

## ESPIONAGE

### The Faceless Ones

The romance of spying went out with Mata Hari. Such is the nature of the game today that a lowly government code clerk or a technician who punches computer cards at a missile site may be a more important intelligence source and far more difficult to detect than the disgruntled general or the indiscreet diplomat. Last week, in a case that has still undetermined links in Britain, the FBI arrested a characteristically obscure technician on charges of conspiring with the Russians. Held on \$50,000 bail was a crew-cut Air Force communications operator and repairman, Staff Sergeant Herbert Boeckenhaupt, 23, who had worked for some 17 months in the Air Force's Pentagon communications center, and was distinguished only by his unhappy childhood in Nazi Germany.

The Government, not wanting to prejudice its case in court, would give only sketchy details of the alleged conspiracy, but the pattern was as commonplace as the personalities. Boeckenhaupt had top-secret clearance and access to many high-level communications, including those on the Moscow-Washington hot line. His contact, said the FBI, was Aleksey Malinin, a low-ranking clerk in the commercial section of the Soviet embassy. In June 1965, at the first of at least two meetings in Washington's Virginia suburbs, according to the FBI, the Russian merely questioned Boeckenhaupt about his duties in the Pentagon. At the second, in a bowling alley parking lot last April, Malinin gave him a 35-mm. slide listing the location of future rendezvous and drop areas where, presumably, information could be left for later pickup.

"One of the Many." The FBI said it had picked up the slide, as well as papers used for secret messages and notes taken at the second meeting, in Boeckenhaupt's apartment in Riverside, Calif., near March Air Force Base, where he was stationed at the time he was arrested. At March, he had access to information going through the cryptographic machines. Shortly after his arrest last week, Scotland Yard picked up Cecil Mulvena, 47, a quiet Southend-on-Sea businessman, on charges of violating Britain's Official Secrets Act, and English newspapers hinted that further arrests were planned.

Of the three, Malinin, described by one observer as "just one of the faceless many" in the Russian embassy, clearly had the brightest future, suffering only the embarrassment of being expelled from the U.S. If convicted, Boeckenhaupt, on the other hand, could receive the death penalty; Mulvena, 14 years in one of Britain's sometimes insecure jails. Whether or not Boeckenhaupt passed on important information or, indeed, any information at all, he had every opportunity to glean intelligence of interest to the Russians. The Penta-



SUSPECT BOECKENHAUPT  
Obscurity pays.

gon post where he worked not only has positions of U.S. combat aircraft and missiles but also is Washington's direct line of communication with the President when he is aboard Air Force One, the flying White House.

## HISTORICAL NOTES

### Into the Archives

At the request of the Justice Department, 65 carefully guarded X rays, color slides and black-and-white negatives of pictures taken during an exhaustive autopsy on the body of John Kennedy at Bethesda Naval Hospital were turned over to the National Archives last week by the Kennedy family.

At the time that the Warren Commission was making its inquiry into the assassination, the X rays and photographs were available to investigators, but none felt it necessary to inspect them after hearing the minutely detailed testimony of the three autopsy surgeons. The doctors themselves had never seen the photographs either, though they had worked from the X rays during the post-mortem surgery.

**Unwitting Support.** Thus the commission unwittingly lent support to those who would later insist that Lee Harvey Oswald must have had an accomplice. Their suspicions were based primarily on the commission's controversial "single-bullet theory." This is its conclusion that a bullet hit the back of Kennedy's neck and emerged through his lower throat before it struck Texas Governor John Connally in the back, smashed across a rib, shattered his right wrist, and punctured his left thigh. Commission members accepted this explanation after they saw a tourist's film of the assassination, which indicated that the interval between Kennedy's reaction to being hit and Connally's first visible reaction to his wounds was—at the most—1.8 sec. Because of the time it took to operate the bolt action on his rifle, Oswald

could not possibly have fired more than once every 2.3 sec.

Ultimately, the conspiracy theorists claimed that the doctors' entire autopsy report had been tailor-made to bolster the commission's single-bullet theory.

The doubters argued that 1) the wound was probably lower on Kennedy's back, and 2) the first bullet had actually lodged in his body. They insisted that only the X rays and photographs could offer incontrovertible proof of how Kennedy was really wounded. In fact, an X ray does not indicate a bullet's path through soft flesh.

**Corroborating Evidence.** If the commission had really set out to present a fake autopsy, nothing would have been more logical than to retouch the photographs to support synthetic medical reports. The photos were examined last week by two of the autopsy doctors (the third is on duty in Viet Nam); they agreed that the evidence fully corroborates their testimony before the Warren Commission.

Even though the X rays and photographs are now in the archives, the controversy will undoubtedly continue. One enigma is how the Kennedys—who consistently denied to the press that they had possession of the film—ever got hold of them; presumably, the Secret Service handed them over at the request of the then-Attorney General, Robert Kennedy. In any case, the family has stipulated that the pictures be sequestered from public inspection during the lives of J.F.K.'s immediate family, including those of his children, who are now eight and five years old.

### The Mythmakers } *Theme*

For many who believe that there was a conspiracy to assassinate John Kennedy in Dallas, the most mesmerizing argument of all is that an extraordinary number of people involved in the case—however remotely—have since lost their lives under mysterious circumstances. As of last week, the toll had, in fact, reached 14. To conspiracy theorists, the clear implication is that the victims knew too much and were systematically liquidated.

Chief mythologist and drumbeater for this theory is Penn Jones Jr., 52, the diminutive (5 ft. 2 1/2 in.) editor of a Texas weekly newspaper, the Midlothian Mirror (circ. 765). In 1965, Jones began a seemingly inexhaustible series of articles intended, as he put it, to "bring into some intelligible whole all the events surrounding the assassination."

This month, San Francisco's slick *Ramparts* magazine, a onetime Catholic quarterly turned New Left monthly, also garbled several of the Jones reports, along with the outcome of what the magazine breathlessly describes as an eight-month probe by "a team of *Ramparts* editors, aided by researchers and trained investigators," who "traveled to Dallas a dozen times and interviewed nearly 100 people throughout the country knowledgeable about the assassina-

*Who's  
Premier  
Ethan?*



