought out by our talks with Geronwy REES.

2. In the course of the interview BLUNT said he had recently seen Eric KESSLER, the Swiss diplomat now in Dublin who was a friend of BURGESS, and the latter said that in the course of going through some old papers he had come upon a note of two conversations he had had with BURGESS. The first was at the time of Cordell Hull's visit to Moscow. BLUNT and KESSLER were uncertain of the date but they were under the impression that Cordell Hull had made only one visit to Moscow so it should not be hard to check.

3. KESSLER and BURGESS were talking together about the visit and about what subjects could be raised to make it a success and one of the things which they agreed would help was the theme of multi-lateral trade. Apparently Cordell Hull had an obsession against bi-lateral trade arrangements and was all for multi-lateral trade. A few days later KESSLER and BURGESS met again and the latter said "Well it's all right. We have arranged that the Russians shall be told that they must talk to Cordell Hull about multi-lateral trade". At the time KESSLER thought that this was part of BURGESS's normal activities but later, according to BLUNT, he had wondered whether this might not be a reflection of BURGESS's covert activities.

4. The whole story is pretty vague but it would be interesting to know whether in fact there was any suggestion through Foreign Office channels that the multi-lateral theme should be plugged with Cordell Hull. If so this would simply be a case of BURGESS taking credit for something done by someone else. If in fact there was no mention of multi-lateral trade over British channels then it is possible that BURGESS was mixing international good-will along with his espionage. If your papers prove that Cordell Hull disliked multi-lateral trade and only approved of bi-lateral agreements we shall simply have proved that someone, probably BURGESS, is a liar - which we know already!

Courtenay Young.

TOP SECRET PERSONAL

J.E.D. Street, Esq.,  
Foreign Office.



Major A. E. DENMAN, M.B.E.

SECRET

~~G. F. SATTENT, Esq.,~~

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEPT.,  
G.P.O.

Box 500,  
Parliament Street B.O.,  
London, S.W.1.

211a

2991,  
2990, 2992 and 2993.

Please \* Suspend  
~~Re-impose~~

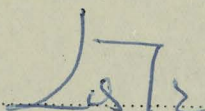
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\* { ~~Temporarily~~  
Indefinitely  
~~Permanently (H.O.W. being retained)~~ }

from 8.6.56. to .....  
(if known)

Date 8.6.56. ....

Section D.1. ....

Signature  .....

✓ Copy to A.2.A.  
Copy to file No. PF.604582 .....

(\* Delete as necessary)

(Use this Form for both carbon copies).

DIA/S  
9/6/56



NOTE

Together with Mr. Reed, I interviewed Professor Anthony Frederick BLUNT on 15 May, 1956 at 2.30 p.m. The interview lasted for something over two hours.

2. At no time during the interview did BLUNT admit or begin to admit that he had ever been a conscious agent. However, certain interesting points and some conflict of testimony between BLUNT and REES did emerge.

3. We first of all took BLUNT over the few days before and the period after the flight of BURGESS and MACLEAN. BLUNT said that the last time he had seen BURGESS was on the morning of Friday, 25 May when he came in for a cup of coffee with BLUNT at the Courtauld. He said that BURGESS was in a much better state that day than he had been when he had seen him earlier in the week after his return from a week-end with Peter POLLOCK. Then he had been worse than he, BLUNT had ever known him. He thought it was a combination of drink and drugs [and there was also a story that BURGESS had taken a bolus intended for a horse (Peter POLLOCK's sister is a vet)]. Thinking back afterwards BLUNT had felt that perhaps BURGESS had come round to make some sort of veiled farewell but had changed his mind. Nothing new regarding the chronology emerged.

4. The next interesting point concerned BLUNT's visit to REES at Sonning. BLUNT said that he and HARRIS had been talking over BURGESS's past actions and on the assumption that he had flown because he had been guilty of espionage were wondering how far back the trail led. This in turn led BLUNT to go and see REES to compare notes with him. BLUNT said that he and REES agreed to go together to see Captain Liddell as a result of their talk. We put to him REES's version of the story, namely that he felt he ought to unbosom himself about the Comintern story and that BLUNT had felt that this was not necessary and had put pressure on REES not to go. This version BLUNT completely denied and said was "absolutely untrue". We asked him why he thought REES would have invented it and he said that he could not imagine.

5. As regards the conversation in the Park, BLUNT said that he had no recollection whatever of it. It might have taken place but if it had he had absolutely no recollection of it. We gave him REES's version, namely that he had said "you know what Guy is really up to" and BLUNT had replied tersely "yes". BLUNT agreed that this conversation may well have taken place but said that the question was ambiguous. REES may well have meant BURGESS's Comintern activities. BLUNT, on the other hand, knowing nothing of these, would have taken it to refer to "twenty things", i.e. it might have followed on some particular discussion about BURGESS getting a job, wanting to join a club, or some aspect of his sex life.

6. BLUNT did not seem at all upset at this conflict of testimony. The only moment in the whole interview when he did seem slightly upset was when I was rather pressing him that by the time he was well installed in this Office if he ever thought about Guy's pre-war activities he must have realised that they could not have been for Section D as the dates did not fit. BLUNT maintained that he knew BURGESS was working for Sir Joseph Ball and whatever one might think of the Conservative Party and Sir Horace Wilson it was still working for the British. He had always thought that BURGESS's activities were for the British up to the time of the flight.



all

Extracted to

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604604  
Ullswell  
Daves

7. I then informed BLUNT of the VOLKOV episode and the catalogue he provided. I mentioned the "visit of the British greens" and pointed out that that in all probability referred to Captain Liddell's visit to Canada which indicated a leakage from either M.I.5. I suggested that if one equated BURGESS with the source, this was the kind of information he could easily have picked up through gossip from BLUNT, HARRIS, Captain Liddell himself, or even myself. BLUNT took rather a high line at first and said he thought that that particular thing was one which would not have been gossiped about. I then mentioned the theft of documents from the Military Attache's office and attempts to photograph his office. BLUNT said that he knew of no such attempts and we agreed that that item did not take us much further. On the membership of a high level Intelligence Committee BLUNT said that as far as he knew there were none except the J.I.C. I suggested the XX Committee and mentioned "that curious thing you and I sat on". BLUNT supplied the name himself (Twist) but thought that it was not very high level. I suggested again that that might derive from Bentinck Street gossip and BLUNT in effect tacitly admitted that such gossip existed.

8. I then produced the RAZIN information and pointed out that that knocked out Bentinck Street gossip. I also pointed out

that it pretty well narrowed the field to Hugh SHILLITO, KEMBALL JOHNSON and ourselves. KEMBALL JOHNSON was really out; I let myself out, which left Hugh SHILLITO and BLUNT. His reply was "I think this certainly is a really tougher one". He went on to say that one of the things that had worried him for a very long time was having taken files back to read in the evening at Bentinck Street. He admitted BURGESS had come quite frequently to the Office and thought it quite possible that he had been left alone in the room. He could offer no solution as to how BURGESS could have obtained these documents, if he did, unless he had stolen them from the Office and later replaced them or done the same thing at Bentinck Street. He did point out, however, that it was unlikely that he would take Russian dossiers home as these were not the kind of files on which action was needed by our section so he would not need to study them. At the conclusion of this phase of the interview BLUNT said "I think this is extremely obscure and I am sorry I cannot offer any help".

9. BLUNT went on to say that BURGESS during his career as a spy would have built himself up, where necessary by inventing. This was exactly the same technique as he employed in his private life. By way of illustration of BURGESS's character he gave us the story that BURGESS had gone to Captain Liddell and told him that he suspected that REVAI was a communist agent. He later went to REVAI and told him that somebody had put in a report to the authorities that he, REVAI, was a communist agent but that he need not worry because he, BURGESS, had put it straight. We agreed that it was impossible to work out BURGESS's motives for this episode but BLUNT said he was glad he had told us as he knew that REVAI was under suspicion (date unstated) because REVAI had been told by someone who had heard it indirectly from someone in the Security Service that REVAI's telephone was being tapped. After hearty laughter on all sides this subject was dropped.

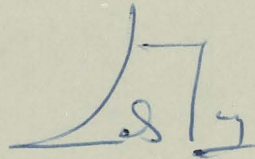
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10. As regards REES's statement that BLUNT and BURGESS used frequently to go down and eat in a Chinese restaurant in the East End close to a shop where BURGESS used to buy dangarees, etc., BLUNT said that he never ate Chinese food because it gave him indigestion (that he has made this statement in the past I can confirm from personal experience); BURGESS never wore dungarees and in any case he, BLUNT, had never been down either to the shop or to the restaurant. The only times he and BURGESS had been together in the East End was when they occasionally used to go on what BLUNT described as a "mild church crawl" when BLUNT would go and look at churches and old houses.

11. The interview was cordial throughout. At first BLUNT appeared slightly nervous but later was completely composed and natural.

12. Though not taking us any further in our endeavours to solve any mystery, the interview was not unprofitable. There is a clear conflict of testimony between BLUNT and REES and one which I do not see can be resolved. BLUNT denies having attempted to dissuade REES from coming to see Captain Liddell. He denies REES's statement that he and BURGESS used to visit Commercial Road and he says he has no recollection of the conversation in the Park but says that if it did take place the question had no sinister implications for him.



Courtenay Young.

D.1.  
5.6.56.



SECRET

2060

NAME: BLUNDEN

T.C. No.: 2993

Tel. No.: WEL 1074

Date : 31.5.56.

Responsible Section: D.I.a.



Incoming call to BLUNDEN from (Prof.) LIONEL (ROBBINS) to congratulate him on being promoted to K.C.V.O. in the Queen's Birthday Honours. BLUNDEN knew nothing about it and so LIONEL read the citation in the 'Times.' He was surprised to learn that BLUNDEN had not been asked. BLUNDEN said that apparently Members of the Royal Household were not asked - he had not been asked when given the C.V.O. He thanked LIONEL for telling him and added that he was rather taken aback by it. LIONEL said how delighted he was - it was well deserved. It was the kind of thing that gave distinction to any Honours List.

08.49.

Outgoing call from BLUNDEN to his Mother, who congratulated him. She, too, was surprised that he had known nothing about it. She had thought that he had arranged his party for tomorrow evening on purpose. (BLUNDEN is giving a Cocktail Party for the Students. She will be there.)

09.03.

Outgoing call - BLUNDEN sent the following telegram to JOHN GASKIN :- GASKIN, Hotel Cosmopolite, San Remo, Italy. X Knighted. X BLUNDEN.

09.15.

Incoming call from Mrs. BASSETT to BLUNDEN to congratulate him. Later she said :-

Mrs. B. I tell you, somebody will be very pleased because he will realise that no harm has been done.

B. Oh, yes. That's a nice thought, yes.

Mrs. B. You thought that did you?

B. I hadn't thought that but it's very sweet of you.

Mrs. B. That will be a great thing. I've had three letters.

B. Have you? Oh, good.

Mrs. B. And you won't be bothered with any.

B. Thank you. Yes, I'm sorry about that but -

Mrs. B. Only I know - I'll explain when I go there, you see.

B. Yes. Are you any further er - towards your plans?

Mrs. B. No, except I got a - GUY told me to go and see about a visa and he's arranged it all his end and GERRY says there's no delay. I've been down to Kensington.

Blunden  
Copy  
Burgess



B. Yes. Oh, there's no delay.

Mrs. B. He said there would be no delay for me because they'd heard from Moscow.

B. They've got it all arranged, yes.

Mrs. B. But then, I want to wait a bit because, you know, the planes may be better.

B. Yes.

Mrs. B. They're very bad now.

B. They're very bad are they? Oh, heavens!

Mrs. B. But Pan-American may be running one, you know.

B. Yes.

Mrs. B. Well, BLUNDEN, I'm so glad.

B. Well, it's very nice of you.

He agreed to go and see her sometime in order to see the latest letters. She thought there was not very much news in them except that "you and DAVID won't be bothered." She asked if he had heard anything of KIM. BLUNDEN said, nothing at all. Mrs. B. had not either. She asked if HONEY was back. BLUNDEN told her that HONEY had been back but had gone off again. He had meant to ask him but had forgotten. Mrs. B. repeated her congratulations.

09.40.

JW.



205a

PF604582.

A15T/10

FULL TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH BLUNT.



Courtney.

As you say it doesn't seem  
so impressive when you read it.  
But it sounds awfully jolly!

I think that if we did  
not know so much it would  
create a better impression.

There is that positive conflict of  
testimony which is odd & which  
I suppose — short of a confrontation, —  
we shall never clear up.

I have put in amendments  
where I have remembered what you  
or I said. In most cases I fear  
I have forgotten! I don't think it  
matters much. You will no doubt  
summarise the whole thing in 3  
sentences in your inevitable style.

31/5<sup>r</sup>

Ronnie Ray



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Responsible Section: D.1.a.

Date and Time of Despatch:

A.2.A. Reference: B.1.

Contents: 15.5.56



Opening conversation was friendly.  
 Discussion about giving up smoking.  
 Mr. YOUNG recalled BLUNDEN having smoked like a chimney when he was here.

Y. BLUNDEN, I gather from ... that you had something - would you like to shoot first?

B. Oh well - mine is a small single item - I had dinner with Eric KESSLER, I think it was last week, and he specifically asked me to pass something on, I don't think it's particularly important, but he obviously attaches importance to communicating. What he said was that when he first came over here after GUY - which was sometime after GUY's disappearance - somebody who had known him, somebody whose name I've forgotten, saw him and they had a long talk. X said, well if you've ever got anything - if ever ..... - and he'd been - he told me that he'd been tearing up a lot of old papers, sort of notes during the war - and he'd come upon a note or conversation - or rather, in fact, two conversations with GUY. The first - it was at the moment of CORDELL - HULL's visit to Moscow, and I gather there was only one, and I gather that's checkable....

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-2-

- Y. It's checkable, yes -
- B. - because it's rather important.  
And it was important that it should be a success and he and GUY were talking about what subject could be raised to make it a success, and one of the things apparently that they agreed would help was the theme of multi-lateral trade. This may mean something to you, it doesn't mean anything to me. Apparently CORDELL -HULL had an obsession against by-lateral trade arrangements and was very keen to ..... solution multi-lateral trade. Then, a few days later they met again, and GUY said - 'well, it's all right, we've arranged that the Russians shall be told they must talk to CORDELL -HULL about multi-lateral trade. Well, at the time of course ERIC simply thought 'oh well the Foreign Office will arrange this' and then, looking through it again, he said to himself 'well, I wonder'.
- Y. Yes.
- B. And his point was that CORDELL-HULL at once... - it would be relatively easy to check up whether a telegram was sent to our Ambassador saying you must do this.
- Y. Yes.
- B. And if not, that's all-
- Y. Yes.
- B. But as I say - he rather felt that he wanted to do it - to put this across.
- R. Has ERIC heard anything from GUY since he's been to Moscow?
- B. No. And - em - but GUY has asked - didn't GUY ask PETER in his letter - Peter POLLOCK in his letter for the address - he has at any rate -
- R. He asked for various addresses -because I saw PETER and he said that he'd asked for the addresses of various people.
- B. But I think - at any rate - I think it must have been PETER - he has asked for ERIC's address, and ERIC, not unnaturally, said 'for God's sake don't say anything because this really would' - and ERIC, I gather, has had a very tough time, and this would really upset the apple cart slightly.
- R. He suggested that PETER shouldn't give him the address.
- B. Yes. It I take it from that that GUY just had the sense to see that if he wrote c/o the Foreign Office BERN it wouldn't (become known?)
- R. Yes.
- B. I can't incidentally see why he should ask - surely he could find out?
- R. Yes.



-3-

- B. I can't incidentally see why he should ask - surely he could find out?
- R. Yes.
- Y. Surely he could find out. I mean - he must have it in *the diplomatic* list.
- R. But I suppose GUY wants to write to the private address - isn't that .... the private address.
- B. Yes, probably, yes.
- Y. ,, , , , , , , , list (of addresses?)
- B. Only probably the local ones, I don't know.
- Y. Oh possibly , yes.
- B. I don't know, I mean, it would, sort of thinking of London - it would have appeared in the - one of the things that we used to have-
- Y. But not in Whittakers.
- B. But not in Whittakers - is published ... I imagine, I don't.....
- R. PETER hasn't heard any more has he?
- B. I've not seen PETER, but I don't think he has.
- R. No, he said he'd get in touch if in any further letters GUY said anything which he thought might be of interest to us.
- B. Yes.
- Y. Have you heard anything?
- B. No, I've not - he's indicated to Mrs B. - that's his Mother, that he's hoping I shall write to him and er- I'm afraid I sent a message saying I don't see any purpose. I mean, I just don't see - even apart from the fact that presumably you and the Russians are both looking for correspondence!  
But I really don't know what I should say to GUY if I wrote - our lives have .... broken down so to speak - so there seems to be no point.
- R. It's all the ..... business?
- B. Well that sort of thing.
- Y. Well on our side - I've sort of .... given the history before I came into this last September when they.... shouting.... after the debate had died down.....  
.....  
to see whether there were any futher leads.
- B. Whie- After which debate?
- Y. The last debate last September.



-4-

- B. Oh as the result of the other thing?
- Y. Whether there are any leads or anything which ought still to be followed up at this late stage and even at that stage there were one or two tiny points which might have been worth putting to you, which wasn't really worth while, and then, in the interval, there has been this series of astonishing articles in the People which no doubt you've read.
- B. Mm.
- Y. And, GORNNWY has been seen. And there are one or two points coming out of that, and I think perhaps the easiest way would be..... if we could perhaps go over that first fortnight and....
- B. Which first fortnight?
- Y. The first fortnight - after the disappearance of GUY and MACLEAN. I do want-
- B. Oh I see, mm -
- R. That's a very hazy time!
- B. ....
- Y. It was hazy to me because I wasn't... but equally hazy to you.
- B. But were you in the country?
- Y. I was just in the country on leave.
- R. I was, as you may well remember, and-
- B. Yes, because we went round to the flat - we went round together didn't we?
- R. Yes, yes. And - we put down that little reconstruction of the factual things that -
- Y. .... an aide memoire that gives the days of the week would help.
- B. Yes, it does..... points of the things which stand out most.
- R. What we wanted to do really, if we could, was to reconstruct a little more fully what ~~actually~~ actually happened after the disappearance---i--- immediately after the disappearance - right up to the end of that particular time -
- B. Up to roughly this -
- Y R. Well roughly that period.
- R.B. Roughly that ten days ~~for~~ a fortnight. For example, when did you first hear - from whom did you first hear that GUY seemed to be missing.



- B. Yes, well that I think I can tell you quite accurately. Now -
- R. Or even perhaps can I go a little - just slightly further back to just before the disappearance, because I think you said that GUY you saw GUY on the Friday morning -
- B. On the Friday morning.
- R. The 25th.
- B. That's right, yes.
- R. Did you go round to the flat?
- B. No, he dropped in for his cup of coffee with me.
- R. Ah. He dropped in mid-morning to you.
- B. Sometime in the morning, I guess.
- R. How was he?
- B. On the whole I thought in a less bad state - one moment (let me get my words right ?) - the worst state of all that he was in was when he came back from the week end -
- R. - from PETER's place?
- Y. From PETER.
- B. And whether that was a Monday or Tuesday, I can't quite remember.
- R. And why was that? Was it really the drugs or-
- B. Well it was - well what the drugs would do to him was a different matter - but it was , it was undoubtedly to do with drugs and drink.
- R. Yes.
- B. There's no doubt - have you asked PETER about this? But there's some curious story about his taking the dose for a horse (laughter)
- R. PETER's sister gave you...the story?
- Y. .... for a horse.
- B. Well GUY....
- R. Well he was in a bad state that week end, yes-
- B. Yes, and he was in a very bad state when he came back ~~th~~ from the week end - I think the worst state I've ever seen him in, and perceptably worse than he was when I ~~saw~~ saw him later in that week, and I can't now remember how many times I saw him but I certainly saw him that Friday morning.



-6-

- R. When he dropped <sup>in</sup>
- B. I've a sort of idea that I saw him on the Wednesday or Thursday, but I don't know for certain.
- R. That was when he dropped in to see you at Courtauld.
- B. At Courtauld, on the Friday.
- R. He wasn't, however, in such a jittery state that you would have said - 'there's something queer going on!'
- B. No, at that moment I should have said not. Mind you, he was in a pretty bad state - how long was he back, three weeks?
- R. He came back on the 7th of May and he left on the 25th - that's almost exactly .... three weeks.
- B. Yes, Well, he was in a pretty bad way most of that time. I must .... it's not awfully easy to reconstruct exactly, but I know that his coming in after the week end - I'm not sure that it wasn't actually on his way back from the country - that was the thing what struck me. I really thought 'God what is happening to GUY' - really something awful, and then there was the story about his drugs.....
- R. Did he tell that story? I mean, did he explain his position to you?
- B. I think - well @ No, no, - he gave - I knew it at the time, whether he - what I suspect happened was that he said that he'd had - I'm now guessing - that he'd said he'd had his frightful headaches and, therefore, had taken drugs. Knowing that he'd spent the week end away I'm afraid I probably concluded that - added the alcohol, and the thing about ..... horse well ....
- R. Yes. But it wasn't that in fact you commented upon his/going down hill that he replied it's because of this that or the other - you don't remember?
- B. No - I mean I think that's intrinsically probable -
- R. Yes, yes.
- B. But I'm afraid I simply don't remember.
- R. He didn't give any indication when he saw you on that Friday morning that he intended to do anything drastic or
- B. Nothing at all, no. I can't honestly - and now I'm really referring to what I remember saying at the time - I don't remember what he said but it wasn't, as far as I remember, at all significant.
- Y. Just perfectly ordinary -
- B. - and as far as I can remember it was.



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- B. You see it's difficult to remember .....  
conversation - whatever it was -
- Y. Yes.
- R. We rather take the view, you see, that by that time  
almost certainly GUY knew what he was going to do.
- B. Well he was almost bound to have wouldn't he?
- R. Yes, yes - I mean, by 11 o'clock on that Friday morning.
- B. Yes.
- R. But he didn't convey any of that?
- B. He didn't convey any of that.- I've always said without  
any evidence whatsoever that I've - let me put this  
right - I've often wondered whether GUY didn't, in fact,  
come round to say goodbye, but then not do it, you see,  
in the way that he rang up - did he ring MARGY or  
GORONWY? - whichever it was, something like that sort  
of thing.
- R. That was (talking together) .....  
That was late afternoon on the Friday.
- B. It was late was it - I guessed that it was.
- RR. Yes.
- B. But - and I've always thought it possible that he came  
round to make some kind of similar statement - I'll not  
see you again, or whatever it is and then-
- Y. Found it too difficult to face/you but could do it to  
MARGY or GORONWY on the telephone I suppose.
- B. It seems like it - I don't know - very different - but  
that's again - that's pure guess.
- R. And then, what was the next you heard about GUY, can you  
recall that?
- B. Yes - you see some of these things are only too clearly  
imprinted. Em - the next - I'm trying to remember in  
which order - the next two things that happened were one  
from JACKIE and the other from BERNARD MILLER.
- R. Mm.
- B. Yes, I can even - I can remember in which order they  
happened em- - this is all slightly complicated by the  
fact that at the time I was investigating a supposed  
burglary in the house. BERNARD - on the Saturday morning -  
Saturday - I don't remember - not late, I mean morning  
or lunch time or -
- R. Mm.
- B. Middle of the day - BERNARD MILLER arrived on the  
door step in a taxi (pause) - I was at that moment  
waiting for the police to come round to lock into the  
supposed theft of a handbag or whatever - and -



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- B. cont'd - and - he came round in in a very - slightly hysterical and a very upset state.
- R. Slightly hysterical.
- B. Well yes, well very upset - he's a very hysterical boy,-
- R. Mm.
- B. -Saying that - saying 'what has happened to GUY'.  
GUY had had-
- R. Well, when you say 'saying what has happened to GUY' do you mean 'asking'.
- (tog)
- B. I mean.... roughly speaking 'what's happened to GUY'.
- R. Now, what made him - what made him do that?
- B. Ah well, yes, then it comes.  
He - the awful thing is when I said all this at the time - it's probably written down much more accurately, but I'll try and remember it all. He had gone round - had he gone round to GUY's - yes -/he'd gone round to GUY's flat on the Friday hadn't he? He is the person (talking togeth) who was involved with all the buying .....
- R. He was with GUY on the Friday afternoon when GUY went in to buy the mackintosh-
- B. Buy the mackintosh and,.... -
- Rn - and the ties
- B. - and was obviously doing something peculiar .... that he was covering up something, and my recollection is that BERNARD had simply gone into the flat - casually just dropped in to see GUY and GUY had taken him out on this very peculiar business, you see, of going round buying mackintoshes which didn't fit and suitcases he didn't want and-
- R. Without giving any explanation for: *it?*
- B. ~~Well~~ No - well, one minute, no - giving as far as I can remember an explanation. He and BERNARD had a tentative arrangement for going away for the week end - that's the Friday night you're talking of? -
- R. Yes.
- B. - for going away for the week end, I think, not necessarily that night but .... ly  
And - while - either while they were doing shopping or they may have stopped and had a drink after it - I simply don't remember - but any rate in this phase, as you see, GUY had talked about having to go away so that possibly they couldn't do that week end because GUY might have to go away, and, I think, it was then that he talked about having to help a friend who was in trouble.

/ I think



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- R. Who was being blackmailed, I think you said at the time - something like that.
- B. (apparently?) it was that, yes.
- R. I think it was, yes. To help a friend who was being blackmailed.
- B. But he'd thrown out a hint of this to someone else before - and even to me I think he did before -
- R. Well that's what I, that's what I -
- B. I've got a sort of idea that -
- R. In which case, if he said that to you, I wondered when he would have said it?
- B. You see, I think that at some earlier stage he talked - mentioned to me a friend who was in trouble, I don't remember the actual friend who was being blackmailed.
- R. No, but a friend who was in trouble.
- B. Who was in trouble.
- R. Let me just explain one thing. What we would like to do, you see, is to try to get as close as we can to the time when GUY first knew that there was a possibility that he would have to leave the country.
- B. Mm, yes.
- R. And it's clear from what he said to BERNARD MILLER on the Friday afternoon (together) - which was what he did, in fact - but if he'd said to you, for example, on the Friday morning, 'I may have to help a friend' who is in trouble', that he - we'd know for certain that he knew ~~on~~ on the Friday morning - would that be....
- B. Yes, well I can't say - I have it in my mind that he said that he had talked to a friend in trouble, at some stage, but I'm afraid I can't say when, and if I didn't say at the time I'm afraid there's not a chance of recapturing it now, I'm sorry.
- R. No, no, no.  
would be
- Y. It ~~would have been~~ probably in that week - it wouldn't have been, shall we say, back before the following weekend.
- B. I think that's unlikely because before that though low I can't remember any exceptional symptoms, not that I can remember.
- R. All right, well let's press on a little bit.  
BERNARD MILLER came round in a rather hysterical state.
- B. Yes, yes, having incidentally rung the police.
- R. He had already spoken to the police?



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- B. He'd already spoken to the police em - only because - when - it must have been, I'm sorry, it must have been in fact the Friday night they were going, because he'd rung on the Friday night - this is a little unfair - he'd - roughly speaking - rung the police and said, 'I had a date and my friend hasn't turned up'.
- R. He did that on the Friday evening.
- B. On the Friday - yes, he must have because he told me this on the Saturday and the police not unnaturally said, 'well, don't be silly'. (laughter).
- R. So I take it then that after that he went away again, is that it?
- B. When - when-
- R. After he'd come to you on the Saturday and said all that.
- B. Ah well no - while BERNARD was there JACKIE rang up also in hysterics.
- R. I see.
- B. That was - one of my troubles.
- R. And you were waiting for the police all the time?
- B. I was waiting for the police myself, I had BERNARD more or less hysterical in the room and then JACKIE who rang up in-a-st -
- Y. In a state?
- B. In a very considerable state to say - in a way quite reasonably and in a way unreasonably, 'what had happened to GUY, he didn't come back last night'.
- Y. Was that particularly - was that particularly -
- B. Well, you see, my immediate reaction to that was - well I'm not sure that he hadn't done this before, I'm not sure that I didn't have two conversations with JACKIE and I can't remember, because I remember my first reaction was, 'well, what the hell' I ....
- R. Mm.
- B. And I think if I'd already had BERNARD on my hands I should have been more attentive.
- Y. Yes.
- B. Em - anyhow, my first reaction was, 'well, nothing unusual in that after all', and JACKIE said and I believe perfectly rightly, 'on the contrary, GUY never does this, he may stay out at night, he may do this that and the other but he always lets me know'. And JACKIE having, as you know, a very friendly character was ~~xxxx~~ simply saying, 'this is not, this may be, -
- Y. ....



- B. This is not the.....  
I think he must have done this - or are we going into this in excessive detail?
- R. Well not in excessive detail, no, we want simply to establish a few positive items over that time, you see how bare they are.
- B. Yes.
- R. And really when we look at the records we've got we can't get very much from that.
- B. No. Well the substance of it anyhow is that these two from their different aspects both were alarmed at the disappearance of GUY.
- R. Yes.
- B. That was Saturday. Well then, over the week end as far as I can remember nothing happened, we - no, JACK or somebody then rang MARGY and GORONWY-
- R. MARGY.
- B. That was Saturday afternoon?
- R. Yes, Saturday.
- B. As a matter of fact I'm not sure.
- R. And Sunday.
- Y. And Sunday.
- R. And Sunday.
- B. Mm.
- R. He said he'd been very worried.
- B. Yes.
- Y. He didn't get on to you again?
- B. Who?
- Y. JACKIE, on Saturday or the Sunday.
- B. Em - oh well I should say that I almost certainly saw him on one of those two days.
- Y. Yes.
- B. Then, by this time it was slightly a question of sort of pacifying,-
- Y. Yes, yes.
- B. - two slightly hysterical creatures - ~~XXXXXX~~ I know - in fact, I'm practically certain, I must have seen quite a lot of them that week end.



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- R. Yes, yes, yes.
- B. And then MARGY and GORONWY could produce no evidence, then, I suppose someone rang PETER it being the other obvious place where GUY might have gone.
- Y. MARGY rang Oxford.
- R. Goronwy REES was in Oxford, so she rang him to see whether-
- B. Oh he was - I see.
- R. He was at Oxford, he didn't come back from Oxford until the Sunday evening when MARGY told him of these conversations she had had with JACKIE, and GORONWY said that he was pretty concerned about it.
- B. GORONWY was concerned?
- R. Yes.
- B. At that stage, yes.
- R. Yes, on that Sunday evening, he thought something pretty bad must have happened. Now can you recall what happened on the Monday at all?
- Y. That was the dinner party wasn't it?
- B. Oh Monday was the dinner party, yes. (together)  
Now, one minute, at one stage - it must have been either on Sunday or Monday I had a talk with HONEY about this.
- R. Mmm.
- B. And, in fact, HONEY and BERNARD and I went round to see HONEY simply as, you know, someone who could advise, - I can't remember I think they - BERNARD kept on saying, 'we must ring the police', and I wasn't certain whether that would do any good, I thought it might do a good deal of harm. We went round.... to see HONEY and HONEY, as far as I can remember, said, 'well don't do anything at the moment, there's nothing to be done'.
- Y. Mm.
- B. And then, the next tangible stage in the campaign was that there was a dinner party on the Monday so we all said, well if it's just simply that he's gone off and got tight then he'll come back for the dinner party, because that was, as you know, it was just...
- Y. Yes, yes, quite.
- B. Yet, if he doesn't turn up at the dinner party then something very peculiar has happened.
- R. Yes.
- Y. ....
- R. (talking together)  
Then of course he didn't turn up.
- B. I simply can't remember. (replying to Y)



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- R. And of course he didn't turn up -
- B. He didn't turn up at the dinner party.
- R. - so we come to Tuesday.
- B. Yes.
- Y. I do ....
- R. Now, on Tuesday David FLANAGAN telephoned here mid morning. Now where did DAVID first come into it?
- Y. As far as you're concerned.
- B. As far as I'm concerned I don't think he came into it directly at all, as far as I can remember. My - again my recollection is very hazy but, was it - when did em -
- R. You didn't ring up til Wedn-
- B. No, no- Tuesday.
- R. Tuesday DAVID rang up here.
- B. I don't know?
- Y. He didn't ring you at all?
- B. I've no recollection of any communication with DAVID at all.
- R. I think it was GORONWY that got on to DAVID.
- B. That's much more likely -
- R. Yes.
- B. - they're much more likely to have - no.
- R. Yes.
- B. No my recollection is simply of sort of continuing discussions with HONEY about whether we ought to tell the police - I've forgotten - is it as long as - it was Wednesday he and I came to see GUY wasn't it?
- R. Yes, Wednesday morning. You and HONEY came to see GUY -
- Y. And GUY - you spoke to GUY -  
Oh I see -
- B. /I spoke to GUY-
- Y. - you spoke to GUY on the Tuesday evening-
- B. Yes. Yes, I rang GUY on the Tuesday evening and I remember then being a little bit surprised at how interested he was. And then, I suppose he arranged for me to come and see him the next morning - I remember, and HONEY came too I suppose.
- R. Yes, that's....

TOP SECRET



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- Y. Yes ....
- B. But I've not the faintest recollection of -
- R. You weren't in touch with GORONWY then at all - you hadn't spoken -
- B. I don't rem- I don't think so - no, I think JACKIE will probably -
- B. JACKIE certainly was ...
- Y. He certainly was...(talking together)
- B. No.
- R. JACKIE certainly rang MARGY and then rang GORONWY and was quite upset by the whole thing that week end.
- Y. That was presumably JACKIE's process of ringing you all round to find out whether you had any idea. When did GORONWY come into the picture as far as you're concerned BLUNDEN?
- B. Well-
- Y. FLANAGAN never came into it?
- B. As far as I can remember FLANAGAN never did at all. When GORONWY did - when did GORONWY
- Y. We've got that somewhere down there .....  
(talking together)
- R. It was 10 days-here -
- Y. Here on the 6th - . Ten days after the disappearance.
- B. That I can't date at all. I went down to see GORONWY at wherever it was he lived-
- Y. Sonning, wasn't it?
- B. Well on the (Thames?) anyhow - how we got, when we had the (arranged the conversation?); who rang whom? I think I rang him, but I really don't remember and I certainly don't remember when, and this is a long-
- R. How was it you first got in touch with GORONWY.
- B. Well, as I say, I think I must have rung him.
- R. Yes.
- Y. And then...
- R. You went down.
- B. And then I went down to see him, yes. You see by the time I'd seen GUY LIDDELL - by Wednesday, it became clear that the whole thing was extremely hot.



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- R. Because GUY said that GUY BURGESS has gone off with DONALD MACLEAN.
- B. Er - yes. He said rather more than that.
- R. Yes.
- B. He implied - how much he implied now I honestly can't remember - anyhow he implied that it was extremely serious.
- R. Yes, yes.
- B. And I should think he implied that he thought they had gone to Russia. I can't really remember.
- R. Yes. Actually I think GUY said: 'GUY BURGESS has gone off with a Foreign Office Official.' And you said: 'Could that be DONALD MACLEAN?'
- Y. Either you or HONEY.
- B. No, I think it was probably me because er - DONALD had - yes, DONALD had come into my mind over the business of a friend in trouble.
- R. M'm.
- B. Well, now that slightly confirms the view that GUY might have talked about blackmail. Not that I know that DONALD was being blackmailed but I mean that DONALD - I think probably that GUY talked more about sex than about (? specifically) blackmail.
- Y. Yes. But GUY - he used to talk about sex and trouble, one of the obvious things one would think of would be blackmail.
- B. Yes. Well, that may have come up later I suggest - I don't remember.
- R. You can't date at all can you, when you went down to see GORONWY?
- B. No.
- Y. Was it the day before you came here and saw DICK, or was it some days before?
- B. I should have thought so. My impression is that we then - no, I think it must have been very soon - it must have been immediately before because we then said, well, we've got to go and talk obviously about this and I imagine we should have done it as soon as possible. I should have thought - one may almost assume - we came on the -
- Y. Wednesday.
- B. On the Wednesday. I should have thought - one might assume it was a probability that it was the Tuesday but I don't know.
- Y. Was it GORONWY who wanted to come and talk to somebody, or was it you who proposed that GORONWY REES should come and talk to somebody, or what?



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- B. Well, I think actually at this stage - no, I think I wanted to talk to GORONWY. As far as I remember, I was trying to clear my mind about GUY - yes, HONEY and I had been talking - I think this is right - about GUY's activities before the war. The Der - .... period; anyhow all that.
- R. About what?
- B. ... (together) and the (German war) joint broadcasting on the B.B.C. and all that.
- R. Yes.
- B. And I think we'd all begun to wonder for whose profit all these things were being run. I think we were, therefore, all ... in our minds.
- R. Now you thought that GORONWY might be able to help there? Is that it?
- B. Well, GORONWY was a great friend of GUYS at that time.
- R. M'm. And your object in ringing him was to go down and talk about GUY's activities before the war?
- B. Well, I wanted to - to clear - to get as much evidence as I could about the whole of that period.
- R. What actually had you got in your mind, at that time, about GUY? I mean, what was the immediate issue that you were ferretting out?
- B. Oh, well, the immediate issue was whether all this business of working for the FBI (so on and so forth) was a cover for something else. Whether, as in the end it looked smelly, whether the smell hadn't gone right back to the beginning.
- R. Yes.
- B. He'd obviously been doing peculiar things - all this business of rushing round and seeing all sorts of odd people and er - the HENLEIN episode and all those - that one began to wonder and er - there weren't an awful lot of people about who I knew, who ~~know~~ had known GUY so well in that period, I don't think.
- Y. SHARLES (pg.) <sup>(ISABELEIN)</sup> Or was SHARLES in Washington?
- B. I don't know. SHARLES never was a close friend of GUYS.
- Y. Never a close friend - such a close friend.
- B. No.
- Y. It was only that one joint trip -
- B. That joint trip into Washington. Yes.
- R. Now you put your head together with GORONWY to try and sort out - to re-assess GUY's activities, is that it?
- M. M'm.
- R. Now did GORONWY - ?



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- B. Summing up that period, yes, yes.
- R. Now what was GERONWY's immediate reaction to you?
- B. Well er - reaction, I can't remember. What in fact happened was that he produced this story.
- R. This Comintern story?
- B. M'm.
- R. Yea.
- B. That was the upshot of the conversation.
- R. Yes, yes.
- B. And then you see - and then the ... ..
- R. The (?? peculiar rumours.)
- B. Yes. Exactly how it went I don't remember but that was the way it evolved.
- R. Yes.
- Y. And to go - to pursue at first that Comintern story. Did he, in fact before the war, ask you if you knew what GUY was up to?
- B. Oh, you mean the conversation in the park?
- Y. The conversation in the park.
- B. Well, all I can say, I have no recollection of that conversation at all. This is by the way - the printed version, is the first time he has ever said what that conversation consisted - he told me at the time. He said: 'Oh, surely you remember we had a ~~conversation~~ conversation about this.' And I said: 'About what?' And he then made no definite statement at all of what the conversation was and then said: 'Well, we must have been talking at cross purposes.' But now in the papers he's printed this quite definite conversation.
- R. Which he didn't recall in detail when you saw him then.
- B. No. And never has.
- R. You don't recall it at all?
- B. No. But then, you see, if the conversation had one meaning to him and a different meaning to me, it would have great significance to him -
- R. And none to you.
- B. And none to me. (At this stage they referred to a paper).
- Y. Also, 'you know what GUY is really up to?' To which you replied, 'Yes.'
- B. Well, yes (laughing.)



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- R. And when you said, yes, now what ... .. ? (together)
- B. I might have meant almost anything. Assuming, first of all, the conversation took place.
- R. Yes.
- B. Which I can neither assert nor deny because I've no recollection of it. He might have meant twenty things - what is GUY really up to. I mean it might have been - it might follow on some particular discussion about GUY's getting a job, or anything. GUY wanting to join a Club, GUY's sex - anything.
- R. Yes.
- refers to
- B. And that ~~phrases~~ 'Do you know what GUY is really up to?' Or it might even have referred to some particular period - I don't think we ever had any conversation about - I was going to say, some particular prank of GUY's, like the HENLEIN or the er - what's the name? - KATZ and ... (together). As far as I can remember, GORONWY and I both seemed to know all about those but I don't think we - as far as I can remember we never came into them together at all.
- Y. But when you were talking at Sonning and he said - he repeated his conversation -
- B. But he didn't. I'm sure he didn't.
- Y. Well, he referred to - he repeated GUY's statement to him that he, GUY, was working for the Comintern and among those working for him was you, BLUNDEN.
- B. Was myself, yes.
- Y. And did he go on to say - well - I then - that was confirmed in my mind by the conversation we had in the park.
- B. Yes he did and I said: 'Well this is all ... '(together) then he said, 'Oh! er - ' you know, sort of (? angry about it.) Then I remember, we had a ~~serious~~ conversation about this though it couldn't - it didn't, in fact, develop at all.
- Y. And you didn't then say: 'Yes but I thought you were referring to GUY's work for British Intelligence.'
- B. Not er - all I said was that I thought during this time GUY was working for the English.
- Y. But you knew that GUY was engaged in some Intelligence activity.
- B. I - well, now one minute, you see, there is a difficulty of chronology. It was clear er - GUY came to London in - from Cambridge. GUY came down from Cambridge in thirty - '36.
- R. '36.
- B. I came to London in '37 - I don't - '36/'37 I don't remember very much about.



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- Y. This conversation with GORONWY and GUY would have been '38.
- B. 1938, was it?
- Y. Yes. And the conversation - the later conversation between GORONWY and you was (? within about 6 months of ~~that~~.) That makes it sometime towards the end of '38.
- B. Towards the end of '38, yes. Yes, I'm sorry that isn't really what I'm trying to straighten in my mind. You see, after the beginning of the war - in the year or two before the war, GUY was up to pranks. Let's put it that way for the moment. He was always seeing ~~KLEIFFER~~ (ph.) He was seeing KATZ, who incidentally you will have observed they've identified as the completely wrong man.
- R. Yes. They've ~~put it as~~ ... OTTO ~~KATZ~~ ... (together)
- B. He was called ROFF (ph.) ROFF was short for ~~Rudolf~~ ... (together)
- R. Yes.
- B. He was playing about with him, he was playing about with ~~KLEIFFER~~, he was playing about with JO BALL and so on and so forth. And then after the beginning of the war, I knew definitely because I was then ... he told me that he was working for D. I wouldn't swear that he didn't tell me just before but I can't remember that. My impression is ~~is~~ that I know and I was to go and see ~~with~~ him even that curious character Commander PETERS, who was ~~later~~ killed.
- Y. Yes.
- B. And in my mind, I know that retrospectively I assumed that all these activities were for D. But, in fact, GUY didn't join D. until after Munich or so. At any rate, too late, I think to look out for -
- R. Yes, yes. They'd never done - ?
- B. I can't now clearly say in my mind what I thought before beyond that GUY was working - 'I'm doing very secret work.' GUY did love a mystery.
- Y. M'm.. GUY has obviously successfully pulled the wool over all of our eyes and it seems to me awfully queer that knowing that GUY was up to pranks and when you were here knowing that his pranks were chronologically well before his D. time - his time with D., -
- B. I don't even think I'd worked that out until we look back into this.
- Y. Not when you were here, when GUY started working for us at Box Hall ??
- B. I shouldn't think so for the moment, no. In fact, I'm sure I didn't. No, I only began to do this sort of sorting out when we were really going into it after GUY's departure.
- R. Yep.
- B. In fact, I don't think er - I mean it was only, as far as I can remember - when somebody said, now look this can't be the case because GUY only joined D after - ~~What~~ Was it after Munich?



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- Y. Yes I think so - the end of 1938 . . . . . (together)
- B. But anyhow you see - WHEN was he working for JOE BALL? When was the business of - ?
- R. You will notice that I er - . . . . . (together) that JOE BALL denied it.
- B. Yes but I am not wrong in saying that he worked for JOE BALL, am I?
- R. Well, I have said before that I thought he - my impression was that he was working for JOE BALL but I don't know that JOE BALL had any actual connection with *intelligence* . . . (together). When you saying working for JOE BALL, do you mean working for JOE BALL when he was . . . Conservative office, you see, JOE BALL . . . . . (together)
- B. It was much more that kind of thing but didn't that all tie up with er - which WILSON do I mean?
- R. HORACE.
- B. HORACE.
- Y. Yes that's, that's the sort of pitching to and fro', to and from DALADIER.
- B. Now when did that happen?
- Y. That was '38, wasn't it?
- R. It must have been.
- B. But before - before .(?D).. (together). Yes. You see that -
- Y. If those were all British pranks, they were British Conservative pranks, not British Intelligence pranks.
- B. Yes. But remember I knew very little about - I mean now we know the difference between S.O.E. and *P.* . . . (together).
- R. Yes.
- B. But at that time, to be working for er - I think it was stated . . . (together)
- Y. Yes.
- B. I've got to remember that it was a fine distinction. I mean from our point of view it's very important I agree.
- Y. Yes. I'm not blaming you for not appreciating in '38 the subtle distinction between Section D. and the embryo of JOE BALL and (? the rest of the racket) but once you were already here and knew the history of S.O.E. and bits about the . . . of Section D. and so on; it's then that sometime it would strike you as being awfully odd.
- B. I can't see this at all. If GUY was working for - JOE BALL you say was . . . (together) Central Office. I didn't know.
- R. . . . research.



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- B. And it was also something to do with DALADIER and HORACE WILSON and -
- R. Yes. Well, you see, GORONWY says in his articles that GUY was recruited into a British Intelligence Organisation. Then two or three paragraphs further down - 'For the organisation which took BURGESS under its wing consisted of a group of men, under Sir JOSEPH BALL.' In other words, he implies that Sir JOSEPH BALL was running the British Intelligence Organisation.
- B. Now that, actually, is probably bad editing on the part of the 'People' isn't it? Because this is not, in fact, GORONWY's <sup>script?</sup> ~~tactics~~, we know that.
- R. Yes.
- B. No, I mean the implication was that he was working for someone like JOE BALL. I'm not even prepared to say that I knew the name, JOE BALL at that time but that he was for some British quarters - that's a nice general phrase - running messages to this figure whom I did meet ... I should think a highly loose figure not necessarily politically but a sort of crook.
- R. Yes.
- B. And I'm sorry I don't see why looking back I should - first of all I don't even remember GORONWY - and I don't see why I should <sup>have</sup> been expected to distinguish <sup>carefully</sup> or what I should have been expected to do about it because I mean, to have worked for WILSON and so on, who might be regarded as politically (? sound and reputable.) - (laughter)
- R. Yes. Anyway, GORONWY said that he wanted to tell us about GUY's activities for the Comintern, isn't that so?
- B. Yes, well having - this story having come up, we agreed that the only thing to do was to come and tell you. Tell GUY LIDDELL. And as far as I remember we did - I know we did it rapidly. My impression is that we did it next day.
- R. Yes.
- B. But I simply can't remember.
- R. And you agreed - you came together?
- B. We came together.
- R. Did you agree to come together?
- B. Yes. I mean we came together.
- Y. On that, GORONWY's version is slightly different, BLUNDEN.
- B. His is what?
- Y. His is that -
- B. His version in print - he said it.
- Y. Let us forget, for one moment, GORONWY by the 'People.'
- B. M'm.



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- Y. GORONWY, when he was seen - was that he felt that he ought to come and unbosom himself to somebody about this Comintern story and that you felt, on the other hand, that it wasn't necessary.
- B. That was absolutely untrue.
- Y. We've got GORONWY's exact words. Over to you Ronnie.
- R. GORONWY says that you were anxious not to have an ... .. in front of us. You put pressure on, <sup>him</sup> not to come.
- B. Absolutely - I put pressure on him not to come?
- R. M'm.
- B. Well, that is absolutely untrue. What kind of pressure?
- R. Say it was wrong - there was no evidence of it. It was unnecessary, therefore, to burden us with this story.
- B. Unnecessary what?
- R. To burden us with this story, about Comintern.
- B. This is absolutely untrue. I'm sorry.
- Y. Again to motives. Why should GORONWY have invented that?
- B. I can't imagine. But why should GORONWY have said a number of the things in his articles. I mean allowing for the fact that presumably a lot of the (? glass ~~is~~ gains) were added by ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ the 'People.'
- R. What do you think were GORONWY's motives in writing these articles?
- B. Well, there er -
- R. (? This is going to be rather general for a moment.)
- B. But GERONWY really made that statement; that I tried to put pressure on him not to - ?
- R. Mind you, he's reconstructed events - he reconstructed events of the time, five years afterwards and he's as hazy as ~~xxxxxxx~~ any of us.
- B. Well that I'm not (? going to argue.) My recollection is that we barely even discussed it as being self evident - unpleasant but ...
- R. It must be that he was working - that he really was working for the Comintern, mustn't it?
- B. Well, not so much what he was doing but this is obviously very important evidence -
- R. Which we must have.
- B. But I am sorry, on the general point er- well I have had - as a matter of fact, I've had a good deal of gossip - I've only hear one thing which made - which sort of helped to clear my mind at all and that was from FREDDY ARYE (ph.) Do you know FREDDY AYRE?

TOP SECRET



R. M'm.

B. Have you talked to him about this?

R. No, we haven't talked to FREDDY AYRE at all.

B. Well he said that he'd been in touch with - that he'd seen GORONWY - one minute - that he'd been with - he'd been staying with GORONWY, I imagine sometime before - before GUY reappeared and that GORONWY had then been in the process of writing a memorandum entirely for his own - nothing to do with the press because he was very worried and felt very guilty about - well not guilty, unhappy let us say, about the whole thing and felt that he'd got to get it out of his system and he was writing it and FREDDY read it. I don't think it was quite finished. And then he'd gone off and heard no more but that GORONWY did, in fact, need (? the money) and had sold the proofs to the highest bidder. But whether FREDDY knew, or whether ... .. obviously the text as printed is not the er -

Y. & R. Not written by GORONWY.

B. No. ... contradictions and -

R. Anyway, he writes a jolly sight better ... .. (together) yes, yes.

B. And that seemed to me quite convincing.

R. Anyway you did come on the Wednesday with GORONWY. It must have been quite a shock to you then, when GORONWY told you ~~that~~ of GUY having recruited -

B. Having used me - yes and having used me fairly frequently -

R. And having said to GORONWY, BLUNDEN's working for me too.

B. As far as I can remember, he said more than that, he said that he might have used me as a means of, sort of, persuasion - it must be all right if BLUNDEN is doing it.

R. Yes.

B. It's a technique GUY has, you know, of using one person ... ..

R. And then you came on the Wednesday, DAVID having brought GORONWY's letter -

B. DAVID who?

R. DAVID FOOTMAN brought GORONWY's letter.

B. I don't know anything about that at all.

R. What happened is that on Friday the first of June, that is the Friday before you came, with GORONWY, GORONWY REES rang GUY telling him about this conversation GUY BURGESS had had with MARGY on the Friday of the day of their disappearance. GUY asked GORONWY to write it down and send the letter.

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- B. On the Wednesday.
- R. On the Wednesday, the 6th of June. I think it was that afternoon we went to JACKIE's - to the flat, wasn't it? The Wednesday of the day that you made a statement to JIM SKARDON, with GORONWY.
- B. I've no recollection.
- R. Yes I think it was because it was the next day that the news of the disappearance was published in the mid-day papers.
- B. Oh, it was as soon as that?
- R. Yes.
- B. I do remember GORONWY - we were a little bitter because the one thing GUY did promise was if - you know we said this is (? all rather tricky) if this is soon going to be in the press, do let us know.
- R. Yes.
- B. But I had forgotten that it was quite so soon after that that we read it.
- R. M'm. Well I think that covers the chronology. Yes.
- Y. Can we now switch to another worry, BLUNDEN?
- B. M'm.
- Y. Do you - were you in the office when the VOLKHOV thing took place? in ~~(?? Standhill?)~~ Istanbul
- R. Does VOLKHOV mean anything to you at all?
- B. Admiral VOLKHOV?
- Y. (Laughing) No, no, not that (? tatty) old gentleman. No this was in forty -
- R. September '45.
- Y. '45.
- B. I wasn't in that case.
- R. When did you leave?
- B. I left er - wait a minute - September, I'm not sure that I wasn't technically on -
- Y. Demobilisation leave.
- B. I was, in fact, on demobilisation leave in Rome. I left the office, physically, early in August - no, I'm sorry, it might have been early September.
- Y. M'm.



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- B. Early September I think, yes.
- Y. That's why we wondered -
- R. It was very close to the time you left.
- Y. Well, it doesn't matter but the point is that this creature VOLKHOV, who was in the Russian Embassy, (in Istanbul) I think it was, made passes to defect and produced what is known here as the VOLKHOV catalogue of the goods he had to sell us. Well, to cut a long story short, he didn't defect. Ultimately, we hear that he was whisked back to Russia but we did have the catalogue and that was the first of a series - bits of information which have been dribbling in from time to time since and are still dribbling in - indicating ... of some counter intelligence organisation. I won't go on because ... ..
- R. Let me just say what VOLKHOV said -
- Y. VOLKHOV said that one of the agents the Russians have in England was departmental head - a departmental head of British Counter Espionage.
- B. M'm. One of the agents of the Russians?
- Y. Of the Russians. He also said there were 2 agents in the Foreign Office,.
- R. He said, in fact, there are 9 agents of the Russian Intelligence Service in the British Intelligence Services and the Foreign Office. According to their code names, two are in the Foreign Office and 7 in the British Intelligence Services.

(Continued on page 26.)



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- B. Two in the Foreign Office-
- Y. Two in the Foreign Office.
- R. Seven in the British Intelligence Services.
- Y. '45-
- R. September '45.
- B. Mm.
- Y. Well on that we can presumably say that he'd got two in the Foreign Office.
- R. BURGESS and MACLEAN.
- Y. GUY and MACLEAN.
- B. GUY - yes.
- Y. ....
- B. ....
- R. Well MACLEAN was certainly there. Actually there is a slight divergence of opinion there because VOLKHOV said in London, I think, at one stage, whereas I think only MACLEAN was in London then, or only BURGESS was in London then and MACLEAN was somewhere else, but we assume that the two agents in the Foreign Office were almost certainly BURGESS and MACLEAN.
- B. Yes.
- R. Which left seven spies in the British Intelligence Services.
- Y. Well that was the first bit and as-I-say we couldn't do very much with that because as I say VOLKHOV was whisked back in a special aeroplane to Russia.
- R. And I may say also that our assessment of the VOLKHOV information in the light of what else he said was that he was a man to be believed.
- B. He was?
- Well-
- R / We didn't think it was just a *slow*
- B. Em - you couldn't disprove.
- R. No, no, of course we haven't yet proved it but we had reason to think that he was probably ....
- Y. And then, the next one was ~~GUSENKO~~.
- B. That's the Canadian *Carl* American?
- Y. That's the Canadian. (Talking together)



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- Y. .... which came up after you were out of the office- who produced several titbits talking, we assume, about the - either the same agents or the highly placed one or one of the other seven.
- B. He talked of one?
- Y. He talked of one agent who he gives a code name to who was highly placed in the British Intelligence - this was dated 1942 1943 -
- B. Mm.
- Y. And that he had some connection with Russia, he didn't know quite what, it may have been a Russian background or something like that.
- B. Yes.
- Y. And that sometime in '44 or early '45 this same source warned ZABOTIN who was Military Attache-
- R. Colonel ZABOTIN was the Military Attache in Ottawa who was running the -
- Y. - the whole - over the whole of MOSENKO's network.
- R. Yes.
- Y. And the ..... this agent whose cover name was ELW. /- for what it's worth was a representative of the British Greens ie. the British Counter Intelligence, that's the..... -
- B. ....
- Y. - was due to arrive in Ottawa for the purposes of strengthening the R.C.M.P.?? Well that was in fact GUY LIDDELL's visit to Ottawa.
- R. Well that's what we take it to be.
- Y. What we take it to be.
- B. He stated that the agent-
- Y. That the agent - this agent - a highly placed agent in the British Intelligence.
- R. That's what ..... , that while he was in Canada at the end of '44 beginning of '45, Colonel ZABOTIN, running the espionage network over there, he received a telegram from Moscow saying, "be careful, be on your guard a representative of the British Greens" - that is the code name for the British Intelligence Service - "is coming over here to strengthen work against the Russians, and to strengthen the -
- B. Oh I see - Oh I'm sorry, yes.



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- R. Yes. Well now, the only person of the British Intelligence Service - of the British Counter Espionage Service who went over to Canada at about that time we'd equate with the information which must have been sent from Moscow to Canada was GUY LIDDELL -
- B. Was GUY LIDDELL, yes - I thought for a moment you were saying that he was a Russian agent going out there.
- Y. No, no.
- R. In other words, that the Russians in Moscow had received the information -
- B. News that GUY was going-
- R. That GUY was going-
- Y. News that GUY was going to ~~Canada~~ Canada.
- B. I've got that, yes, sorry, yes.
- Y. Well - one can equate that, and I think one might probably agree with the source being the other GUY - GUY BURGESS - picking it up. as he might easily have picked it up, in gossip from you and me and KIM and HONEY and GUY.
- B. Yes, well of course....
- R. That's a possibility isn't it?
- B. Yes, the only thing is I - well, I was going to say the only thing is I shouldn't have thought that it was a particular thing one would have gossiped about.
- Y. Well - we must remember that (talking together)
- B. I'm sorry, I'm taking rather a high line..... if there was something we thought terribly interesting-
- Y. Well we all talked shop-
- B. And I might say of course GUY used to come to us ...
- Y. Yes.
- B. Yes.
- Y. Quite so. And - other little tit bits like that - he was still working in '45 in the U.K. - this source-
- B. The source.
- Y. Whether it's any help at all. Oh also, yes, there was a report produced again by this character that -
- B. This is still -
- Y. This is still this mysterious X.
- R. This is the man working in the British Counter Intelligence
- B. Oh I see.
- Y. Counter Intelligence.



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- B. All coming through GUSENKO.
- R. Well -
- Y. Well, coming through GUSENKO but from - not - it's GUSENKO from gossip with other members of his circle-
- B. I see.
- Y. - not all the same person ....
- B. Yes.
- R. It's a little difficult sometimes to work out a chronology of when exactly the spy was working.
- Y. Well he appears to have been working one would say from '42 to '45.
- B. Mm.
- Y. That- this case was of documents being stolen by the British from the Russian Military Attache's office here in London and attempts had been made to take a photo of the inside of the office. Well-
- R. Of the inside of the Russian Military Attache's office.
- B. This was before '45.
- Y. This was before '45.
- R. Yes.
- Y. Well as far as I can remember we - well if you should have known and I should have known - I don't remember attempting to take a 'photo of the inside of the Military Attache's office -
- B. I remember wanting to frequently.
- Y. What?
- B. I remember wanting to I ...
- Y. I don't remember either .... . pinched any of his documents.
- B. Oh.
- Y. I suppose it might again be very distorted gossip about that semi successful episode we had with the Swedes you may remember - we sent a Swede up the apple tree.
- B. I remember - do I not! It's not - well - not very closely related.
- Y. It isn't frightfully closely related, no.
- B. I mean, there's nothing to ... photography from a different place.
- Y. A different place - no I should think. (talking together).



B. Yes, well it might equally well have been the Spanish.

Y. Yes, yes. But I agree .....  
to equate that source with GUY picking on what he could.  
for/

B. Well in the first case yes, in the second case it seems  
to me to have so much that one can't-

R. When you say the first case you refer to the visit of  
GUY .....

B. To the visit of GUY-

R. Yes.

B. I mean, that's - it seems to me a possibility.

R. Yes.

B. With the second case it seems to me that the story  
as it's come back to you is - bears so little relation  
to anything that - that at any rate you and I have ...-

Y. Yes.

B. Unless \_\_\_\_\_ up to something which was very unlikely  
unless it was D.B.

Y. Well, if they were they.....

B. They...

Y. And we've asked S.O.E. - what names of S.O.E.-just like  
the kind of lunatic thing they might have hooked on but  
there's no record of it - or there wasn't at the time ...  
function at the time.

B. Mm.

Y. Another bit again was that the source was alleged to be  
a member of a high level intelligence committee.

B. Mm. High level intelligence committee.

R. An intelligence committee, yes.

Y. Committee.

R. This is GYSENKO, is that right?

Y. This is GYSENKO.

B. And there was none except at the I.C.U. ?

Y. Was - that's right ... IC.

B. Or -

Y. Or the.... Committee....

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- B. ... yes.
- Y. That curious thing you and I sat on.
- B. Oh TWIST .
- Y. TWIST Organisation, yes, yes.
- B. I've forgotten it's existence - not very high level, but-
- Y. Well - it's intelligence - it's and Intelligence Committee of some lever or other.
- B. Perfectly true, yes.
- Y. Which again I think if I remember rightly I think we used - ....
- B. I really don't ... I should say - speaking from memory for putting stuff across, yes, -
- Y. Yes.
- B. Yes - ... two 'orange' -
- Y. Two orange - orange or ..... (talking together)
- B. Yes.
- Y. You see.... .....  
it goes out presumably as a report from GUY and then it may easily be taken to a high level committee as a result - to a high level committee as a result - I admit it isn't as good or - I.... -
- B. Well-
- Y. - the really hard one is GUY LIDDELL.
- B. Is GUY LIDDELL.
- Y. GUY LIDDELL.  
Yes,
- B. / Well, the other is perfectly plausible -
- Y. Mm.
- R. Yes.
- B. But the intervening one appears to me to have no - not to get one over .
- Y. Well it doesn't get one over ..... beyond our faintest speculation of the .....  
But those other ones could be Bentinck Street gossip ..... gossip - anything like that - with GUY - GUY, you see-
- B. Yes.
- Y. You've seen all those ? mugs have you - all the mugs from-
- B. All-



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- Y. .... mugs from the other GUY downwards.
- B. I'm afraid the whole question of Bentinck Street Gossip!
- R. The whole question of ?
- B. I said no - the whole question of Bentinck Street gossip!
- R. Yes.
- Y. But there is another one which is slightly more tiresome which doesn't come from LYSENKO at all. Again referring to this source which we've now got in three different places - we've got VOLKHOV, we've got LYSENKO in Canada, we've got PETROV down in Australia who says a source worked in the British Counter Intelligence and handed over to the R.I.S. for photographing, British dossiers on members of the Russian Embassy in London who were under security investigation. Well that makes our source conscious and that cuts out-
- B. Now say that again.
- Y. A member in the British Counter Intelligence Service and handing over to the R.I.S. for photographing British dossiers on members of the Russian Embassy in London who were under security investigation. The date ~~XXXXXX~~ of that is sometime before May 1944, which knocks out I'm afraid Bentinck Street Gossip.
- B. Bentinck Street gossip, yes, indeed.
- Y. Well - the only sources I can think of are Hugh SHILLITOE, KEMBALL, you, me.
- B. Yes. KEMBALL -
- Y. KEMBALL - possibly - not really, because he didn't have much access to them. It knocks out Broadway because they didn't have ...
- B. Because they hadn't got-
- Y. They didn't have P.S.
- B. Oh I see.
- Y. So it really comes down to Hugh SHILLITOE you and me. I let myself out because in May '44 I wasn't here.
- B. Oh you were away were you?
- Y. I was away. Can you help us on that one?
- B. I think this certainly is a real tougher one.
- Y. Yes.
- B. - unless conceivably - you see, the whole - one of the things that's worried me for a very long time is having taken documents back to read in the evenings at Bentinck St.
- Y. Yes.



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- B. - because, after all, you know we were all extremely careless about that.
- Y. Yes.
- B. I mean to say we ....
- Y. Yes, yes. Was GUY a photographer incidentally?
- B. Not - I shouldn't have thought so, no.
- Y. He was the last person I should have thought would- to be ~~could~~ take a snapshot? I mean-  
able to/
- R. I think he must have handed them over for photographing.
- B. Well that's ... yes.
- Y. Yes.
- R. If he obtained access to them, but how did he obtain access?
- B. But he could have - he could have copied. Oh it says -
- R. Oh it says photographs.
- B. I thought it said 'handed over for photography'?
- Y. For photography, yes.
- B. Mmm.
- Y. And whether he handed them over to the Russians for photography or whether - assuming he spied - ....  
handed over..... I don't know - I mean, we won't know. GUY did come to the office here too didn't he?
- B. Yes. Quite often at periods.
- R. Try and work out how often he did come in.
- B. Well, yes -
- R. Now what would you say? We have examples of where he was dictating reports in the office.
- B. I should say - em - it partly depended where he was working in the sense that I remember that when he was at the B.B.C. - CLAIRE incidentally ..... some of the reports.....
- Y. Mmm.
- B. When he was at the B.B.C. CLAIRE used to go up and take dictation from him there - I should have guessed that - well it was the B.B.C. - was he ever .....  
at any rate - it was the B.B.C. and the rest I think because the Foreign Office he certainly would have-
- Y. Yes.
- B. At the B.B.C. I think he had a room of his own.



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- Y. And his - well his ..... is that when he was at the News Department of the Foreign Office -
- B. Em.
- Y. My recollection is he used to come in I should say about once a week once a fortnight, he'd be popping in here about sixish, not into here, into S.J.
- B. Yes - I actually-shouldn't like to make any - any statement apart I should say - as with everything connected with GUY varied a great deal. -
- Y. Mm.
- B. But that he certainly did come in and that he would normally have come in to see, almost always, to see me.
- Y. Yes.
- B. Or KEMBALL - No, KEMBALL was ~~not~~ in the country.
- Y. KEMBALL was in the country.
- B. So it would have been just ..... - KEMBALL and myself were the only two to have contacts then.
- Y. You -
- B. Did he work for anyone else?
- Y. No, no - well he occasionally worked to me for you.
- B. Yes, but I mean...
- Y. But it was - basically it was you and CLAIRE.
- B. Yes.
- Y. And it wasn't for quite a long time that he was in direct touch with KEMBALL over Orange, purely for geographical reasons because KEMBALL...
- B. So in fact he would have come into my or ...-
- Y. Come into our (room?) ~~quite often, yes~~
- B. Quite often, yes.
- Y. And this - the other ones are perfectly all right ..... lack of security on all our parts and..... gossip.
- B. Yes.
- Y. But this one is - this is hard,-
- B. Hard, yes.
- Y. -And it does point to an unconscious source.
- B. Mm. Well that does seem to be the only possible information either in - either a document taken from St. James' -



B. (cont'd) St. JAMES' - you see, one - I wouldn't swear that I didn't and I just don't remember - I wouldn't swear that GUY might not have been left alone in a room to write a report.

Y. Yes.

B. And I just don't - do you remember?

Y. I don't remember, no.

R. Then of course .... that he would - may have taken a document away while he was in the room.

B. Or made rapid - no, you see, he might make - very easily he would have rapid notes of them.

Y. And also...

B. A thing like that would give names.

Y. Yes.

XY And ~~he~~ it would have got to ~~the~~ within our room ./... room because we certainly..... reports because you were supervising HARRY HUNTER at that time.

B. Yes.

Y. .... Russian.....

B. But he - doesn't it say members of the Russian-

Y. Russian Embassy in London.

B. But HARRY hadn't anything to do with that.

Y. I can't remember - I can't find any reference to any surveillance we put on the Russians, but you remember -

B. But ...

R. '45 - '45 - we did have observation on some people like for example ROGOF, B.6 - B.6., I think at about that time were operating on ROGOF at TASS.

B. Em - oh - but he's not technically of the Embassy.

Y. Well, yes-

R. Well - I think he had-

Y. As far as the Russians were concerned he had <sup>diplomatic</sup> status ..  
.....

R. And he used to visit/Russian Embassy.

B. Oh he had.

R. He was seen going in the Russian Embassy on numerous occasions.

Y. But there were other files ..... which you and- you were doing the London end and HUGH SHILLITOE was doing the Oxford end of COLON and what's-



CHICHAEV

- R. Who? COLON. And then we had ZCICIAJEV (ph) - that was earlier of courses.
- Y. It was earlier -
- B. These are all people in the Russian-
- Y. (Talking together).
- B. I'm sorry I can't get the names -
- Y. GRAOUR - and COLLON who was ultimately interned by DERBY and we had - in fact you put up the on GRAOUR, I imagine that is the kind of file that would be your table.
- B. On my table - I'm afraid I have no recollection of that.
- Y. We are left with either two possibilities. Either it was GUY and we'd all been very careless, or we have somewhere about this place still undetected (talking together).
- B. Probabably .
- Y. .. the spy.
- B. And on the whole - did you say this was PETROV?
- Y. Yes.
- B. On the whole PETROV material has been proved -
- Y. Proved - absolutely - there isn't one bit of material which is provable that isn't proved.
- B. That isn't proved, yes.
- Y. ....
- B. Mm. Is the friend in the plural or the singular.
- Y. What - the person?
- B. The -
- Y. The source.
- B. The - no-
- Y. Dossiers is plural. Oh no, one, one could equate with GUY, and files you'd taken home, but plural implies ..... of the stream.
- R. It implies constant access.
- Y. It implies constant access.
- B. Yes.
- R. Of course it may be that they were taken home constantly. (slight)
- B. Well - (laugh) that would surprise me because that -

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 ACT 1958  
 December 2022



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- B (cont'd) these are - do you mean, your guess is that they are P.F.'s-
- Y. My guess is they are P.F.'s -
- B. On-
- Y. On members of the Embassy, and there were quite a few.
- B. On the whole not things that one had much action to take on or would normally take home.
- Y. Not ....
- B. As far as I can remember.
- Y. No. They would largely come to you or to me for the London end of HUGH's -
- B. HUGH after all was the person dealing with it -
- Y. Dealing with it, yes, but if HUGH could find a good reason for passing on his files in London you may remember he did.
- B. No, I've forgotten.
- Y. And after all if ..... any executive action, HUGH being in Oxford, they would in fact have come down to us for ~~them~~ it - the executive action in London.
- B. Yes, yes, they would.
- R. Well you see we still have this worry.
- B. Em - I do.
- Y. You can't think of any other possibility.
- B. Well I can't. No, I mean, purely taking the inquiry verbally I agree that the plural suggests a (stream) that ~~xxxxxx~~ doesn't necessarily ~~xxxxxxx~~ imply - it might-
- R. No (talking together)
- B. Might apply to -
- Y. To files.
- (Tea being poured).
- B. No well I think this is extremely (obscure?) one and I'm sorry I can't offer any help.
- Y. Yes, yes. On the first VOLKHOV one it could have been literally anywhere.
- B. Which, the-
- Y. The departmental head of Counter Intelligence.
- B. Oh that, yes.



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- Y. Well it might well be us or section 5.
- B. Yes.
- Y. The British Greens again we could say might be here or section 5 - much more likely here. This last PETROV one points a finger quite definitely at us.
- B. At us.
- Y. And (together) it points at us shall we say.
- B. Yes, Yes. I quite agree there. The - one thing - another thing I've always had in mind is that GUY - this is a thing I know HONEY agrees with me very strongly over - GUY almost certainly built up imaginary sub-agents or - built up, I'm sorry - either built up imaginary sub-agents not, I think, probably quite ..... that way,-
- Y. Mm.
- B. -As more likely real friends for whom he quite often did get dossiers into conscious.....
- Y. Yes, yes.
- B. And that he might even - you see, he might even have sent over a certain amount of invented information.
- Y. Yes.
- B. That he sent away you see.
- Y. Yes.
- B. You see he had very little respect for the truth.
- Y. Yes.
- B. Either in detail or enlarged.
- Y. Yes. Yes well, I mean, the photographing of the - penetrating the Military Attache's office - that was the only thing ....
- B. That you said wasn't PETROV.
- Y. That - no, that wasn't - that was LYSENKO.
- R. It was LYSENKO.
- Y. Again - one could - that's the kind of thing one would expect GUY to have (invented?)
- B. ... yes.
- Y. Indeed you might very well have said wouldn't it be fun if we could, and from that - wouldn't it be fun if we could - it becomes a fact.
- B. And the basis for a report.
- Y. Yes.



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- B. You all assume though that - don't -/this is an impertinent question, don't answer it - you assume that GUY was operating the whole time, don't you.
- R. Yes.
- B. And you don't assume that he would be-
- R. There is quite an amount of independant evidence to show that GUY was a Soviet agent from '35 - '36.
- B. From whenever he left the Party to-
- R. Until he left the country.
- B. I'd roughly assumed that but -
- Y. Yes, it is, it is.
- B. Mm.
- R. And what PETROV says - PETROV says it is so.
- B. It is so and-
- R. And we believe PETROV-.quite. Both BURGESS and MACLEAN were spies from '35 '36 until '51 -
- B. Until then, yes.
- R. - /they got wind one or the other of the investigation and the R.I.S. pulled ~~out~~ <sup>when</sup>
- B. R.I.S.? them
- R. Russian Intelligence Service.
- B. Oh sorry.
- Y. So one must assume that anything any of us ever said -
- R. Went to the Russians.
- B. One must certainly, but also one must assume ... that GUY would have built himself up when necessary by inventing.
- Y. Mm.
- B. Well I know plenty of instances where he did this in perfectly trivial things in his private life.
- R. Built himself up.
- B. Mm. By making - and sometimes by this particular technique of inventing things about his friends, which rebounded in some obscure way very often not.... sort of people, to his, GUY's credit.
- R. Mm.
- Y. So it be that if one goes back to the VOLKHOV information he may well have invented about this departmental head in the British Counter Intelligence.



- R. I doubt whether he could have done that. I doubt it-
- B. With 9 agents there was too much danger of cross -checking .
- Y. (Laughter)
- B. Of course he might not have known that.
- Y. He might not have known.
- (continued on page 41)



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R. Seven, you see it comes down to if you take off those two ... ..  
(together) is the two in the Foreign Office.

(Regret a few moments are missed due to a technical hitch.)

R. ... of the 7 Agents in the British Intelligence Services ... ..  
(together) who GUY might have said were ... .. (together)

B. Yes.

R. I mean, we've obviously speculated as to who might have been  
conscious and who might have been unconscious.

B. Yes.

R. In relation to unconscious sources obviously GUY, I think, knowing  
him would (? attempt) DAVID FOOTMAN and perhaps you.

B. Very probably me.

Y. Possibly me and you and KIM.

B. Would he have (? done you)?

Y. He might have. Probably too small fry ... .. KIM and DAVID FOOTMAN.

B. No, I didn't know that he was really on really, sort of - on those -  
he wasn't on such close relations that it didn't matter.

Y. No.

(PAUSE.)

R. I think we might leave that there now and ask BLUNDEN if he has any  
sort of general observations on things that might have happened  
since the departure - might shed any light, on all this.  
Has anything at all happened since the disappearance, or since '51,  
that might provide more clues to GUY's activities and those who were  
associated with him in London?

(Pause)

B. Now that is rather a big question. (laughter.) / I'm sorry I  
honestly don't think I can answer that.

R. No. I was thinking for example -

B. You give me some leads.

R. Yes. We know now that GUY was spying for 16 years - 15 years.  
It's a most difficult question to answer but who might he have used -

B. Consciously or unconsciously?

R. Consciously or unconsciously, as well as having claimed to have used  
you and GORONWY?

B. Well, unconsciously - surely that's a silly thing to say because  
unconsciously, everyone he knew.

R. Everyone he knew.



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- B. Everyone he knew, definitely, he would have tried.
- R. It is not possible to say, specifically, who he talked about at great length as his closest friends ... .. and his political views, his his activities.
- B. No, I find that very difficult. There ~~was~~<sup>was</sup> a certain number of people with whom he very regularly discussed politics. GUY had two - well, he had lots of (? surplus) friends but there were those who he thought sufficiently intelligent politically to talk politics with. And those with whom his interests were entirely different. I suppose that he discussed - I suppose the two - I suppose the one person whose political opinion he valued most was ERIC.
- R. ERIC KESTLER.
- B. ERIC KESTLER and I should say that he would have had the most - I was going to say honest, it doesn't work - - the most serious conversations with him; would have valued his judgment. And another person, for a time, with whom of course he was on very close terms and again with whom he would have discussed politics very intimately ~~was~~ is ANDY.
- R. ANDY REVAL.
- B. Yes. Did - by the way, did GUY LIDDELL ever convey the - you know the mysterious story of GUY BURGESS going to GUY LIDDELL and telling him that ANDY was - he suspected that he was a Communist agent. You know that story, do you?
- R. I think we do.
- B. GUY LIDDELL certainly does because he was the person who told me but did he ever tell you - it's not terribly relevant but it's very, psychologically, puzzling - the other side which I told - which I heard by chance much later and told GUY LIDDELL but I think he may already have left the office.
- R. I don't think so.
- B. Well, it's just really a horrifying example of ruthlessness. If I remember rightly the story was that GUY BURGESS told GUY LIDDELL on some occasion - he said: 'You know, I'm very worried, I think that ANDY, who was a very close friend of his, may be under cover - whether he's ~~some~~ Russian agent I don't know, or under cover Communist.' Er - a week later or at any rate immediately afterwards, he met ANDY and said - ANDY, of course, was working at ... ..
- R. Yes.
- B. He said to him: 'You know, I've got something rather bad to tell you, somebody has put in a report to the authorities that you are a Communist agent but you needn't worry, it's all right, I've put it straight.'
- R. Extraordinary.
- B. The whole ~~thing~~ episode is totally out of ... .. why he ever said the first thing to GUY LIDDELL I shall never understand because then to go straight off -



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R. Yes. Fantastic. What's the object?

B. What was the object and er - the ANDY thing is a thing that has always worried me because I know that he was under suspicion for a long time. It does seem to me that this particular episode was if - if it had any ..., it acted in his favour - if it had any interpretation at all. However this is not -

Y. This is not -

B. Yes. I only know he was under suspicion because somebody told him who had heard it indirectly from someone in this office that his telephone was being tapped. Whether true or false ... .. (drowned by hearty laughter from all sides.)

(More tea and sticky buns were served.)

R. Tell me BLUNDEN how much did you - why was it that at that particular time on that Wednesday morning when you came to see GUY LIDDELL, you jumped rightly to the conclusion that DONALD MACLEAN was the chap in the Foreign Office? How was it you hit the nail on the head so well?

B. I think only because er - I'm right in thinking GUY had said he had gone with someone in the Foreign Office?

R. Yes.

B. And we had been turning over in our minds, you see, the question of who might be in trouble.

R. That was you and HONEY?

B. Er - I should think ~~me~~ almost for certain, I don't remember - I daresay JACKIE too. This business coming from ... of a friend in trouble and I think (? also did not come to me directly) had been in our minds and he was someone who was married, had these other tendencies, was in a very peculiar state and looked very much as if he might be in trouble. Apart from whom the other people (?I thought of in the Foreign Office) ... .. were but er -

R. Before that time, when did you see DONALD? Do you remember?

B. As far as I can remember I met him - I had met him once, as far as I can remember, since he had been back. Egypt was his last thing wasn't it?

R. That's right. ... .. (together)

B. I met him, very drunk, at a party at - I need hardly say he was drunk - at a party at BEN NICHOLSON's house.

R. Yes.

Y. (? Only recently reformed after ...) He wasn't much in your life, was he?

B. No. I can't remember - I must have known him -

Y. Did you know him at Cambridge?

B. I think I must have. When was he up because ~~he doesn't stick in~~ my mind.



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- Y. He doesn't.
- B. Was he exactly my years or a few years before?
- R. '32 to '35.
- Y. Yes he left before me.
- B. '32 '35.
- Y. You were there (?too then) weren't you?
- B. I was away '33/4.
- Y. Were you?
- B. M'm. I got a fellowship in '32.
- Y. Yes.
- B. And I was away '33/4. I'm sorry DONALD was there?
- R. '32/'35.
- B. Yes. Did he know GUY very well in that last (? year) because if so I must have met him a certain amount? He doesn't, as I say, stick.
- Y. I don't think he knew him awfully well, did he, as far as we know? You were bound to have come across him. I mean if he had been a great friend of GUY's at Cambridge, you were bound to come across him.
- B. Yes, I must have but I don't er - I don't remember him.
- R. One other thing I wanted to ask you. Why do you think that GUY left that bag at the Reform for you to pick up?
- B. God knows.
- R. Extraordinary thing for him to do, wasn't it?
- B. I can't - left on the very last day.
- R. Yep.
- B. I've never understood it.
- R. Then he told - left it with the secretary saying that the only person who would have it, would be you.
- B. The only person.
- R. M'm.
- B. It in fact contained?
- R. I can't remember exactly what there was -
- B. ... .. (together) newspapers, that's all I can remember. ... .. but I can't remember what they - what the rest of it was.



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- R. And then afterwards there was a box that you remembered you had of GUY's -
- B. With a lot of his other stuff in.
- R. M'm.
- B. I've still got some of it.
- R. When did he get that (?to you)? Where did he leave that?
- B. Technically speaking, he didn't. It came with a lot of furniture and books and things when his Mother sold the house in -near Newbury. It was stuff sent on by her.
- R. What when GUY was (? in Washington)? The house in Ascot, was it?
- B. I think - no, I think it must have been after that because I think for Ascot - no, you see it was - I don't know when they sold the house in Newbury. No, I think that is right because I think when they sold the house in Ascot, they must have moved everything to Newbury - complete house - and then when they sold the house ~~and~~ at Newbury and moved into a flat, she sent the stuff - she must have sent it to the Courtauld.
- R. Yes.
- B. (? Well what were we to do with it?) Thank God she has now got a letter from GUY saying she can do anything she likes with it. Or rather a letter saying that he'd rather - 'please send all my books to Moscow.
- Y. That's going to be quite a ... .. isn't it?
- B. I think I've got 5 packing cases and she's got 10, so - (laughter) It's rather difficult to go into a carriers and say 'please send these packing cases to GUY BURGESS c/o Poste Restante Moscow.' I think ~~surely his letters~~ his letters show the most appalling unreality.
- R. Yes.
- B. Unawareness of - I mean, he must realise what happened here. His total unawareness of what people feel.
- R. M'm. PETER thought that he sounded very fed up with Moscow.
- B. Yes, I haven't - I must get in touch with PETER. Er - ANDY, who gave me some account of the letter, said he was most impressed by - again the unreality of it - by talking all ... .. & so on and just not talking about anything that mattered. Was that your impression?
- R. Oh, it was mine, yes.
- Y. Well, he thinks really that if he came back he could pick up his own personal relations - they would be exactly where they were before.



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B. Not quite that. I mean, he does - well we're talking - awkward situation because I am assuming that you have seen the letter. I am not asking whether you have but er - it seemed to me that he was saying all the time how wonderful everything was but then at intervals there was 'of course, I realise what agony I've caused you' and so on. But somehow that came in almost as an aside. After that extraordinary situation where - asking his Mother to go, he says 'I think it would be really more sensible for you to come here, rather than for me to come back because although they couldn't put me in prison, they might - (laughter.)

R. Yes.

Y. His passport must have expired anyway by now.

R. I should think so, yes. (More laughter).

Y. ... ..

(After further reference to sticky buns, Y. said he must watch his figure. BLUNDEN said, to be perfectly fair, he thought he had lost a little weight since he last saw him. Y. agreed that he had been excessively gross after Australia. BLUNDEN asked where he lived. Y. replied at Reigate and invited BLUNDEN to call in should he be that way at all, although, he added, he saw no reason why BLUNDEN should be that way. BLUNDEN said he had to go to see a picture in Brighton and would like to call in en route. Y. then spoke about the dry rot and the garden.)

R. Well, I don't know if we can get (? much further.)

Y. One day it might all come out. We may know some more.

R. Perhaps if GUY comes back.

Y. (Hearty laughter) If he comes back ... .. the whole story - much easier.

B. Let me warn you. Don't believe a word of it. (More laughter.) One thing that I am absolutely terrified of is that GUY er - has asked his Mother to send all the articles.

R. The 'People' articles?

B. The 'People' articles. Having airily said I did see one ... .. the Soviet Union to do ... .. press. Obviously he's now ... I'm terrified, you know, that he'll now make a series of broadcast statements, or retaliations and attacks.

R. Yes.

B. Someone will have the sense to do - I've begged his Mother to put in a sentence saying: 'For God's sake don't - '

Y. Yes.

R. But I've no doubt he can get hold of the articles if he wants to, without her sending them to him.

B. Apparently, he hasn't seen them.



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- R. I suppose the Russians have kept them from him.
- Y. I must say I - do you think they read the 'People?'
- R. I suppose they read the 'People.' Perhaps they don't take the 'People.'
- ... (all together)
- Y. I must say apart from my professional thing, I wouldn't know that the articles existed. It's not a paper I normally see.
- B. No. It's surprising how few people have read them actually. Were you just going to say the opposite?
- R. No. I was just going to say that it's rather an astonishing vehicle for GORONWY to use.
- B. Well, very. I am sure that what happened was that er - GORONWY needed - assuming that needed the money is true; FREDDY seemed fairly firm about that - that he would have done it under real - it was real misery and he said: 'Oh Christ' Take them away, don't show me any proofs, don't ever let me see it again.' Don't you think so?
- R. M'm.
- B. You know GORONWY fairly well, do you?
- Y. I've never met him, no.
- B. I mean he is er - hysterical.
- R. I have. I went down to see him.
- B. Yes. But you see he is the kind of person who has a very high conscience and then occasionally gets into a muddle.
- R. Yes. Mind you he's doing fairly well down there, or has been, hasn't he?
- B. Yes but GORONWY always, always has been a little bit chaotic I think about his finances.
- R. M'm.
- Y. He must have a fairly good job. He's got a free house, hasn't he?
- B. Well, he's got an enormous family, hasn't he?
- Y. 3 isn't it, or 4?
- R. 5.
- Y. 5. Oh!
- R. I wonder if there is one other thing too. GUY is said - used to go to er- an <sup>road</sup> outfitters or clothiers in the East End er - in Commercial <sup>(2 words)</sup> is that right? To a place called Seneft (ph.) to buy dungarees or T. shirts and you, I think, used to go with him to a Chinese restaurant nearby.



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- Y. Opposite, called the *clothing* (together).
- B. That's untrue. I don't know - he may have gone to the place to buy dungarees. I've never had a meal with GUY in the East End.
- R. You've never had a meal with GUY in the East End.
- B. Not in the East End. I've only about once in my life - I think I have once eaten Chinese food with him. No, I'm sorry, it was Indian.
- Y. Indian is wonderful, yes.
- B. Yes, I've eaten Indian food with him - (*Veeraswamy's* ~~particularly disgusting~~) in that place off Regent Street.
- Y. Veeraswamy's.
- B. The place in Swallow Street, do I mean?
- Y. Yes, Veeraswamy's.
- B. Veeraswamy's, yes.
- R. But not Chinese food?
- B. No, never.
- R. Oh!
- B. I'm sorry but that is -
- R. Well, it's only one of numerous reports about GUY's activities that (? we've had no success over.) But you certainly haven't eaten down there?
- B. No, I don't - GUY - one minute, the only thing that does occur to me, GUY knew - no, he didn't know; it wasn't GUY, it was ROGER STANHOUSE (ph.) I think. Er - GUY had -
- R. Who was he?
- B. Sorry, I'll get it straight in a moment. GUY had, and I had - I think GUY gave me - some rather nice seamen's belts; rather curious sort of spring metal; they were frightfully comfortable, which came from somewhere near there but now I come to think of it, it was ROGER STANHOUSE who bought them and gave them to him, I think. GUY may have ~~been~~ gone and bought them later, I don't know. They were ROGER's discovery. But as for GUY - I've never seen GUY wearing dungarees in my life. I've never heard of him going down to -
- R. To the East End. And you said that -
- B. Not for that purpose.
- R. No. ... .. (together) East End -
- B. I've been to the East End with GUY because occasionally - not very often - occasionally we used to do a sort of (?? mild Church Hall) down there. I'd go and look at ... .. house and so on. But I never had a meal there, nor went to a shop there.
- Y. ... ..

*Pub crawl*



-49-

- R. You can't recall, can you, GUY ever talking of any of his activities in the East End? Has GUY ever talked to you about having been down there - met anybody down there. There was some ~~kalk~~ suggestion, for example, that he might have met courriers down there.
- B. Oh, you mean as a ... .. (together)
- R. Yes.
- B. No. GUY, I think, used occasionally to go to the Wapping suburb - the Prospect of Whitby. And I should think it very likely that he might have ... .. there. I've no - I don't remember his specifically saying that he did or didn't.
- Y. And looking back with the assumption that for 16 years he was a spy, you can't think of any of his activities which would give us some sort of line as to where he made his contacts? GUY admittedly ... .. and to say the least of it, it's orderly.
- R. One assumes that he had some sort of contact with the Soviet Embassy.
- B. He had - did he always have a car? Certainly very often he had a car. He had the famous (? Riley) -
- R. He borrowed ANDY's from time to time, didn't he?
- B. Borrowed whose?
- R. Borrowed ANDY's car from time to time.
- B. Oh did he? I'd forgotten that.
- R. And he used to borrow that (? Railton.)
- B. The (? Railton) which we shared. No, I was thinking, you see, that was only a year or two but I was thinking over the whole period.
- R. Of course, GUY always had a car, somehow.
- B. He always had a car ... I think he actually owned one for the most part because ~~but~~ he had the Ford, which he and I went abroad in.
- Y. That was in '39 when you were in the -  
(? it before)
- B. No, he had the Ford er- but I am trying to think when he sold it. Can he have sold it when he went to America? He went to America in '40, did he?
- Y. and R. together. ... ..
- B. I seem to remember that he sold it because he was going abroad. It certainly wasn't before he went to Washington - it was long before that.
- Y. M'm.
- B. But, you see, GUY had, as you say, always had a car available if not his own and was always moving about.
- R. Yes.



B. But I definitely don't particularly associate GUY with the East End.  
(They then seemed to study a road map.)

Y. ... ..

R. 220, down on the ... it must be something like 197.

Y. 22 isn't it ... .. ?

B. West India Dock. That's off <sup>(Commercial Road)</sup> ... .. is it?

Y. Yes.

R. Yes. I think if you bear on right and then come into the West India Dock road.

B. I don't know whether I know it - simply ... .. but now you're talking of Chinese food in Commercial Road, that does begin to sound faintly familiar to me.

R. But not in regard to you.

B. Not in regard to me, no and not in the least a tangible - GUY was very fond of Chinese food. That is certainly the case. And it was actually a thing - GUY, casually, would say: 'We must go off and have Chinese food' but it does, in fact, give me the most frightful indigestion.

Y. I know it does because I used to try and persuade you (? to come with me.)

B. I can't - I would occasionally it ... .. but in fact I never did.

R. I don't think there's anything else.

Y. Well, if any bright thoughts come to you, BLUNDEN.

B. Yes.

Y. Because we shall - we have this problem and there it is.

B. There it is and very near to home.

Y. Very near to home. I suppose grateful Countries ... .. (a year will have solved it.)

There were then movements. B. and R. said good-bye and B. and Y. went out of the room.

LE/JW.



SECRET

204a

A.4 SURVEILLANCE REPORT

Section..... D.1.....

Subject..... BLUNDEN.....

Officer..... Mr. C.T. Young.....

PF. No. 604582

Copy to..... -.....

A.4 Ref. F.153/63.

Day ... Tuesday.....

Date... 15.5.56.....

BLUNDEN was seen to arrive at Leconfield House by taxi at 2.35 p.m.

He left at 4.45 p.m. and was seen off at the door by yourself.

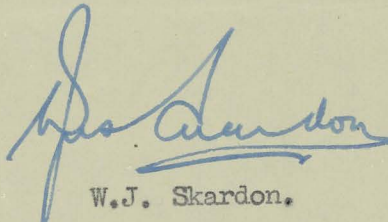
From Leconfield House he walked rather slowly and, we think, in a pensive mood back to 20 Portman Square, W.1. arriving there at 5.05 p.m.

During the evening, BLUNDEN was seen on the balcony of his address and also from time to time at the door seeing off one or two guests.

Our officers withdrew observation at 9.15 p.m. up to which time he had not left the address.

16.5.56.

Pg Blunt.

  
W.J. Skardon.



SECRET

203a

A.4. - Mr. Skardon.

I attach hereto a photograph of BLUNT. It is quite a good likeness except that he may well be wearing glasses and his face is thinner and cheeks slightly more sunken.

As I told you he is coming to Leconfield House at 2.30 p.m. on 15.5.56. and will ask to see the D.D.G. He will be interviewed by Reed and myself and be leaving at some unforeseeable time. He has, however, an engagement at 5.30 p.m. so presumably will not be leaving long after 5.15 p.m.

I should be grateful if his movements could be covered from the time of his leaving Leconfield House until he is finally housed. His meeting may be at the Courtauld Institute where he lives so it is quite likely that after the meeting he may pop out elsewhere.

In addition to the photograph I shall do my best to accompany him to the front door so if any of your watchers know me they should be able to pick him up. For the delectation of your watchers I enclose a photograph of myself which I should be grateful if you could return in due course.

D.1.  
14.5.56.

Courtenay Young.

SECRET



DRAFT.

198A

Outline for the Interrogation of  
A. F. BLUNT.

Curtain Raiser.

D.G. Secretary (because she knows B's voice and he will know hers) to ring up the Courtauld and ask when B. is due back. If he does not reply himself his secretary may say either (a) he is back, or (b) he is not due back for X days (which will be a lie). In the latter case D.G. Secretary will ask Elsa SCHERER to ask B. to ring up D.D.G. on his return to the country. If she says that he is back but not in, D.G. Secretary will ask her to ask B. to ring up D.D.G. as soon as he does come in. If B. answers or if he telephones to D.D.G., D.D.G. will ask him whether he would mind stepping round to Leconfield House to have a few words. He should say that it might take a little time so could B. fix a day when he had about a couple of hours free.

Act I, Scene 1.

B. is ushered in to D.D.G. who hands him over to CTY and RTR who will conduct him to a quiet room which will be suitably miked beforehand.

Act I, Scene 2.

B. will be told that long before the re-appearance of M. and B. in Moscow the Security Service had been conducting a review of the whole M. and B. case and even at this stage there were one or two small points upon which B. might have been able to help. Since that time there had

/.....



appeared a rather astonishing series of articles in "The People" which B. had no doubt seen. (They will be available should he say he has not seen them.) As soon as the first one appeared it was apparent to us who the author was and we had interviewed him and had got a certain amount of new information.

Perhaps the easiest way of coping with the matter would be for B. to reconstruct the events immediately after M. and B.'s disappearance. We knew we had gone over this ad nauseum etc., etc., but .....

In order to make it easier for B. he will be given a reconstructed calendar for May and June 1951 in which will be filled in the obvious dates, i.e. the date of the flight, the date of B. and TH's interview with DGW and B's interview together with MGR with DGW. If this does not produce the visit to Sonning and his statement that he tried to dissuade MGR from coming forward, he should be told that this had been said and invited to give an explanation.

Act I, Scene 3.

B. should then be asked to cast his mind back to 1938 when BURGESS made his statement about working for the Comintern to MGR. He should be invited to give his version of MGR's conversation with him after this and the date of it. If this tallies with that given by MGR both in substance and in date (end 1938 or early 1939) the point need not be pursued. If it does not B. will be challenged.

It will then be pointed out to him that though at the time he might possibly have

/.....



thought that BURGESS was working for the British Intelligence (though having regard to the closeness of their friendship and B.'s own acute mind it seems almost incredible that BURGESS could have pulled the wool so much over B.'s eyes), it was in the highest degree improbable that B. could have continued to believe this after he had been in the Office for a year and after he had recruited BURGESS as a source. Can he explain why he still thought this? Can he explain if he did not think this why he did not say anything?

Act II, Scene 1.

B. will be told that we will let this subject simmer for a little and move to another matter. He will be told that he may remember that when VOLKOV tried to defect he produced a catalogue of items upon which he could give information in which was included the identity of a departmental head of British Counter Intelligence who was a Russian agent. He will then be told that he may remember other items pertaining to the penetration of British Intelligence by the R.I.S. but in case he did not these were the following. He will then be given the items listed at 177a with the exception of (d) (which he has already had) and (e) (which is RAZIN's). He will be told that we had been endeavouring to find a character to fit and invite him whether he can fit anybody into this role. He can hardly fail to say BURGESS. If he does so fail it will be suggested to him that does he not think that BURGESS is perhaps an obvious candidate. Would not he, B., PHILBY, HARRIS, Tess MAYER, VESEY, ROTHSCHILD, etc., be the necessary sources? We assume unconscious sources unless B. had any views upon that.



He could hardly fail to agree that this is a possible equation.

Act II, Scene 2.

He will then be told of the RAZIN information and told that this clearly shows that there was at least one source which was conscious. This could be either Shillito, KEMBALL JOHNSTON, B., or CTY. CTY was out because the source was continuing after CTY was in S.E.A. KH and HS were not really likely starters and if one combined B.'s known close friendship with BURGESS and B.'s access it did look rather odd. He will then be reminded of his part in the projected operation against GRAOUR on 22 April 1942, which obviously showed, quite apart from other evidence which we had and my own recollection, that B. had access to the dossiers.

B. will be told that CTY was fully aware of his private life and his relations with BURGESS and others and it was not of the slightest interest to CTY or to the Office. All that we were concerned with were the facts and one of these days the facts would be known. If when this time came any of the numerous persons whom we had seen was shown to have been not entirely frank it would obviously make their position to say the least highly embarrassing.

It is to be hoped that this approach may produce something. Two items which might be interpolated somewhere are (a) BURGESS's anxiety about "the Ark" and the "black box". Can B. explain what these are? (Our knowledge



of this blows the fact that we have a H.O.W. on BURGESS but this is such an obvious thing for us to do that it is felt that B. might even be told that this is the case.) (b) B. and BURGESS's visits to the DUN WAN LOW 22 West India Dock Road.

In the improbable event of B. wishing to make a statement or in the even more improbable event that he makes a full confession, it is felt that it would be desirable for Skardon to be available at Regents Park to come down at short notice if required. If either of these things takes place B. will be told that Skardon whom he knows well and to whom he made a statement in 1951 will be along in a moment to do the same thing again.

2.5.56.



## EXTRACT

Extract for File No. : PF. 604,582 Name : A. F. BLUNT

Original in File No. :\* PF. 604,529 Vol. : Serial : Receipt Date : 2.5.56.

Original from : Intercept letter Under Ref. : Dated :

Extracted on : 3.5.56. by : PMD Section : D.1.A.

EXTRACT FROM LETTER FROM MRS. BASSETT TO GUY BURGESS MENTIONING BLUNT

.....

Your letter, date unknown but posted the 21st arrived 2nd post today - it was such a lovely long one, and I will certainly show it to Anthony when he gets back from America - which you suggest - he will be amused about black box - and how thankful he must have been that you hadn't one when I wrote from Cornwall, or he might have had to listen to my letter even more than 12 times!

.....

1982

*[Handwritten signature]*



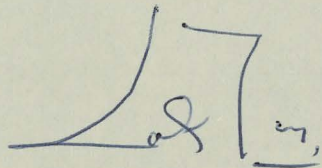
1979

N O T E  
-----

As a result of my letter to Dickson at 196a I saw him this afternoon. I asked him whether during the war he could recollect any operations, or abortive operations, which might have been mounted under his aegis against the Russians. He said that he had carte blanche as far as neutrals were concerned, i.e. that if he saw an opening he would endeavour to exploit and then report, but that as regards the Russians they were friendly allies and he had no brief for action against them, and as far as he knew no operations had been conducted against them. I asked him whether he could recollect that there were at any time any plans for operations against any portion of the Russian Mission, and he said that there were not and that if there had been I would certainly have known, as they would have had to have been cleared either through me or through Anthony BLUNT. I reminded him that for a bit of the end of the war I was not in England and therefore I could not have known about them, but he was quite firm that he had neither conducted nor suggested any anti-Russian operation.

The first operation he dealt with was the suborning of the butler at the Russian country house, which, as far as he could recollect, was in 1947. His recollection was, in fact, that it was not until about 1947 that he was given any sort of 'all clear' to act against the Russians.

D.1.  
20.4.56



Courtenay Young

D/199  
21/4



196a

PF.604582

17 April, 1956.

Dear

It is a very long time since we met as, as you probably know, I have been abroad for most of the past five years.

There is a small point connected with war-time affairs upon which you might be able to help and I wondered if it would be possible for us to meet. I do not know whether you ever come up to town in which case we could do it easily and peacefully over a drink. If you do not come up I could easily come over to you as you are comparatively close to my decaying Georgian pile in Surrey. Perhaps you could drop me a line or give me a ring and we could then fix up something mutually convenient.

My spies, in the form of Malcolm, inform me that you were in the Office a week or so ago. I am sorry that I missed you then.

All the news when we meet.

Yours

J.G. Dickson, Esq.,  
12 Station Approach,  
Chipstead,  
Surrey.

Courtenay Young.

J.G.D.  
20/4



195A

NOTE

Mr. and Mrs. REES visited London yesterday afternoon and Mr. Skardon and I met them outside Leconfield House at 3.p.m. The object of their journey was to try to identify the shop described in the attachment to the letter from REES at serial 178b.

When we arrived at the junction of Whitechapel Road and Commercial Road Mrs. REES said that she remembered passing Aldgate East underground station but she did not remember the vista of Whitechapel Road as the place concerned. She was quite sure that there were no trees on the right-hand side of the road. We turned into Commercial Road and travelled slowly along it. After about three quarters of a mile we began to wonder if Mrs. REES would be able to remember her journey at all. We then came upon the junction of West India Dock Road and Commercial Road. As soon as we did so Mrs. REES said she was sure that this was the junction to which she had referred and within the space of fifty yards she recognised the shop on the left-hand side. It is a general outfitters, mostly for seamen, and has a crown and anchor painted on the wall next to the shop concerned. The name over the top is M. SENEFFT, and the address is No. 3 & 5, West India Dock Road. A general outfitters by the name of C. & A. Outfitters is at No. 9, but Mrs. REES was quite sure that BURGESS did not go to that address. She is also sure that BURGESS did not visit the only other shop in this group of houses which was No. 7 - a dyers and cleaners. Mrs. REES said that BURGESS had visited the shop expecting to find the door at the side open. He was surprised that it was not open but had with him an envelope which he put through the letter-box. He said that the man who kept the shop was a friend of his and that he often bought from the shop items of clothing such as singlets, dungarees, etc. Mrs. REES said, however, that she had the definite impression that the shop and/or the owner of it had some connection with BURGESS's espionage activities.

Across the other side of the road Mrs. REES recognised a Chinese restaurant that BURGESS had said he frequently visited with Anthony BLUNT. This is the restaurant DUN WAN LOW, 22 West India Dock Road.

I spent some time on the way to West India Dock Road and on our return discussing with REES the events immediately following the disappearance of MACLEAN and BURGESS in May, 1951. I asked REES if he could again try to reconstruct for me these events. I said, for example, that I could not be sure from his account if BLUNT had visited him at Sonning on the Monday immediately following the disappearance or if he had visited REES on the Monday preceding the day that he and BLUNT came to Leconfield House. REES said that he was sure now that BLUNT came on the Monday preceding the day of his visit to Leconfield House. REES spoke to [redacted] on Tuesday, 28 May, 1951. He fully expected that having said that he was sure that BURGESS had gone to Russia he would be called to M.I.5. to be asked for an explanation. He became increasingly agitated during the week that he had not received such a summons. He telephoned Captain Liddell on the Friday of that week, and spoke to [redacted] again on Monday, 4 June. He then told [redacted] about the story of the attempt by BURGESS to recruit him for the Comintern. He had not mentioned this to [redacted] before. Mrs. REES then added that [redacted] had said that if REES was going to tell M.I.5. about BURGESS's Comintern activities he ought to get in touch with Anthony BLUNT to warn him of the intention. REES then spoke to BLUNT who came down to Sonning to try to dissuade him from telling his story. REES had not mentioned the Comintern story to anyone before because he said knowing the closeness of the association between BLUNT and our office both during the war and with people here after it, he naturally assumed that BLUNT would have told us about this. He was astonished that BLUNT denied that he knew of BURGESS's Comintern activities and even more astonished that we had not asked him to come to M.I.5. to hear why REES thought that BURGESS had gone to Russia. I told REES that our interpretation of his action and that of BLUNT was that the two of them had come to M.I.5. to tell us a story which they had worked out between them. REES said that when he was taken away by Mr. Skardon to make his statement he assumed that Mr. White and BLUNT had stayed behind in Mr. White's room to talk about REES and that the fact that BLUNT stayed behind confirmed that

/BLUNT



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95

BLUNT was "in our pocket".

I told REES that his articles in The People seemed to have caused a good deal of fluttering in a number of circles and that I had read in the Western Mail of reactions in Wales. REES said that the articles had caused him a very great deal of trouble and a lot of embarrassment but he did not give me any other information.

D. I. A.  
16.4.56.

R. T. Reed.



also copied to MESSLER + *mu 174*

*PA 193b*

*KUH.*  
*13/11/74*

Reference Loose minute.  
✓ PF.604582 (BLUNT)

*Seen Thank you*  
*con*  
*12.4*  
D.

Copy: PF.604529 (BURGESS)  
PF.43287 (HUTTON)  
PF.204641 (GRAUER)  
Y Box 1056 (COLLON)

I have read the GRAOUR and COLLON files attached.

2. The visit of BLUNT to D.D.G. on 22.4.55.42 was obviously the prelude to minute 9 dated 24.4.55.42 in Y Box 1056.

3. I am afraid this does not take us much further but it is interesting to note that GRAOUR was number two to TCHITCHAEV and was allegedly succeeded by RAZIN in his K.I. post (82a in PF.204641). *(in 1950)*

4. It would be attractive to think that this file might have been one of the dossiers which had been photographed and given to the Russians (vide RAZIN's statement). It or its content must obviously have been seen by BLUNT before his talk with the then D.D.G.

5. This, however, does not take us anywhere.

D.I.  
27.3.56.

Courtenay Young.

*DIA/B*  
*23/4/68*



Extracts from G.M.L.'s Diary.September 15th, 1941.

BURGESS came to see me about Peter HUTTON of the News Dept. of the F.O. who had disclosed to our Swiss contact (Eric KESSLER) information obtained from telegrams between Stalin and the P.M. HUTTON had done this in an off-the-record talk and was nervous lest his Swiss friend might have passed the information further, since enquiries were being made as to how KUH had become so well informed on the subject of these telegrams. The fact is that all these people in the News Dept. have their own pet journalists and that there is rivalry among all members of the department in being sought after by the most prominent journalists. The journalists of course like to go to the people who will tell them most and the results may well be deplorable. The difficulty in this case is that if HUTTON is made a scapegoat our very important relations with our Swiss contact may be jeopardised. I think we shall have to tell Codrington and suggest to him that this incident should be used more as an occasion to tighten things up generally in the News Dept. than to take drastic action against one individual.

April 22nd, 1942.

BLUNT came to see me about the cases of GRAUER and COLLON. As regards the former we have practically no starting points. There is first of all the delicacy of the position vis a vis the Soviet Govt., secondly the difficulty of observation on the Soviet Embassy, thirdly the lack of special material or B.J.s. We therefore decided to concentrate on COLLON. Having sized him up we can decide whether we make a direct approach or not.

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193a

D. 1.

At 177a is my report upon the interview with REES on 21 March. It has been seen by Mr. Skardon who agrees with it. While the interview was profitable it was not as helpful as I hoped it would be due to the inability of REES to remember in detail the events of that memorable week following the disappearance five years ago. Such a lapse of memory is not surprising and I feel that, so far as the facts are concerned, REES has now told us substantially the truth. Nevertheless it is clear from the telephone check that REES is by no means prepared to give us his full co-operation or take us into his confidence over his dealings with newspapers. We know from the check that before he came to London he had seen at Aberystwyth Donald Seaman of the Daily Express, and he is negotiating with that newspaper to carry out some work for it - almost certainly in connection with his knowledge of BURGESS - the nature of which we cannot at the moment divine.

When I first heard that REES was writing in "The People" I believed that he was doing it as a matter of principle. When Mr. Skardon and I saw him on 12 March he did indeed give that as his main reason. He has convinced himself or tried to convince himself that it is so. I fear it is not and that the motive is mainly money and a hatred of BLUNT. Neither Mr. Skardon nor I felt like tackling REES about his principles. It would not have been easy to do so and retain his co-operation. At our first interview Margy REES said of the book "He (REES) wrote it straight off some time ago because he had to get it out of his system". Both she and REES gave the impression that publication had been far from their minds. From the way in which it is written (with letters X and Y etc.) this is manifestly untrue and, taken in conjunction with REES's own statement that he began it in November 1955 and continued in February 1956, the slant is obviously towards eventual publication. My own view is that after the debate of September 1955, REES was angry that the extent of BURGESS's involvement with members of M.I.5 had not been made public and that, still smarting under his treatment at our hands, cross that BLUNT's name had not come out in the House, and that PHILBY's had done so, he started on his book. When B. and M. gave their Press Conference in February 1956 he realised that the time was ripe for publication and that it was then or never.

In the interests of clarity I have appended to the REES note a chart of the sequence of events following the disappearance. It may be useful on a later occasion.

I shall look into the cases of ZAEHNER and PLAYFAIR. For REES to choose CAIENCROSS as target number 1 was astonishing. It is my view and that of Mr. Skardon that he did so only because of the way that BURGESS overpraised the man and not because REES had any positive evidence that CAIENCROSS was involved in the espionage activities of BURGESS.

REVAI is an interesting suggestion but I doubt the value of pursuing it further. REVAI and BLUNT are known to be close, indeed intimate friends, and we shall not get any admissions out of REVAI after all these years.

The new light shed on the BLUNT case is the main product of these interviews but the interpretation of it must still be a matter of conjecture. Certainly BLUNT must be seen again when he returns from America at the beginning of May - if he does not return earlier. Probably the best approach may be an appeal to his old loyalty to this Service and to the imperative need to get the maximum help to clear up the allegations that our Service have been and consequently may still be penetrated by the R.I.S.

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Deleted: 26th March 1956

Original in PF.604,583

192A

EXTRACT FROM NOTE ON DISCUSSION WITH GORONWY REES on 21 MARCH MENTIONING BLUNT

REES's account of the events following the 25 May - the day of the disappearance - did not fit our records of it. REES claimed to have come to the Security Service within 48 hours of his return to his home at Sonning and that he had seen BLUNT in the intervening period. In fact REES had not given to us the information about BURGESS's Comintern work until 10 days after the disappearance. That was a very considerable discrepancy and I asked REES for his explanation of it. REES replied that the explanation lay with his memory. Due to the passage of time he had firmly imagined that the events that took place had occurred within 48 hours.. I told REES that [redacted] had telephoned to Guy Liddell on Tuesday, 29 May, to relay to us the news that BURGESS seemed to have disappeared and that Margy REES had

/received

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received a telephone message the previous Friday which seemed to be "alarming". BLUNT and HARRIS had visited the Security Service on the morning of Wednesday, 30 May, to report the disappearance of BURGESS and they had been told under a vow of secrecy that BURGESS was then known to have disappeared with MACLEAN. We had a record that REES had got into touch with Captain Liddell on Friday, 1st June, and that the letter which he had written to reconstruct the extraordinary telephone conversation was dated 2 June and had been delivered to Mr. White by [redacted] on Wednesday, 6 June, the day that REES and BLUNT came to the Security Service together.

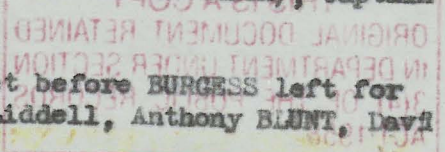
I asked REES if he could try again to date the day upon which he rang up [redacted] and BLUNT and the day that BLUNT visited him at Sonning. After some reflection REES replied that he was sure that he rang up [redacted] Monday morning, 28 May, that he did this first, and followed it by telephoning BLUNT. He also felt sure that BLUNT came to visit him on the afternoon of that day. REES said that he had expected that after [redacted] had conveyed the information he had about BURGESS to the Security Service he would have been asked to come and make a report, and he could not understand why he was not asked to come to see us. That I supposed that his concern about not being asked to come account for his telephone call to Captain Liddell on Friday, 1 June. REES replied that he presumed that it was so but that he did not really remember making the call. I said to REES that he would see that far from having told the Security authorities about BURGESS's Comintern work immediately after his disappearance he had in fact delayed ten days before doing so.

I then told REES that I had certain questions to ask him arising out of the book and that I would like to check with him the people he had mentioned in the book by letters and symbols and to which we had put speculative identities. I said that I did not think that REES would mind identifying the characters but if he preferred some to remain anonymous I would not press him for their names.

First I wanted to ask if he could date the conversation when BURGESS put to REES the proposal that they would work together for the Comintern. REES said that he could not say exactly when this took place but that he remembered that the book he had been reviewing was about unemployment in South Wales and that he could easily find out for us when this book was published and when he reviewed it in the Spectator. I offered to carry out this research myself but REES said he could do it perfectly easily and that he would send a letter to Mr. Spardon at Room 055 giving us the date. Although we could not, at the moment, establish that date I asked REES if he could try to determine the date of his conversation with BLUNT in St. James's Park and give us some further information about it. REES replied that to the best of his recollection the conversation with BLUNT took place within six months of his conversation with BURGESS. He could not date it more exactly. I said it was surprising that only the single word "yes" was uttered by BLUNT. REES agreed but said that BLUNT positively said no more than that single word. I asked REES whether he believed that BLUNT really thought that REES's intention was to ask if BURGESS was working for British Intelligence or whether in fact BLUNT thought that REES meant that BURGESS was working for the Comintern. REES said that it was his firm impression that BLUNT thought that REES meant that BURGESS was working for the Comintern and again that he thought on balance that BLUNT was in fact working for the Comintern.

The composition of the party which went regularly to the Chelsea Palace was BURGESS, a woman friend of David FOOTMAN whose name REES has forgotten (but it was not Tess MAYER or Pat RAWDON-SMITH), Captain Liddell, and David FOOTMAN.

The party at New Bond Street before BURGESS left for America was attended by Hector McNeil, Captain Liddell, Anthony BLUNT, David





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Reference PF.604,582.

191A

PA PF Blunt

D.1.A/R. Reed.

Professor Anthony BLUNT.

You may like to know that BLUNT has now been formally invited to visit the D.D.R. some time in the summer by the Gesellschaft für Kulturelle Verbindungen in East Berlin.

F.4.  
23.3.56.

A.G. Spencer  
A.G. Spencer.

REGIMITE  
(1945)  
JC&SLtd  
Gp736/210  
Code 5-35-0

74/11/DIA



19/2

Extract from letter to H.C.M. Stone, Washington, mentioning BLUNT  
dated 20 March, 1956.

.....

A further article in "The People" appeared on 18 March, dealing with the influence which BURGESS exerted upon his friends through his homosexual practices. There was reference in this to the "famous scholar" (who is of course Anthony BLUNT, now in the U.S.A.), but he was not named.

.....



EXTRACT

190b

Extract for File No. : PF.604,582 Name : A.F. BLUNT

Original in File No. : \* PF.604,529 Vol. : 14 Serial : 664z Receipt Date : 19.3.56.

Original from : Intercept letter Under Ref. : Dated :

Extracted on : 4.5.56. by : FMD Section : D.1.A.

EXTRACT FROM LETTER FROM GUY BURGESS TO HIS MOTHER MENTIONING BLUNT

.....

I was very pleased to hear Anthony is O.K. and has escaped the witch hunt - otherwise he wouldn't be in the U.S.A. Will you tell him if he'll write I'll try and send him a letter worthy to go into his "black box". Like the others I think of him a lot and am sure he has done everything he could for you, whatever he thinks of me.

.....

\* If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner

Handwritten initials/signature



190A

167.

D. through D.1.

Mr. Skardon's report upon our visit to REES at Aberystwyth is at 166a. On page 3 he records that I had a conversation with REES concerning the events of the week-end of the disappearance in May, 1951. My note dealing with this conversation is at 165a.

If REES is to be believed, new and significant facts were discovered. As I see no reason to disbelieve the story that REES has now told these new facts are:-

(a) Anthony BLUNT saw BURGESS at his flat on Friday, 25 May, the morning of his disappearance.

(b) On the Monday afternoon at REES's home at Sonning BLUNT tried to dissuade REES from telling his story to the Security Service. He again tried to dissuade REES on the Tuesday morning prior to REES's appearance at this Office.

(c) There was a delay of 24 hours between the time that REES reported BURGESS's disappearance before we knew about it in the Security Service, as our first record of a telephone conversation from [redacted] is said to have taken place at about 11 a.m. on Tuesday morning, 29 May.

You have already informed me that the D.G. has agreed that Mr. Skardon and I shall see REES again soon and we are making arrangements to do so next week.

Since we saw REES the telephone check has revealed that REES is having considerable difficulty with "The People" over the publication of these articles and that he very much dislikes the form in which they are submitted to him.

(Sgd.) R. T. Reed

D.1.A.  
16.3.56.

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In accordance with your instructions, on the morning of 11 March I obtained a copy of "The People", and found that although there were some slight differences between the article which appeared on page 3 of that journal and the photostat proof, there were still a number of questions which required to be put to Morgan Goronwy REES.

Before telephoning him however, to seek an appointment, I did take the precaution of speaking to you and obtaining your assent. At about 9.15 a.m., having discovered that A.2.A. were prepared, I put through a call to Aberystwyth 7083 on my emergency telephone number, Whitehall 2017. I was connected almost immediately and spoke to Mrs. REES who told me that her husband was away for the day. The short conversation that followed, and this I imagine will be a matter of record elsewhere, convinced me that she was protecting her husband from telephone calls, possibly anticipating that the Press would become active. For this reason I gave her my name, told her that I wanted to speak to her husband urgently upon an official matter, and suggested that if she could discover where I might find him, I would ring back within half an hour to learn the result of her enquiries. My belief that she was concealing the actual presence of her husband at home was confirmed when, a few minutes later, I received a telephone call from her and was immediately put into touch with REES himself.

When I sought to remind REES of our meeting on 6 June, 1951, he professed to remember me very well and no further introduction was necessary. I told him that I had been instructed to interview him concerning an article which had appeared that morning in "The People" which I assumed had been written by him. I discovered that he was not going to be in London in the immediate future and proposed that I should travel to Aberystwyth to see him on the evening of 11 March or the morning of 12 March, but left myself free to telephone him and make an appointment upon my arrival.

By prior arrangements confirmed after the telephone conversation, I picked up an A.4. car, [redacted] the A.4. driver, and Mr. R.T. Reed, and we set off from Clapham Junction at 11.30 a.m. on 11 March.

We arrived at Aberystwyth at 6.30 p.m. and took the precaution of booking in at the Marine Hotel in the names of Seddon (myself) and Bannerman (Mr. Reed). I telephoned REES from the hotel and made an appointment to see him at 8.30 p.m. the same evening.

When we arrived there at the due time, I think that REES was slightly surprised to find that I was accompanied by a colleague and for this or some other reason the atmosphere was pretty chilly at the outset of the interview. It is possible of course that REES anticipated that I was there on some critical mission, or that we were about to threaten proceedings or something of this kind.

I had settled with Mr. Reed a series of questions which we thought would provide the answers required by us. These questions, as you will understand, were based principally upon the promises contained in the 'trailing' paragraph in the article in "The People", and the advertisement concerning the articles which appeared in the Daily Mirror on Friday, 9 March.

I introduced the full purpose of my visit by referring in the first instance to the advertisement which contains the phrase "Frightening new facts that must be told". I pointed out to REES that if there were new facts, they were as likely to frighten the Security Service as anyone else, and certainly we were bound to do our duty to discover at all times all facts either new or old concerning this particular case. I then put the questions to him in the following order:-

(1) I asked him what was meant by the phrase "Friends in high places who practice the same terrible vices". REES said that this statement, whilst he believes it to be true, will not be substantiated in the articles. He said that because of his conduct and habits BURGESS was a most dangerous person. These friends who shared his vices would obviously be extremely vulnerable

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and he, REES, had but one anxiety, to bring out the truth about these risks. Either at this stage of the interview or later he said that whereas he had provided the material upon which these articles were based, he was not responsible for the form that they took, since the paper had indicated a need to hit the public hard in order to drive home the truth.

(2) "Messages of friendship from Moscow", revealed by REES. The only message received by REES was one recently through Mrs. BASSETT who said that she had received a telegram from her son. We, of course, pretended to know nothing about this telegram and professed that it was a surprise that he had received such a message.

(3) "How BURGESS named a famous British scholar as his fellow Soviet agent". This person will not be named in the articles. He is, of course, Professor Anthony BLUNT.

(4) "His spying work during the war". This refers to that absurd enterprise with which Sir Joseph BALL was connected.

(5) "How he got a blackmail hold on some of his highly-placed friends". No precise information will be given in the articles upon this point. The general facts and possibilities will be set out and it will be shown that through his inside knowledge of the habits of certain highly-placed friends he would also hold a threat in reserve.

(6) "How BURGESS learnt the identity of top British secret agents". Here the articles will show how BURGESS met people, for example in Washington, whilst he was with the Foreign Service. It will refer to the Summer School at Oxford and to his friends in the Security Service. On this point REES told me that BURGESS, for example, knew all about SKARDON. He agreed that the extent of his knowledge would probably be limited to the publicity resulting from trials and newspaper accounts of them. He informed me, however, that more information about me would be available to BURGESS through his friendship with people connected with the Security Service.

(7) "How he tapped the telephone lines of a visiting diplomat". This referred to the Goring Hotel story and HEWITT's employment on the switchboard there and to no other fact.

(8) "How he gained access to a Foreign Secretary's safe". This is the absurd story of an occasion when REES called at the Foreign Office to pick up from BURGESS, when he was Personal Assistant to Hector McNeil, a copy of a Kinsey report of that time. BURGESS said that he had hidden it in the one place that would be secure, namely in "Ernie's" safe. This apparently was an old disused safe belonging to former Foreign Secretaries, and currently used at that time as a storehouse for unwanted books and papers.

(9) "How BURGESS held in his grip important Foreign Office officials". This quotation from the front page of "The People" of 11 March, refers to precisely the same information as is contained in question (5).

By way of general explanation REES said that BURGESS had this inordinate curiosity about the lives, habits and behaviour of his friends in M.I.5

I asked him if it was intended to particularise with regard to the individuals whom it was said were under BURGESS's malign influence. He said that it was not his intention to do so, nobody was named but he pointed out that with friends in such high places as Captain Guy LIDDELL in M.I.5

he felt sure that at the very least Guy LIDDELL was an unconscious source of information to BURGESS. The same applied to other highly placed friends who were associated with him, some of whom were certainly on the most intimate physical terms with him.

I questioned whether Captain LIDDELL would have been even an unconscious source in any circumstance whatsoever. It seemed to me that there were plenty of subjects of mutual interest to these people and I referred to their artistic

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and literary connections, and expressed the view that Captain LIDDELL was sufficiently well-trained to avoid discussing official matters at unofficial parties. It was clear that this opinion was not held by REES.

Having indicated that these were the questions that I had been instructed to put the atmosphere became slightly less frigid and the tension to some extent relieved.

I asked REES whether there was any further matter which had come to light between the date of our interview on 6 June, 1951, and the present date which he thought ought properly to be brought to the notice of the Authorities. He then said to me "How far can I trust you?". I told him that he could trust me faithfully to report everything that was said during the course of this interview and to place the report before my masters. He enquired whether this information would be retained within our Service or would be available to outsiders. It became quite clear that his principal concern was lest this story or any part of it was to reach the ears of Anthony BLUNT. I gave him my assurance that there was no reason at all to suppose that any part of the present interview was likely to become known to that individual. REES then asked the question "You do know that Anthony BLUNT endeavoured very hard to dissuade me from coming to your Office with information about the disappearance of BURGESS on 29 May, 1951?". I professed to be ignorant of this fact and he went on to say in addition that BLUNT had seen BURGESS on the Friday morning of the disappearance. We said we did not know this either.

There followed a general discussion between REES and Mr. Reed in which I took but a small part, for they were dealing with facts well known to both of them in which I am less well informed. During this discussion Mr. Reed and REES discussed the events of the week-end of the disappearance of BURGESS and MACLEAN in some detail which will be the subject of a separate note by Mr. Reed.

After a lively conversation lasting this part of the interview about one hour, it was clear that REES was beginning to recover his confidence, and he said that if he thought he could trust me he would let me have a copy of the thirty thousand word book written by him upon which these "People" articles were to be based.

He explained that the book had been written simply to empty his mind of the whole subject immediately after the disappearance of BURGESS. It had been put away and forgotten until the publication of the White Paper and subsequent appearance of BURGESS alive in Moscow, when he had decided that it should form the basis of an attempt to bring the full facts before the public. He had therefore passed this book to his agent who had offered it to "The People" and they, as has been stated earlier, agreed to publish it in a form which suited the paper.

He led us to believe that in publishing this story he was activated simply by motives of loyalty. He was most anxious that since the White Paper had white-washed BURGESS and showed that there was no evidence against him on which proceedings could be based, and since he had appeared in Moscow alive and apparently dangerous, he found it his bounden duty to do everything in his power to discredit the man in advance so that the harm which he might seek to do would be minimised.

I think he has lost sight of the possibility that he is likely, by the publication of this article, to do us as much damage as BURGESS might, if he made similar disclosures. I am fairly confident that his motives were not so completely objective but rather that he could do with the money.

When we were ready to depart a complete thaw had set in and he promised to send his book to me, but at this point Mr. Reed pressed him, with the result that he produced it forthwith and allowed us to take it away immediately. It was understood that we should copy it and he anticipates that arising from it a great many questions will require to be put. He anticipated a further visit



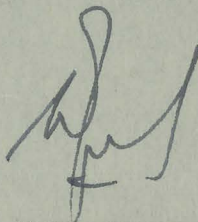
from Mr. Reed and hopes that I will be present so that he for his part may talk to me about other cases.

I think I will leave Mr. Reed to deal with the more sinister matters raised by REES, namely the pressure put upon him by BLUNT to dissuade him from reporting the BURGESS disappearance to the authorities, and details such as the visit alleged to have been paid by BURGESS to BLUNT on the day he departed for France on his way to Moscow.

It was clear that holding as he does a highly academic post REES is enjoying an extremely comfortable life. He has a very pleasant house at Aberystwyth. The atmosphere in it had become so cordial before we left that there was a pressing invitation from Mrs. REES to both of us to stay with them on our next visit.

I am unable to suggest that we experienced any difficulty in interrogating REES. Except on the question of motive for publication I imagine that he is entirely truthful and it is unlikely that he would be able to square his conscience unless he could satisfy himself that in publishing this disagreeable story he was serving some public good.

15 March, 1956.



W.J. Skardon.



187A

I spoke to Admiral Thomson this morning and asked him to let me know the form of the letter he was proposing to send to "The People". I pointed out to him that the line we were taking here was that as the article did not offend any 'D' Notice, we could not object to publication. I told the Admiral that I did not want him to say to "The People" that there was no security objection to the article.

Admiral Thomson said he had already rung up "The People" and told them that there was no security objection, but he said he had not yet written to them. I arranged with him that he would write to "The People" returning the proof of the article and merely stating that as the article did not offend 'D' Notice No.1 there was no objection to its text.

A further meeting with the Director General took place, at which D. D1 and D.1.a (Mr. Reed) were present. It was agreed that I should consult the Director of Public Prosecutions as to whether there was a case for bringing into play the provisions of Section 6 of the Official Secrets Acts against Mr. Goronwy REES, who was clearly the author of the article. We went through Mr. Goronwy REED's statement which he made on 6th June, 1951, and came to the conclusion that the text of the present article was based upon this statement, but it was quite clear that at no time had Mr. REES told us the name of the famous writer who, according to the 'trailer', BURGESS named as his fellow Soviet agent.

The D.G. said he would tell Sir Frank Newsam when he saw him this morning that we were discussing the question of the possible use of the powers given by Section 6 of the Official Secrets Acts against Mr. Goronwy REES.

I saw Sir Theobald Mathew, Director of Public Prosecutions, and asked him if he would give me a conference 'off the record'. This he readily agreed to do. I opened my discussion by telling the Director that I was seeking his advice on the problem in general, and one particular aspect of it in particular. I told the Director that, as he knew, through Admiral Thomson we had arrangements with the press whereby the press submitted to the Admiral for our clearance articles having a security bearing. "The People" had submitted the article I was about to discuss with the Director in this manner, and therefore no action could be taken on it at the moment. We should have to wait and see whether "The People" in fact published the article in accordance with the text they had submitted.

I then asked the Director to read the passages sidelined in ink on the proof, which the Director did. I then told him that the author of this article was Mr. Goronwy REES who was at present the Principal of Aberystwyth University College in Wales. Mr. REES had been a close associate of BURGESS in the 1930s at least, and had been connected in some way with BURGESS in his espionage work. I showed to the Director, and he read and returned to me, the statement we had taken from Mr. Goronwy REES dated 6.6.51, and I pointed out to the Director that he would see from this statement that Mr. REES had certainly not told the whole truth. He says in the first instance that BURGESS told him he was working on behalf of an anti-Fascist organisation, his task



being to collect political information, and later he told him that this organisation was in fact the Comintern, or rather a secret branch of it. Mr. REES later admits in this statement that BURGESS asked him to help him in carrying out this work, but later he says that BURGESS never asked him to obtain any information, though he further states - "I wished to have no more to do with his organisation", from which it is quite clear that he must have been active in this organisation and must in fact have provided BURGESS with some kind of political information.

I told the Director in connection with this case that I had not submitted the case to him to consider the prosecution of Mr. Goronwy REES, because in my view there was not sufficient evidence based on the statement alone, and at that time we were heavily investigating the whole aspect of the BURGESS case. The Director said he quite understood the whole position, and agreed that on the statement alone there was not enough evidence to justify a prosecution of Mr. Goronwy REES.

I then showed the Director a copy of the statement which BLUNT had made on 6th June, 1954. The Director said he noticed that the point had not been put to BLUNT that, according to Goronwy REES, BLUNT was another of BURGESS's sources. I said that was the case, and the reason was that we were closely investigating BLUNT's activities, and we are still investigating them. We merely asked BLUNT to give his own account of his association with BURGESS. He was not questioned on his statement.

The Director said he could quite see that this was a very difficult matter for us to handle, and the article might well cause us a considerable embarrassment.

I then said that my real object in calling to see him was to ask whether he would consider advising the Home Secretary to exercise the powers given under Section 6 of the 1920 Official Secrets Act, as amended by the 1939 Act, to compel Goronwy REES to disclose information about the famous writer whom he was proposing to name as a Soviet agent.

We had a discussion on this matter, and the Director said he certainly could not advise the Home Secretary to issue any such direction at the moment. He thought we should wait and see what was contained in the next article, and that in any event Goronwy REES should be asked to give this information and if he refused the Director agreed there were grounds for exercising the powers conferred by Sec.6. The difficulty he felt at the moment was that there had been no refusal by Mr. REES to furnish the information. The matter was thus left that we should take steps to ask Mr. REES to furnish the information, and if he refused then the Director said he might well be prepared to advise the Home Secretary to issue the direction.

I next discussed with the Director the difficult question as to whether we could launch a prosecution against BURGESS, should he return to this country. I told the Director I had been thinking about this difficult problem and I was of opinion that we could charge BURGESS with an offence against Section 1, of communicating information to an enemy. I



outlined the case as I saw it, namely that we could prove that BURGESS was up to the time of his disappearance in the employ of the Foreign Office, and thus had access to official secrets. We could next prove the statement which was issued by MACLEAN and BURGESS in Moscow, and we could do this by calling the "Sunday Times" correspondent and the correspondent of REUTERS. I said the Director would remember in this statement that MACLEAN and BURGESS stated they had gone to Russia to assist the authorities there in the preservation of peace, as they knew from information they had acquired in the course of their official duties that the Western Powers were not working for peace.

I suggested we could then bring into play the provisions of Section 2 of the 1920 Act, and prove that BURGESS was in touch with a foreign agent, as defined in that Section, which brought into play the presumption that BURGESS had communicated information.

The Director said he agreed that it was possible to found a case in this way, and if BURGESS returned we could no doubt in the absence of any better evidence take proceedings on these lines.

I reported the result of my meeting with the Director to the D.G., D., D1 and D.1.A (Mr. Reed). The D.G. said that at his interview with Sir Frank Newsam that morning Sir Frank had stated that he would be prepared to advise the Home Secretary to issue directions under Section 6, provided the D.P.P. advised there was a legal case. The D.G. rang Sir Frank Newsam and told him that the Director had stated that in his view a case could not be made out for asking the Home Secretary to issue such a direction, as there was no evidence of any refusal by Goronwy REES to supply such information.

The D.G. told Sir Frank that we were taking steps to interview Mr. REES, to see whether he would give the information, and if he refused to do this the provisions of Section 6 could be brought into play. Sir Frank Newsam thought at one stage that the Police should do the interview, but agreed with the D.G. that the first interview could be carried out by Mr. Skardon. It was accordingly arranged that Mr. Skardon and Mr. Reed should see Mr. Goronwy REES on Monday, provided the article was published in "The People" on Sunday and was in the form submitted.

L.A.  
9.3.56.

*B. A. Hill*  
B.A. Hill.



Extract from note on discussion with Morgan Goronwy REES on 11.3.56, mentioning Anthony BLUNT

186A

At this point I told REES that I would like to discuss with him the events of the week-end of the disappearance. I said that they had never been very clear to me or to anyone else and I invited him to go over them in detail.

.....

When REES returned home on the Sunday evening Margy told him of these developments and REES immediately became very apprehensive. He says that he said to Margy, for no rational reason, that he had the horrid feeling that Guy had done something desperate like going to Russia. REES decided that he ought to take steps to inform M.I.5. of his conversation with Guy BURGESS in 1937 and the next morning, Monday, he telephoned to [redacted] to ask him to make arrangements for REES to go to see M.I.5. He also telephoned to Anthony BLUNT because he said that as he intended to bring BLUNT's name into his denunciations he thought that BLUNT ought to know about it. BLUNT asked if he could come down to Sonning to see REES and arranged on the Monday afternoon.

When BLUNT arrived he did his best to dissuade REES from telling the authorities about BURGESS' statements in 1937. He pointed out that there was no evidence that what Guy had said was true, that BLUNT had understood not that Guy was working for the Comintern but that he was working for a British intelligence organisation and that there was no concrete reason to believe that Guy had done anything so drastic as to try to get to Russia. REES was thoroughly confused about this, but said that he still thought he ought to make the facts known to M.I.5. REES subsequently received a telephone message from [redacted] asking him to go to M.I.5. on the Tuesday afternoon. (It is not very clear when REES received this summons)

REES came to London on the morning of Tuesday 29 May. He went straight to Anthony BLUNT's flat where BLUNT tried again to exert his influence to prevent REES from going to M.I.5. After some time, when REES said that in spite of BLUNT's protestations, he intended to go to M.I.5., BLUNT said that he insisted upon accompanying him and they therefore came together.

I asked REES if he was sure that he spoke to [redacted] on Monday 28 May. REES said he was positive about it and I replied that, to the best of my recollection, [redacted] did not make a report until about 11 a.m. on Tuesday 29th. REES said that he found that extremely interesting as he had never understood why there had been 24 hours delay on the part of M.I.5. before they had taken his story, for he had assumed that it would be of considerable importance and we should have wanted to hear it immediately. I told REES that now he had suggested that [redacted] probably reported it on Monday 28 May, I was a little confused in my own mind and I would prefer not to be so dogmatic about the date. I wanted the opportunity to consult our records before I said anything more.

Later in the conversation REES said that BLUNT had been extremely nervous after the disappearance and I replied that we were well aware of that but that we had found it difficult to decide how much of his nervousness had been due to the fact that the sordid details of his private life might become public. REES replied that that was indeed a difficulty for he knew that one of the things that BLUNT had absolutely set his heart upon was to receive a Knighthood.

In dealing with the danger of BURGESS in his present position in Moscow, REES also said that he thought BURGESS could do incalculable damage by making allegations about prominent people that were compounds of fact and fiction.

.....

D.1.A.  
15.3.56.

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185B

Extract from Minute 649 in PF.604,529

D. (through D.1.)  
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You have already seen the letter from Guy BURGESS to Mrs. BASSETT filed at 183a. It is apparent from the context that the letter is the first one that Guy BURGESS has sent to his mother since his re-appearance in Moscow. It may be convenient if I make a few observations upon it.

Guy BURGESS knows a lot about Secret Intelligence and Counter-Intelligence Services, both British and Russian. Clearly, therefore, when he says "I am sure no English official, any more than any Russian one, would interfere with a letter from you", he does not believe it for one moment. He must also assume that any letter which he sends from Russia to his mother will be intercepted by us and read - or at least that we shall take such measures as we are capable of to try to intercept it, and that these measures will be 95% successful. If that is agreed upon, we must assume that BURGESS has written his letter in the knowledge that M.I.5. and the R.I.S. would see it. The letter is therefore a little surprising in a number of passages:-

- .....
3. BURGESS suggests that one of his old friends might like to go with his mother to Russia. He says that he does not know whether any of his old friends are on speaking terms with him and would like to go. This is rather a surprising statement in any circumstances, for he has clearly failed to understand the attitude of his friends, and of anyone else who has been associated with him, none of whom I am sure would be prepared to go openly to Russia to visit him, with the consequent danger that they will be called the closest friend of "a traitor";
  4. I am surprised that BURGESS should say "Is David F. all right?" (David FOOTMAN) "Judging by what happened to Kim I am very worried I may have caused him trouble - and others too". BURGESS goes on to say that he won't go into details about this, but he wants to avoid a witch-hunt.

To say "I know A. is all right, because I see his name in the papers" (Anthony BLUNT) is surprising, but my interpretation is that he has no idea that either BLUNT or REES told the Security Service that they had been approached by BURGESS for espionage purposes. It is also extraordinary that BURGESS should say of BLUNT "I could probably arrange pictures for him to see" in a letter which he must assume will be seen by us.

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5. The date Sunday, 26 October, is inexplicable.

I understand that the Director General intends to show a copy of this letter to the Home Secretary, and that he feels we should send a copy of it to the Foreign Office.

D.1.A.  
8.3.56

Sgd. R.T. Reed

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1859

**SECRET**

NAME: BLUNDEN.  
Tel. No.: WEL 1388.  
Responsible Section: D.I.a.

T.C. No.: 2990.  
Date: 7.3.56.



Outgoing call from Miss WELSFORD to Mr. NICHOLSON to say she had spoken to ELSA who said that BLUNDEN had had the invitation. He was first asked to go to Berlin but he couldn't because he was going to be in America. When he could not go to Berlin they had written to him again asking him to go to Dresden. BLUNDEN was not at all sure that he wanted to go having been away in America so long, but after two invitations he felt it would be polite and had filled in some form that they had sent him, but ELSA had said it was quite in the melting pot, and there was no need to worry because nothing would be settled until he came back from America. Miss WELSFORD felt that in view of the come back that 'we' had had, it was as well not to say anything about it. It would not matter two hoots if it was not for the Kings job. She would tell FRANCIS to tell ROBIN to hold his tongue.  
I6.3.

U.J. B.



1849

**SECRET**

NAME: BLUNDEN  
Tel. No.: WEL I388.

T.C. No.: 2990.

Date: 7.3.56.

Responsible Section: D.I.a.



Outgoing call from Miss Rhoda WELSFORD to MUS 5272, Mr. NICHOLSON. She said she had seen FRANCIS yesterday who said he, (NICHOLSON) had told him (FRANCIS) that BLUNDEN was going over to Berlin to see the Dresden pictures at the opening of the Dresden Gallery. She wanted to know whether it would be easy to get over there to see it, because it might be a good deal more interesting and less expensive than having to stay in west Berlin. NICHOLSON knew only that BLUNDEN had been invited by the East German government, which was an official invitation.

A thing which worried both FRANCIS and Miss WELSFORD was that Robert CECIL said to FRANCIS, "Oh of course BLUNDEN - Guy BURGESS will have arranged that invitation for BLUNDEN". FRANCIS had said he thought it perfectly untrue but if that was ROBERTS first reaction, it was going to be a great many people's first reaction, and she felt it was not going to do BLUNDEN any good at all. She knew that BLUNDEN had had an awful lot of trouble there and it might do him a lot of harm. NICHOLSON thought it was Margaret BROWN who had told him that BLUNDEN had got an invitation, but ELSA might know, if she did not then it was probably not true. Miss WELSFORD thought perhaps she ought to write to BLUNDEN and tell him of the reaction, because it might never occur to him. BLUNDEN was so unsuspecting and simple and straight. NICHOLSON thought BLUNDEN would merely say damn people's reactions. II.58.

U.J.B.



EXTRACT

1839

Extract for File No.: PF.604,582 (BLUNDEN) Name: PF.604,584 (PEACH) PF.604,589 (FOOTMAN)

Original in File No.:\* PF.604,529 Vol.: 12 Serial: 648a Receipt Date: 6 March 1956

Original from: Under Ref.: Dated:

Extracted on: by: Section:

Extract from intercept letter from Guy BURGESS to Mrs. BASSETT written from "Poste Restante" dated "Sunday, October 26th".

.....

"The question is - are you well enough to fly here? The next question is - would anyone like to come with you. I'm thinking of the journey. Once you're here all would be well. About making suggestions I'm in a difficulty. I simply don't know whether any of my old friends are on speaking terms with me, and would like to come. There's another difficulty. After reading in the papers the persecution which poor Kim has suffered through no fault of his own, I don't like to write to people in case by doing so they should get into trouble - I don't mean with the authorities so much as with the Press. Which is why I so far haven't written to any of them. You know as well as I do why my friends are - so please in your next letter give me advice. For example, is David F. all right - judging by what happened to Kim I'm very worried I may have caused him trouble - and others too. I won't go into detail over this - but it's why I asked you to ask them in my telegram to write - if they do I'll know at least we are on speaking terms and that I can answer without putting a witch hunt on to them. Would any of them like to come with you - you and me paying.

/Would Esther for

\* If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner



Would Esther for example? Probably it's too early to say. I know A's all right because I see his name in the papers. I probably could arrange pictures for him to see. Tell him that if I write to him I shall punctuate my tremendous admiration for his big book with criticisms of his proof reading and remind him of what he once said about some Sitwell in the Spectator. In an earlier letter - which you never got - I sent you a check to give to A. to give to Jackie who was the friend of mine who could least afford to lose his job. However I hope to hear from you or them - if we're still on speaking terms - about all this."

.....



182a

**SECRET**

NAME: BLUNDEN

T.C. No.: 2990

Tel. No.: WEL 1388

Date : 20.2.56

Responsible Section: D.I.a.



Incoming call from Mrs BASSETT to Elsa SCHERRER.

Mrs BASSETT said -

Mrs B. Are you writing again to BLUNDEN?

E. Yes I will.

Mrs B. I had another telegram Saturday night.

E. Yes.

Mrs B. And- my son in the telegram said would I ask his friends to write to him, but I didn't know whether BLUNDEN could send me a letter here, you know, addressed to me and I could forward it, because I think it would be awkward for him to do it from America.

E. Yes - no, I don't think he can do that very well. I sent the message, you know, as a personal message.

Mrs B. I know - I mean, if he wanted to do that, otherwise, you see - I have written now to my son - and I've said that BLUNDEN is in America until May - so, you see, he'll quite understand if BLUNDEN feels he cannot write, you know.

E. Yes.

Mrs B. But if he felt he could send a line to me I would enclose it in my letter to my son, you see.

E. Yes. Well - I have the feeling that he may be writing to you.

Mrs B. Yes, I know, well I could send-

E. You are mentioning names are you?

Mrs B. Oh yes - I'm not keeping - I'm not telling the authorities because they can just find out if they like.

E. Yes.

Mrs B. But I'm telling all - his friends, because I wasn't telling them all before, but he cabled - he sent it off Saturday morning and I got it Saturday night and he said-'do ask my friends to write to me', so evidently there is no secret.

E. Yes.

Mrs B. Only, I'm not reporting it to the authorities because -

E. Yes.



Mrs B. They can find out if they like - I mean to say - you know, they've never done anything fo me so I'm just leaving it.

E. Yes. Well, anyhow I'll see how I can-

Mrs B. Yes, but you can tell him that it's no secret, you see because h e telegraphed and said-'do ask my friends to write to me'.

E. Yes, good, I will tell him.

Mrs B. You tell him, but you see I don't think he could write ....

E. No, no, I don't think it's wise.

Mrs B. No, I don't think it's at all wise, but if he could put a little-tiny note inside mine I would send it on to my son, you see.

E. Yes, good.

Mrs B. He could camouflage it as he likes, you see.

E. Yes, I will.

Mrs B. And I could tell my son who it's from, you know.

E. Yes.

Mrs B. Thank you very much. But he would quite understand if he doesn't because I told him he'd be away until May.

E. Yes, good.

Mrs B. Thank you very much. Goodbye.

10.13

L.E.



181a

PF 604582/D1A/RTR.

14th February 1956.

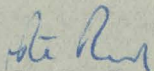
Dear Denman,

I am applying for telephone checks upon Welbeck 1074, Welbeck 1388, Welbeck 1389 and Welbeck 4181 which are installed at number 20 Portman Square, The Courtauld Institute, where Anthony BLUNT resides.

BLUNT has admitted that BURGESS tried to recruit him for espionage in the 1930's and he was a close friend of BURGESS for some years.

I am anxious to see any reactions of BLUNT to the statement made by BURGESS and MACLEAN in Moscow and I should be grateful therefore if the check could be operated to its fullest extent.

Yours sincerely,

  
R. T. Reed.

Major A. E. Denman, M.B.E.,  
G.P.O.

/BP.

BPD/A  
14/2/56



SECRET.

14th February 1956

1712

180a

To THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL, and all others whom it may concern :

I hereby authorize and require you to record all telephone conversations on the telephone line number :

WELBECK 1074, WELBECK 1388, WELBECK 1389,  
WELBECK 4101.

and to produce the record for my inspection.

For so doing this shall be your sufficient Warrant.

*One of Her Majesty's  
Principal Secretaries of State.*

This man (subject of former HOW no. 1247) who is known to use these numbers, has for many years been closely associated with Guy BURGESS. It has been alleged that BLUNT assisted him in his espionage activities. It is now desired to reimpose the HOW in order to discover his reactions to the statement made by BURGESS and MACLEAN on 11.2.56.

FF 604582/D1A/RTR.

S. Form 56A.

87 D1A  
14/2/56



Hastli c/d

TOP SECRET

D.

847B in PP604558 Maclean 178a

I attach hereto a note by D1A/RTR on possible re-investigation into the B. and M. affair, and also a note by me on the casting of Anthony BLUNT as the conscious source of the wartime leakage from the Security Service.

2. My own feeling is that we have been perhaps turning and re-turning the PEACH stone, without pushing far enough down the various avenues available both in the Foreign Service, as regards a possible tip-off, and our own Service, as regards the ELLI leakage.

3. Mr. Reed is obviously in a better position than Am I to speak on the tip-off possibility. As regards the possible leakage from the Security Service, we perhaps all start level. I do feel, however, that, if we do not make at least as strenuous an attempt to plumb the possibility that ELLI was a member of the Security Service as we did to plumb the possibility that PHILBY was the source of the tip-off, we are liable to come under fire either overtly or covertly from M.I.6. and perhaps the Foreign Office, on the charge that, though we are willing to wash other people's linen in public, we are reluctant to do the same with our own.

4. This being the case, I feel that no harm and, very possibly, a little good (if only in the field of politics rather than in the field of straight intelligence work) would come from BLUNT being interviewed, and interviewed fairly toughly.

5. He has been left fairly untouched since the early days of the enquiry, when for a variety of obvious reasons it was necessary to handle him, as indeed the whole enquiry, with kid gloves. If he is guilty, he should now have lulled himself into a state of comparative calm. He has hardly been contacted by the Office since 1951; various debates on B. & M. have left him unscathed; the various articles and books on the subject have also treated him with the utmost decorum. An interview when a tough line was taken and he was presented fairly and squarely with the hypothetical case against him (and there would seem little security risk for not so doing at this date) might jolt him out of his - if he is guilty - fool's paradise and help us to unravel at least a corner of this tangle.

6. His mind must be haunted by two, if not three fears - the first, his guilt as a spy, if he is one; secondly his left-wing background before the war; and thirdly his private life. Any one of these, or any combination of these three, could, were they ever made public, ruin him. I am not, of course, suggesting that this provides a blackmail motive in the interrogation, but if the matter is put to him plainly and bluntly it might show him that he is in a bigger pickle than he thought.

Sd. Courtenay Young.

D.1.  
29.12.55.

TOP SECRET

BDD:R  
31/1/56



-----  
 THE HYPOTHETICAL CASE AGAINST ANTHONY BLUNT  
 -----

1. Contrary to good logic and good intelligence procedure, this paper starts with the hypotheses that BLUNT equals ELLI and that ELLI is identical with the "Departmental Head of the British Counter Espionage Directorate in London" of the VOLKOV story, and the source of the information about the visit to Ottawa of "representatives of British greens".
2. The facts about the source in British Intelligence have been repeated throughout the files PF.66962 & SF.441/UK/5 ad nauseam. I will, however, very briefly re-capitulate them here:-
  - (a) He was highly placed in British Intelligence and had some connection with Russia. (1942 or 1943) (GOUZENKO).
  - (b) He reported that an important British agent was operating in Russia, but the individual handling the agent would not reveal his identity. (May 1942 to October 1943) (GOUZENKO).
  - (c) He was a member of a high grade Intelligence Committee with which the figure five might be connected. (1943) (LIUBIMOV via GOUZENKO).
  - (d) He was (presumably) one of the seven agents in the British Intelligence Service, and probably identical with the agent who was "Departmental Head of British Counter Espionage". (1945) (VOLKOV).
  - (e) Worked in British Counter Intelligence Service and handed over to the R.I.S. for photographing British dossiers on members of the Russian Embassy in London who were under security investigation. (Sometime prior to May 1944) (RAZIN via PETROV).
  - (f) Went over to the Dubok method. (Sometime between May 1942 and October 1943) (GOUZENKO).
  - (g) Warned ZABOTIN that representative of the British 'greens' were due to arrive in Ottawa for the purpose of strengthening work against Russian agents in conjunction with the R.C.M.P. (Sometime in mid-1944 or early 1945) (GOUZENKO).
  - (h) Reported to Moscow that documents had been stolen by the British from the Russian Military Attaché's office in London and attempts had been made to telephoto the inside of the office. (Sometime in or before 1945) (ROGOV via GOUZENKO).
  - (i) The high grade agent with the Russian background was still working in the U.K. (Sometime in 1945) (KOVLAKOFF via GOUZENKO).
3. BLUNT can be said with some distortion to fill every one of these specifications, with the possible exception of (c):-

/(a) BLUNT was



- (a) BLUNT was certainly, if not highly placed, at least extremely well placed in 1942/1943 to obtain information from this Office.
- (b) He has no Russian background, but he did visit Russia in the company of his brother before the War.
- (c) As regards the agent in Russia, the case for this being a deduction from J.I.C. papers has been ably argued by Serpell at 123a. The weakness of this is that it would appear that the J.I.C. papers from which this deduction could be drawn were not distributed to the Security Service. I do not know whether it would have been possible that - though we were not on the distribution - we did in fact receive copies of the British Military Mission's reports.
- (d) BLUNT was a member of a small ad hoc deception committee for the dissemination of deception material through diplomatic channels under the auspices of the London Control Section. This in fact, I believe, did consist of five members, namely:-
- Col. Wingate  
Sir Reginald Hoare  
Denis Wheatley  
Lionel Hale  
Anthony Blunt (or myself in his absence)
- (e) Though BLUNT was in no way Head of British Counter Intelligence, he was certainly in it and moderately prominent.
- (f) BLUNT was at one period in receipt of drop copies of all B.6. reports and could, and indeed on occasions which are on record did call for Russian diplomats' files. He thus had the necessary access for the photography of these dossiers.
- (g) As regards going over to the Dubok method, this does not really help one way or another in identification.
- (h) It would appear highly likely that the visit of the British 'greens' was in fact the visit paid by Captain Liddell to Ottawa in August 1944. BLUNT would certainly have known of this visit.

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ACT 1958 December 2022



(j) BLUNT was still working in the Office in 1945.

4. It can still be argued that the facts could be twisted to fit practically any member of the Office. The reasons for pointing the finger at BLUNT, rather than at the rest are:-

- (a) his pronounced left-wing views before the war;
- (b) his friendship with - and, if he was a spy, presumably his recruitment by - BURGESS;
- (c) that though it would be possible to twist most of the facts to fit a lot of people, it is really only necessary to twist one of the facts - namely the high-level intelligence committee - to fit BLUNT.

5. It must be admitted that, even looked at through the glasses of a possibly prejudiced Intelligence Officer, the case is not strong, but it assumes a somewhat different aspect when viewed through two pairs of lenses - firstly the possibly distorted lenses of the actual controller of the group, i.e. BURGESS, and then re-distorted by the observer, or observers, at the Moscow end, RAZIN, GOUZENKO, etc.

6. It can be argued that ELLI must be an individual and not a group. It seems possible, however, that ELLI may have been the cover name of the head of the spy-ring, i.e. BURGESS, and thus used indiscriminately for the whole group. An analogy would be the O.K.W. during the war referring to "reports from GARBO", when in fact the reports might well have come from one of GARBO's sources.

7. BURGESS was not a conspicuously accurate reporter of fact in his private life, and this may well have extended to his life as a spy. It would also be obviously to his advantage, in order to bolster up his prestige with his masters, to pitch his sources as high as possible. Thus, BLUNT might well become "highly placed" in British Intelligence. The "high grade Intelligence Committee" might be a reflection of the small ad hoc deception committee mentioned above; BURGESS might have known of this as he may well have been used as a channel to ORANGE for some of the material. The VOLKOV allegation could again be a reflection of BURGESS's exaggeration. The theft of documents and the photography could again be the result of Bentinck Street gossip. The "Dubok method" could refer to BURGESS's own communications, rather than the communications of his sub-sources.

[ 8. There is nothing in the above paragraph to convict BLUNT of being a conscious spy. All the information; the important British agent in Russia; the high grade Intelligence Committee; the visit of the British 'greens' and the stolen documents and photography could all have been gleaned by BURGESS from the Bentinck Street gallery.]



Mw

- 4 -

9. The one fact which, if true, could not have been learned from gossip, and which must damn someone as a spy, is the handing over of photographs of British dossiers of members of the Russian Embassy.

The other possible candidates within the Security Service would seem to be KEMBALL-JOHNSTON, Victor ROTHSCHILD or myself. KEMBALL-JOHNSTON or ROTHSCHILD could fit sub-paragraph 2(h) and sub-paragraph 2(g). They are not, however, such likely starters as BLUNT, as they were not so closely involved with BURGESS. I prefer to leave myself out of the argument, for similar and stronger reasons!

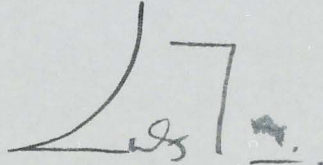
10. It is suggested that there are two preliminary pieces of investigation which might be done immediately:-

- (a) To enquire of Secretariat whether it is possible that the Security Service received the reports of the British Military Mission;
- (b) For Dickson to be interviewed to see whether he could remember any operation projected against the Soviet Embassy.

11. It is suggested that then BLUNT should be re-interviewed. During this interview he might have put before him the facts as outlined in Paragraph 2 above (with the exception of (e)) and invited to suggest who, other than himself, filled the bill. If he admits that he might well have acted as an unconscious source of BURGESS's and thus be guilty only of indiscretion to a person outside the Office, but, as he might well say, one who was an accredited agent of this Office, he could then be invited to consider Paragraph 2(e), which would suggest that the agent within the Security Service must certainly have been conscious.

BLUNT might also be invited to re-consider his statement that he was under the impression, when BURGESS asked him for information before the war, that BURGESS was working for British Intelligence, as he must have realised when he took BURGESS on as an agent that, in point of fact, at the time pre-war BURGESS was not working for British Intelligence. This may be dangerous, as there is no firm information on BURGESS's file as to his pre and early war employment. It is however clearly obvious that someone, on the terms of intimacy that BLUNT was with BURGESS, could not but be aware of every detail of the latter's pre-war and wartime official career.

D.1.  
29.12.55



Courtenay Young

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what  
was sent



SECRET.

176a

H.O.W. No. 1247.....

File No. 17-60482.....

A.2.A. for :

G.P.O. : - ~~MAJOR A. E. DENMAN~~ MAJOR A. E. DENMAN.

Please cancel the operation of the H.O.W. on the following :—

Name..... James  
BARDEN

Telephone No..... Welbeck 1308-9 and 9341

Date..... 21.12.55. Signature..... Ste Ray

BPDIA  
21/56.



Original Loose Minute Unfiled.

175a

Extract for FF 604582 BLUNDEN

D.4. Please cancel. CTY 19.12.55.

I operate the under-mentioned letter and telephone checks and would like to make the following recommendations:-

.....

HOW 1247      Imposed 15.6.51      BLUNDEN      WEL 1388-9 & 9841

This check, at present suspended indefinitely, has been operated from time to time since 1951 when occasion has demanded. If pressed, it could be cancelled.

.....

R. T. Reed.

D.1.A.  
16.12.55.

BFOIA  
2/1/56.



93.12  
PF.604582.

*D.* You said you would like to see this note which is of great value.

*m*  
D.1.A./PTR to see.

*Dk*  
10.12.55

*St Reed*

NOTE.

174a

I have read through the three volumes of PF.604582 and also SF.441/UK/5, and I fear that there is little constructive that I can add. I can give a little further information on BLUNT's Cambridge career and his duties while in the office, which are probably of no use now but might be of use one day if the case is ever reopened on receipt of fresh information.

BLUNT at Cambridge.

BLUNT did not come into my life at Trinity at all until my second year (1934) and then only vicariously through Brian SIMON. SIMON (son of Lord Simon of Withenshaw) I had known climbing in Wales before I went up, and we used to meet occasionally during my first year. He either then (1933) or in the next year was drawn into BLUNT's circle. This consisted of persons interested in French Literature, art, left-wing politics or homosexuals, or all four. SIMON I should say certainly came into the third and possibly into the fourth category. SIMON refused to speak to me after I joined the Pitt Club, and I only occasionally saw BLUNT at sherry parties. I belonged to the rival "intellectual" clique which centered round Steven RUNCIMAN, who cordially detested BLUNT and whose detestation was returned. I always regarded BLUNT as being extremely left-wing, a great deal further left than I was, and I suppose had someone asked me whether or not he had been a Communist, my answer would have been in the affirmative.

BLUNT in the Office.

I joined the office on 1.9.41 and was put in charge of B.1.F. (which dealt with the Japanese I.S.) which had been dealt with by BLUNT since the departure of my predecessor. B.1.F. remained under the aegis of BLUNT, who was a member of B.1.B., until about the middle of 1942 when it became absorbed into B.1.B. and I worked with and under BLUNT from then until I left for the Far East in approximately November 1944.

This portion of B.1.B. had as far as I know no set charter. The nearest it ever got to one was "Operations against German, Italian or Japanese Intelligence Services using Neutral Diplomats". This in fact enabled us to put our finger into practically any B.1 (i.e. counter-espionage) "ploy" there was.

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/.....

BPDIA  
14/12/55



174a  
Page 2.

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ACT 1958.



He also had his fingers in a number of other pies. For example he rehashed the GREEN case, which he alleged had been mishandled by Hugh SHILLITO. At this period he prepared for the delectation of the then D.B. (Captain Liddell) a paper on Stalin's activities in connexion with the "Levellers" and their connexion in turn with the Sydney Street siege. Some old papers had been thrown up by H/Registry for destruction dealing with this period, and BLUNT was horrified at the thought that they might be destroyed, and prepared this note as ammunition for D.B. to prevent their destruction. I never saw the note. I do not know what happened to it nor indeed to the files.

*I think  
this  
was  
written  
by  
BURGESS*

Having regard to his interest in the "Levellers", the GREEN case, the "Special Material" on the Russians, and general diplomatic activities, he could have called for any file on any Russian without anybody querying it. This in fact would go for any portion of the office with, I should say, the possible exception of the then F.1.A. (if I have got the section right) i.e. the secret investigations into the B.C.P. and material produced by S.F.

I have little recollection of REVAI in his capacity as source TOFFEE. In fact I think that during my period with BLUNT, REVAI must have been well-nigh dormant as a source, as I remember seeing REVAI and getting some information on some Hungarian emigre movement direct (I had known REVAI before the war when I had been a journalist). If he had been active as a source I should have thought that we would have gone to him via BURGESS in the latter's VAUXHALL capacity, rather than my going direct.

BURGESS in his VAUXHALL capacity used occasionally to come to the office, usually about a quarter to six or six, and he and BLUNT would then talk and leave the office together. I do not remember him coming to the office particularly frequently. My somewhat hazy guess would be about once a month or so.

POLLOCK had been used against Colin BROOK, and it was suggested that he should be used for another operation, details of which have escaped me but was what BLUNT referred to as a "Y" operation. This was the use of one homosexual against another, but this one was I remember firmly vetoed by the then D.B.

HEWIT was symbolised as DUMBO in I should say 1943 (this could probably be more closely dated by reference to the Walt Disney film). My recollection is that he was so symbolised for use in another "Y" operation which was also vetoed by D.B., but I may be separating what in fact was one operation into two. He never as far as I know produced any reports. I met him once at Bentinck Street at a cocktail party to which I and my wife had been asked and which I discovered was to celebrate HEWIT's birthday. I have the impression that he had come into the circle through WYLIE, the pre-war Resident Clerk at the War Office.

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[I saw little of BLUNT outside office hours, save for an occasional drink immediately we had left the office. I have the impression he either dined at Bentinck Street, at the Reform Club or at Garry's (? spelling), a sort of restaurant-cum-club in Soho which had before the war been patronised by the circus fraternity and had by this time turned into a sort of blackmarket restaurant. The other frequenters of Garry's were BURGESS, HARRIS, PHILBY, VESEY and presumably all the Bentinck Street galère.) I would not have thought that BLUNT was on particularly friendly terms with PHILBY at this period - i.e. PHILBY was not one of his intimates, but they may have frequently met at Garry's, as PHILBY was a great friend of Tommy HARRIS's. In fact I should say that I probably knew PHILBY better than did BLUNT.

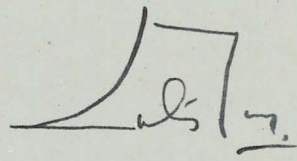
Extradi  
to  
PF 604.6  
Lawell  
DAVIE

As I have said before, I have a distinct recollection, though this may well be hind-sight and purely false memory, of BLUNT saying one day (I should say either the end of 1943 or early 1944) that "You know Guy was a Comintern agent before the war". This was at the height of some particular flap and it passed completely from my mind - if in fact it was ever there.

As regards Clare ARBUTHNOTT, she came to me as my secretary in about the spring of 1942 and remained with me till I went to the Far East at the end of 1944, when she transferred to BLUNT. Up to that time his secretary had been a large blonde from Roedean whose name escapes me but who looked as if she had been captain of the hockey eleven (? Jean or Joan WAUGH). Mrs. ARBUTHNOTT remained BLUNT's secretary as far as I know until either he left

She is an ardent Roman Catholic, semi-separated from her spendthrift husband. She was devoted to me and later transferred her devotion to BLUNT. I should say that it was to the highest degree unlikely that if BLUNT was in fact up to no good she knew anything about it.

From the aboverather rambling note, it will appear that there was virtually nothing in the office, apart from high policy, to which BLUNT could not have had access.



Courtenay Young.

D.1.  
30.11.55.

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SECRET

Major A. E. DENMAN, M.B.E.,  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEPT., (through A.2.A.)  
G.P.O.

Box 500, 173a  
Parliament Street B.O.,  
London, S.W.1.

Please \* Suspend

2843

T.C. No. : .....

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
Re-impose

\* { ~~Temporarily~~  
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ } from ..... to .....  
\* { Indefinitely } (if known)  
\* { ~~Permanently~~ (H.O.W. being retained) }

Date.....24.11.55. Section.....D.1.A. Signature.....  
St. Hill

Copy to A.2.A.  
Copy to file No. : .....FR 604582.....

(\* Delete as necessary)  
(Use this Form for both carbon copies).

BP31A  
7/12/55.



SECRET

Major A. E. DENMAN, M.B.E.,  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEPT., (through A.2.A.)  
G.P.O.

Box 500,  
Parliament Street B.O.,  
London, S.W.1.

172a

Please \* Suspend  
Re-impose  
XXXXXXXX

T.C. No.: 2147.....

\* { Temporarily  
Indefinitely  
Permanently (H.O.W. being retained) }  
XXXXXXXXXX } from.....to.....  
(if known)

Date..... 24.11.55..... Section..... D.7.A. Signature..... *St. King*

Copy to A.2.A. EF 604582  
Copy to file No.:.....

(\* Delete as necessary)  
(Use this Form for both carbon copies).

BPDIA  
7/12/55



SECRET

171a

Major A. E. DENMAN, M.B.E.,  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEPT., (through A.2.A.)  
G.P.O.

Box 500,  
Parliament Street B.O.,  
London, S.W.1.

\* Suspend  
Please  
Re-impose  
XXXXXXX

T.C. No.: 2138

\* {  
Temporarily  
XXXXXXXXXX  
Indefinitely  
Permanently (H.O.W. being retained)  
XXXXXXXXXXXX  
} from.....to.....  
(if known)

Date..... 24.11.55.

Section..... D.1.A.

Signature..... *[Handwritten Signature]*

Copy to A.2.A.  
Copy to file No.:.....

IF 604582

(\* Delete as necessary)

(Use this Form for both carbon copies).

BP DIA  
7/12/55



SECRET

170a

Major A. E. DENMAN, M.B.E.,  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEPT., (through A.2.A.)  
G.P.O.

Box 500,  
Parliament Street B.O.,  
London, S.W.1.

Please \* Suspend

T.C. No.:.....2135.....

Re-impose  
XXXXXXXXXX

\* {  
Temporarily  
XXXXXXXXXX  
Indefinitely  
Permanently (H.O.W. being retained)  
XXXXXXXXXX  
}

from.....to.....  
(if known)

Date.....24.11.55.....

Section.....D.1.A.....

Signature.....*A. Reef*.....

Copy to A.2.A.

Copy to file No.:.....PT 604582.....

(\* Delete as necessary)

(Use this Form for both carbon copies).

BPD/A  
7/12/55



169a

Note for FF 604582 BLUNDEN  
FF 604583 REES  
FF 604589 FLANAGAN

The checks upon REES, BLUNDEN, and FLANAGAN were imposed in order to see their reaction to the debates in the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

I have today discussed these checks with D.1 and we agreed that they may be suspended. I have therefore completed the forms for these three checks to be suspended indefinitely.

I have already informed Mrs. Grist and the other A.2.A. people.

*R. T. Reed*  
R. T. Reed.

D.1.A.  
24.11.55.

BPD/A  
7/12/55



A. 604,582 (BLUNDEN)  
MINUTE SHEET

K3/SP  
17/10

317  
1692

D.1.B. Mr. Cliffe. *cc 19 xi Pl. 44, 896*

If the object of the exercise in reinvestigating the KUSNECOFF case was an attempt to <sup>gun for</sup> [redacted] I am afraid that your gun has misfired. In fact it does not point to [redacted], who was merely an intermediary, but at the present D.1 who was B.1.F. at the time!

From memory the course of the case was as follows. The B.1.F/B.1.B. [redacted] (the relationship was in those days as between yourself and myself) interest came up after K's being placed in the Oratory Schools. Also at the Oratory was one MATSUMOTO, Kaoru, the Press Attache at the Japanese Embassy. He had been interned on 24.12.42 on Foreign Office instructions as a reprisal for the internment of our Press Attache H. de Vere Redman in Tokyo. MATSUMOTO (Heidelberg and New College educated) had been suspected of engaging in Japanese intelligence activities, partially owing to his contacts and partially because we knew from Most Secret Sources that he was receiving intelligence funds.

While in internment he came into contact with K. For the rest of the story we have only K's word. According to K, M had asked him when he was released to make contact with the Japanese Embassy in Lisbon and had said that they would look after him there and give him an intelligence mission. I believe that he had some sort of pass-word given him by M to establish his bona fides. According to K, this was a direct espionage assignment for him by M.

While this was taking place in the Oratory Schools, Jones was engaged in trying to place K somewhere for B.1.L. purposes. Jones reported this approach to the head of his section, Stopford, who informed [redacted] and myself. At that time we had no direct D/A channel to the Japanese in Europe, and it was felt strongly by [redacted] and myself that the potential dividend to be gained by opening such a channel outweighed the B.1.L. interest. This was ultimately conceded by B.1.L., but the case was rather unsatisfactorily run in that B.1.L. continued to control K, merely passing on the results to B.1.B. (B.1.F. had by then been absorbed into B.1.B.). The operation was known, if my memory serves me, as Operation KIMONO, and despite the fact that B.1.L. kept their files in a most sloppy condition, there should be some record of it somewhere unless the files have all been destroyed. As far as I remember K did make contact the first time, but I think failed to make contact the second, and the case petered out.

M was picked up after the Japanese surrender, when he was Press Attache in Bangkok, and I interrogated him in Changi Jail. He stoutly denied having made any sort of pass at K, but was obviously uneasy and ultimately burst into tears and near hysterics (this may have been partially accounted for by the fact that owing to an administrative oversight he had been in strict solitary confinement for six weeks). I think it is undoubted that there was some assignment given to K by M. It may well have been merely that he should tell the Japanese Embassy that he (M) was alive and well, and K blew this up into a definite espionage assignment.

The case from your point of view is made more complicated by the [redacted] W. J. HOCOPER connection. This was an entirely separate thing although [redacted] appears as a common factor for both. At that time [redacted] had an ill-defined

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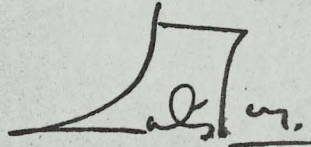
1/2/56  
DIEBAC  
20.11.55  
TOVER



MINUTE SHEET*MINUTE SHEET*

charter, and the section involved itself in a series of investigations and operations largely on an ad hoc basis. One of these in which ██████ was concerned was the investigation of W. J. HOOPER. To my recollection there was no marrying up of the cases of K./HOOPER/PARKLAAN and K./MATSUMOTO.

The above is past history and will probably make you even more confused than you were before. Be that as it may, I agree that it might be worth while reinvestigating and possibly ultimately re-interrogating K. The greatly increased background knowledge that we have on the R.I.S. should make such interrogation more realistic than any one previously undertaken by Jones, whose knowledge of the R.I.S. was, I should say, extremely scanty. The fact that K was and no doubt still is a liar, that HOOPER was a rogue and that Jones's reports are probably coloured and possibly intellectually dishonest, will not make the interrogator's task easier. Let us await the police report on K.



Courtenay Young.

D.1.  
17.11.55.



Note for FF 604582

168a

C.I.C. telephoned yesterday to report that Anthony BLUNT had applied for a new passport for the purposes of studies and holiday. They were told that there was no objection to this being granted.

*R. T. Reed*  
R. T. Reed.

D.1.A.  
16.11.55.

BDDIA  
16/11/55.



TELEPHONE CALL RECEIVED FROM:—

C.4.B Ext.....

P. & P.O. } (Outward Travel) Mr. Breudau Ext. ....

Home Office } (Inward Travel) Mr. .... Ext. ....

P.C.D.

1682

Date..... In respect of:—

1. Name (in full) Surname in block capitals... BLUNT

Anthony Frederick

2. If married Woman give Maiden Name.....

3. Date and Place of Birth... Bournemouth 26.9.07

4. Nationality.....

If acquired by naturalisation or marriage, state nationality of origin.....

5. Occupation... Professor

6. Home Address... 20 Portman Sq W 1

7. Passport No..... Date/Place of Issue.....

8. Address abroad to which Applicant is proceeding.....

9. Country from which Applicant is applying for visa.....

10. Object of Journey and Special Remarks... Wants New

Ppt. D travel fairly extensively

11. Dates of previous visits to U.K.....

\*12. References in U.K. ... On P.O. files in connection

with Burgess & ~~Mac~~ (!) Maclean

\* Inward Travel only.

RESULT OF LOOK-UP IN CENTRAL REGISTRY:—

British Empire, All Countries in Europe  
USA Morocco (French & Spanish)  
Egypt Tangier  
Study & holidays  
Professor

PA Blunt

RESULT OF LOOK-UP IN S.I.S.:—

~~NOTHING RECORDED AGAINST~~

.DIA  
for information

NO OBJECTION. 11 5 NOV 1955

8 P.D.A  
16/11/55



316a

Reference PF. 48,890  
Copy in PF. 63,101

1689

D.I.

We have recently been processing the file of Vladimir Alexandrovich KUSNECOFF, a self-confessed Russian agent, later an employee of this office, since 1947 a naturalised British subject and now believed to be residing in Newport, Monmouthshire. In the course of this examination, Miss Hay came across several points which suggested that KUSNECOFF's case might well merit a fresh inspection in the light of what we now know about R.I.S. methods and practices. She pointed out, for instance, that KUSNECOFF had an admitted liking for Russia and for his work as a spy, that he was a skilled W/T engineer, and that he had many underground contacts in seaports all over the world. As a first step, a police report has been requested.

D.I.A. also requested that the relationship of KUSNECOFF with W. J. HOOPER should be looked into, together with any possible connexion which Anthony ELUNT might have had with their recruitment for M.I.5. The attached note is very short and summary and is intended only to help towards a decision whether a fuller investigation of KUSNECOFF would now be justified. Both HOOPER and KUSNECOFF are rogues and turncoats, and their files run into many volumes. I am not troubling you with these at the moment, but they are available if wanted.

Not Copied

*Cedric Cliffe*

C. A. L. Cliffe

D.I.B.

15th November, 1955.

K3/BP 31/10

P.A. in	PF. 604,582	BLUNDEN
Orig. in	44,890	
Net	5	316a slips date 15.11.55

*4/2/56*  
*DIB/RAC*  
*22.11.55.*



PA in PF Blunt

Reference PF.604, 582/F.4/AGS

D.1.A/R. Reed.

*ck*  
26/10

167a

Professor Anthony BLUNT is to be asked to contribute to the next issue (Number 3 for November/December 1955) of "Realism", the journal of the Artists Group of the Communist Party. He will probably be asked to comment, as an art historian, on realism in English art.

F.4.

26.10.55.

A.G. Spencer

A.G. Spencer.

REGIMITE

(1945)  
JCS Ltd  
Gp736/210  
Code 5-35-0

80/22/D.A.

BPD/A  
29/10/55



*rm*  
*Hold DIA* EXTRACT

*165B*

Extract for File No. : P.F. 604, 529. Name : BLUNT.

Original in File No. : \* O.F. 42/6. Vol. : 3 Serial : 119a. Receipt Date : 7.10.55.

Original from : Special Branch. Under Ref. : 42/6/F.1.A./JHM. Dated : 5.10.55.

Extracted on : 27.10.55. by : JJ Section : B6.

Extract from Special Branch report concerning the ARTISTS INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION (Communist infiltrated organisation) mentioning: BLUNT.

With reference to M.I.5 letter No. O.F.42/6/F.1.A./JHM dated 23.6.55 asking for an up-to-date report concerning the ARTISTS INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION:

The headquarters of the Artists International Association are still at 15, Lisle Street, W.1 and the present officials of the organisation are as follows:-

.....

ADVISORY COUNCIL.

.....

Professor A.F. BLUNT.

An old A.I.A. member, he was also mentioned in M.I.5 letter No. P.F.604, 529/B2A of 9.6.51 who asked for his movements to be reported in connection with the Burgess-Maclean investigation - 371/51/80.23a.

.....

\* If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner

*SPD/it  
29/10/55*



Reference PF.604,582

*10/10*  
D.1.A/R. Reed.

*163a*

*166a*

With reference to my loose minute of 31.8.55.  
the date for the exhibition to mark the formal return  
of the Sistine Madonna and the other Old Masters to the  
Germans is now pretty firm and is 1st June 1956. The  
exhibition will be held in Dresden.

F.4.  
7.10.55.

*A.G. Spencer*  
A.G. Spencer.



165a

Anthony Frederick BLUNT

Anthony Frederick BLUNT was born at Bournemouth on 26 September 1907. He was the second son of the Reverend A. S. V. BLUNT, Vicar of St. John's Paddington.

BLUNT was educated at Marlborough College and at Trinity College, Cambridge. He was a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge from 1932 to 1936. From 1937 to 1939 he was on the staff of the Warburg Institute, London. In 1939 he was reader in the History of Art at London University and a Deputy Director of the Courtauld Institute.

In August 1939 he joined the Army and saw service in France.

In July 1940 he was seconded to M.I.5. and he remained with this service until 31 October 1945. Later in 1945 he became Surveyor of the Pictures of King George VI and in 1947 Professor of the History of Art at London University and Director of the Courtauld Institute. In 1952 he was appointed Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures.

BLUNT's case was examined by the Security Service at the time of the disappearance of MACLEAN and BURGESS because it was known that he had been for many years a close friend of BURGESS. BLUNT had in fact been responsible for recruiting BURGESS as an outside agent of the Security Service in 1941 and had for a time acted as BURGESS's supervising officer. At the time of the disappearance BLUNT made a statement in which he volunteered certain information about BURGESS. He said that BURGESS had been a Communist while at Cambridge and that although he had announced a change of heart he had remained a Marxist.

Goronwy REES (q.v.) who also made a statement about BURGESS on 6 June 1951 said that BURGESS had told him in, he thought, 1937, that he was acting as a Comintern agent and that BLUNT was one of his sources.

BLUNT was re-interviewed on 14 July 1951. He admitted to giving BURGESS some help in 1937-38 in what he understood to be work BURGESS was doing for the British Intelligence. He said that until REES made his statement he had never heard of BURGESS working for the Comintern and added that he himself had neither asked nor been told the purpose of the work which he had done for BURGESS.

On 14 November 1951 BLUNT volunteered the information that he had a large quantity of BURGESS's private papers which he had been keeping for him. The papers were handed over to the Security Service.

As a result of the enquiries which were made the only adverse security information uncovered about BLUNT was that he had in 1935 visited Russia travelling on Soviet ships, and that in 1936 he received and accepted an invitation from Marx House to lecture on art ("Is Art Propaganda?") at the Marx Memorial Library. From information received in the course of the enquiries it was apparent that BLUNT is a homosexual and that he had had homosexual relations with BURGESS and with HEWITT, the homosexual with whom BURGESS shared his flat.

BLUNT was re-interviewed on 9 May 1952 but this interview and the investigations into his case which continued for some time failed to produce any evidence that BLUNT was ever himself a conscious spy of that he is or was a Communist.

BLUNT's attitude and response at his interviews is not considered to have been satisfactory but the whole case is so clouded by his homosexual habits and contacts that it is difficult to say if his seeming unwillingness to be completely frank was not due to his extreme anxiety that his personal peculiarities should not become more widely known.

7.10.55.



NOTE

1646

The attached memorandum is the work of CHAPMAN PINCHER of the Daily Express. I understand that the circumstances are as follows:-  
When the revival of Press interest in B and M began during the week of 19 September, the Daily Express representative in Madrid contacted Cyril CONNOLLY who was then on holiday in Majorca. CONNOLLY is of course well known as the author of "The Missing Diplomats". CONNOLLY declined to write anything for the Express while he was still abroad but on return to the U.K. he got in touch with the Daily Express and his conversation with CHAPMAN PINCHER followed.

D.  
30.9.55.

G.R.Mitchell.

*note: This document was handed to CIA.*



COPY

Memo to:-

This is a summary of my conversation with Cyril Connolly, whom I considered to be a most intelligent and highly perceptive person:-

Connolly knew both Burgess and Maclean but never knew that they were friends apart from a puzzling reference by Maclean that Burgess was part of "his ash-can life".

Burgess was always a rip-roaring homosexual who felt that he must have this or that man. Connolly describes him as a "pouncer" who would go to great lengths to procure a particular person and make no secret of it, maintaining that the men of the future would behave as he did.

He was so open about his homosexuality that he would say at a dinner party "I have stopped travelling by train because I always feel I must have the engine-driver. So now I always go by car".

Maclean was the passive female type of homosexual who was inherently ashamed of his vice but occasionally gave way to it especially when he was drunk, which was often.

Both men loathed their mothers. Connolly tells how he and Maclean used to make rude rhymes about Lady Maclean and sing them. He believes that Burgess and Maclean's homosexuality and their Communism was to some extent an expression of their hatred for their mothers and the conservative reactionary background in which they had been raised.

He also maintains that Maclean loathed his wife Melinda, particularly after she had a sexual affair with some Egyptian in Cairo.

He says that the child which Melinda was expecting was the result of an attempt to start the marriage over again after Melinda's Cairo adultery and Maclean's homosexual affairs.

The most important information he produced was the name of the person who, in his opinion, was the Comintern agent who supervised the spy-ring to which Maclean and Burgess presumably belonged.

This was a Swiss diplomat called Erich Kessler who at the beginning of the story was the London Editor of the Swiss paper Nieuve Zuercher Zeitung and later served in the Swiss Embassy in London. He was a homosexual and shared a flat with Burgess in Baker Street. At this time there was some friendship with Clarissa Churchill, who is now Lady Eden, Connolly maintains.

Connolly believes that Kessler and Burgess used their homosexuality to convert other homosexuals to Communism. They are alleged to have tried to convert Clarissa to the cause though apparently with no result.

Kessler may have met Maclean when he was in London but there is certain evidence that they met when both were serving in Washington.



Connolly says that Maclean was in considerable trouble in Washington because he gave the date of D-day or made some other equally shocking gaffe in a bar in Washington and left a brief case there with some highly secret documents in it. This brief case was picked up by an American officer who reported the matter.

Kessler eventually was promoted to a post in the Swiss Embassy in Bucharest and is apparently still there. Connolly suspects that it was because of the connections with Kessler that money was sent to Melinda through a Swiss bank and that Melinda eventually went to live in Switzerland prior to her escape. He thinks it highly probable that Kessler organised the escape.

Connolly vaguely remembers the name of Philby and believes that he may be the son of St. John Philby an explorer who was a Fascist.

He claims that Maclean let it be known that he did not want to go back to the Foreign Office after his return in disgrace from Cairo - which fits in with the belief that maybe he went because the Russians wanted him to.

He says that Maclean got roaring drunk after his first day back there and said in a loud voice that he was only going back "To do Uncle Joe's work". This remark was reported to the Foreign Office by a woman friend of Connolly's who heard it but apparently nothing was done.

Connolly is convinced that Maclean had no intention of escaping when he met him at lunchtime a few hours before the panic flight to France.

He was dressed in a most casual way and spoke as though life was better than it had been. He claimed he was not drinking so much and that he did not "want boys anymore".

While taking oysters with a couple called Campbell at Wheeler's before lunch on the day he fled the country Maclean said he would be lonely while Melinda was having the baby and asked if he could stay with them for a few days to help keep him off the drink. The Campbells said they would be delighted to have him.

Connolly believes that his investigations show that Burgess too was in no state of nerves at lunchtime on that day. In the evening Burgess was due at some dinner party given by the Berry's because he was going to be appointed chief leader writer of the Telegraph.

Another 'queer' called Anthony Blunt, now "Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures" was at this dinner and is said to have been most perturbed when Burgess did not turn up.

Connolly says that his Foreign Office friends have cold-shouldered him since he wrote his factual articles on Burgess and Maclean in the Sunday Times on the ground that they were in shocking taste.

He says that after the disappearance of the diplomats Melinda and Mrs. Dunbar were regarded as almost "sacred" people who should on no account be questioned.

He agrees that the Foreign Office is full of homosexuals and claims that to his certain knowledge Harold Nicholson was one of them.

I got the conversation round to Lord Talbot de Malahide but Connolly had only vaguely heard of him and knew



nothing of him in this connection.

Connolly says that Sir Percy Sillitoe let the cat out of the bag about the fact that M.I.5. had been shadowing Maclean for some time, before Melinda escaped. Apparently Sillitoe was in Australia and met some person there who had been a colleague of his during the war. He spoke rather freely in the presence of this man's wife without knowing that she was a friend of the Macleans. There is some possibility that she told Melinda, though what bearing this might have on her subsequent flight is doubtful. Anyway it shows that Sillitoe could not keep his mouth shut.

As a result of his investigations Connolly has made up a diary of Maclean and Burgess's movements in the days before they disappeared recording who they lunched with etc. but the security authorities have never been to see him or asked him for any information.

P.S. Connolly has just rung me to say that he feels pretty certain from his memory that Philby shared a flat with Burgess in Washington.



163a

3/9

D.1.A/R. Reed.

Arising from our discussion this morning as a result of my request for Professor Anthony BLUNT's P.F., I record for your information the facts, as I know them so far, about the proposed visit of a group of art historians and art critics to Eastern Germany.

2. The Russians, as you know, have for some time been keeping about 700 Old Masters, including the Sistine Madonna. They suddenly announced to the world a few months ago that these famous pictures were not destroyed but had all along since the war been in safe keeping in Russia, and they had put them on view in Moscow. As a gesture, and at a suitable time, these pictures are to be handed back to the Germans.
3. This day will be an event of first importance in the art world. Accordingly the Germans are anxious that it should be given appropriate publicity. Frau Gerda MULLER, who appears to have the English desk in the Gesellschaft für Kulturelle Verbindungen, has asked an English art historian, who is a Party member, to arrange for a group of English art historians and critics to attend this function. To date, this man has been able to get BLUNT and Dennis MATTHEWS to agree to attend this function, provided their other engagements permit. Professor Richardson, P.R.A., and Philip HENDY both refused. John BERGER, who as you know is a member of the Artists Group of the B.C.P., may go on the trip.
4. I have recorded the facts above to put you in the picture. I have, however, just learned from my source that the date of this expedition, which in as much as it depended on the Russians was always somewhat hazy, has now been changed to "in January", in a letter he received from Germany to-day. Whether BLUNT and the others, who think they will be able to go on such a trip, will now go on a different date, remains to be seen.

F.4.  
31.8.55.

A.G. ~~Spencer~~  
A.G. Spencer.



SECRET

162a

F. SAFFERY, ESQ.,  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEPT.,  
G.P.O.

Box 500,  
Parliament Street B.O.,  
London, S.W.1.

Please \* Suspend  
Re-impose  
~~xxxxxx~~

T.C. No.: 2136

\* { Temporarily  
Indefinitely  
Permanently (H.O.W. being retained) }  
~~xxxxxxx~~  
~~xxxxxxx~~

from today to approx. 12.9.55  
(if known)

Date: 30.8.55.

Section: D1A

Signature: *R. T. Reed*

R. T. Reed

Copy to A.2.A.  
Copy to file No.: EF 604582

(\* Delete as necessary)  
(Use this Form for both carbon copies).

BPDIA  
30/8/55



SECRET

161a

G. F. SAFFERY, ESQ.,  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEPT.,  
G.P.O.

Box 500,  
Parliament Street B.O.,  
London, S.W.1.

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from today to approx. 12.9.55  
.....  
(if known)

Date..... 30.8.55.....

Section..... D1A.....

Signature..... *R. T. Reed*  
R. T. Reed

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F. SAFFERY, ESQ.,  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEPT.,  
G.P.O.

Box 500, *160a*  
Parliament Street B.O.,  
London, S.W.1.

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Re-impose  
~~Re-impose~~

T.C. No.: *2135* .....

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~~Indefinitely~~  
Permanently (H.O.W. being retained) } from *today* ..... to *approx. 12.9.55*  
(if known)

Date *30.8.55.* ..... Section *D1A* ..... Signature *R. T. Reed* .....

Copy to A.2.A.  
Copy to file No.: *FP 604582* .....

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SECRET

159a

F. SAFFERY, Esq.,  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEPT.,  
G.P.O.

Box 500,  
Parliament Street B.O.,  
London, S.W.1.

Please \* Suspend  
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T.C. No.: 2147

\* { Temporarily  
~~Indefinitely~~  
Permanently (H.O.W. being retained) }  
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today approx. 12.9.55  
from.....to.....  
(if known)

Date.....30.8.55.....

Section.....D1A.....

Signature.....  
R. T. Reed

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SECRET

F. SAFFERY, ESQ.,  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEPT.,  
G.P.O.

Box 500,  
Parliament Street B.O.,  
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Please ~~Suspend~~  
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Re-impose

T.C. No.: 2138

158a

\* { Temporarily  
Indefinitely  
Permanently (H.O.W. being retained) } from.....to.....  
(if known)

Date..... 25.8.55.....

Section..... D1A.....

Signature..... *R. T. Reed*.....

R. T. Reed

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(\* Delete as necessary)

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DP D1A  
30/8/55



SECRET

F. SAFFERY, Esq.,  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEPT.,  
G.P.O.

Box 500,  
Parliament Street B.O.,  
London, S.W.1.

157a

Please ~~XXXXXX~~ \* Suspend  
Re-impose

T.C. No.: 2135.....

\* { Temporarily  
Indefinitely  
Permanently (H.O.W. being retained) } from.....to.....  
(if known)

Date..... 25.8.55.....

Section..... D.1.A.....

Signature *R. T. Reed*  
R. T. Reed.....

Copy to A.2.A. HF 604582  
Copy to file No. ....

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SECRET

156a

F. SAFFERY, ESQ.,  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEPT.,  
G.P.O.

Box 500,  
Parliament Street B.O.,  
London, S.W.1.

Please ~~XXXXXXXX~~ \* Suspend  
Re-impose

T.C. No.: 2136.....

\* { Temporarily  
Indefinitely  
Permanently (H.O.W. being retained) } from.....to.....  
(if known)

Date.....25.8.55.....

Section..D.1.A.....

Signature.....  
*R. T. Reed*

R. T. Reed

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Copy to file No.:.....EF 601582.....

(\* Delete as necessary)

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SECRET

155a

F SAFFERY, ESQ.,  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEPT.,  
G.P.O.

Box 500,  
Parliament Street B.O.,  
London, S.W.1.

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~~XXXXXXXX~~  
Re-impose

T.C. No.:.....2147.....

\* { Temporarily  
Indefinitely  
Permanently (H.O.W. being retained) }  
from.....to.....  
(if known)

Date...25.8.55.....

Section...D.1.A.....

Signature...R. T. Reed.....  
*R. T. Reed*

Copy to A.2.A.  
Copy to file No.:.....FF 60,582.....

(\* Delete as necessary)  
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Note for PF 604582

154a

A report in the newspaper the "Scotsman" which was received yesterday said that the report about the Royal Commission in Australia had been presented to the Governor General in Australia, Sir William Slim. In view of this and of the possibility that the Royal Commission report may now be presented to the Australian House and that, as a result, PETROV's book will be published, I telephoned to Mrs. Grist yesterday afternoon to ask her to start the telephone checks working on the four BLUNT lines. I suggested that these should begin to operate on Friday morning 26 August.

*R. T. Reed*  
R. T. Reed.

25.8.55.

BPDIA  
25/8/55



153A

~~D.~~  
You wished to have  
this for ~~Bruner's~~ file  
BLUNDER

Free (AM)  
12.8.55

R  
PA in FF 604582 BLUNDER

AlbDIA

13.8



SECRET.

10.8.55.

Temple Bar 2151. (Communist Party H.Q.)

PP 604,582

original on # 605,326

Incoming. 10.8.55.

Man asked for Bob STEWART and was told he was not in. Caller asked where he could get him as it was rather urgent. (Phyllis FORD) enquired and said he had been in and might be now at lunch. She did not know if he would come back. Caller asked for his phone number at home.

Phyllis was unable to find the number but said he would not be available anyhow.

Caller asked for Emile BURNS and told him his name was Ewan PHILLIPS. He was a member of the Artists Group of the Party and had just come back from East Germany. They were having a big "Do" there when the Russians handed back the 750 old masters, including the Sistine Madonna, and he suggested they ought to invite some top-ranking people in that line from this country to take part.

He had talked this over with Reg TURNER and got out a short list of suggestions. Reg suggested getting Bob STEWART's approval but Bob was not there and time was short, as it would only be about another month until it took place.

Emile asked him to send along any suggestions he liked to 'them'. He did not mind.

PHILLIPS did not want to invite anybody who might not be quite right. Emile laughed and said he thought PHILLIPS would know better than himself.

PHILLIPS had thought of Professor BLOUNT who was head of the Courtould(?) - Emile said he just did not know them and seemed prepared to let PHILLIPS make his own choice.

Anthony BLUNT (PP 604,582)

C.S

14.25.  
62.

Courtould Institute



FF.604582 (BLUNDEN)  
Copy FF.604583 (REES)

152A

NOTE

Mr. Saffery telephoned on the 19 July to report that the checks upon BLUNDEN and upon REES were ready to operate as soon as we wanted them to come on. I said that we had no news of the information about PETROV being made public but that as soon as we were told of this publicity I would ask him to impose the checks.

D.I.A  
22.7.55

*R.T. Reed*  
R.T. Reed.



151A

NOTE

Denman (G.P.O.) informed me today that WEL 9841 was changed on 17 May 1955 to WEL 1074 (ex-directory) and that a check would therefore be imposed on this number instead of the previous one.

D.I.A.  
16.7.55

*R.T. Reed*  
R.T. Reed.



- ✓ PF. 604582 (BLUNDEN)
- PF. 604583 (REES)
- PF. 604589 (FLANAGAN)
- PF. 604584 (PEACH)

150A

NOTE

In view of the information shortly to be made public by PETROV about the cases of BURGESS and MACLEAN it was agreed today with D that the telephone checks upon BLUNDEN and REES should be re-imposed just before the publicity occurs. The PEACH check is already in operation and it is not possible to put a telephone check on FLANAGAN.

I therefore asked Mr. Saffery this afternoon to stand by to re-impose the telephone checks upon:

- (a) Line 2135 - WEL 1388 )
- " 2136 - " 1389 )
- " 2138 " 9841 ) BLUNDEN.
- " 2147 " 4841 )

(b) Line 2577 - ABERYSTWYTH 7803 - REES,  
and warned Mrs. Grist accordingly.

D.I.A.  
16.7.55.

*R.T. Reed.*  
R.T. Reed.



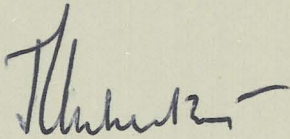
149A

NOTE FOR FILE

1. Reference 147a and Minute 148. I telephoned de la Mare on 27.8.54 and informed him that I had looked up our own record of the Foreign Office enquiry about BLUNT in July 1953 (minutes 129 and 130). I informed de la Mare of the transactions with Carey Foster and Lord Talbot as recorded in these minutes, pointing out that we had not in fact replied to the Foreign Office enquiry at that time with a bald N.R.A. Nor would we do so if aw had a similar enquiry now. Our reply would in fact be on precisely the same lines as it had been last year.

2. De la Mare then told me that he had discussed the recent proposal that BLUNT should be employed on a lecturing task for the British Council with the head of the Cultural Relations Department of the Foreign Office, informing the latter that although no specific security objection could be raised to the choice of BLUNT for this purpose, Security Department did not think he was suitable because of possible embarrassment which might result owing to his personal circumstances and past and present associates. De la Mare added that he had in mind the fact that the "Evening Standard does not like the British Council and the Daily Express does not like the Foreign Office".

D.1.  
30.8.54

  
J.C. Robertson

M  
30/8



MINUTE SHEET

Reference PF. 604,582

TOP SECRET AND PERSONAL

147A

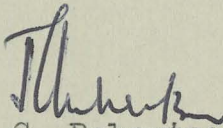
<sup>22</sup>  
D.1.A/R.T.R. 27/8

De la Mare telephoned me on 24 August on the subject of BLUNT, stating that BLUNT's name had come up again as a nominee for a British Council lecturing job abroad. De la Mare had turned up his old records of BLUNT, and was somewhat surprised to see that we had replied N.R.A. to a Foreign Office enquiry in 1953 when BLUNT was up for a similar job.

2. I told de la Mare that I should have the record looked up, and that my impression meanwhile was that we had formally replied N.R.A. on the ground that no substantial risk to security would be involved in the employment of BLUNT as a lecturer, but had simultaneously drawn the attention of Carey Foster to the enquiry, and reminded him of the reasons for our particular interest in BLUNT.

3. I should be grateful if you would look up the earlier record and confirm that my statement to de la Mare was correct. I understood from de la Mare that he would not view with favour the present proposal to use BLUNT as a British Council lecturer.

D.1.  
27.8.54

  
J.C. Robertson

D.M.A.  
27/8/54

[OVER



K3) RHW  
21/11

EXTRACT

1472a

Extract for File No.: P.F. 604,582 Name: BLUNT

Original in File No.: P.F. 604,584 Supp Z Vol.: 22 Serial: 1252 Receipt Date: 21.8.54

Original from: T/C on PEACH Under Ref.: Dated: 20.8.54

Extracted on: 2.12.69 by: CMJ Section: R5

\*If the original is in the file of an individual include the name of the file owner.

.....

I/C call for KIM from DORA.  
She said that there were four letters for him two of which looked uninteresting. Of the other two, one was from the Westminster Bank, and the other was in an educated hand from the Courtauld Institute of Art. KIM said that that would be from BLUNDEN and asked DORA if she would forward that together with the one from the Bank. DORA said she would put them in the post tomorrow morning, so KIM would get them on Monday. KIM then spoke to his father, and tried in vain to persuade him to come to Lords. His father was going off to Cambridge, but was coming back on Sunday-week. KIM then had a few more words with DORA about bringing Josephine to the ballet (no date mentioned).

.....

K3/160J  
16/12/69



1472

Original received 16.8.54.  
Filed at 517a in Vol. 10  
of PP 604, 584 PHILBY.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON  
COURTAULD INSTITUTE OF ART



Mr Philby Esq  
The Attorney General  
Lower Regent Street

SW1



UNIVERSITY OF LONDON  
COURTAULD INSTITUTE OF ART  
20 PORTMAN SQ. LONDON W1  
WEAVER - 18827

My dear Kim

Please forgive me for not  
answering. Your letter came just after  
I had gone away. (I was ~~back~~)  
in school holiday

Frank & Charles have  
on the whole a considerable part of  
been in an artist - sort of  
technical, but they are of the  
London City long enough and  
were present what about lunch  
on Thursday (19<sup>th</sup>)? Perhaps you  
need not say exactly how we



answered by telephone in case the call  
is to the effect of a contract

Love

Ann



145a

THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
RETAINED IN DEPARTMENT  
UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF  
THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958



SECRET

144a

G. F. SAFFERY, Esq.,  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEPT.,  
G.P.O.

Box 500,  
Parliament Street B.O.,  
London, S.W.1.

Please \* Suspend  
  
Re-impose

T.C. No.: 2135, 2136, 2138, 2147. ....

\* ~~Temporarily~~  
Indefinitely } from to-day. to .....  
~~Permanently (H.O.W. being retained)~~ } (if known)

Date 6 May 1954. Section D.I.A. Signature E. McBarnet.

Copy to B.4.B. FF.604,582.  
Copy to file No. ....

(\* Delete as necessary)  
(Use this Form for both carbon copies).

DC/DIA  
6/5/54



140a +  
143a.

THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
RETAINED IN DEPARTMENT  
UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF  
THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958.



✓ 139a

**SECRET**

NAME: BLUNDEN.

T.C. No.: 2I36.

Tel. No.: Welbeck 984I.

Date :

Responsible Section: D.I.a.

25.3.54. Thursday.

26.3.54. Friday.



27 MAR 1954

Nothing of interest to report.

25.3.54.

26.3.54.

Incoming call to BLUNDEN from his Mother to wish him bon voyage and to ask about his journey. He told her he was leaving Waterloo Air Terminal tonight at 10.30. He would be in Rome tomorrow evening for one night and then on to Naples. He told her that JOHN was coming with him for a fortnight which was very nice and suited him very well. He would then have a week on his own which would be rather pleasant. ROBIN CHANCELLOR was here for dinner and BLUNDEN hoped he had his car and would drive them to the terminal. BLUNDEN said he did not want to do it but he might have to step off on the way back to see DOUGLAS COOPER. However, it might be useful for reasons of policy. He would ring his Mother on his return.

20.57.

LINE SUSPENDED.

JW.

SPSKIN

Jc/DIA  
30/3/54



SECRET

138<sup>a</sup>

F. SAFFERY, Esq.,  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEPT.,  
G.P.O.

Box 500,  
Parliament Street B.O.,  
London, S.W.1.

Please ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
\* Suspend  
Re-impose

2135, 2136, 2138, 2147.

T.C. No.: .....

\* { Temporarily  
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
Indefinitely  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
Permanently (H.O.W. being retained) }

from 26.3.54. to .....  
(if known)

Date.....  
26 March 1954.

Section.....  
D.1.A.

Signature.....  
H. McBarret.

Copy to B.4.B. PF. 604,582.  
Copy to file No.: .....

(\* Delete as necessary)  
(Use this Form for both carbon copies).

Jc/DIA  
26/3/54.



**SECRET**

137a

NAME: BLUNDEN.

T.C. No.: 2147.

Tel. No.: Welbeck 4181.

Date :

Responsible Section: D.I.a.

22.3.54. Monday.

24 MAR 1954

Nothing of interest to report.

23.3.54. Tuesday.

O/G call to Bayswater 1525. (Barclays Bank, Notting Hill Gate), to the Chief Clerk, from BLUNDEN. BLUNDEN was afraid that a cheque for some travellers cheques might overdraw his account? The Chief Clerk replied that there was £85. in the Account, and that the travellers cheques came to £63. BLUNDEN was afraid that he would want a good bit more money than this, and said that the Manager had once told him that he could have an Overdraft of £100. BLUNDEN therefore asked for this, but did not suppose that he would need it all. The Chief Clerk said that this would be quite all right, and asked BLUNDEN how long he would need it? BLUNDEN asked for this Overdraft for a couple of months, and said that he would have cleared it up by then. The Chief Clerk gave him the Overdraft for three months.

09.30.

O/G call to Hampstead 8788 to HONEY from BLUNDEN (a ring-back). They agreed that they had both been meaning to ring one another for some time. BLUNDEN said that he was going away on Friday night, and expected to be back by about Easter Sunday. That was just when HONEY would be going away. HONEY therefore asked if they could lunch together before BLUNDEN went away. BLUNDEN suggested Thursday. HONEY had left his note-book at home, so would ring-back that evening to confirm it. BLUNDEN asked him to ring before seven-thirty, as he was going out.

15.59.

P.M.S.Jc/DIA  
24/3/54.



For File No: PF.604,582 - BLUNT.

Original in PF.604,854, serial 16a, dated 22.1.54.

136a

Extract from Mr. Skardon's note on his interview with James  
POPE-HENNESSY.

During the period of their close association he always thought that BURGESS was a communist. He never had any positive evidence of the fact but he thought by his conduct and his language that he was very much more left than would be a member of the Labour Party. He was completely anti-religious and this fact was one that disturbed POPE-HENNESSY to a large extent for he is a Roman Catholic. BURGESS had a wide circle of friends, all of whom seemed to POPE-HENNESSY to behave as communists. These included Anthony BLUNT, Victor ROTHSCHILD, "the girl who is now his wife" and other curious people who consorted at Bentinck Street during the early war years. Guy was living almost exclusively at that address and for a time POPE-HENNESSY took over his flat at Chester Square.

Je/DIA  
28/1/54



NOTE FOR FILE

Early on the morning of 29 December Colonel BASSETT rang me and said that his wife had received a letter from an individual with whom she had made an appointment at 11.30 a.m. today, and he was rather anxious that I should see her before she went off to the meeting place. He apologised that Mrs. BASSETT had failed, contrary to his wishes, to tell me about this when I saw her on 28 December.

I went to Arlington House, and it transpired that Mrs. BASSETT had heard from an old correspondent of Foreign Office on the subject of the MACLEANS, namely Mrs. Isobel Hamilton SALUSBURY, a woman of some eighty years, who lives alone at the Aban Court Hotel, Harrington Gardens, S.W.7. In this letter Mrs. SALUSBURY had indicated that she was on friendly terms with Melinda MACLEAN, whom she had known since she was "Linda DUNBAR", and had seen her as recently as eight weeks ago and would like to tell Mrs. BASSETT the upshot of their conversation on that occasion. Mrs. BASSETT had telegraphed suggesting an appointment today, and this had been confirmed by a letter in reply from Mrs. SALUSBURY, who begged to have the interview held in her small bedroom for the sake of privacy. I advised Colonel and Mrs. BASSETT that I thought no danger might be imagined, and that they were unlikely to gain anything from a visit to Mrs. SALUSBURY, though I thought no harm would come from it.

PF 604.588/5077.17.

At 2.30 p.m. the same day I went to Arlington House following a telephone message and saw the BASSETTs once more. It transpired that Mrs. SALUSBURY, who appeared to be completely "ga-ga", alleged that Melinda MACLEAN was living with her children with an old nanny in a house in Hants somewhere near the New Forest. Mrs. SALUSBURY had tactfully told Melinda that she would rather not know the address when she saw her eight weeks ago. There was a good deal more about the manner in which Melinda arrived in this country from Switzerland, and of the difficulties she encountered whilst travelling from A to B, B being the address in Hants, but I find myself in complete agreement with Mrs. BASSETT's view that Mrs. SALUSBURY is a fairly harmless lunatic.

I sought to take some profit from the occasion by reviewing the facts and manner of Guy BURGESS's departure from this country, and I had a discussion with the BASSETTs which lasted about an hour-and-a-half. Mrs. BASSETT was eminently reasonable and friendly, and whilst she began by stating her belief that Guy had left the country to give aid to some person in distress (obviously Donald MACLEAN), she ended, after we had fully reviewed all the facts and test her recollections, by saying that about a week before his departure Guy suddenly changed from being a cheerful person and obviously had something on his mind. She thought that she could properly time the change in his manner to the visit which he paid to the POLLOCKS in Hertfordshire.

Mrs. BASSETT is aware, of course, that Guy was a member of the Communist Party whilst at Cambridge; she believed him when he said that he had left the Party and accepted his reasons for doing so. These were that he could not stand the purge which had taken place in the Soviet Union. She was unable to connect Guy with Donald MACLEAN in any way at all, except by reason of a possible association at Cambridge and in the United States through Guy's friendship with Alan MACLEAN. She mentioned that whilst in Washington there was some question as to whether Mrs. BASSETT would be happier staying with the PHILBYs than at a hotel, a question which was resolved by her going to a hotel; but this was not a good enough opportunity for me to embark upon an interrogation of Mrs. BASSETT about her relationship or her conversations with Aileen PHILBY.

PF 604.584.

I think it will be...../



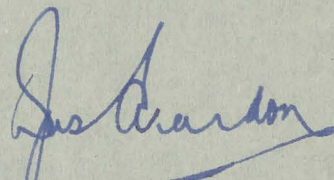
I think it will be sufficient to say that we trampled once more over ground which has been trod so many times in the past, and no new fact emerged. I may also add that I gave Mrs. BASSETT once more an opportunity to confide in me anything which might be a contribution towards the solution of this enquiry, but it seemed that she had no evidence or information to offer.

She had mentioned when I was with her on 22 December that she was thinking of telephoning Anthony BLUNT, and I took the opportunity today to ask her whether she had in fact spoken to him. She informed me that she received a card from BLUNT postmarked Sicily, 23 December, in which he anticipated returning shortly to England, since he was fully recovered. She explained that after a lecture tour in Greece in the late summer he had been taken ill and had been ordered abroad by his doctor. This morning Mrs. BASSETT telephoned BLUNT's secretary at Courtauld Institute and was informed that they were expecting a telegram from BLUNT announcing his return, but she, the secretary, explained that a railway strike somewhere had been holding BLUNT up.

I told Colonel and Mrs. BASSETT that I was always at their service, and they very much appreciated the action which I had taken on this occasion. As I left, the Colonel informed me privately that he thought it had been a very ill-advised action to inform the press of the receipt of this letter, and he was sure Mrs. BASSETT now regretted it. Unfortunately, as he pointed out, Nigel had advised it, and he is regarded by Mrs. BASSETT as having more sense than the Colonel. He also speculated as to the existence one way or the other of a previous letter, but this was a matter which I was unable to offer any help.

on

D.1.A.  
29.12.53

  
W.J. Skardon.



SECRET

F. GAFFERY, ESQ.,  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEPT.,  
G.P.O.

Box 500,  
Parliament Street B.O.,  
London, S.W.1.

134a

Please ~~Suspend~~  
Re-impose

T.C. No.: 2135, 2136, 2138 and 2147

\* { Temporarily  
Indefinitely  
Permanently (H.O.W. being retained) }

from forthwith to .....  
(if known)

Date: 30.12.53

Section: D.1.A.

Signature: F. M. Small

Copy to A.2.A. B.I.B.  
Copy to file No.: PP.604,582

F. M. Small.

(\* Delete as necessary)

(Use this Form for both carbon copies).

CS/SIA  
30/12/53



1342

For P.A. in PF.604,582 BLUNTIDEN ✓  
PF.604,583 REES  
PF.604,584 PEACH  
Original in PF.604,597 PROCTOR  
-----

Extract from interview with PROCTOR on 25.11.53

I asked PROCTOR whether he had any recollection of BURGESS's visit to Istanbul in 1948. He remembered nothing of BURGESS's frame of mind or intentions before the trip, but vividly remembered his glowing account of it on his return. He had never had such a wonderful holiday. PROCTOR knew Kim PHILBY as he knew Goronwy REES, slightly, through their friendship with BURGESS. He was intimately acquainted with Anthony BLUNT. He had seen BLUNT after the disappearance of BURGESS and MACLEAN, but BLUNT had not felt able to answer any of the questions which PROCTOR put to him. He thought that BLUNT, although theoretically a Marxist, had never been active politically. His interests had always been primarily artistic.

D.  
3.12.53

G.R. Mitchell

CO/DIA  
30/12/53



Copy of serial 839 in Pt. 604584 Sup. 2. Vol. 15.

SECRET

133a

NAME: PHILBY.

T.C. No.: 2510.

Tel. No.: Mountview 8325.

Date :

Responsible Section: B.2.a.

16.9.53. ( Part 2.)



10 SEP 1953

*PH: - Shuder PF*

I/C call answered by CONNIE from HONEY.

He said he had trouble getting through, as he had forgotten the number. He had at last remembered the right exchange. CONNIE said they had guessed that it would be him.

KIM came to the telephone, and they chatted about HONEY's affairs. HONEY felt 'full of beans', and said that his morale was 'at peak top'. He told KIM of the big decision that he had taken to give up the house, with the exception of the studio downstairs. He would live downstairs, let the rest of the house, and give up business. Meanwhile he had half sold up. They discussed this at some length. KIM presumed that he would be in Majorca half the time, and home half the time? That was so. KIM asked if the entrance to HONEY's house would be by the dust bins? It would.

KIM: " And I can occupy it then of course, whenever you're away ? "

HONEY: " Of-course! "

KIM: " I (won't) go and entertain anybody or anything of that sort. "

HONEY: " That's right. That's the sort of place it will be, instead of this smart house etc., etc. "

KIM then said, " When are you visible ? ", and suggested they should meet one evening and talk over all about HONEY's project with the house.

HONEY: " Well now I tell you what er, er, I've provisionally arranged: I was going to have dinner with ANTHONY on Friday."

KIM: " Yes. "

HONEY: " ...invited us to have dinner. "

KIM: " I see, yes. "

HONEY: " And, speaking of you, said, ' Well why don't you ask KIMMY to come along', and I said I would gladly ask him and pass on the message. "

KIM: " Yes. "

HONEY: " I didn't mention anything about CONNIE naturally."

KIM: " That's right. "

HONEY: " And if that would suit you - I was almost thinking of putting that off because I've got to do something early on Saturday morning, and I don't want to have a hangover. "

KIM: " Yes I understand, yes, yes. "

HONEY: " I think I'd risk that if it suited you - and you could ring ANTHONY, or I could ring him ? "

KIM: " Yes, um ? "

HONEY: " Or it may not suit you ? "

KIM: " Actually it isn't awfully easy as a matter of fact. But look here I could.... Where are you meeting him - anywhere in particular, or is he going round to you ? "

HONEY: " No, nowhere in particular. I imagine we'll go on from here about half past seven for dinner. Could you come in earlier ? "

KIM: " Yes, easily. "

HONEY: " All right that'll be perfect. "

They arranged that KIM would come along as soon after five as he could to give them more time. 16.18.

*Anthony, identical with Shuder.*

*IS*

*133a*



132a

SECRET

NAME: PHILBY.  
Tel. No.: Mountview 8325.  
Responsible Section: B.2.a.

T.C. No.: 2510.  
Date : 14.9.53.



*P.H. - Blunden PF.*

*Anthony - possibly  
Blunden.*

O/g from KIM to FRE 0373 HILDA who said HONEY was in the bath. KIM inquired after them both. HILDA said well, HONEY had a bit of a hangover today as ANTHONY had been round last night and fairly well let himself go for the first time, "not a bad one - not one of his cross ones, rather very gay ones". Both laugh.

KIM suggested meeting and gave his number - MOU 8325. He explained a private code he and CONNIE had devised ~~xxxxxxx~~ so that he would not be taking her calls. The caller was to ring once and then replace the receiver. Immediately after the caller was to re-dial and KIM would answer. HONEY was to ring back later. 9.55.

I/c call with ringing only once. 10.24.

I/c from CONNIE to KIM to ask if he had done everything successfully. KIM thought so and mentioned something about the Times. He had bought one at the station and cancelled it at the other place.

CONNIE told him where to find things for his lunch. He was working now. KIM said he had called HONEY who was to call back soon and as soon as they had organised something KIM would ring CONNIE. CONNIE asked if HONEY was to call in the code. KIM said yes. n.t.s. (before 12.52.).

O/g from CONNIE to MOU 1915 Miss Betty BRYANT to ask what sor of day she had had and what film she had seen. BETTY said FLO had gone off on her own rambling about. They discuss meeting tomorrow but BETTY would ring CONNIE in the office during the afternoon as it was not decided what BETTY and Auntie FLO were doing during the day. 21.11.

U.J.B.  
15.9.53.

18

*CS/BM  
21/9/53*



Extract for: PF. 604,582.

131<sup>b</sup>

M.N.F.

Original in PF. 604,620 - STEWART, dated 20.5.53. (serial 42a)

Extract of Note on Interview with  
STEWART on 20.5.1953.

STEWART admitted readily to having known BURGESS at Cambridge, and afterwards, especially in the period 1936/37. This was, he explained, the period of his own interest in art, and it had been a common interest between himself, BURGESS and Anthony BLUNT. His friendship with PHILBY also embraced this period, and also dated from Cambridge.

20th May 1953.

J.C. Robertson.

JC/DIA  
29/3/54



CONFIDENTIAL

Original in W. J. ...  
(201 pages) ...

...  
...

Extract for:

J. G. Robertson  
...



131A

Note for P.F. 604,582.

Mr. Cimperman called this morning. He had received a telegram from American which stated that Anthony BLUNT had asked for a visa for the United States and which asked for further information about the reason for the visit. Mr. Cimperman said that the Visa Section was shut for the weekend and he could get no information from there until Tuesday and had therefore come to us.

I said we had no information, but suggested that the visit might well be for the purpose of a lecture tour, and I explained that BLUNT was Director of the Courtauld Institute of Art and an art expert.

Mr. Cimperman said that he would reply to the telegram saying that there was no further information available but that the probable reason for the visit was connected with a lecture tour.

I thought it best to inform Mr. Hollis and he said that he would get in touch with Captain Liddell who might have some information. Mr. Hollis let me know later that he had contacted Captain Liddell who said that he knew that BLUNT had been contemplating a trip to the States either to lecture or to visit art galleries. BLUNT had asked his advice and he had advised that it was unwise and might prove embarrassing. He thought the project had been dropped.

Mr. Hollis said that in the circumstances he thought that we should continue to say to any further enquiry from Mr. Cimperman, merely that we had no information. He would like to be informed if anything more comes of this.

*Evelyn H R Baul*

E. McBarnet.

B. 2. B.  
1.4.53.

*B. 2. B.*  
*4.8.53*



128A

CONFIDENTIAL

Department reference PCB

Serial No.

TO: 1. I.R.D.  
2. Security Department.

FROM: G.I.D. \*  
~~C.R.D.~~ \*  
OF

Have you any record of the undermentioned who is proposed as a

\* sponsored visitor/lecturer to Germany

\* lecturer for British Council at .....

on (Date) .....

\* (No) Previous Report (On)

\* (Delete as required)

Surname BLUNT (Mr./Mrs./Miss/or>Title) \*

Name at Birth if different from above N.A.

Christian Names Anthony Frederick

Official Address Courtauld Institute of Art, 20, Portman Square,  
W.1. Tel. No. Welbeck 1388

Home Address Not known

Tel. No .....

Date of Birth September 26, 1907

Place of Birth Not known

Present occupation Director of the Courtauld Institute

Recommended by British Council



Reference Loose Minute

B.2.B.

va.

1269

I spoke to D.D.G. with reference to your note of December 22nd about BLUNT's duties.

His main duty was to obtain information available in the diplomatic world. He did a certain amount of travelling in this connection.

He also had certain informants, such as HEWIT, of no great significance..

Both because of his duties and his personal contacts, he would have been well-informed about all major Security Service operations against Germany, e.g. GARBO.

*C. A. G. Simkins*

C. A. G. Simkins.

B.2.A.

30.12.52.



~~9406~~

1272

PF 604,582

Note

No contemporary note was made on BLUNT's file in December 1952 from the report on the interrogation of LONG. Attached minute sheet from LONG's file to be p.a.'d under date 29.12.52.

1  
K7/AOE

17.2.72

K7/S  
23/2/72



B.2.

You may like to see serial 33a and minutes 34 onwards, with particular reference to mention of Anthony BLUNT and the Conversation Society.

It is B.I.F.'s intention to go back to Leo LONG presently, by arrangement with D.B., in order to ask him further specific questions about Communism at Cambridge in the late thirties. It may be that you will have some lines of your own which you would like to be pursued at the same time.

Could you kindly return the file to B.I.F. in due course via R.5. for extracting to be done on the information at 33a.

*G. H. Leggett*

G. H. Leggett.

B.I.F.  
15.12.52.

15.12.52

Copy of Minute 11 in FF.707,714 ABRAHAM

38b

B.2.A. To see Minute 38.

*move to FF 604, 39, 2  
LONG, 18/12*

B.2.B.

To see Minute 38. Please consider ~~whether~~ whether there are any questions you wish put to LONG, as suggested in Para.2 of Mr. Leggett's minute.

*J. C. Robertson*

J. C. Robertson.

B.2.  
18.12.52.

B.I.F. Through B.2.

Leo LONG went up to Cambridge in 1935 which is a little late for our special interests. I should, however, very much like to know if he has anything at all to say about Guy BURGESS.

Although Guy BURGESS left Cambridge in June, 1935 and LONG presumably only went up in October of that year, I should have supposed that it was highly probable that they had met, in view of the company they both kept, in particular, their common friendship with Anthony BLUNT. BURGESS was of course a member of the Party at Cambridge (he recanted ostensibly on coming to London in 1935) and an "Apostle".

Material in the BURGESS correspondence indicates that Lord ROHSCHILD and Anthony BLUNT were "Apostles".

*Evelyn M. Barnet*

E. M. Barnet.

B.2.B.  
29.12.52.



126a

Duties undertaken by A.F.BLUNT in  
Section B.1.b .-1941-1945.

-----  
A.F.BLUNT joined the Security Service on 2.6.40. (see extract from R.of S) Early papers from May - July 1941 in P.F.604,529 Supp.Z (Reports from KESSLER and BURGESS) show that BLUNT was working in Section B.(a), but by August 1941 he had joined B.1.b. He would appear to have remained there until he left the Security Service in November 1945.

No clear idea of the war-time functions of B.1.b can be obtained from the policy file, S.F.50-52-1(3), but two references to BLUNT are made:

- a) 20.7.42            Minute from A.D.F. mentions that all  
    (Serial 5a)        applications for observation by B.6  
                         should be passed through Captain BLUNT.
  
- b) 25.4.45            D.G.Circular re B.Division includes  
    (Serial 8a)        present allocation of duties of B.1.b  
                         officers-  
                         ..Major A.F.BLUNT - Diplomatic and Far  
                         Eastern matters.

B.2.b

22.12.52

JOAN ANDREWS



125A

Note for P.F. 604,582. BLUNDEN.

Elsa SCHEERER. P.F. 44,974.

Elsa SCHEERER, Born 3.11.1907 in Berlin, came to the United Kingdom in 1932 as a student and has remained here ever since. In 1933 [redacted] on 52, Streathbourne Road, S.W. 7., showed that Elsa SCHEERER was living at this address with Paul and Marie OSTERSETZER. Paul OSTERSETZER was known to have Communist sympathies and at that time was in touch with a convinced revolutionary, Stefan WOLFE.

In 1936 a woman was frequently seen to visit Dr. Edith MARTIN @ BONE, (P.F. 43,401) who is described as "a clever woman and a staunch communist, anxious to avoid attracting any attention." The woman was traced to 26, Friday Road, Mitcham, Surrey, and it was suspected that this address might be a cover for correspondence intended for Dr. MARTIN. [redacted] showed that Elsa SCHEERER and the OSTERSETZERS were now living at this address. The identity of the woman was not established, and the description would seem to apply rather more to Marie OSTERSETZER than to Elsa SCHEERER.

In 1941, SCHEERER applied for employment as secretary in Department E.H., and was vetted by M.I.5., who returned N.R.A. In 1943 an A.W.S. permit was granted to her for employment with the Courtauld Institute of Art. In 1948, SCHEERER became a naturalised British subject.

Elsa SCHEERER is now employed as Anthony BLUNT's secretary at the Courtauld Institute. Her name appears throughout the telecheck on BLUNT and is white-carded on all volumes of P.F. 604,582. Supp. SCHEERER appears to be largely in the confidence of Anthony BLUNT, and like his other friends has been greatly concerned on his behalf over the crises precipitated by Jack HEWITT, and the various attempts at black mail by Michael WOODS. She is also a personal friend of Margaret BROWN (employed at the Lord Chamberlin's office) who is in frequent contact with both SCHEERER and Anthony BLUNT at the Courtauld Institute.

J. Andrews/B2B  
2.12.52.

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ACT 1958 OCT 08 2023

B2B  
3.12.52



1246

P.a.

EXTRACT.

Extract for File No. : P.F. 604,582 Name: BLUNDEN

Original in File No. : \* P.F. 604,584 Supp. Serial : 662 Vol : 13 Receipt Date : 26.11.52

Original from : Telecheck Under Ref. : TC 3193 Dated : 25.11.52

Extracted on : 1.12.52 by : JA Section : B.2.b

Extract from telecheck on H.A.R. PHILBY. - Conversation between  
 Aileen PHILBY and Mrs. BASSETT ment. BLUNDEN

-----

Mrs B. had not seen BLUNDEN for nearly a year. AILEEN  
 said she had not for about 6 months - she did not know  
 about KIM but felt sure he would have told her if they had  
 met.

If the original is in the file of an individual  
 include the name of the file owner

02/B24  
 1.11.53



124A

P.F. 604529

Copy in PF. 604584

PF. 604582 ✓

PF. 604591

A note on the stage reached by Miss Andrews in revising and reorganising the files in the BURGESS/MACLEAN series dated 12th November 1952, can be found in a Branch Memoranda Cover filed at 613a in PF. 604558



B.2.b.  
21.11.52.

A.F. Burbidge.

EFBUB  
3.12.52



Copy for PP.604501 - HR.17.  
(Original in PP.604505 - WARRER)

Received 24.10.52.

1216

Foreign Office, S.W.1.

24th October, 1952.

TOP SECRET.

A.51/52.

Dear Dick,

I enclose a copy of the report by Scotland  
Yard on their investigations into the allegations  
contained in the "Time and Life" article.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) G. A. Carcy Foster

D. G. White, Esq, C.B.E.,  
M.I.5.

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ACT 1958 December 2.22



22nd October, 1952.

Assistant Commissioner "C".

I have gone into the matter raised in the first paragraph of the Foreign Office minute of 5th September 1952 on the attached secret Foreign Office papers; namely, the claims made in an article submitted to the American publication "Time and Life" (based on revelations alleged to have been made to Donald Seaman, a "Daily Express" journalist, by Jack HEWIT, a homo-sexual who was Guy BURGESS' "boy friend") that (a) among others who had "shared" HEWIT with BURGESS, was Mr. F. A. WARNER, a Foreign Office official, and (b) that WARNER had been given a letter by BURGESS shortly before he disappeared, for delivery to HEWIT (see last para. p.2, and first para. p.3, of the article, at Annex 'A' in the attached file).

My enquiries show conclusively that the two allegations are without foundation and that the elaborate story given publicity in the "Daily Express" - from which these allegations have sprung - is based on lies told to SEAMAN by HEWIT - who has now admitted their falsity.

Donald SEAMAN is a young man of about 30, who is employed as a journalist under contract to the "Daily Express". The BURGESS-MACLEAN disappearance was his first big assignment and he has told me frankly that he hoped it would serve to establish him in the ranks of the front-page Fleet Street journalists.

It may be advisable to say here that it has been ascertained from Mr. Christiannsen, managing editor of the "Daily Express", that the "Express" did not sell the article to "Time and Life", and that SEAMAN personally neither sold nor gave it to the latter paper. Further reference will be made to the authorship of the article later in this report.

Jack HEWIT's correct name is John Parker HEWIT. He is 35 years of age and has recently rejoined the Army; he is now a bombardier in the Royal Regiment of Artillery, stationed at Colchester. In company with Chief Supt. Jones I have seen him twice - on the 9th and on the 20th of October - and a statement was taken from him on both occasions. The first (pages ) can be summarised as follows: He first met BURGESS in 1937 and soon afterwards they commenced their illicit association. He also had had illicit relations with Anthony BLUNT, BURGESS' friend. Although he lived with BURGESS for periods subsequent to 1945, he did not have sexual relations with BURGESS after that year but he was BLUNT's "boy friend" until 1948. He claims to have first met WARNER towards the end of 1949 when the latter, at BURGESS' request, telephoned him to go to BURGESS' flat - BURGESS had been badly injured following a fall downstairs whilst in WARNER's company. Between the end of 1949 and May 1951, when BURGESS disappeared, there was an interval of about ten months during which BURGESS was at the British Embassy at Washington, but WARNER and BURGESS were friendly and saw each other when the two were in this country. They saw each other during the three weeks between BURGESS' return from America in May 1951 and his disappearance on 25th of that month - WARNER was in BURGESS' flat on the evening of either the 23rd or the 24th May.

HEWIT states categorically that WARNER has not had homo-sexual relations with him; that as far as he knows WARNER is not addicted to homo-sexuality and that he never alleged to SEAMAN or anyone else that WARNER is so addicted.

Questioned regarding the story given in the "Time and Life" article (last para. page 2) as to a telephone message from BURGESS to him just before BURGESS disappeared, and of his having handed to the "Express" a letter which according to what he told that paper, BURGESS had written shortly before he disappeared and given to WARNER to pass on to him, HEWIT blankly denied any knowledge of either the 'phone call or the letter, or that he had retailed any such story to anyone. Shown a copy of the "Daily Express" of 26th May 1952 wherein was a photograph of the letter in question he said he recognised the letter as one written to him by BURGESS in 1948 - BURGESS had written to console him, he was very despondent because BLUNT had broken with



him. (In fact BLUNT had acquired another "boy friend" and HEWIT had been cast off.) HEWIT denied any knowledge of how the "Express" had got the letter; all he knew was that he had lost it some time after BURGESS disappeared. He had not seen the "Express" article before; by 1952 he had become so sick and tired of being pestered by the Press that he had not bothered to read newspaper articles dealing with the BURGESS disappearance.

He admitted that he had gone to see WARNER in April 1952, but said his reason for so doing was that he wanted to warn WARNER that the Press were about to begin a further series of articles about the disappearance of BURGESS and MACLEAN and it had come to his knowledge that WARNER's name was being mentioned. He had done this without the knowledge of SEAMAN or anybody else. He had got into touch with WARNER by calling at the Travellers Club and leaving a note for him there, asking WARNER to see him and giving a telephone number where he could be contacted. The letter as printed was not in the condition he had received it in 1948. BURGESS' greeting MOP in the top left hand corner had been obliterated and a word or words had been inked over in line 14. He did not think the words inked out could be "Fred &" in fact he did not know WARNER then; to the best of his recollection they were "me &".

I was satisfied that HEWIT was telling the truth in regard to the time that BURGESS' letter was written and the circumstances that led BURGESS to write it. It was fairly clear, however, that he was lying when he professed ignorance as to how the "Daily Express" had got hold of it and as to why they should have published the fantastic story of its having been written in May 1951, then handed to an intermediary for transmission to HEWIT and retained by that intermediary until about May 1952.

On the 17th October Chief Supt. Jones and I saw Donald SEAMAN, who made a statement (pages ) outlining his activities in connection with the BURGESS-MACLEAN case and in particular his relations with HEWIT. I am confident he has been quite frank and has told the truth.

The first thing to be emphasised is that he denies that HEWIT has ever alleged to him that WARNER had had sexual relations with him (HEWIT) or indeed that WARNER was addicted to homo-sexuality.

SEAMAN's account of the story told him by HEWIT about the BURGESS letter which was published in the "Daily Express" of 26th May 1952 is - with one exception - substantially the same as is outlined in the "Time and Life" article at Annex 'A'. SEAMAN declared that HEWIT told him WARNER might be able to provide some news about BURGESS because the two were such close friends; that he (HEWIT) could force him to talk because he had a letter written by WARNER to BURGESS a few days before the latter disappeared, which WARNER would not wish to become public property; HEWIT did have a talk with WARNER in fulfillment of his boast to SEAMAN: SEAMAN waited for him in the proximity of the meeting place, and immediately on returning from the meeting HEWIT handed to SEAMAN the letter subsequently published in the "Daily Express"; claiming he had just received it from WARNER, who had told him that BURGESS just before he disappeared, had handed it to him to pass on to HEWIT but WARNER had forgotten about the letter until he found it among his effects after he reached the British Embassy in Moscow a short time afterwards, and had not since bothered to pass it on.

The exception to which I have referred in the last paragraph is that the "Time and Life" article says HEWIT's explanation of how he got the letter was:

"Just before he disappeared BURGESS 'phoned me to say he had left a note for me in the Reform Club which Fred WARNER would deliver to me. WARNER was then on leave from Moscow. I never received the letter so I went round to WARNER's flat....."



It is not yet clear on what the author of that article bases the first sentence in the quotation. SEAMAN is quite certain that HEWIT did not tell him such a story; what HEWIT did claim was that he possessed a note written by WARNER to BURGESS, in May 1951, worded as follows:

"Guy. It is important I should see you as soon as possible. V. important. Say when. Fred."

He showed this to SEAMAN who photographed it before returning it. SEAMAN believed it to be genuine - whereas, as will be shown later, it was written by HEWIT himself in order to give verisimilitude to the fairy tale with which he was deluding SEAMAN.

SEAMAN seems to have been only too ready to believe all that HEWIT told him, and to have been convinced that the BURGESS letter was what HEWIT purported it to be. He questioned the letter as to the meaning of its contents and, although HEWIT's answers were obviously evasive, this does not seem to have aroused his suspicions. In particular he asked about the word or words which had been inked out immediately before the word "Ant" and HEWIT said he did not know what they were. Before publishing the letter, the "Daily Express" submitted it to Mr. G.F. Gurrin, the handwriting expert, who, according to SEAMAN, could only say that the word or words in question had been inked out in different ink from that used to write the letter, and that he could not say whether the letter had been written in 1951, or later or earlier.

I have since seen Mr. Gurrin's report on his examination of the BURGESS letter. What SEAMAN told me is correct, but the report shows that Mr. Gurrin was asked also to answer the question:

"What was the original wording which is deleted from line 14 of the letter."

After going into detail regarding this point he summarises his conclusions as follows:

"I have been unable to read the deleted word at line 14 but I believe it to have been roughly in conformity with the outline shown on Print 'D'."

The outline shown at Print 'D', as supplied to the "Daily Express" by Mr. Gurrin, is reproduced with the letter itself in the "Daily Express" of 26th May, 1952, (copy attached) and I would draw attention to the fact that, despite Mr. Gurrin's caution, the "Daily Express" proceeded, quite without justification to provide an interpretation of what the outline represented. The caption below the photo of Print 'D' reads: "...The word itself. It is still not completely legible. The experts are not certain what it reads. It seems to be a capital letter, followed by three small letters, to form the word 'Fred'. This is followed, still joined to the outline by 'and', written in the abbreviated style used by BURGESS, a circle crossed with a dash." There is, be it noted, nothing in Mr. Gurrin's report to support the sentences underlined above. (The underlining is mine.)

According to SEAMAN, the "Daily Express" kept the letter for about two months after the publication of the article then returned it to HEWIT at his request.

In the light of what SEAMAN had told me, I decided to see HEWIT again, and on the 20th October we took a further statement from him. This is attached - pages . In brief, it contains an unqualified admission that he deceived SEAMAN and the "Daily Express". He admits he still had in his possession a letter which BURGESS had written him in 1948. BURGESS had written it in the Reform Club and left it there for him to pick up. (Out of that fact apparently, has originated the story which appears in the "Time and Life" article that BURGESS had telephoned HEWIT from the Reform Club shortly before he disappeared in 1951 saying that



he had written a letter which WARNER would pass on to him.) In the early part of 1952 SEAMAN kept on suggesting to him that WARNER might be able to provide HEWIT with some news about BURGESS. (Obviously HEWIT had exaggerated the extent of his acquaintanceship with WARNER), so HEWIT told SEAMAN he would talk to WARNER. He then called at the Travellers Club, about the 19th May 1952, and got permission to write a note on club notepaper, addressed to WARNER, and to leave it at the Club for WARNER. At the same time he took another sheet of Club paper and later that day wrote the note which has been referred to earlier in this report, as purporting to be from WARNER to BURGESS. A photostatic copy of that note - obtained by me from the "Daily Express" was shown to HEWIT who admitted it was in his handwriting. He said he wrote it in order to show to SEAMAN in support of his claim to have a hold over WARNER. When WARNER agreed to meet him, he informed SEAMAN, who waited at a nearby bar while HEWIT went to WARNER's flat. Immediately on leaving WARNER he again met SEAMAN and gave him the 1948 letter written to him by BURGESS - in the envelope in which BURGESS had left it for him in 1948 at the Reform Club, and told SEAMAN that he had just received it from WARNER. He had previously inked out two words immediately in front of the word "Ant", because - as he says - he felt it would arouse SEAMAN's curiosity. These, to the best of his recollection, were, "me &". (He denies he ever suggested to SEAMAN that the words inked out were "Fred &"; nor has SEAMAN ever claimed that HEWIT had any idea of what was inked out.) HEWIT says SEAMAN questioned him about the meaning of the contents of the letter and that he answered as non-committally as he could. According to him, he has never had the letter and envelope back. The story he told SEAMAN as to WARNER's explanation of why he had not given him the letter earlier is as has already been stated by SEAMAN. When HEWIT saw the photographs and article in the "Daily Express" of the 26th May 1952, he realised he had overstepped the mark, because of the imputations and suggestions drawn by the "Express" from the letter; he saw SEAMAN two or three times after that date, then kept out of his way. He declares he deceived SEAMAN because the latter was pestering him for information about BURGESS and his friends and he was feeling very bitter about the "Express" treatment of BURGESS and himself in the days immediately following the disappearance (but he it noted that he received £50 and a free trip to Paris plus some incidental sums from SEAMAN in 1951 and he obviously hoped to get more money. In fact he was handed £10 when he produced the BURGESS letter, according to SEAMAN, and £5 according to him.)

HEWIT concluded his statement by saying he was glad to have this opportunity of removing any imputation on the moral or political integrity of Mr. WARNER that may have arisen as a result of his action.

I considered it would be advantageous to see Mr. F. A. WARNER before concluding this enquiry, and he called at Special Branch on the 17th October in company with Mr. Carey Foster. In view of the fact that HEWIT has maintained, on both occasions upon which he has been interviewed, that WARNER was in BURGESS' flat either the evening before, or two evenings before the disappearance I asked him to recount his contacts with BURGESS during the three weeks or so that the latter was in England in May 1951 (viz. between the time of BURGESS' return from America and his disappearance). WARNER has, of course, already made a statement at the Foreign Office on this point and what he told me is a repetition of that, namely: when on leave from Moscow early in May 1951 he met Anthony BLUNT in the Travellers Club and the latter told him BURGESS was coming home. WARNER therefore left a note for BURGESS at the Reform Club. A few days later BURGESS telephoned him and subsequently - the 15th or 16th May - WARNER went to BURGESS' flat after dinner and stayed there a few hours.

He next saw BURGESS at the Travellers Club with Mr. David Footman. On that occasion BURGESS said he badly wanted to talk with him and, as WARNER had arranged to visit the South Bank Exhibition the next day, it was agreed they should go together. BURGESS was full of his own affairs but gave no inkling of his intention to disappear. That meeting was on or about the 21st May, a few days before WARNER left for Moscow. They said good-bye there and WARNER has neither seen, nor heard from BURGESS since then.



Insofar as HEWITT is concerned, WARNER says he has only seen him about three times in all. He cannot remember whether the first occasion was - as HEWITT claims - in 1949 but agrees that it may have been. He strenuously denies having been in BURGESS' flat on either of the evenings alleged by HEWITT; he saw HEWITT and said a few words of greeting to him, either in the corridor or in one of the bedrooms of the flat on the only occasion he visited it in May 1951 - namely, on 15th or 16th May.

He heard nothing more of HEWITT until April of this year when he found a note from him at his Club, saying he wished to see him. He consulted Mr. Carey Foster and, with official approval, telephoned him and arranged for HEWITT to come to his flat, either that evening, 21st April, or the following evening. When he arrived, HEWITT appeared to have very little to say except that the Press were once again on his tracks and that he thought there would be a considerable splash in the press again to coincide with the anniversary of the BURGESS/MACLEAN disappearance.

As HEWITT has admitted he received no letter from WARNER, and there is no doubt that the letter published in the "Daily Express" is in fact one written in 1948, the latter's denial of any such transaction, as is alleged in the "Time and Life" article is purely formal, but it is in fact given in Mr. WARNER's statement, of which a copy is attached (pages

Foreign Office minute of 5.9.52 on the attached secret file states that, in addition to the allegations made in the "Time and Life" article - which have been the basis of my enquiry - allegations clearly referring to Mr. WARNER have been made by Kenneth de Courcy, including one that he "was closely associated with William MARSHALL, who was under his influence". WARNER in his statement says that, although MARSHALL was employed at the British Embassy in Moscow during part of the time that WARNER was there, MARSHALL was very seldom visible; WARNER had no contact whatsoever with him, either official or personal, except to say "good morning" to him on one occasion when passing him in the Embassy yard.

Finally, he has commented in his statement on the probable author of the "Time and Life" article. He states, "the appearance in the Press of reports based on HEWITT's story has been a source of great distress to me throughout the summer. These stories have been very much encouraged and circulated by the unremitting efforts of Mr. Randolph Churchill. It has also been suggested to me by friends that Mr. Raimund von Hofmannethal, who is associated with the "Time and Life" publications, has also played a leading part in trying to obtain full publicity for the story."

(Signed) L. F. Burt

COMMANDER.



Special Branch,  
New Scotland Yard.

9th October, 1952.

STATEMENT of John Park HEWITT, Bombardier, Royal Regiment of Artillery, Regimental No. 22810193, stationed at Colchester.

I am 35 years of age and was born on May 17th, 1917, at Gateshead on Tyne. I attended a local school and left when I was 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> or 15 years of age and came to London where I obtained employment as a page boy. I subsequently had work at other hotels in London. In 1936 or 1937 I started at the Goring Hotel as a telephone operator, and I was so employed when I first met Anthony Blunt and Guy Burgess. I was having a drink in a public house in the Strand when a man, whose Christian name is Jose - I don't know his surname - struck up a conversation with me. I suspected he was a homo-sexual. He invited me to a party which was being given that day at the War Office by the Resident Clerk whose name was Wyley. (He is now dead) and I accepted. Blunt and Burgess were two of the several men there and I spoke to both of them and it was clear to me that the two were friends. Burgess asked me to meet him in the near future for a meal and I said I would. About three days later he telephoned me at the Goring Hotel and I had a meal with him at a restaurant in Elizabeth Street, Victoria. The same evening I went with Burgess to his flat at Chester Square when improper relations took place between us. We saw each other often after this and within a short time I agreed to a suggestion by Burgess that I should come to live with him at his flat in Chester Square. I stayed there until I joined the Army in 1940. Blunt, who was very friendly with Burgess, often came to the flat, and at his invitation I visited him at Palace Court, Bayswater, where he had a flat and there improper relations took place between us. On joining the Army I was posted to the Artillery Regiment and when on leave visited Burgess at his flat in Chester Square. He was then working at the B.B.C. I also met Blunt when on leave and improper relations continued between myself and the two men. In 1942 Blunt asked me whether I would like a job in the War Office. When I asked what the job was, he said there was certain information required and he thought I had the qualifications necessary to acquire it. I agreed to take the job. I was working under Blunt's directions but nominally attached to the Director of Royal Artillery's office. I went there as a gunner, but because of the work I was doing for D.R.A. I was made a bombardier. At that time I went to live at No.5 Bentinck Street, where Burgess and Blunt were living, sharing a large flat. They both suggested I should come to live with them. I lived there with them until 1945. At about this time I ceased having improper relations with Burgess but my relations with Blunt continued until 1948. I was demobilised in 1946 after which I went to Germany with ENSA. When I came back to England I went to lodge in a room at 13 Sussex Gardens, W.2. I got a job as a clerk with Hubert Williams & Co. in March 1947 and went to India for them in August 1947. I was away for a year and after my return the firm went into liquidation. On my return from Germany I had got into touch with Blunt, who was then living in Portman Square, and Burgess, who was living at 10 New Bond Street, and working in the Foreign Office. When Hubert Williams & Co. went into liquidation I got work as a clerk for Head Wrightson Process Ltd., of 24-26 Baltic Street, E.C.4 and I was with them until October 1951. From the time of my return to London from Germany, late in 1946, until 1949, I saw both Blunt and Burgess quite frequently, except when I was in India, and I was friendly with both but I continued to live on my own in Sussex Gardens, W.2 until about the end of 1949 when something occurred that caused me to go to live with Burgess at New Bond Street. Late one night I received a telephone call at my lodgings from a man whom I had never met before but whom I knew to be a friend of Burgess and to be working with him in the Foreign Office; a man named Fred Warner. He said that Burgess had had a bad accident and was calling for me, would I come there at once. I said 'yes', and went to Burgess' flat right away. I found Burgess to be in a pretty bad state and learned that he and Warner had been on the binge rather heavily and that there had been some sort of quarrel as a result of which Warner had pushed Burgess down the stairs and Burgess had sustained a fractured elbow and a

/over..



fractured skull. I telephoned for Blunt to come along and eventually it was arranged that Burgess should be taken to the Middlesex Hospital. I visited him there and shortly after he left the hospital his mother, Mrs. Bassett, whom I had met on a few occasions previously and who knew I was a friend of her son's, asked me if I would go to live at 10 New Bond Street and take care of Burgess. I agreed to do this and I lived in the flat from then until Burgess disappeared on 25th May, 1951. I must add that some few months after I went there, Burgess was posted to the Embassy in Washington and was absent for about ten months. He returned from America in May 1951, some three weeks before he disappeared. During the interval between the accident and the time Burgess left for America, he and Warner were on friendly terms, the latter used to come to Burgess' flat now and again. I am quite convinced Warner was not homosexual and he and I have never had improper relations. I knew that he had been transferred to the Embassy in Moscow about the same time as Burgess went to Washington. When Burgess came back from America early in May, Warner was also in London and the two saw each other during the three weeks preceding Burgess' disappearance. In fact, Warner was in Burgess' flat on the evening of either the 23rd or 24th May. I remember because Burgess came to my bedroom late at night, and said, 'Fred is here, come and meet him' and I got up out of bed, and had a cigarette and a chat with them, then went back to bed, leaving Warner in the flat with Burgess. I have been asked whether I can recall Burgess telephoning me some time shortly before he disappeared and saying that he had left a note for me at the Reform Club which Fred Warner would collect for me. I have absolutely no knowledge of this message and I am quite certain that I never alleged to anyone else that Burgess had telephoned me or that he had left a message for me. It was about half past eight in the morning of the 25th May, 1951, the day Burgess disappeared, that I last saw him. I took him a cup of tea and then went to my place of work. If he had wanted to leave a note for me he could easily have left it at the flat and if he did not want me to know where he was going he could quite easily have left a note for me to say he would be away for a month; I would not have been at all surprised nor would I have raised an alarm. I have not seen or heard from him since that day and I have no idea of his whereabouts. He would never discuss politics with me but I formed the impression he was very 'left' in his views. He was of course a hard drinker and he was promiscuous in his relations with homo-sexuals whom he met in the street or in West End resorts. Since Burgess' disappearance I have only seen Warner once. I left a note for him at the Travellers Club, some time in April 1952 it was, saying I would like to see him. My reason for this was that I wanted to warn him that the Press were about to begin a further series of articles about the disappearance of Burgess and Maclean and that it had come to my knowledge that his, Warner's, name was being mentioned. I asked him to ring me at Finders Limited, Wigmore Street, W., where I was then working. He did ring me and said 'This is Warner speaking, I have got your note'. I told him I wanted to see him and he asked me to go round to his flat at Albany Chambers. It was on my own initiative that I got into touch with him but it had been suggested by Mr. Seaman of the "Daily Express" some time previously that if I knew where Warner was I should get in touch with him, but I did not tell Seaman that I was going there. I went to Albany Chambers at nine o'clock in the evening - I don't remember what day it was - and I was there only about a quarter of an hour. He offered me a drink but I didn't have one. In the course of conversation Warner said that he had not the least idea where the two men, Burgess and Maclean, were. Incidentally I have never met Maclean. It has been put to me that I told someone, a fortnight before Warner came back to this country from Moscow, that he was coming back. This is nonsense; I had no means of knowing whether he was coming back or not; I did not even know that he was in this country when I left the note for him at the Travellers Club. It was merely the knowledge that, if he were in Britain, a note addressed to him there would reach him that caused me to leave it at the Club. It has also been put to me that the reason I went to see Warner at his flat on the occasion of which I have spoken was to get from him a letter alleged to have been left for me in the Reform Club by Burgess shortly before he disappeared in 1951. This is totally untrue. As I have already said, I know nothing of such a telephone message nor of any such letter. Warner did not possess a letter from



Burgess intended for me and I did not ask him for any such letter. The only reason I went to see him was because I had heard the Press were once again going to write a series of articles regarding Burgess and Maclean's disappearance and that they had got his, Warner's, name, as being a friend of Burgess and I wanted to warn him he should be on his guard because they might pester him. He seemed grateful when I told him. Since then I have not seen or communicated with him. I might add that in addition to warning Warner, I telephoned Blunt and Peter Pollock about the same time, and warned them in the same way as I warned Warner. I have now been shown a copy of the 'Daily Express' of the 26th May, 1952, which contains an article headed "Burgess letter found - missing a year - with a name inked out" and a photographic reproduction of a letter written on Reform Club notepaper. I recognise this as a letter written to me by Burgess in 1948. It was written because there had been a split between Blunt and myself. I should explain that in 1947 I went to India and when I came back I was told by relations with Blunt, as far as intimate relations were concerned, were finished and there was somebody else. This new friend of Blunt's was named John Blamey, an art student. I was very upset at the time; Burgess knew this and that is why he wrote me the letter. I was also looking for a job at this time and the last sentence in the letter, about 'ringing the bureau today' is a reference to the John Hilton Bureau. I think the allegation that the words obliterated in the letter were "Fred and" is wrong and that in fact the words were "me and". They could not refer to Fred Warner as I do not think I knew Warner then. The letter as reproduced in the newspaper is not in the condition in which I received it from Burgess. The letters "M.O.P." were written in the top left hand corner. He always started his letters to me in that way. The obliteration was not done by me. I still had the letter in my possession when Burgess disappeared, and several other letters, but I lost them - I had them in my flat and then they were missing. I do not know how the "Daily Express" got this particular letter. I did give the "Daily Express" one letter, namely one Burgess wrote to me just before he came back from America in 1951 saying he was glad to be coming home because he felt sure war was imminent. This is the first time I have seen the article in the "Daily Express". I do not usually read that paper, but they pestered me a great deal, and also pestered my acquaintances. My connection with the "Daily Express" people is briefly this; About August 1951 I was approached by their representative in Bristol where I was then staying with my sister. I came up to London and had various talks with a journalist called Brady. About a week later Mr. Seaman telephoned me at my office, said he had been assigned to cover the story of the disappearance of Burgess and Maclean and he would like to talk to me. As a result of certain articles published by Brady in the "Express" regarding Burgess' disappearance, purporting to be interviews with me and giving an entirely distorted impression of what I had said, I complained to Seaman and was offered £50 as recompense. This I accepted and apart from accepting £5 on two occasions from Seaman, I have had no other money from the "Daily Express". I told Seaman I knew of a couple of places in Paris where there might be some information about Burgess and went to those places in Paris with him. After coming back from Paris I saw him a couple of times then I did not see him again until this year, somewhere about March, when I met him quite accidentally in St. Martin's Lane. He told me he was thinking of writing some articles about Burgess and Maclean's disappearance at about the time of the anniversary of their disappearance and pestered me for some information regarding any acquaintances of Burgess. He said they had discovered the name of the "third man", to whom reference had been made in the press at the time of the disappearance; the name was Warner and he asked me whether I knew Warner. I told him I did and explained who he was. He tried to persuade me to go and see Warner in order to give Mr. Seaman some material for a 'scoop' but I refused to co-operate. I know it seems perhaps rather difficult to believe that I have not seen this "Daily Express" article of the 26th May 1952 but quite frankly, I was so distressed with all the publicity about Burgess that, although people told me there were articles on the subject in the newspapers I didn't want to read them, besides, as I have said before, I don't normally read the "Daily Express". But had I seen this article I would have at once gone to Seaman and demanded an explanation.

I have read this statement and it is true.

(sgd)

J. P. HEWITT 9.10.52.



121a.

THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT  
RETAINED IN DEPARTMENT  
UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF  
THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958.



✓  
FF.604582-- BLUNT.  
Copy in: FF.604591 - HEWITT.

B2A/CAGS  
AFB

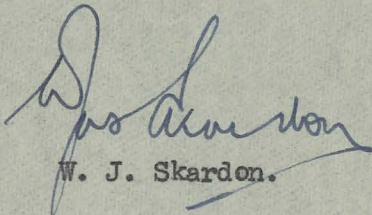
120<sup>a</sup>

NOTE.

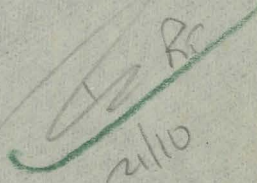
Having discussed this matter with B.2 and B.2.A./AFB, I telephoned BLUNT on 10th October and told him:-

- (a) That HEWITT is in the army.
- (b) That he has been seen by Cdr. Burt.
- (c) That following the interview he had rejoined his unit.

I told BLUNT no more, but he informed me that during the time that HEWITT was in London he had made an attempt to speak on the telephone to BLUNT, who had been "not at home" to him.

  
W. J. Skardon.

B.2.A.  
13.10.52.

  
2/110



PA in Pf. 604582.

PF.604591 - HEWIT.

Copy on:- PF.604529 - BURGESS.

PF.604582 - BLUNT

1202

NOTE.

On the 25th September, 1952, at the request of Commander Burt and with D.B.'s approval, I went to Special Branch to discuss with him the case of HEWIT. He informed me that he had turned down the enquiry requested by Foreign Office in the first instance, but had been persuaded that it was necessary to carry it out, and was accordingly proposing to see HEWIT. Until I corrected him, Mr. Burt was under the strong impression that HEWIT was of the same social class as the principals in this enquiry. This was probably an idea which sprung from the extreme delicacy of the enquiry and the care enjoined upon Mr. Burt at his conference between Foreign Office representatives and Sir Harold Scott, the Commissioner. Once he realised from our conversation that HEWIT was just an unpleasant working-class man, he did not feel that there would be any particular difficulty in handling him. I was able also to provide Mr. Burt with further information touching upon HEWIT's innate dishonesty and the details of his immoral background.

Burt asked whether M.I.5 could provide HEWIT's present address, and I promised to do what I could to discover it. He had not been provided with as much information as we possess to facilitate this particular enquiry.

Having had a discussion on the telephone with Mrs. BASSETT on the 19th September, I had become aware through her that HEWIT was back in London, and accordingly I spoke to her asking if she had any information as to his present whereabouts. She said that she did not know where he was living, but thought it extremely likely that either Anthony BLUNT or Goronwy REES would be able to tell us where he is. She offered to make the enquiry for us, but I said that we could manage.

I spoke to the Courtauld Institute, only to discover that BLUNT is away in France and not expected back until the 30th September.

With the prior approval of Carey Foster, I telephoned David ORR, who had communicated with Evelyn SHUCKBURGH on the subject of HEWIT in May this year. I was unable to consult SHUCKBURGH for he is abroad with the Minister of State. David ORR, a director of FINDERS Ltd., explained that HEWIT had been one of their most efficient telephone operators and was a great acquisition to his company. They had been anxious to promote him and retain him in their service, but had discovered that he was thoroughly dishonest and he had departed from their employ without notice in the following circumstances. Amongst property missing from the company was a registered envelope containing Treasury notes. This letter had been signed for by HEWIT and his receipt was held by the G.P.O. The packet disappeared completely and Mr. ORR questioned HEWIT and sought to induce him to confess his guilt, offering to retain him in their service if he did so. HEWIT denied complicity in this or any other offence, and agreed that he was prepared to face a G.P.O. Investigation Service enquiry. He did not turn up for duty on the following day. This occurred some months ago, probably in June, since when Mr. ORR had heard nothing of HEWIT.

During a discussion with W/Cdr. Arnold, I discovered that he had a personal contact on a security basis, in connection with a current constructional contract at Harwell, with Mr. D. H. CARTER, director and general manager of WRIGHT HEADSON PROCESSES Ltd. Using Henry Arnold's name as a means of introduction, I spoke to Mr. CARTER and he informed me that HEWIT was discharged from the employment of his company about a year ago, together with another rogue named Michael WOOD, and he hoped that no-one in his company was sufficiently acquainted with either to have any information about their present whereabouts. Mr. CARTER had heard that Michael WOOD was in custody for some offence, but without going further he said that both had left the company in circumstances that would make it unlikely that either would apply to them for a reference.

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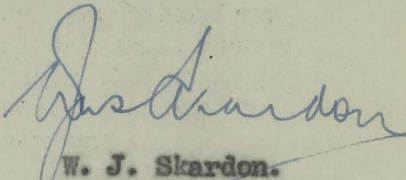
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Having made these enquiries, there seemed to be but two chances left of discovering HEWIT's whereabouts. One would be to make a direct enquiry at the Union Jack Club, a place which he is known to have used in the past, and the other to enquire directly of his sister, Mrs. BECKETT of 23 Blackhorse Road, Mangotsfield, near Bristol, Gloucestershire. I spoke to Cdr. Burt and he proposed to have enquiries made at the Union Jack Club and if these failed to ask me to make enquiries through the police in Gloucestershire early next week.

It is perhaps worth while noting that we have as the result of this enquiry confirmed a good many details which have hitherto been matters rather of speculation. It is certain that Michael WOOD and HEWIT were jointly engaged in successfully blackmailing BLUNT until he stuck his toes in. I have little doubt that the "JENKINS" representing himself as from the press to Mrs. BASSETT is identical with Michael WOOD, and I think it more than likely that when HEWIT approached Fred WARNER shortly before the anniversary of the disappearance of BURGESS and MACLEAN, he was merely taking the first step in yet another blackmailing venture which might have been completed by the intervention of WOOD. One wonders whether Fred WARNER correctly reported the substance of his interview with HEWIT. If he did so, it is possible that the strength of his character, which I believe to be present, must have imposed itself upon HEWIT and discouraged him from making any blackmailing attempt in that case.

B.2.A.  
27.9.52.

  
W. J. Skardon.



