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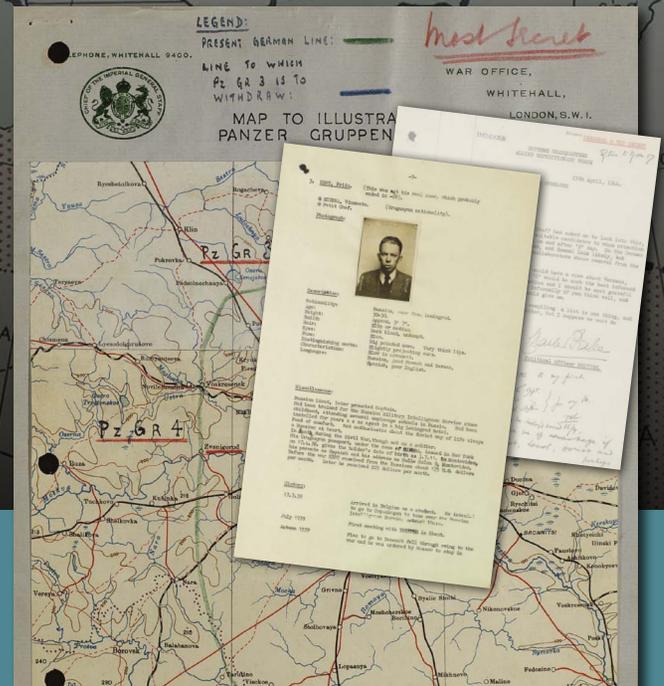


Secret Files from World Wars to Cold War

British Government Secret Intelligence and Foreign Policy files

“Secret intelligence has long been regarded as the ‘missing dimension’ of international relations. However, thanks to the *Secret Files from World Wars to Cold War* project, Britain’s spies, security agents, codebreakers and deceptioneers are no longer missing in action.”

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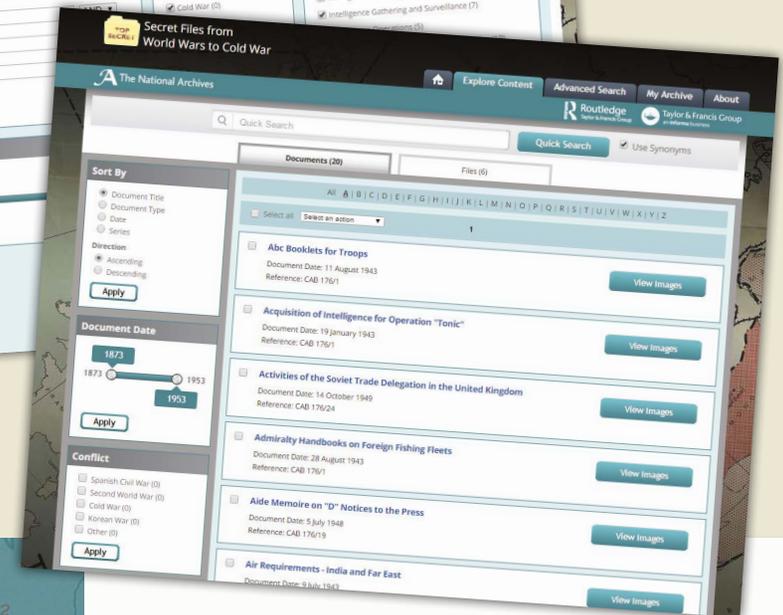
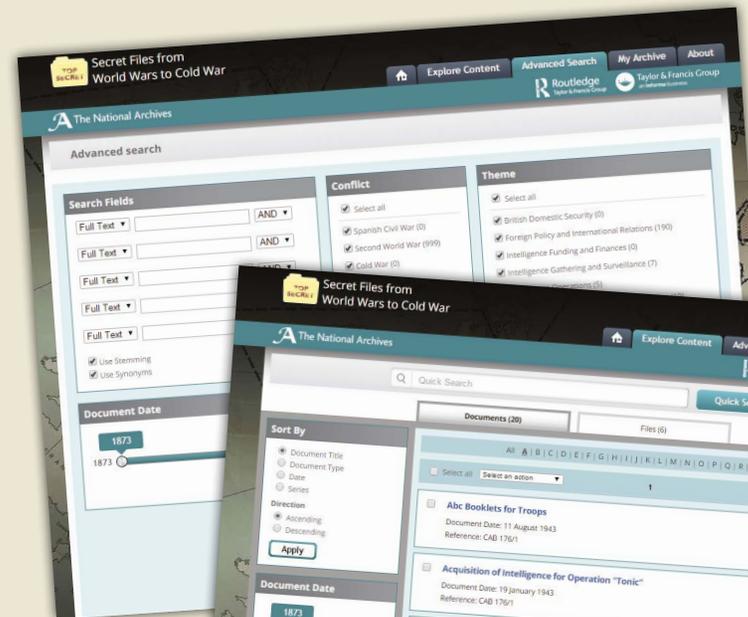
At a Glance

Secret Files from World Wars to Cold War provides access to **British government secret intelligence and foreign policy files** from 1873 to 1953, with the majority of files dating from the 1930s and 1940s.

Developed in consultation with an editorial board of six experts, the resource spans four key twentieth century conflicts: **the Spanish Civil War, the Second World War, the early years of the Cold War and the Korean War**. Sourced from *The National Archives*, U.K. the material enables rich research into intelligence, foreign policy, international relations and military history.

At the heart of this resource are the files of the Permanent Undersecretary's Department (PUSD). The PUSD was the point of liaison between the Foreign Office and the British intelligence establishment. These files document intelligence activities and its influence on foreign policy from 1873 to 1951, **providing new insights into key moments of twentieth century history**.

Alongside eight other file series, including Cabinet Office papers and daily signals intelligence reports, this resource **enables an almost day-by-day, in-depth study of the Second World War** and insight into intelligence activities. All available at your finger-tips to investigate using **multiple search and filter options**.



FEATURED THEMES

- British Domestic Security
- Foreign Policy and International Relations
- Intelligence Funding and Finances
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- Intelligence Operations
- Intelligence Organization and Administration
- Military Intelligence and Operations
- Propaganda, Censorship and Psychological Warfare
- Signals Intelligence and Code-breaking
- Weapons Technology and Nuclear Warfare

DOCUMENT TYPES

- Correspondence
- Directives
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- Maps
- Meeting Minutes
- Memoranda
- Reports
- Signals Intelligence
- Miscellany

Series Descriptions

For each of the nine-file series included, a description of the content, themes, and topics discussed has been provided by **Dr. Stephen Twigge**, *Head of Modern Collections at The National Archives, U.K.*

Subject Essays

The resource includes five essays written by our Editorial Board of academic experts. These contextualize the primary source documents and highlight key themes, topics and events discussed across the files.

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THE FILE SERIES – DESCRIPTIONS AND HIGHLIGHTS

▶ CAB 56, 81, 158, 159, 176 *Joint Intelligence Sub-Committee minutes and reports*

Five Cabinet Office file series' providing a complete run of minutes and papers of the Joint Intelligence Sub-Committee from 1936 to 1953. The JIC assessed intelligence received from abroad and considered Britain's intelligence and security priorities accordingly.

Includes discussion on:

- The Spanish Civil War
- The growing threat and military power of Nazi Germany and the U.K.'s preparation for war
- Foreign espionage activities in the U.K.
- Key turning points of the Second World War
- The Second World War in Asia
- Hitler's will and political testament
- Prisoners of war, including the interrogation of prisoners in the U.K. and the treatment of Allied prisoners in Germany
- Assessments of enemy weapons development, including German secret weapons
- The threat of war with the Soviet Union during the early Cold War and assessments of Soviet military capabilities and intentions
- Developments in the Middle East (1946-1968), including the partition of Palestine and anti-British insurgency
- The spread of communism in East Asia and the Chinese Civil War
- The Korean War and British, U.S. and Chinese involvement
- Scientific intelligence, including intelligence on atomic energy, atomic weapons and biological warfare
- Defectors and deserters from the U.S.S.R. and their exploitation for intelligence
- Intelligence gathering in and reports on countries around the world

▶ CAB 163 *War Cabinet, Ministry of Defence, and Cabinet Office: Central Intelligence Machinery: Joint Intelligence Sub-Committee, later Committee: Secretariat: Files, 1939–1985*

A miscellaneous collection of papers that allow for an analysis of case studies of operations, events, and intelligence concerns during and after the Second World War. Includes:

- Papers on security and intelligence planning and threats relating to Operation Torch
- Winston Churchill's miscellaneous correspondence
- Sir Douglas Evill's 1947 report on the U.K.'s intelligence services

▶ CAB 301 *Cabinet Office: Cabinet Secretary's Miscellaneous Papers, 1936–1952*

A collection of confidential papers on intelligence matters originating from the Private Office of the Cabinet Secretary. The papers relate to the organization, role, and funding of the intelligence services, as well as signals intelligence and code-breaking. Includes:

- The funding of MI5 and MI6 activities
- The organization and responsibilities of British intelligence
- The Special Operations Executive
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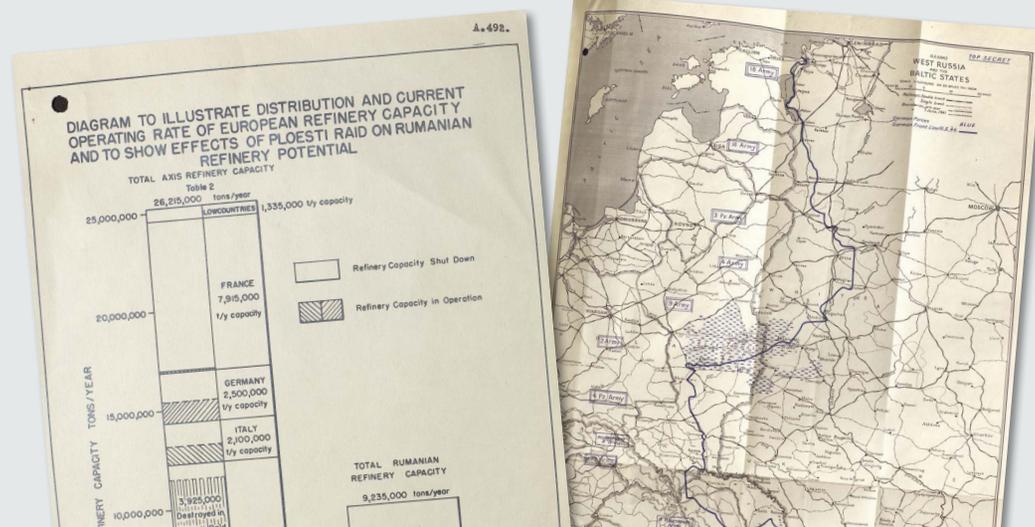
▶ FO 1093 *Foreign Office: Permanent Under-Secretary's Department: Registered and Unregistered Papers, 1873–1985*

A collection of files on intelligence, military operations, foreign policy, and defense concerns, in which information was gathered by covert means. Includes:

- Papers relating to the wartime imprisonment of Rudolf Hess
- U.K.-Soviet wartime relations
- Discussion of proposed assassination targets ahead of Operation Overlord
- Defection to Canada of Soviet agent Igor Gouzenko

▶ HW 1 *Government Code and Cypher School: Signals Intelligence Passed to the Prime Minister, Messages and Correspondence, 1940–1945*

A series of thousands of signals intelligence reports issued by the Government Code and Cypher School and sent by the head of MI6 to Winston Churchill several times each day during the Second World War. The files comprise the actual signals intelligence reviewed by Churchill, with associated correspondence and annotations. The collection includes intelligence derived from ENIGMA signals and covers all aspects of the Allied military campaign against Germany, Italy, and Japan.



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