

- Well, welcome to another lecture on part of the secret war, actually. And if Lauren, you could very kindly share the Powerpoint, that would be really helpful. So we are going to look, not just today, but in a part two after Rosh Hashanah, date to be announced, and then a few weeks later, possibly in early 2023, a whole sequence on the race for the weapons, the race for technology. And today, because the theme of this part of the term is the Baltic region, we're going to look at just how significant this was, particularly in the early part of the war. So that's what we're going to look at today. Next slide, please. And we think, of course, with the expansion of the Third Reich in March, 1938 into Austria, Adolf Hitler believing that the German-speaking peoples of Austria really belonged to Germany. And we have the annexing Sudetenland. And then later, of course, 15th of March, 1939, you have Czechoslovakia. You have incursion and occupation into the vast majority of Poland after the 1st of September, on the 1st of September, 1939. But we don't tend to think about the reasons why Hitler expanded further. And part of it was, yes, to create this Third Reich, this thousand-year reign. And that involves the expansion of territories. But if you look at some of the territories that the Germans swiftly occupied, Scandinavia, Denmark, for example, a month before the occupation of Belgium, Holland, and France and Luxembourg, and primarily those Scandinavian countries. Of course, Sweden remained neutral. Sweden was not occupied. Norway and Denmark in particular are really crucial for what they can give the Nazi regime in terms of materials, capability. So it wasn't only about expanding lands. And why was the Baltic and Scandinavian countries so important strategically? Norway. And I'm going to talk about some of the very special commando raids and the intelligence part of the Secret War to do with this area. It's a very, very important area in the early part of the war. And it's not one that's really focused on very much, but why Norway was so important, as I've outlined, there are three key things. They had essential industrial sites and power plants that the Germans needed. And as we'll see shortly, they have the heavy water plant necessary for developing Hitler's atomic bomb programme. So absolutely essential that Germany could hold those countries. Norway in particular, Denmark, primarily for its production and food. But Norway, if the Germans had succeeded completely, and we'll see there's a number of reasons why ultimately we win the intelligence game on this in this three parter that I'm going to be doing. You know, if Germany had succeeded, it would've won the technological war. Many of you will have heard me say that before, for late are all the advances we made. So Norway and those regions that those countries that were occupied were occupied, as I say, a month before those that we traditionally think of in the Blitzkrieg, that's sweeping across Western Europe. I think we've lost the PowerPoint temporarily. Ah, thank you. Yeah. No, no. One back please. Thank you. If that's okay. So Norway was occupied, as was Denmark, on the 9th of April, 1940. A

full month before the rest of Western Europe is effectively occupied by the Nazi regime. Hitler knew exactly what he was doing and the Allies knew, of course, America is not yet in the war until after Pearl Harbour. But they were updated, of course, continually until they came into the war. But Britain knew that Norway was strategically important and that's why a number of key battles take place off the Norwegian coast. And I'm not going to go into those today, but absolutely crucial. Some were losses, heavy losses for us, some were losses for the Germans.

Next slide, please. But when we look at this race for the secret weapons of which Norway and, eventually, the Baltic coast, and we'll look at that in part two, the part that's played by Peenemunde, that we will come to in part two. So I don't want you to worry that I'm not going to cover Peenemunde on the Baltic coast there. This is crucially part of that. So Norway, then. Interestingly, I'm not sure how many of you know, but Hambro, Sir Charles Hambro, Air Commodore, he was in air intelligence during the Second World War and then he was part of SOE, the Special Operations Executive. He played an absolutely crucial role as an intelligence officer, that banking dynasty of Danish-Jewish origin, I'm not sure how many of you know that he was absolutely crucial to operations in Norway in the early part of the war. Now the Special Operations Executive was that organisation that was formalised after Churchill. Winston Churchill comes to power on the 10th of May, 1940. And he is very much in favour of unorthodox warfare, of sabotage, of operations behind enemy lines with irregular forces, forces that would have training that would not be part of the regular army training, but sort of commando-style training. And a lot of that was carried out in Scotland. Now that Special Operations Executive became really quite large. And there is somebody who's working at the moment, a fellow historian who's working, has been working for a number of years, to declassify, as far as they can, the personal files of those that worked in SOE. Now there are some files that just don't exist for whatever reason, but so far there are just under 30,000. And for decades it was believed by historians, because that was all the knowledge we had, that only around 15,000 agents. I mean that's quite a lot. But 15,000 agents were dropped behind enemy lines. We know it's at least double that. And so the Special Operations Executive had to have different geographical departments within it. The most famous, and you'll have heard me talk about before, it was F Section that sent agents into France, men and women. That was largely the work of Maurice, well, Maurice Buckmaster headed it, but he worked very closely with Vera Atkins, who, of course, came from a Jewish family with links originally from Romania. So we have the French Section, but we also have, wherever SOE was operative, there were departments. So it could be in Africa. There was a branch in Cairo, in Istanbul. There were operations into Austria, primarily mounted from Switzerland or Italy. But there was also a Norwegian section. And Hambro, for just about a year, he would oversee some of the coordination and sections, the French, Belgian, German, and Dutch Sections. The German Section,

again, much, much harder to infiltrate agents into Germany, often from neutral countries. That's why Sweden becomes really quite important. But from 1941, he actually becomes the deputy head of the Special Operations Executive. And it's his idea, as far as we can tell, he's given the credit because there were lots of doubts as to whether special operations and commando raids into Norway, into the very challenging territory, would even be possible. And he persuaded those around him to endorse missions into Norway. So he's absolutely crucial from a longstanding Danish-Jewish banking family. He's at the heart of these operations, some of which go on to be incredibly successful.

Next slide, please. And I'm going to mention just briefly, I'm not going to go into all the operational details of some of these raids. But to give you an overview of their importance, some of them have been immortalised in television and drama. The first, Operation Muskatoon, this was actually a joint, primarily commando raid, carried out by No. 2 Commando, different groups within the commandos, different sections, alongside two Norwegian agents who were part of SOE. So this was a combined operation by, excuse me, commandos, who had trained in Scotland in that really rough terrain. Usually in Arisaig. You can Google Arisaig. There's a commando memorial there now. A lot of different commando groups trained there and went on all kinds of operations in the Second World War. But not many people think about the Norwegian campaign. Norwegian campaign that runs from April, 1940, pretty much to June, 1940. For the British, the Allies, if you like, the British, it is pretty much, most of the time, a disaster. But there are moments that become critical as we'll see. So these men had had their training. They were equipped with a silk maps for their escape, 'cause they knew their task was to, next slide, please, was to blow up one of the power plants. I hope you can read that. You've got Glomfjord on the top right-hand corner. I mean look at this really difficult terrain of the fjords. How do you infiltrate that? And in the bottom there you can see a photograph of just make out the power plant itself, very well hidden. We had the intelligence. We knew that this was there, but it's very well disguised in the depth of the fjord there. And how do you land your commandos or your SOE agents amongst this territory? And essentially, they were landed by submarine. And you'll think, well, when it's surfaces, any German lookouts are going to instantly notice. Well, we actually used a French submarine that, from a distance, silhouetted, it actually looked like a German U-boat. So really clever. They thought, no, we're not going to use a British submarine. We're actually going to use a German sub. And that, at a distance as in a sort of silhouette, would easily be mistaken for a German U-boat. And that's essentially what happens. So those men are equipped. They know that once they've blown up this power plant, and this is in September, 1942, once they've blow up that power plant, all hell's going to break loose and they have to escape. So they have their silk escape maps that were supplied by branch of military intelligence, MI9. Some of you will have heard my lectures about MI9. They were given money. They were also given a fighting knife, a Colt

pistol, a hacksaw, a sort of escape and aid for their escape.

Next slide, please. So their mission, the 11th to the 21st of September, they left on the 11th of September, 1942 from the Orkney Islands. They had 10 British commandos, two Norwegian. I've put commandos, but actually they were SOE agents, sort of commando agents linked to, they were attached to SOE. And their mission was solely to raid and blow up the power plant in Glomfjord, which they successfully did. And they made that factory inoperative for the rest of the war. So you can see just how significant this is. If you can locate and knock out the key power plants or the heavy water plants that Germany's using as a critical part of its war effort and make that inoperative for the war, of course that is hugely valuable alongside the other aspects of any war and any fighting forces. Those commandos, the 10 British and the two Norwegian SOE commandos, they split into two groups because they knew that if they stayed together as a dozen of them trying to flee in Nazi-occupied Norway, they would, you know, they'd be picked up quite swiftly. So four of them separate off together and they successfully make it back to neutral Sweden. They're the lucky ones. The others, of the others that were left, the eight that were left, one actually was wounded and died of his wounds. So there were seven. Those seven were captured by the Germans and transferred to the famous Colditz Castle near Leipzig in Germany. And from there, they were transferred to Sachsenhausen concentration camp. I don't know if you know this, but they were transferred to Sachsenhausen concentration camp where they were shot. Now if I'm not mistaken, there is a memorial to them in Sachsenhausen. I should have shown it, actually, because I've seen the memorial in Sachsenhausen. I took a photograph, I should have put that out for you to see. But there is a memorial amongst the trees. Not in the camp itself, but amongst the trees at the side to the seven commandos who lost their lives in that raid in Norway. Now critically, for our purposes later, Norway came under the jurisdiction, if you like, the commander-in-chief was General Nikolaus von Falkenhorst. And we'll come to him again shortly. He's really crucial in our story. Next slide, please. As a result of the blowing up of that power plant at Glomfjord, Hitler was incandescent with rage. I mean, even that's an understatement. He's absolutely furious. And again, I'm not sure if you know, but afterwards, the month afterwards, he issues this Commando Order. It was the Befehl Order, Befehl Order. Can never say that properly. Befehl Order, otherwise known as the Commando Order. And this was ordered, it was very famous order, and it's remembered in commando circles when they remember their men today that lost their lives. 18th of October, 1942. And Hitler issued this. "I have found myself forced to issue a drastic order for the extermination of enemy sabotage parties and to make non-compliance with it severely punishable. Should it prove advisable to spare one or two men in the first instance for interrogation reasons, they are to be shot immediately after their interrogation." So this order that would be implemented throughout the wartime when some of our special forces were captured in France, for

example, in the Voigny area. This order would be executed by Hitler's generals, commanders, whoever was in charge of that region. That, essentially, if you are capturing special forces, including commandos, once you've interrogated them, and you might be holding them for a particular length of time, once you've interrogated them, Hitler's order is that they are not to survive. They are to be shot. And, of course, this is contrary to the Geneva Convention. It is a war crime. Next slide, please. But Nikolaus von Falkenhorst, commander-in-chief of Norway, added a clause to this order. And it was compulsory for all commanders to follow Hitler's orders in any theatre of war, as I've said. And Hitler issued this to say they are not to be treated as prisoners of war. We've got a picture of some of our prisoners there. They're not commandos. But that has crossed the line. That is essentially a contravention of the Geneva Convention and a war crime if you kill, which they did, seven of those British commandos is a war crime.

Next slide, please. So Nikolaus von Falkenhorst, what does he look like? There he is. Pretty nasty, horrific character. Responsible for a number of war crimes in Norway for which he would stand justice. And we'll come to that shortly. Next slide, please. So what does he do? To that commando order on his own initiative he adds this clause. "If a man is saved for interrogation, he must not survive his comrades for more than 24 hours." And he issued this order with this additional sentence to all of those commanders under his control. So the generals and the field security, essentially the whole of Norway that came under his command and those under him believed that this had actually come from Hitler. Of course, most of it had come from Hitler, but what they didn't know was von Falkenhorst had added this so that the interrogation had to be swift and anyone captured after October, 1942, they were to be killed within 24 hours of capture. And the problem was that von Falkenhorst, what he should have done was to set up, and he didn't, prisoner-of-war camps for captured British, later Americans. He should have set up prisoner-of-war camps and run them according to the Geneva Convention. But he didn't. And there wasn't a single prisoner-of-war camp in Norway. Next slide, please. So as I've said, this was dispatched to all the German forces in Norway and they had to comply with it. Of course, they didn't know, as I said, that that additional clause about killing captured commandos within 24 hours, they had to be killed pretty much immediately. And as I've put there, this was soon to be executed against British commandos in Norway in other very daring raids. Incredibly brave men involved in a number of operations.

Next slide, please. And one of the most famous plants was the Vemork heavy water plant. And this was the hydroelectric plant where heavy water was produced that was actually needed for atomic weapons, for atomic bomb programme. And so in a new raid, a new British raid, Operation Freshman was its code name, took place in November, 1942. So we are actually in the 19th of November, 1942. So we are pretty much,

well a month and a day, a month after that Commando Order. And the Allies, we knew about that Commando Order. Hitler had been pretty clear about that. So it was known, but that was not going to deter us from knocking out these absolutely crucial plants that were essential to Hitler's war machine. And we knew that this plant, whatever was done at Peenemunde, whatever was done at the atomic programme later, Hitler couldn't do it without the heavy water. So Vemork was absolutely essential as part of protecting against Hitler's capability to pull off the atomic programme. Next slide, please. So it was, essentially, again, a raid on this plant, A combination of Special Operations Executive, the SOE agents, 1st Airborne Division. And we'll see why in a moment, because they come in on Horsa gliders. I've got a photograph to show you in case you're not sure what that is. So they're not going to land them by submarines on this one. And Royal Engineers, 'cause the Royal Engineers need to be able to successfully blow this up. So the aim of Operation Freshman, as it's code named, highly top-secret operation, was to destroy, as I've put there, this is the aim, to destroy any Nazi capability to produce heavy water for its nuclear programme. It's absolutely crucial that we knock this out. But it was, tragically, an operation that did not succeed. There were high winds, bad weather. Next slide, please. And those two Horsa gliders. You can see there, they're being pulled. Horsa gliders are actually pulled. And then when the tow breaks, it kind of glides down to its landing site. They headed for the site. There are 31 men who are going to be part of this. The first one, unfortunately, the tow breaks too early. It snaps and that crashes. And there are survivors, but they are taken to a concentration camp we don't hear about very much outside Oslo, Grini concentration camp. As I said, there were no prisoner-of-war camps in Norway. And they were taken a short time later and shot in the woods. A war crime clearly. Next slide, please. But what about the second glider? So that didn't fare any better. Next slide, please. Yes, thank you. Because that crashed near a place called Egersund. There were of this 14 survivors. I mean it was a highly risky operation. And those 31 men, before they left, knew before they left for the mission, they flew from Tempsford Aerodrome in Bedford. So it's a kind of 20, yeah, 20, 30 miles northeast of London. So yeah, to give you an idea where. A very famous, Tempsford Aerodrome, where a lot of agents flew on secret missions throughout the war, not just into Norway. So those 31 men knew that their chances of survival were pretty slim, actually. Incredibly well trained and incredibly brave. So around half of them then aren't going to come back from, roughly half of them aren't going to come back from this. They're not going to survive. But from the second glider, there were 14 survivors. So they're picked up. They're taken prisoner of war by some of the patrols. One of them under the command of Colonel Probst, who would later stand trial for war crimes. But all were shot by one regiment of the German infantry, the 355 Regiment. Next slide, please. But in spite of that... So this is a completely failed operation with loss of life, huge loss of life. And not only those that didn't survive Horsa gliders, but those that were shot in cold blood in what

was essentially another war crime. They were executed, shot under the Befehl Order, the Commando Order. But what are we? February, 1943, we are... Approximately three months later, the Allies are not going to give up. Vemork has to be knocked out. We have to knock out this heavy water plant. And in an operation called Operation Gunnerside. So it's given a new name, it's a new team, and this is made up primarily of Norwegians who are trained as commandos. They also lead Tempsford in Bedfordshire from that same aerodrome. And you may have seen in "The Heroes of Telemark," that famous film, this is Operation Gunnerside that was made famous by that film. So if you can remember watching that. Incredibly tense moments when those men tried to infiltrate that plant. And they manage successfully to put a number of charges in key chambers on the heavy water electrolysis chambers. So you might remember in the film, they're going deep into the complex and fitting these charges, which are on a timer, obviously, so that it gives them enough time to escape and they've just managed to escape.

Next slide, please. And they do successfully blow up this heavy water plant and it is not operative for the rest of the war. It ceases to produce the heavy water needed for the atomic programme. And at the top there, you can see some of the team that were involved in that. Next slide, please. The Germans are absolutely furious. And von Falkenhorst, the commander-in-chief that we talked about earlier, sends out 3,000 German soldiers to capture these men. He's absolutely furious because he also knows he's answerable to Hitler. Adolf Hitler's going to be incandescent with rage that this heavy water plant has been successfully blown up by special forces, special Allied forces. You know, those guys were amazing. They managed to get out over the snow. Don't forget it's middle of February, thick snow. They were expert skiers. They'd been trained and they all managed to escape into neutral Sweden. And I've given you, scientists, any scientists listening'd probably be horrified at my understanding of science. But I can see the capsule, the little bottle there of heavy water. Anyway, next slide, please. And now we come to a part of this kind of secret war. Because what's really interesting, we've got those raids, two of them successful. Of course first attempt of Vemork not successful, but they're the subject of horrific war crimes. And British intelligence actually vowed to bring those men to justice. And where they did it was hundreds of miles away in London in a unit I've talked about before called the London Cage. And the London Cage was based in Kensington Palace Gardens. This is the Bayswater Road end. Looks like something out of Dickensian London. On the left, you can just see the silhouette of buildings and chimneys of 6, 7, 8, and 8A Kensington Palace Gardens. Those four beautiful mansions. Number six today is the Russian embassy, of course. The Israeli embassy is down the far end of this street.

Next slide, please. And this would be the site of a secret interrogation centre that would bring to justice those perpetrators of the war crimes in Norway. And it is interesting that you have that

dual side to British intelligence. That, on the one hand, spends the wartime, different branches within British intelligence, collecting vital intelligence across the war to win the intelligence war. But the other side is that many of its officers at the end of the war go on to conduct similar investigations, a collecting of intelligence and information to bring the perpetrators to justice. And at the heart of the London Cage, this is 8A. A beautiful building in its time. 8A was owned by Lord Duveen. Yes, Jewish of course, and built the gallery for the Elgin Marbles. Fascinating character. Well, he passed away before the war. But on the top left hand corner is Colonel Alexander Scotland. He's the nephew of George Bernard Shaw. He, a very colourful character, is in charge of this branch of military intelligence that's gaining information from prisoners of war during the wartime in these buildings in London. And at the end of the war. Next slide, please. He actually heads the unit in these same buildings that becomes known not as the London Cage. Same buildings, but it becomes known as the War Crimes Investigation Unit. And it would go on until 1948 and bring to justice some of the worst Nazi war criminals. We think of Nuremberg and those trials. But at the London Cage, they tried commandants of concentration camps, diehard SS that had conducted, there was horrific crimes, including the murder of Jews in camps, shooting in Latvia and that kind of thing. And they were brought to justice because of Colonel Scotland. So Colonel Scotland, at the end of the war, his job, he had a list of Nazi war criminals that his interrogators, now investigators, would have to investigate. And amongst those investigators were German-Jewish refugees who'd fled Germany, were serving in the British Army, and were transferred to the Intelligence Corps. And some of them, well, a handful of them, Felix Scharff was one of them. Some of you may remember, particularly those of you in London may remember Felix Scharff. He was one of them working on the war crimes in this period. Next slide, please. And on that list of war criminals, if they were discovered. Sometimes they would be hiding amongst regular soldiers in internment camps, in prisoner-of-war camps in Germany. Colonel Scotland put out a request, who has got General von Falkenhorst? And he was actually captured by the Americans. So anyone who was needed for interrogation would be transferred to London and they'd have to give a handwritten account. And this is one example. A handwritten account of their version of events and they would be signed and witnessed by one of Colonel Scotland's team. And that was really important because they had a legally admissible document for court. Next slide, please. But what we don't often think about, or perhaps we don't know. I think it's not widely known in the public domain. Colonel Scotland did a lot of work, yes, in what was originally the London Cage in Kensington Palace Gardens. That was the sort of headquarters of this War Crimes Investigation Unit. But he dispatched his teams. His team had increased. Some of them were dispatched to France, some to Germany to collect evidence for war crimes. These were different war crimes than those that were dealt with by the main teams in Nuremberg. This was to deal with those that had to be brought to justice, but which Nuremberg and other teams in



Germany didn't have the capacity. So he dispatches 25 officers and 35 in the rank of sergeant to Norway to track down evidence of war crimes. And they are headquartered in this beautiful fortress, Akershus in Oslo. I'm not sure if any of you have been there. This was, in the wartime, their Gestapo headquarters. And from there, Colonel Scotland's teams, which included German-Jewish refugees who were serving in the British forces, would actually have their offices and start to amass evidence of the war crimes against British commandos. So yes, the London Cage, War Crimes Investigation Unit, Colonel Scotland's teams are looking at atrocities and evidence against Jews and of the concentration camps, but they are also tasked with bringing to justice.

Next slide, please. Von Falkenhorst for his horrific crimes in Norway. So he's captured after the armistice, a couple of days later, by the Americans. At the time that Colonel Scotland put a request out for him, he was being held in Dachau concentration camp. He is transferred to Kensington Palace Gardens. And during his time there, I mean, Colonel Scotland hated him. The moment the two of them saw each other, it's pretty much like some of the other commanders. Horrific commanders, Colonel Scotland had no time for them, knew that they were guilty, and wanted to bring them to justice. And von Falkenhorst said at the time, and this is recorded in Colonel Scotland's memoirs, he said to Colonel Scotland, "The tragic conflict," he said that, well, that he faced, "between honour and conscience, responsibility and a sense of duty, obedience and oath of allegiance." And yes, you can guess. His defence, which, of course, there was no defence. But his defence was that he was only obeying orders. Which, of course. Next slide, please. Colonel Scotland was furious because he knew that von Falkenhorst, and in the end he proved it, that von Falkenhorst had added that clause about killing commandos within 24 hours. So he was guilty of war crimes. And Colonel Scotland made it absolutely clear in the evidence he was gathering against Falkenhorst that what Falkenhorst should have done was completely kept to the Geneva Convention and actually establish prisoner-of-war camps. His own defence, as I said, he was only obeying Hitler's Commando Order, the one that was issued on the 18th of October, 1942. But eventually, von Falkenhorst actually admitted. He made a number of statements, which survive in the National Archives. One in particular, on the 5th of July, 1946, in which he admitted himself, he admitted to adding the additional sentence to the Commando Order. Which meant he absolutely was responsible for the addition to that order. But he's responsible for giving the order that those commandos should not survive more than 24 hours, that those under him executed. Next slide, please. And Colonel Scotland, as he often did, actually attended the war crimes trial of von Falkenhorst. He was absolutely convinced that von Falkenhorst should not be let off the hook. There should be no technicalities. He was tried in Brunswick, was sentenced to death. But later this was commuted to life imprisonment and he was held in Werl Prison and eventually released in 1953. So he didn't serve even a

decade, but he was allowed, he was released on health grounds and finally died in 1968. But he was responsible for some terrible war crimes in Norway and that it was absolutely crucial that we should bring him to justice.

Next slide, please. So there are now a number of memorials to those operations, to the commandos. For Operation Musketo and also for Operation Gunnerside. So those are two different. They look similar, but they're two different memorials which you can visit if you're in Norway. Next slide, please. But intelligence on Norway was always going to be really important. And, again, this is an area that seems to slipped through the net. Very little is done on the Norwegian campaign. It is called the Norwegian campaign. It's that period of pretty intense fighting, particularly at sea, around the coast of Norway between the 9th of April, 1940 and June, 1940. Those crucial three months. And as many of you will know from some of the talks I've given before, there was a secret site at Trent Park at Cockfosters, right there at the end of the Piccadilly Line. And here, a man I've talked a lot about in the past, Colonel Thomas Joseph Kendrick, MI6 spymaster, was heading this unit. He would go on to expand to two further sites. But in this period, in 1940 at the height of the Norwegian campaign, he has one site, which is at Trent Park, this stately home that had belonged to the late Sir Philip Sassoon, Baghdadi-Jewish family. He had died and this site was vacant. So this was taken over. And here, key prisoners of war throughout the wartime, later Hitler's generals would be held here. But in that early part of the war, German prisoners of war who were captured from U-boats, if they'd been sunk and survivors were pulled out, they'd come to this site. And as you've heard me say before, they would have a phoney interrogation and they'd go back to the room where their mate was and they'd boast about what they hadn't told the interrogating officer. But how many of us are aware, historians certainly haven't studied, that at this site during 1940 we got vital intelligence on Norway. Next slide, please. It becomes absolutely crucial. And there had been a number of disasters, I don't want to sort of list them all for you, but around Norway, the sinking of one of our ships in June, 1940 was one of the most serious disasters. HMS Glorious, with a loss of 1200 men. And this had been sunk by the Scharnhorst. You can see HMS Glorious on the left of the screen, Scharnhorst on the right. Now our man, Kendrick, who had this bugging operation at Trent Park, had been gathering intelligence on the Scharnhorst, this battle cruiser, from within Germany in the 1930s. It was actually constructed, excuse me, in the 1930s. If my memory serves me correctly, I think it was completed in 1936. 35 or 36. It was being constructed at Wilhelmshaven. And Kendrick was sending his agents undercover to actually gain intelligence on the battleships that Germany was constructing in the 1930s. Their capability, their tonnage, their guns, their new technology. And, of course, they are operational in this part of the war. And now we have HMS Glorious that has been sunk by the Scharnhorst.

Next slide, please. And we are interested in any survivors that come out of the Norwegian campaign. And we actually mounted a special raid and snatched 324 civilians from Norway in special raids and brought them back to Kendrick's site. You can see him here at his desk at Trent Park. And we questioned them about events on the ground in Norway. We needed intelligence to keep ahead. Norway was always very, very tricky. But, again, those survivors of a number of U-boats were, right across the war, they were brought to Kendrick's sites. In this period to Trent Park. And the particular survivors of U-49 that were sunk on the 15th of April, 1940 near the Port of Haastad, they had vital eyewitness accounts, but they also could tell us about U-boat activity. And we needed intelligence as we go into the Battle of the Atlantic. And the MI9 war diary at this time. I've worked on it. I pulled this quote out myself from the war diary itself. MI9 is that branch of military intelligence similar to MI5 and MI6. And Kendrick is working sort of, Kendrick is working under the auspices of MI9, that new branch of military intelligence. And the MI9 war diary says, "The operations in Norway have resulted in considerable increase in the activities of MI9. Much useful information has been gained from this source." So although the Norwegian campaign was hard fought, it was pretty much a disaster for the British in this period, it did yield intelligence. We did capture prisoners in spite of failed raids. We did capture survivors of U-boats, like U-49, and we start to interrogate them, give them a phoney interrogation, and they come back and they start to give up intelligence to those hidden microphones in their rooms.

Next slide, please. And to give you an example of one of the other famous raids into Norway, the Saga Raid, 27th of December, 1941. This is, of course, before the Commando Order of 18th of October, '42. So it's before Hitler's issued the order, but it's raids like this one that got Hitler so angry that he ordered that Commando Order. But pretty much what we tried to do, even after the Norwegian campaign, was to try and penetrate the defences. And actually it wasn't just Norway, of course. We would do the same in like the Bruneval Raid in '41, in the Dieppe Raid in '42 into the coastal regions of France. We would try to test the German defences, try and get eyewitness intelligence on those defences, how well they're defended. And, if we could, mount a very small-scale force, so just four or five very small kind of early commando units, but they're very, very tiny. Raiders, if you like. And they were commando style. They would slip into the coast, whether it's Norway or France, and they would try to snatch a German prisoner or a German guard, German officer, and bring them back to Kendrick's secret sites. So bring them back to Kendrick's secret sites for intelligence. So part of these raids, again, it's not often written about in books of these famous raids. Yes, it is to sabotage behind enemy lines if that's the brief. But we also wanted to snatch prisoners, take them prisoner, bring them back and, again, see what intelligence they give up to other German prisoners of war with those

hidden microphones. So very much testing the coastal defences. But on the Vaagso raid, 26 German Air Force personnel were captured. And they made it back. They were brought back to Trent Park and intelligence gained. And that's where our historians need to start looking at what did they give up that helped the war even at this point. This unit that was bugging the conversations of German prisoners of war was highly, highly top secret. Next slide, please. But the Vaagso Raid wasn't the only one where this happened. There was another raid in the Lofoten Islands. Again, very famous in commando history and in the history of raids of the Second World War. This is in sort of Lofoten Islands in Norway, January, 1942. And, again, we snatched prisoners at this time. We brought some personnel back. What did they give up? They started to give up information on the German order of battle, of battle plans, but also of German naval construction plans, intelligence on U-boats. Next slide, please. We've got a map here of the raid. Shows you which commando units were mounting these raids. So there are a whole number of these different raids and we kept raiding these areas and trying not only to test the defences, but crucially you might test the defences and they're pretty tough, but you also need intelligence. And it's not only intelligence on German forces' fighting capability in Norway. A lot of the personnel that they are bringing back, they are capturing and bringing to Kendrick's secret sites, have wider intelligence and knowledge.

Next slide. So to give you an idea, for example. We learn all kinds of things. In fact, one of the raids, the commander sort of wakes up a bit sleepy, still in his pyjamas when he's actually captured. And we learned, crucially, that these German attacks has come of a complete surprise. Now that might seem obvious to us, but the Germans knew that we would attempt various attacks. But for us to know that it still comes as an element of surprise and they're not, they haven't heavily defended that particular region overnight, for example, is really important because of course it's helpful for the success of your operations. So an incredibly interesting part of this whole war in the Balkan region is actually to get intelligence. Yes, we have to win the battles. And particularly in this period, it's those coastal battles. But we also need wider intelligence that's going to help us in what's coming next. And so those prisoners knew, the ones that were captured in the Lofoten Islands, those 26 prisoners that I talked about. They actually knew about reinforcements that the Germans were about to deploy, a number of troops on the Turkish-Bulgarian border. Or should I say Bulgarian-Turkish border. Anyway. And their aim was to break through to Palestine, as it then was, what was then Palestine. And that would link up with Rommel and his forces in North Africa. And that's head of the North Africa campaign in 1942. We need to know where German reinforcement are moving, to which countries and where, and to anticipate. And eventually, of course, eventually, of course, the Allies would land in North Africa. And we also learned the kind of tank reinforcements that are being sent to Rommel. You need to know this. If you are going to land your troops in an invasion of North

Africa, which we did in 1942, you need to know what you are up against and the fighting capability of the enemy. But who would've thought that much of that intelligence was already known by German troops in Norway that we captured in 1941 and '42. Next slide, please. But we also had faced those attacks on the Allied convoys, those all important convoys by the wolf packs of U-boats. The convoys that were part of the Battle of the Atlantic, ultimately. We had to win the Battle of the Atlantic. You have these convoys, the Arctic convoys, you have convoys coming from America, not only with equipment but vital food, because if Hitler had managed to starve, you know, if the supplies had not got through to the United Kingdom, it would've starved us into submission. You had to protect those shipping supplies. And of course a number of ships were actually being knocked out. And from prisoners that we snatched in Norway, we got to learn about some of the fighting techniques, the formations of the U-boats, the fact that they were going to attack in a particular way and they were going to form wolf packs, as they were known. So now we absolutely need intelligence as well on those German prisoners to safeguard these Atlantic convoys.

Next slide, please. And then, in an ironic twist of fate, in December, 1943, Battle of North Cape off the coast of Norway. Again, it's not one that people necessarily know about or have studied, but the Scharnhorst, that fearsome battleship, if you like, that Kendrick had been tracking in the 1930s from its production and deployment, was a real menace throughout the war. It wasn't just the Scharnhorst, of course. There was the Tirpitz, which would ultimately be sunk in 1944 from intelligence from Kendrick's sites. But we needed those prisoners of war. It's not just the raids into Norway. That's significant to knock out Hitler's chance of getting the atomic programme or delaying his atomic programme, actually. We've got to delay this for as long as possible, get ahead of the game. But we also need intelligence for the wider war. And the Scharnhorst was one of those ships that we were tracking and trying to knock out. And next slide, please. Ultimately, in December, 1943, and you can see a pretty damaged Scharnhorst there at the top, with survivors in the right hand corner there at the bottom. So 36 survivors are taken. Next slide through, please. Sorry, next slide, please. From a crew of nearly 2,000. So there's a lot of crew, nearly 2,000 on the Scharnhorst that had wreaked havoc at sea for us. Finally was sunk. And, again, no one's really studied those survivors. Came to one of Kendrick's other secret sites that was operational from 1942. And that was Latimer House, which is about 20 miles outside London in the countryside. So when we think of the Baltic region, of the Scandinavian regions, we need also to be mindful of just how significant that region was for the war. It's not... Yet, of course, we know a lot about Western Europe, a lot about the fighting in France and after D-Day in June, 1944. But as early as April, 1940. Well, and even before, there were those intelligence officers working at secret sites, working alongside the code breakers at Bletchley Park, sharing intelligence, and making a difference to

the war effort. And so I suppose I just, next slide, please, want to bring some comments to a close. My final... Yeah. We're going to look in the second part to this, which will be sometime after Rosh HaShanah, that it was always a race for the intelligence services. And after Pearl Harbour, of course, the Americans coming in the war with American intelligence were involved. So for Allied intelligence services, it was absolutely vital to get ahead of the game, to knock out strategic sites, and the sabotage, commando raids, special operations, those brave agents and commandos that knock out this stuff on the ground. But we also needed intelligence on the wider war and Hitler's capability. And very soon we would gain knowledge of a very secret weapon, the V-weapons. Next slide, please. And that's what we're going to talk about next time. So if you are interested in reading a bit more around this subject, then do have a look at my book, "The London Cage" or "The Walls Have Ears." A lot of it primary research. Well, it is. Primary research, often not written about elsewhere and giving us a deeper understanding of the wartime, of the integration between the commando raids, those raids that set back Hitler's technological programme and his secret weapons. And joining that in with the incredible work of the intelligence teams, the Allied intelligence teams. So thank you. I look forward to seeing you after Rosh Hashanah. I wish you all a very happy New Year and for you and your families to keep you safe. Thank you.