

- [Judy] Again, if anybody does have a question or would like to ask a question, please post it on the Q&A. I see people are putting up their hands, but I'm not going to be able to take the questions from your hands going up. So please post them on the Q&A. The chat has been disabled but there is a Q&A button that you can use to ask your questions. So Sandra, welcome. It's just gone five o'clock. We still have people coming in, but I'll hand over. Welcome to everybody and welcome Sandra, and I'll hand over to you.

- Lovely. Good evening, good afternoon, good morning, everybody, wherever you are. And thank you, Judy, for helping me out as usual. I think I'm a halfwit on these things, but such is life. I hope everybody's managing well in this terrible time. I don't know what it's like where everybody is, but it's awful in England. But we're managing. And this Lockdown University has kept us, I think, all a little bit sane. So thank you again to Wendy. Thank you to all the other people who offer their services. It's very comforting. Could we have the first slide, please, Judy?

*Video clip plays.*

- [James Bond] I admire your courage, Miss...

- Trench. Sylvia Trench. I admire your luck, Mr...

- Bond, James Bond.

*Video clip ends.*

- I think that even if anybody doesn't like the movies or doesn't go to the movies, those few iconic words must be recognisable to everybody. But I'm just going to wonder if it would've sounded so good if he'd had said the names Reilly, Sidney Reilly, or even if he'd have said the names Shlomo, Shlomo Rosenblum. I don't think they would've had the same resonance. But in actual fact, Shlomo Rosenblum, or Sidney George Reilly, as he became, was actually believed to be Ian Fleming's inspiration for creating the character of James Bond. Sidney Reilly was considered to be the first 20th-century super spy.

And this is a story of a man whose life was anything but real. His famous espionage exploits were world famous, and, as I said, Ian Fleming took the inspiration from him. Although Fleming was actually never in the espionage, oh, espionage field himself, he was actually a naval intelligence officer in the Second World War. And can we have the picture up of Ian Fleming, please? He's a very debonair looking man. And it was actually his association with another British diplomat, Robert Bruce Lockhart, and I'll talk a little bit more about him later, which gave him the inspiration and gave him the idea.

On the silver screen, you know, James Bond is the ultimate British hero. He's risking his life for

country while smoothly enjoying, as you can see, the martini. He's gambling. He's always immaculately dressed and he's always in the company of beautiful women. And Shlomo Rosenblum, who I will call that until he officially changes his name, was very much the same sort of character. He wasn't as debonair, he wasn't as smooth, he wasn't quite as good looking, but he certainly carried all the traits of what one would say would be a spy. Could we have the picture up please, Judy?

*Visual slides are presented throughout the lecture.*

So this is a photograph of him probably in his mid 30s. James Bond, or the fictional hero, does his best for King and country. But the only positive principles that Reilly ever seemed to display and he carried with him throughout his life, was his one, abhorrence of communism, which we'll see a little bit later, and also his love of money. He didn't have any particular affiliation to any country. And I dunno if anybody read yesterday, the "Times" obituary to George Bates who died at 98, if anyone can remember back that far. He was imprisoned in England for 42 years in the early 60s, I think, 1966 maybe. He was exposed as a double agent. And when he was asked why he spied, didn't he feel any guilt for having exposed, and this is his own admission, at least 400 agents?

He said, "You can only feel guilty if you belong to somewhere and I don't belong to anywhere." And Shlomo Rosenblum was very much the same sort of character. The idea of why someone would become a spy has been looked at by psychologists and they identify three elements. And they say they think that you have to be, you have to have a pathological personality. You have to be looking for thrills all the time. And the James Bond movies always have a licence to thrill on them. So I think that's quite sort of positive. They also have to have a sense of entitlement or a desire for power, for control, and combined with a degree of narcissism and ego. And this is to say definitely Sidney Reilly falls into that category. He had an enormous desire for challenge, adventure, and excitement.

The psychologists also identify the experience of acute personal crisis. And, again, Shlomo Rosenblum falls into that category, as I will say. And also obviously there has to be the opportunity. So let's talk about Shlomo Rosenblum. He was actually a Ukrainian-born Jew. He was an adventurer. He was a secret agent employed by Scotland Yard, and then the Secret Service Bureau later became MI6. He left a trail of false identities and devious frauds that made him precisely the type of person that SI6 needed as an agent at the beginning of this 20th century to fight against Bolshevism. However, as I said, he had no feeling of belonging to everybody. And he was credited at one time of having spied for at least four different countries. That was Japan, Germany, Russia, as well as England.

His espionage activities in Russia were during the emigre circles in London, actually, in 1890. Then in Manchuria, which was on the eve of the Russo-Japanese War 1904, 1905, which Trudy spoke about a few weeks ago. But his most significant escapade in which he was or wasn't involved, but actually which eventually cost him his life was an abortive attempt or scheme in

1918 to overthrow the new Bolshevik government and assassinate Lenin. And I don't know if anybody is familiar with this story. It was actually called the Lockhart Offensive. Trudy actually spoke about men who changed the world and Jews who wanted to change the world. Well, maybe Reilly could fall into that category because if he'd have succeeded in the so-called plot to assassinate Lenin then it might have been a very different world.

These exploits actually earned him the posthumous sobriquet of Ace of Spies. Many articles were written about him after his death in 1925. The newspapers dubbed him the greatest spy in history and the Scarlet Pimpernel of Red Russia. In his time, without a doubt, he was one of the finest intelligence officers in the world. And in May, 1931, "The Evening Standard" ran a series, a serial about him called "Master Spy." Following that, Robert Bruce Lockhart, who plays an important part in this story, wrote a book about him called "Master Spy." I'm sorry, Robert Bruce Lockhart's book was "Memoirs of a British Agent," which became an international bestseller and it turned Sidney Reilly into a household name.

Could we see the photographs please of Sam Neil and Reilly? Now, I don't know if anybody remembers back in 1983 there was an English miniseries starring Sam Neil as the spy. So the picture on one side of your screen is Sam Neil, which I'm sure you'll realise which one. And the other one was the figure of Reilly on which he based himself. And you can see, it was quite a good choice. But the story that this miniseries told was actually mostly conjecture. Very little of it was actually true except for the sort of bones of it, because Reilly made sure that nothing of his life, excuse me, was known to everybody else. He totally compartmentalised his operations. He created so many numerous identities and he cultivated, as you can see, the air of a sophisticated man about town.

He was a serial womaniser and confirmed to have had at least two bigamist marriages, both of which were witnessed by British security intelligence agents. Why was he such a perfect person to become a spy? Well, he could fit into any background. He was totally fluent in five languages. And, as I said, he ensured the reality of his escapades were never disclosed until about 20 years ago, 2002. Judy, could we have the next slide please? This is a photograph of a retired Russian agent by the name of Boris Gutz. He actually died when he was 105 in 2002, when he was just over 100. He emerged from the shadows to tell his story and he claimed he was actually witness. He's the last veteran of the October Revolution and claimed that he was witness to Reilly's murder.

Oh, I should say rather his execution. So Reilly's life and Reilly himself really is pointed to be absolutely an extraordinary image and one you could only invent. But they always say truth is stranger than fiction. From his date of birth, from his parentage, even his education, during his life, Reilly laid an impenetrable fog of deception around his origins as he adopted and shed one identity after another. His life was ruthlessly compartmentalised, as I mentioned. And those who entered it only knew what he actually told them himself. His true origins were obviously Jewish. He was born just outside of Odessa in a place called Kherson.

But he invented, according to the situation he was in, he invented his origins. He variously claimed to be the son of an Irish seaman. He claimed to be the son of a Russian landowner. He claimed to be the son of an Irishman. But the truth really was totally different. It's taken a long time for researchers to actually find out what the sort of truth of Reilly's background is, if there is any such truth. But it was generally accepted he was born Shlomo Rosenblum. Could we have the photograph of him as a young man, Judy, please. Thank you. He was the illegitimate son of Polina and her husband, Grigory's, cousin, Dr. Mikhail Abramovich Rosenblum. The stigma of having been born a bastard, which incidentally was only disclosed to him when he was a teenager, apparently never left. And it seems he spent much of his life trying not only conceal this fact, but also to shed his Jewishness.

This must have been quite a challenge because one of the MI6 officials in 1917 was recorded as describing him as, "Having a swarthy complexion, a long straight nose, piercing eyes, brushed black hair back from a forehead suggesting keen intelligence, a figure of slight medium height, always clothed immaculately." And then another MI6 agent once described him as being, "Jew-Jap type, brown eyes, very protruding." And you'll see the earlier portrait, that's exactly what he looked like. Well, very little was confirmed about his earlier education. But growing up in and around Odessa, where, could we have the picture of Odessa up please?

It was a beautiful, beautiful port and I'm sure that's quite a modern photograph, but I'm sure that many people have been there. But by the middle of the 19th century, the city was a flourishing international seaport. Jews consisted of approximately 37% of the population in and around the area. And it was also home to many, many diverse communities. In fact, the poet Alexander Pushkin documented that in Odessa, "The air is filled with Europe." And it's in this environment one could imagine that Shlomo learnt many of his languages and even had the opportunity to observe foreign lifestyles. And I don't know if this is correct, but I read somewhere that 39 different languages were spoken in Odessa, or could be heard in Odessa.

Where are we going? So Rosenblum's early activities, his radical activities, began quite early on. Evidence has been established of his arrest in 1892 when he was just 18 by the powerful czarist police, the Okhrana, charged with being a courier for a revolutionary group known as the Friends of the Enlightenment. Later evidence also suggests that he soon became a police informant by befriending one of the Okhrana agents. Could we have the next photograph up, please, Judy? So this is one of the Okhrana files of the future Bolshevik leaders, and I'm sure you know you could identify them. There's Sverdlov, who is the president of the Republic, Trotsky in the middle as a young man, and Lev Kamenev on the right hand side, whose real name was also Rozenfeld, president of the Moscow Union.

So were they all Jewish? Possibly, yes. There's one more photograph if you could just put the next one up please. I don't know if anyone recognises that. I'm sure you do. I just put it up 'cause I quite liked it. It's, what's his name? Ioseb Besarionis dze Jughashvili. And you would all recognise him as being Stalin. The Okhrana already had him on record. And so back to Rosenblum. Several events motivated him to leave Odessa as early as possible. The truth

about his birth was something that really gave him enormous, enormous problems and he was unable to handle this or to conceal it. His arrest obviously brought him to the attention of the authorities and also he faced the prospect of being drafted into the czarist army.

There's a very good book being written about the Jewish boys who were being conscripted. And it's particularly about what happened to the British-Jewish boys who chose to go back. If anyone's interested, I can give you the title afterwards. Well, they think that his mother died just about the time he was arrested. And possibly this exacerbated his departure. But before he departed, he actually faked his own death by drowning in Odessa Harbour. No idea how he did that. But he arrived in England some four years later, three or four years later, a very wealthy man. And it was only unearthed probably some 40 years after that that they found out the reality of his escapade.

And what had happened was that two revolutionary agents had been found stabbed on a train. One was actually dead, the other one died in hospital later in France. But he gave the description of the assailant, which closely resembled Reilly. And it was his compatriot, a guy by the name of, what was his name? I can't remember his name. Where's his name? Okay, Wojtek, who actually gave the information to the British police because he wanted to come and claim asylum in England. So why did Shlomo Rosenblum become Sidney George Reilly and how did he become Sidney George Reilly? First of all, as I mentioned, he was determined to leave his past behind, but also he wanted to leave his Jewishness behind. And, of course, if he ever wanted to return to Russia, he could never go back under his own name.

He turned up in London. He took lodgings in Rosetta Street in Waterloo, and he sought the cloak of respectability by opening up a business under the name of Rosenblum and Company. And despite having no formal training, he set himself up as a consulting chemist. In actual fact, he wasn't a consulting chemist, he was selling patented what we would call now, I think, snake oil cures. And this came to the attention of one Reverend Hugh Thomas, who suffered from some sort of kidney problem, acute kidney problem. And through a connection, Thomas started taking this cure. And I put that very highly in parenthesis. Thomas also had a very young, beautiful wife, some 20 or 30 years younger than himself, who Reilly set up.

He started to have an affair with her. About six months after the affair began, Thomas died very suddenly and the doctor who was brought in to verify his death said there was no need for an inquest because the doctor obviously died of generic arsenic poisoning. And he got him buried almost immediately. About six weeks before he died, Thomas had reworked his will in favour of his young wife, Margaret, who Reilly subsequently married. And she came to him with 800,000 pounds, which at that time was an absolute fortune. And although Reilly didn't ever officially change his name, through the assistance of a police officer by the name of Melville who became head of the Secret Intelligence Service, he got a new passport, a new visa, and a new identity. And he disappeared from London with his new wife to the Continent. Is there a photograph of Melville up there, Judy, please? Can we find one? That's it.

Okay, so that's Melville. What followed were a series of events during the opening decades of the 20th century in which Reilly possibly spied simultaneously for opposing foreign powers. I just want to avoid here that any confusion about the city's names, St. Petersburg. I'm going to use St. Petersburg all the way through because I'm sure everybody's knows, it changed to Petrograd in 1914 and then to Leningrad in 1924. But if I use different names, it'll be very confusing. So for the purposes of this, I'm just going to use Petrograd. Reilly's first foray into the world of espionage began with the lead up to the Russo-Japanese War. With his new wife, he actually finished up working for the Russian Okhrana and he investigated...

Oh no, he left London, sorry, just at the time when there was a very important counterfeiting ring operation in London. And it was Melville who actually got him out of London because they recognised that Reilly would be more useful to them, to the British, outside rather than in. And Reilly was implicated in this because through his chemical company, he was actually exporting soap. And they finally traced the fact that a lot of the counterfeit currency was being exported in the bars of soap back to Russia. The tension that was escalating between Russia and Japan in the early years of the 20th century was basically over Russia's desire to establish a warm-water port. And I'm sure that you know that because Russia had, the only ports that they had were frozen over for nine months of the year. And while Reilly was in St. Petersburg, he was recruited by a Japanese general, Akashi Motojira, to spy for the Japanese.

He actually recognised that Reilly's motivation was purely profit and there was no sympathy at all for Japan. It just depends on how much he was being paid. His brief was, for the Japanese, was to offer financial aid to the Russian revolutionaries in exchange for their intelligence services and to determine the strength of the Russian military. Reilly was now a double agent. He left his wife in St. Petersburg and spent the next few years in the Caucasus, acting as an agent for the British government, supposedly surveying the oil deposits, while at the same time reporting back to the Japanese. So I think probably life was getting a bit complicated. His next appearance was in Port Arthur in Manchuria, where he took on the guise of a timber company owner with his partner, Moisei Akimovich Ginsburg.

He was still a double agent for the British and still a double agent for the Japanese. But Reilly made himself, made it his business to familiarise himself with the political conditions in the Far East as well as ingratiating himself with current espionage activities. The increasing tension between Russia and Japan actually became extremely lucrative for Ginsburg and Reilly. Their company became totally indispensable to the Russian fleet. They supplied them with everything imaginable, from foodstuffs, to medicine, to coal, even nails. They established branches, working branches in Nagasaki, Yokohama, Odessa, and Singapore. They estimate, and I dunno what the sort of currency would be now, but they estimate their turnover would've been about a million rubles a year. Ginsburg and Reilly made a fortune as war profiteers.

And just as a side to this, and I know Trudy likes lots of sides. One of Ginsburg's silent partners was actually a Jew, a Russian Jew, by the name of a Abraham Zhivotovski, whose sister, Anna, actually married a man called David Bronstein, who had a son called Lev Davidovich AKA Leon

Trotsky. So the wheels were all interconnected even at that time. The hostilities between Russia and Japan came to a head in 1904. And although Russia was expected to win, they weren't. They lost, they were defeated. The Japanese actually even had access to stolen plans for mines planted by the Russians, which they could navigate at night. And it was suspected that it was Reilly who'd actually supplied these. Not wishing to hang around waiting for the outcome, in 1905, Reilly made a hasty escape to Paris. And people had noted by that time, he'd become a very self-confident, international adventurer known to take unnecessary risks.

He reportedly reconnected with Melville again, who was now head of British intelligence and foreign intelligence at the War Office. Under his command, Reilly spent the next decade globe trotting in various undercover operations on behalf of the government and himself. His first exploit was to sabotage the sale of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. I think they called it the D'Arcy Affair. By persuading D'Arcy not to sell to the French Rothchilds, which he was intending to do, but actually to sell to the British. He then found himself in Essen in Germany, masquerading as a Baltic shipyard worker by the name of Karl Hahn. His brief now was to steal the plans for the German's ship building because obviously war was rumbling.

And to do this, Reilly joined the fire brigade, believe it or not, in the plant under the pretext of needing knowledge of where the fire extinguishers were kept. Obviously he couldn't just walk off with the plans, so he made sure they were lodged in the main office. But when he went to steal them, he was discovered by the foreman and he actually murdered the foreman. And unbelievable as this sound, this was actually corroborated. The following years saw Reilly flip between Russia and the U.S. In 1910, he managed to secure the rights to an airport in Russia. And this actually was the first airport in St. Petersburg. His wife, Margaret, who had been moved somewhere else, now suddenly reappeared and it could be presumed it was because she was short of money. Reilly doesn't ever seem to have had enough to cover both his extravagant tastes and his gambling and his womanising to provide for her.

Unfortunately, her reappearance turned out to have life-changing consequences, particularly for her. His list of mistresses, except for one Ethel Voynich. Can we have the photograph up, Judy, of Ethel Voynich? If anyone recognises her. She was actually an authoress. She was Irish, but she married a Russian and she actually wrote "The Gadfly," if anyone remembers. And I think Shostakovich composed a piece of music called the Gadfly, which was the theme music to the 1983 "Reilly, Ace of Spies," the one with Sam Neil, as I mentioned before. So what happened? This liaison was well over, but at that time he was having an affair with a lady by the name of Eve Lavalliere, who was the wife of the director of the Parisian Theatre in St. Petersburg. Margaret was absolutely distraught and she attempted suicide.

She shot herself in the eye. She was permanently disfigured. And although she spent six weeks in a coma, she did survive. And her state, her physical appearance, was confirmed a little bit later in 1931 by a passport officer when she went to renew her passport. Reilly's next liaison was just as serious consequence-wise for him. A few years later at a reception in St. Petersburg, which was organised for high-ranking businessmen and military officials to meet

each other. At that time, Russia was looking to rebuild its navy, which had been absolutely decimated during the '04, '05 Russo-Japanese War. And they were looking for companies that would take on the contracts. Reilly was there and he fell absolutely head over heels, lock stock and barrel, with the wife of the right-hand man to the admiral who was in charge of allocating the contracts, right? So her name was Nadezhda. Her name was Nadezhda Zalesky.

Now, Nadezhda Zalesky apparently was stunningly beautiful. She was multilingual, as Reilly was. And apparently she tried very, very hard to draw a veil over her origins as well, because she was actually Jewish. She'd never told anybody, but her parents had already converted to Christianity. Reilly had presented himself as a bachelor. Needless to say, he never divorced Margaret, and probably she would never have divorced him either because she was a staunch Catholic. After he concluded his business in St. Petersburg, he left now for New York. Why did he leave for New York? By 1910, 1911, I think that there were certainly stronger rumblings of war, the possible war between Russia and the the Allies and Germany.

And sensing this, Reilly opened an office in New York and entered into the world of United States munitions deals. Once again, he found the opportunity to make money using his connections in Russia. Never expecting the war to drag on so long, by the end of 1916, the Russian army had almost run out of everything. They'd run out of manpower, they'd run out of food, they'd run out of clothes, but most significantly of all, they'd run out of ammunition. And Reilly had secured a deal that he was paid by the American munitions manufacturers a commission on every shell that was sent to Russia and used by the Russians. He made an absolute, absolute fortune. But not everything was plain sailing, as it never was for Reilly. He soon was forced, and I say forced, to enter into his first bigamist marriage.

Nadezhda, now calling herself, Nadine, had divorced her husband. She arrived in New York, obviously thinking that Reilly was a bachelor, expecting him to marry her. When he didn't look so enthusiastic about it, she sent a cable to the New York Police, accusing Reilly of importing women into America for illicit purposes. The police got in touch with Reilly and they gave him one alternative. Either he had to marry her straight away or he was going to be prosecuted and jailed. There was no choice. Can we have a picture of the marriage certificate please? Okay. I dunno if you can see it clearly, but both of them gave false information on this.

Particularly Reilly's address at that time, which was on Riverside Drive 260. I think you can probably just make that out, which actually didn't exist until about five years later. But nobody bothered to check it. By 1916, the war that was going to be over by Christmas was dragging on with no end in sight. And Russia was neither strong enough militarily nor economically to meet the challenges of all-out war. The army was in chaos, morale was low, inflation was rampant, and as I said, food was running out. And after a series of strikes at this time, the czar was forced to abdicate. He was replaced by a provisional government headed by Lenin, who accepted financial assistance from the Germans where he had been taking refuge. And they sent him back in a sealed railway carriage. I'm sure everyone's seen the photographs of that.



The British government at this time were becoming very concerned that the Russians were going to make peace with Germany, which would leave Germany totally free to concentrate on the war in the West, rather than fighting on both fronts as they had been. There were two treaties that were entered into. One was the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk and one was the Treaty of Brest. I'm sure if anyone's interested, you can just read up a little bit more about it. But the series of events that followed really left Reilly in unexpected financial hardship. By 1917, America had entered the war. Infuriated by Germany's constant bombardment of American ships, Woodrow Wilson, then the U.S. President, finally mobilised his troops.

And Reilly found himself out of a job. He was now forbidden from supplying arms to Germany, ammunition. And obviously this was compounded by the fact that Russia was no longer a customer of his after the revolution. Reilly was desperate for income, so he, once again, offered his services to the British intelligence in New York where he was still stationed. In order to establish quite a credible cover, he was sent to Toronto to enlist in the Canadian Army, obviously, which was one of our allies. He was given a commission in the Royal Canadian Flying Corps, following which he went to London and enlisted as a case officer in the Secret Service. Even though many of the British case officers knew of his reputation already and considered him totally unsuitable, totally untrustworthy to be put in this sort of responsibility, he was quickly dispatched to Russia to report on the counter-Bolshevik operations.

His superior, a gentleman by the name of Sir Mansfield Smith-Cummings, actually had investigated his background, which Reilly, at that time, said he came from Connemara Island, his father was an Irish sea captain. And although they got the information back to say that there was no such person, Reilly had already left for Russia. And you have to bear in mind at this time that communications weren't as they were now. A journey to Russia would probably take the better part of a month if you knew where you were going and had the right connections. It could also take longer. Letters took weeks and weeks to get backwards and forwards from one place to the other. I suppose there were some telephone links, but these were very sparse and very unreliable. Reilly now was using a different alias again, he was now Constantine Markovich Massino, a Turkish merchant.

Now Massino was actually the family name of his wife, Nadine, or this was the name that the family had taken. And he also obtained false identity papers in the name of Sigmund Ralinsky, which actually identified him as a member of the Cheka's criminal investigation department. Now, the Cheka was the Russian state police. They were the forerunner of the KGB and they were pro-revolution. Lockhart. Can we see a picture of Robert Bruce Lockhart, please? Okay, this is a picture of Robert Bruce Lockhart. He had been sent as a young diplomat. He was 31. He had been sent twice to Russia. He went originally as an attache, but he had a nervous breakdown. He then went back again at the same time as Sidney Reilly. I won't use all his aliases, but he was, Lockhart was a drinker, he was a womaniser, he was a general bon viveur, I think, one would say. And whether he would've been entrusted to undertake such a complicated plot as assassinating Lenin has seriously been questioned.

But whether or not it's true, he actually came from England with a large amount of diamonds to fund the establishment of an undercover network in Russia. Subsequent documents actually did say that the British had sent a force of 5,000 to Archangel in the north of Russia. They didn't quite ever establish why, but the pretext was that they didn't ever want any of the British military equipment to fall into the hands of the Germans. Well, whether Lockhart and Reilly actually were under orders to assassinate Lenin went by the board because, on the 30th of August, 1918, an assassination attempt was made on Lenin's life. But it was made by a 28-year-old young Jewish girl by the name of Fanya Kaplan. Can we have her photograph up please? Fanya was a very anti-revolutionary. She had been an anarchist. She was 28 at this time.

She had already spent 10 years in prison. And after this event, she was subsequently arrested. She fired three shots into Lenin. Two in his, oh, one missed, I think. One went into his lung, one went into his neck, and I'm sure this is all very well documented. He did survive, but the repercussions were dreadful. Fanya was arrested and executed. Lockhart was arrested, pardon me, and imprisoned in the Lubyanka Prison. He was actually put into the same cell as Fanya for a while in the hope that they would recognise each other and that they were complicit, et cetera, et cetera. Reilly, unsurprisingly, escaped by the skin of his teeth, but the repercussions for the general population were absolutely dreadful.

This initiated what I'm sure everybody knows as the Red Terror. The Cheka, the Bolshevik secret police arrested or murdered anybody and everybody they considered to be involved in the plot, which was very conservatively estimated to be around 10,000 people, particularly foreigners. And Lockhart was relatively lucky. He was repatriated to Britain in exchange for his Russian counterpart, who was at that time, Maxim Litvinov. I don't know if this name means anything to anybody, but Maxim Litvinov was actually born Meir Henoah Finkelstein. His dates were 1876 to 1951 in Bialystok. He was the son of a wealthy Lithuanian-Jewish banking family and went on to have an extremely successful diplomatic career.

Between 1941 and 1943, Litvinov was actually the Russian ambassador to the United States. And he even made the front page, the front cover of "Time Magazine" in April, 1943. Now it was, the only one of the British who actually lost their life was sadly a young diplomat by the name of Francis Cromie who was defending the British legation when the Bolsheviks came to try and find as many of them as they could. Interestingly, there's another story. Lockhart, at this time, apparently helped Trotsky's secretary, Evgenia Petrovna Shelepina, to escape from Russia. She wanted to come to the United Kingdom. She actually settled here and she married the author and journalist, Arthur Ransome. I'm sure all of you know one of his books, at least, "Swallows and Amazons." But he was a journalist.

Some suspected he was actually even a Russian spy at the time. But she married him. There was also an interesting story about Maxim Litvinov's mistress at the time. Her name was Moura von Benckendorff. She became known as Moura Budberg. Now, I don't know, maybe Professor Payman would know who she was because she was actually a journalist and a script writer. And she was actually the great-grandmother of Nick Clegg if any of our British listeners remember

who Nick Clegg was. Back in the day, he was actually the Deputy Prime Minister with David Cameron. He was the leader of the Lib-Dems at one time. So it's quite an interesting story. It's all sort of wheels within wheels. It has been suggested that the whole of the Lockhart plot was a cunning sting operation manufactured by the Russian secret police to discredit both the British and French governments. But meanwhile, Reilly, as I said, slipped out of Russia using a German passport. Could we show the next picture of him please?

Totally disguised. That was what he looked like. Now he'd obtained this passport in 1917 during another escapade when he'd actually infiltrated the German general staff. And he reemerged back in Sweden the following month and he was supposedly awarded the Military Cross for his bravery. Who knows. By 1921, the SIS in London had become weary of his escapades and his continuing anti-Bolshevik activities. At the same time, he did actually divorce one of his wives, at least, Nadine, and married again the following year, bigamistly yet again. His wife this time was an actress called Pepita. You can see her. She was very glamorous.

Her name was Nelly Louise Burton. Nothing as exciting as Pepita. Her dates were 1898 to 1975. So she was quite contemporary. And it was she who finally spent many years actually trying to establish the realities of Reilly's death. I'm going to talk about fake news, if anyone actually thinks fake news is a phenomenon of our time, then Reilly was certainly ahead of his. In one final, final act of rogue anti-Bolshevism, Reilly wrote a letter dated September 15th, 1924, purportedly from Grigory Zinoviev, who was the head of the Committee of the Comintern, which was published in "The Daily Mail."

Now, I don't know if anyone remembers their history, but this actually caused a real change in politics here in England. Although Reilly actually admitted that this was a fake, he did acknowledge it had the desired effect. The Zinoviev letter brought about the downfall of the first Labour British government, headed by Ramsay MacDonald, and scuppered their reelection campaign. The most damaging part, and I won't read you the whole letter, but the most damaging part of the letter reads, "A settlement of relations between the countries, England and Russia, will assist in revolutionising of the international and British proletariat. Not less than a successful rising in any of the working districts in England as the establishment of close contact between the British and Russian proletariat, the exchange of delegation and workers, et cetera, will make it possible for us to extend and develop the propaganda of ideas of Leninism in England and the colonies." Which was the last thing that the British wanted, the idea of Communism and Leninism establishing here.

The manner of Reilly's death only actually added to his posthumous myth. He was apparently lured back to Russia by the OGPU, Stalin's secret service, his secret intelligence service, who established a fake organisation, which they named The Trust. The idea of the trust was to supposedly coordinate anti-Soviet activities and Reilly was on a mission to expose it as such. To undertake the journey, he was issued with a Soviet passport in the name of Nicholas Nikolayevich Sternberg. Even though he was aware of the possible danger, and, in fact, warned not to go because the whole thing, the British thought, was a sting.

He could have been now that he was, I don't know how you would put it, he was a victim of his own success, a legend of his own beliefs, believed in his own invincibility. But whatever it was, he actually went back to Russia. It could be that he thought by now he was 51. He may have been tired of his life of running. He may have even, it's been suggested, he may have even left some personal possessions and money in St. Petersburg, although this has never been proven. And why he went back, we don't know. What we do know is he actually left a letter to his wife, Pepita, who was to wait for him in Hamburg. And it was only to be opened in the event of him not returning. And I've got the letter and it was really quite poignant.

So possibly he did realise the dangers or maybe he wanted to fake his own death once again, as he did when he was 19. He finally arrived in Moscow, Reilly finally arrived in Moscow via Finland. And to cut a long story short, 'cause I think I'm cutting time, he was arrested, interrogated, and other than confirming his own name, he refused to implicate any other of his accomplices. He was taken to cell 73 in the Lubyanka Prison where a 23-year-old OGPU liaison officer, Boris Gutz, who I mentioned at the beginning of this talk, actually came in contact with him. He confirmed that Reilly was never physically tortured, but clearly he went under a lot of questioning. And it seems that the Russians actually had enormous respect for his abilities as a spy. Reilly, it seems, could have possibly believed that he would've been repatriated, like Lockhart. But it didn't happen.

And what happened, according to one biographer, Andrew Cook, who wrote "Ace of Spies," he said, excuse me, "Reilly undoubtedly acted with courageous stubbornness during the weeks he was incarcerated at the Lubyanka. Whatever else one could say about his actions and motivations during his life, his final weeks were a credit to his personal courage and resolve." According to Gutz, Stalin made it clear that on no account was Reilly to be released, but was to be executed as quickly as possible before any rumours of his arrest could become widespread and cause diplomatic incidents. The manner of his death though, was left to the OGPU officers on the ground. And Gutz was, whilst he wasn't actually one of the executing officers, he was witness to it. And it was the custom of the OGP to take Reilly quite frequently on short car rides and for walks in one of the woods nearby.

And this evening, the 5th of July, not the 5th of July, the 5th of November, 1925 at eight o'clock, they took Reilly out for one of his usual drives in the car. And the car stopped under the pretext of being broken down or something like that. And they all got out for a walk. And as Reilly was walking away from them, they shot him in the back. And even this was considered to be a mark of respect for him because he wasn't executed in the normal way, which would've been by firing squad in the basement or in the wall, you know, in the courtyards of the Lubyanka Prison. Gutz testified that his body was shrouded immediately in case anyone recognised him, he was taken to the morgue. Could we have the last photograph, Judy, please?

He was taken to the morgue, he was photographed, and he was buried in the courtyard of the prison. So Reilly came to, was it the end he wanted? Was it the end he anticipated? Was it the

life he wanted? Who knows? But he certainly was the Ace of Spies. His motto was, *mundo nulla fides*, put no faith in the world. Was he finally outwitted by the Russian secret service or was he Mr. Bond? Did he ever survive? We don't know. But it's a wonderful story of somebody who fitted the mould, who became the first 20th-century super spy, whose name became legendary, and was a young Jewish boy from Odessa. I hope you enjoyed that. If there's any questions, I'd be very happy to take them. I can see lots of Q&As come up. What do I do with this?

- [Judy] Click on the Q&A and you'll be able to see the questions.

Q&A and Comments:

Q: Okay, the title of the Jewish boys in Russia.

A: It's called "War or Revolution" and it's by a man by the name of Harold Shukman, S-H-U-K-M-A-N. And it's the story of what happened to the Jewish boys who chose to go back to Russia when conscription was introduced in the UK in 1915 by Kitchener. And I know Trudy has alluded to it, 3,000 Jewish boys extraordinarily chose to go back to Russia to fight for the czar. Initially only 600 went back because, by 1917, of course, the Revolution had broke out. And more to the point, the Russians didn't really want them. It took them two months to get to Archangel in Siberia. And when they got there, they found that the Russians had no ammunition for them, as I mentioned, no food for them, no clothing for them.

And what happened to them, I don't know. So one of my uncles was one of the young men who chose to go back, believe it or not, he was subsequently shot by the White Russians. My aunt went overland back to Russia in 1920 to find him. She found him in St. Petersburg with another woman by whom he had a child. She left him there and then found out that he was subsequently shot. Okay, the next one.

Q: "How did he make his money before he arrived in England?"

A: He murdered two couriers, two anti-Bolshevik, two pro-Bolshevik, sorry, revolutionaries who were travelling on the train between France and London. He slit the throat of one of them and stabbed the other one and arrived in London with their money.

Q: "Was Fleming aware of O Reilly's forged death in "You Only Live..."

A: Well, that could be, Ron. That's a really good question. I don't know. I don't know. Was his death feigned? But you could be right. We don't know. And it's something that nobody would know, but we just have to believe that he was shot.

"Litvinov's granddaughter is my good friend." How wonderful. An ex-colleague at the BBC World Service, Vera Shalidez. Oh, I can't see. Oh, Rita. Hello. Both she and her sister, Lady Phillimore. She married Lord Phillimore where she lived in London. That's right. Both worked for the BBC

while their mother, the daughter of Litvinov, has lived and died in England since the 70s and died here well into her 90s. It's a wonderful story. I mean the networking was absolutely extraordinary. The wheels within wheels and the cogs within cogs. I think there could be thousands of lectures done on all of this. Thank you, Rita, for that. That's lovely. "He was more of a mercenary than a spy," Roger. You could be right. You could be right. I don't know how... He was certainly, yeah, he certainly was out for himself.

Q: "Was he not betrayed by his Russian accent?"

A: Well, I don't know. That's a very good question. He certainly could never have passed as the typical Englishman. He must have had some sort of accent, but for all intents and purposes, even Lockhart spoke Russian like a native. So maybe he cultivated a beautiful English accent. I don't know.

Okay. Jill, "When he arrived in England, a wealthy man." I think I just answered that one. He came with money he'd stolen and then he married Margaret who brought her 800,000-pound dowry.

Q: Okay. "Did they have any children?"

A: Okay, that's a good question because there are rumours that he had another mistress around. Her name was Anna, but I can't remember her second name. And she did have children. There are various gaps in his story that are unaccounted for. So I would presume at some point he must have had children. I mean, you know, there wasn't any such thing as birth control. I don't know. Be interesting if anyone finds out. Thank you very much.

Felipe, you can call me Sandra. Okay, Helen. "The life of Reilly connected to this Reilly." Huh. That could well be because it was an Irish expression, wasn't it, the life of Reilly? And I don't know, maybe there were lots of Irishmen called Reilly, but he did claim to be the son of an Irish seaman. So one doesn't know. But what really shocked him, more than anything else, was to find that he was illegitimate. And he didn't find this out until he was, well, 16 or 17.

Q: "If he made so much in the U.S.A., why would he have been short of finances?"

A: Ellie, he was a compulsive gambler. Totally compulsive gambler. As quickly as he made the money, it went. He was also a womaniser. He spent the money as it came. There was no question of ever saving. This was his... It was live fast, live quickly, maybe die young.

"Amazing story to see. Makes 007 seem like an amateur." Yes. Well, I think they glamorised him a bit, probably. I don't imagine that the world of espionage is half as glamorous. But I think I prefer, I think I prefer Sean Connery anyway. He did have nine lives. Thank you very much, everybody.

"Pathological liars make great spies." Hold on. Oh, I missed that. "Trump fits the mould." Wow. Yes. Seems like he's been working on behalf of the Russian for four years already. Wow. He would certainly make a good psychological subject, but as far as I understand reading there haven't been very many spies available to sort of really check their profile, you know, they haven't been investigated very much.

George Blake was one. If you want to read yesterday's obituary in the "Times" that I was talking about earlier, he was the most congenial, he was the most lovable, affable man. Even the prisoners loved him. And they actually put the money together to get him out of prison, because they thought his 42-years sentence was unbelievably harsh. But, you know, according to his own admission, he'd put the lives of 400 agents in jeopardy. But he was a lovely man. Everybody loved him. Okay. "Was told Fleming based it on Camp X in Ontario, 'The Art Of Silent Killing.'" That could be.

I mean, Sue, you may well be right that he took lots of different characters with it. But the fact that Fleming worked with Robert Bruce Lockhart in the naval intelligence services during the war, and would've heard a lot of the stories from him. How many were true, how many were made up, one doesn't know. But I think that a lot of the stories... Yes, Jill, yes. George Blake's father was a Turkish Jew. Yes, he was indeed. And his mother was a Dutch Calvinist, I think. And he wanted to be a priest. His aim was to be a priest. But you know what, there are all these extraordinary Jews that sort of hung around the periphery of society that didn't fit in.

Trudy always maintains that Jews wanted to change the world. Well, I think there were two types. They either wanted to change the world or disappear from it. So you have to make up your own mind. Anymore questions? We done?

Q: "Who put him up to the Zinoviev letter?"

A: Oh, this was apparently his own idea. His only lasting principle was totally anti-Bolshevik. He was totally anti-communist. He hated the Communists. I won't say he was pro-czarist because obviously, you know, even not identifying himself as a Jew, he didn't want to be associated with the czar. But he felt that the idea of Communism was just, you know, as they said in one of the movies we saw, socialism, everybody shares the wealth, communism, everybody shares the poverty. You know, it obviously was just one ideological belief that he had.

Someone's asking me for Shukman's book again. It's called "War or Revolution: Russian Jews and Conscription in Britain, 1917." But going back to who put him up to the Lockhart plot, you can have a look at it online, to the Zinoviev letter. You can look at it online and it's a really fascinating letter.

- [Judy] Thank you, Sandra. We are running out of time 'cause we have another talk in an hour.

- [Sandra] Okay. Sorry. Okay.

- [Judy] You have your hand over the screen, Sandra.

- "He would've got on with Philby?" No, absolutely not. I think that they had a different agenda, didn't they? Okay. Thank you so much everybody. Please stay well. Please stay safe. I won't say follow the guidelines, but please stay safe and I hope to see you all soon. Judy, thank you again for all your help.

- [Judy] Thank you, Sandra. That was wonderful.

- Bye darling. Bye everybody.

- Bye bye and we'll see everybody in an hour.

- Okay, see you in an hour.