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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**UNITED STATES ARMY INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY COMMAND**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY OFFICE**  
**FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-5995**

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

Freedom of Information/  
Privacy Office

JUL 09 2010

Mr. John Greenewald, Jr.  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This is in further response to your electronic Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of May 12, 2010, requesting a copy of the document entitled "On the Trail of Military Intelligence History: A Guide to the Washington D.C. Area (2004)", preferably on CD-ROM, if available and further supplements our letter of May 26, 2010.

The search with another element of this command has been completed and a record responsive to your request was located and returned to this office for final disposition and direct reply to you. The record has been reviewed, determined to be releasable and is enclosed.

There are no assessable FOIA fees.

We are continuing our processes regarding other titles you have requested and will respond to you by separate correspondence upon completion of all actions.

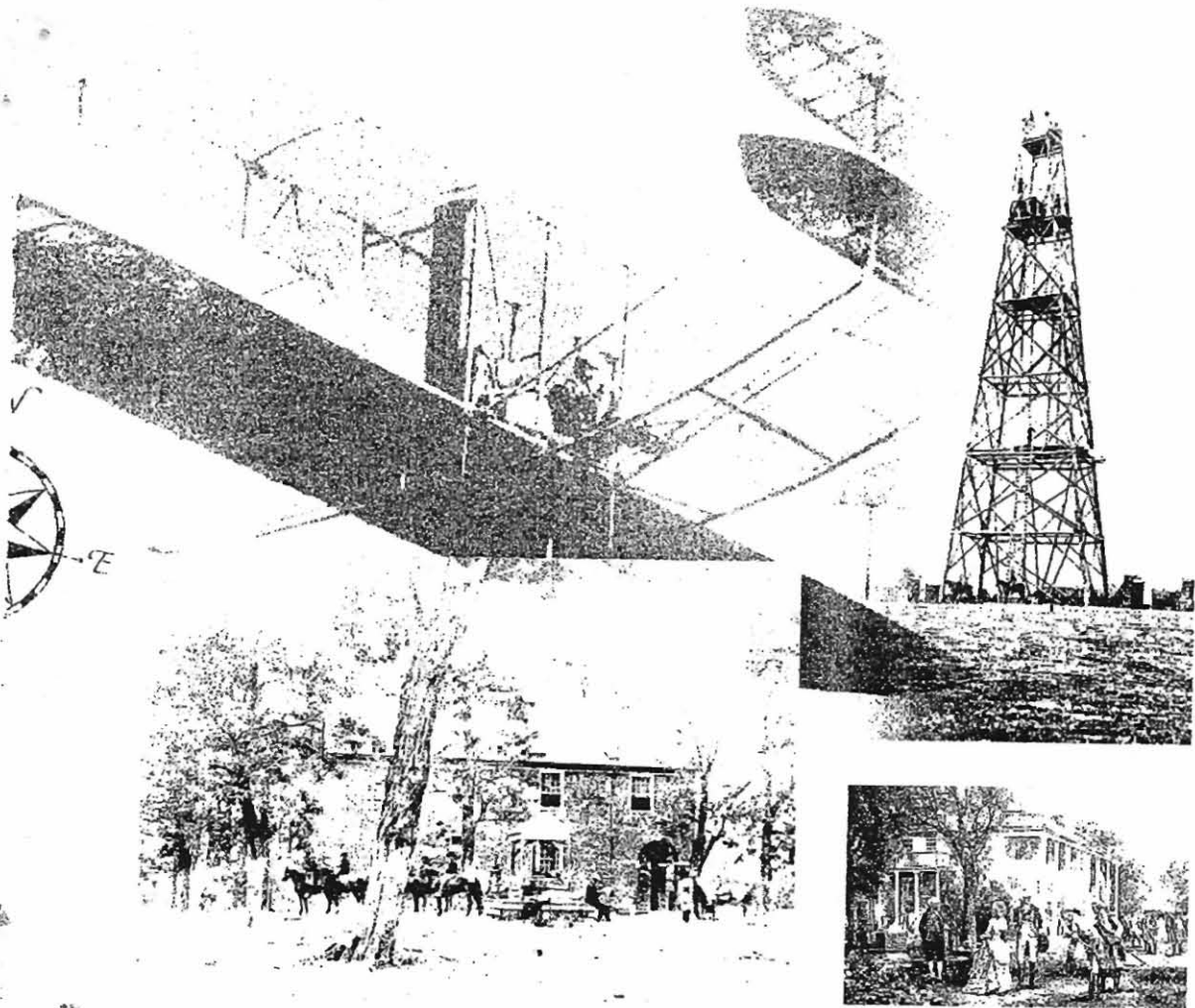
If you have any questions regarding this action, feel free to contact this office at 1-866-548-5651 or email the INSCOM FOIA office at: [INSCOM\\_FOIA\\_ServiceCenter@mi.army.mil](mailto:INSCOM_FOIA_ServiceCenter@mi.army.mil) and refer to case #3683F-10.

Sincerely,

Joanne Benear  
Chief

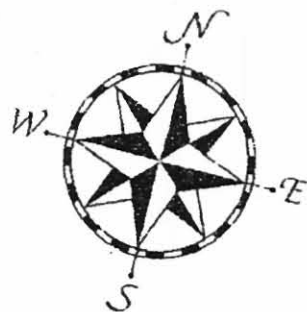
Freedom of Information/Privacy Office

Enclosure



**ON THE TRAIL OF MILITARY  
INTELLIGENCE HISTORY:  
A GUIDE TO THE WASHINGTON, DC, AREA**





HISTORY OFFICE  
US ARMY  
INTELLIGENCE  
AND SECURITY  
COMMAND



During the last 30 years, the Army has placed renewed emphasis on the use of staff rides to battlefields as a means to acquaint military personnel with the lessons learned of the past. It is easy to forget what one reads; one never forgets what one sees. Those of us who live and serve in the Washington, DC area have the privilege of visiting many of these national parks such as Gettysburg and Yorktown. As members of the US Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM), we are particularly interested in the role played by intelligence; how the presence or lack of military intelligence made the difference between victory and defeat on the battlefield.

However, one does not have to travel to a battlefield to be reminded of the history of military intelligence. It surrounds us during our daily comings and goings. This booklet has been prepared to serve as a reminder of some of these locations. The sites selected span two centuries of military intelligence in support of the Nation and its Army, starting with George Washington in the Revolutionary War and ending with William F. Friedman in World War II.

History is not words in a dusty book; it is alive. Next time you find yourself on the corner of Constitution and 17<sup>th</sup> North West, imagine the date 5 December 1941. If you look carefully, you can see the courier exiting the War Department Munitions Building across the street and making his way, past you, to the White House. In his pouch, he carries the most recently deciphered diplomatic messages from Imperial Japan.

The INSCOM History Office

**ON THE TRAIL OF MILITARY  
INTELLIGENCE HISTORY:  
A GUIDE TO THE WASHINGTON, DC, AREA**

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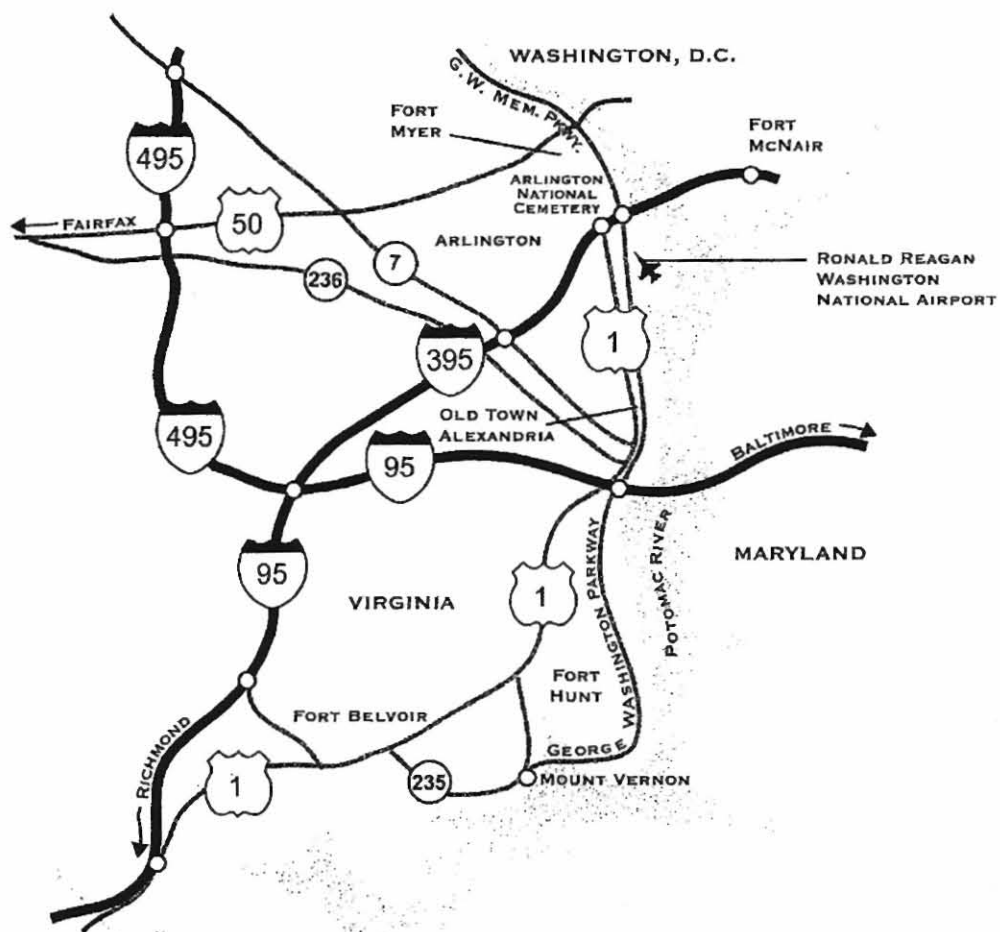
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## MOUNT VERNON:

### HOME OF THE FIRST AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE CHIEF

Mount Vernon is one of America's most-visited historical sites. Every year over a million people come to see the home of the man who is called the "Father of our Country." However, few visitors know that George Washington can just as legitimately be called the "Father of American Intelligence." Two weeks after taking command of the Continental Army on 2 July 1775, General Washington recorded his first expenditure for intelligence collection: an unidentified officer was to travel to Boston and set up a network of agents to gather intelligence on enemy movements and intentions. A year later, Washington established a unit under the command of LTC Thomas Knowlton to reconnoiter and raid British facilities. Today, not only does the Military Intelligence Corps acknowledge Knowlton's Rangers as the first American military intelligence organization, but Army Rangers and Special Forces also look upon the Knowlton's Rangers as an important milestone in their own histories.

Washington himself was an adroit spymaster. Over the course of his military career, he directed agent networks, taught the essentials of espionage tradecraft to his agents, and used intelligence effectively when planning and conducting military operations. In a letter written during the Revolutionary War, General Washington penned the following to his intelligence staff: "The necessity of procuring good intelligence is apparent and need not be further urged.... All that remains for me to add is that you keep the whole matter as secret as possible."



George Washington receiving French Generals at Mount Vernon.

Washington not only successfully organized and directed a group of competent intelligence officers, he personally ran a ring of secret agents within New York City while it was under British occupation and crafted a deception plan that ultimately led to the final victory at Yorktown, Virginia.

Washington's awareness of the value of intelligence and security originated during the French and Indian War that was fought on the colonial frontier. As an aide-de-camp to the British General Edward Braddock, Washington witnessed first hand that lack of intelligence could mean defeat for an army in the field. When he returned home to Mount Vernon at the end of the conflict, Washington became an avid student of the subject of intelligence. Among writings available to him were those of Frederick the Great, who wrote about the importance of secret communications, a practice later adopted by Washington during his own campaigns. Washington's personal library at Mount Vernon contained a number of books on the subject of intelligence, including one by the distinguished 18<sup>th</sup> century French commander, Marshal Saxe, who emphasized the need for good human intelligence. So today, while visiting Mount Vernon, listen to the guide's presentation on how Washington was a successful plantation owner, well-respected in Virginia politics. But also remember how Washington at the same time was preparing himself for future battlefields by mastering the art of good intelligence and security.

#### **DIRECTIONS**

From Fort Belvoir turn north on Route 1. At Woodlawn Plantation, turn right on Route 235. Mount Vernon is three miles straight ahead, at a large traffic circle.

## TELEGRAPH ROAD:

### NORTH-SOUTH COMMUNICATIONS LINE

As early as 1846 the Fairfax County court agreed that the county would provide poles for the telegraph line from Washington to Richmond that crossed the county. This important line stretched along a path that became known as Telegraph Road.

In the early days of the Civil War, supporters of the Confederacy in Washington, DC freely used the telegraph to communicate with their compatriots in the south. Citing security concerns, civilian officials severed the Washington-Richmond wire around May 21, 1861. While this action denied southern sympathizers an expedient communication line, its loss was detrimental to the Union. Without the telegraph, the War Department could not exercise control over widely dispersed Federal forces. The Government soon took control of existing commercial telegraph facilities and in October 1861 the US Military Telegraph Service was formed. Additional lines and facilities were installed to support the war effort: more than 15,000 miles of lines were built solely for military purposes. The first of these were constructed around Washington and Alexandria. During the Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville campaigns the telegraph proved an unfailing means of communication between the army in the field and Washington.

Throughout the war, the telegraph made the task of maneuvering troops much easier. General Ulysses S. Grant received daily reports from four separate armies and replied with daily directions for their



The Civil War saw the first full-scale use of military cryptography.

operations over an area of 750,000 square miles. The telegraphers themselves often worked under difficult and dangerous conditions. These unsung heroes, many of whom gave their lives in the line of duty, performed work of vital importance to the army and to the country.

Both sides engaged in wiretapping. Messages speeding over long distances were vulnerable without the protection of codes and ciphers. In fact, the first widespread use of telegraphy for field communications during the Civil War prompted the first full-scale military use of cryptography. Intercepting a coded telegraph message was more easily done than breaking its code; however, the War Department's operators became quite adept at deciphering Confederate messages that fell into Union hands.

President Abraham Lincoln knew the value of the telegraph to intelligence and command and control. He wrote to his generals early in 1862 that knowledge of enemy movements was "the most constantly present, and most difficult" part of the problems to be solved if the Union was to employ its forces to optimum advantage. Surprisingly, the White House had no telegraph office during the war, and Lincoln spent long hours in the cipher room at the War Department's Telegraph Office awaiting news from his battlefield commanders. Today, as you travel along Telegraph Road, consider the role early communications played in our Nation's history.

**DIRECTIONS:**

From Fort Belvoir North Post exit the gate at Beulah Road and Telegraph Road.

## SIGNAL TOWERS:

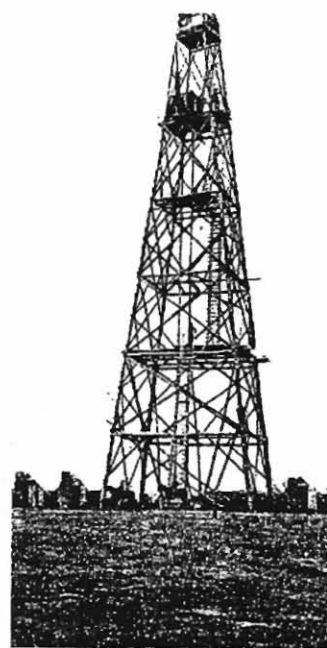
### A VIEW FROM THE TOP

On the eve of the Civil War, Congress appointed Major Albert J. Myer as the Army's Signal Officer. At the same time, the War Department adopted Myer's method of communicating by simple but effective flag waving. With the flag initially held upright, "one" was indicated by waving the flag to the left; "two" by a similar motion to the right; and "three" by a wave or dip to the front. One or more figures constituted a letter of the alphabet, and a few combinations were used for phrases. (At night, torches or lights were substituted for the flags.)

When the Civil War broke out, the armies of both the North and South were quick to create Signal Corps. Perched atop platforms built on tall buildings (or even in tall trees), on elevated terrain, or in constructed signal towers that rose to heights of 125 feet, soldiers with signal flags in hand used Meyer's "wig-wag" system to send messages. (Being in such exposed positions made the signalmen easy targets for enemy snipers.)

The signal corpsmen could transmit messages up to a paragraph in size from Harper's Ferry to the unfinished Washington Monument in just 13 minutes by relaying signals along Sugarloaf Mountain, Darnestown, and Tenleytown (now part of northwest Washington). Today, Harper's Ferry is a National Historic Park and Sugarloaf Mountain is a private park. The location of the Signal Corps station atop the Washington Monument can be seen where the monument's stone changes color, marking the height where construction ceased during the war.

Besides communications, signalmen played an important intelligence role. Their elevated positions of observation served to provide their commanders with early warnings of the movement of enemy troops. Lee's invasion of Maryland in 1862 would have been a complete surprise, if not for the



In addition to communications, signal towers played an intelligence role.

watchful vigilance of Lieutenant Miner of the Signal Corps, who occupied Sugarloaf—the highest point in Maryland. From his position, he could see the important fords of the Potomac, with their approaches on both sides of the river. Miner detected the Confederate advance guard, then the wagon-train movements, and finally the objective points of the army's march. Although unprotected, he held his station until captured by Southern troops.

While driving in Northern Virginia, one can still get a feel for the Union lines of communication. For instance, it would have taken six retransmissions of a signal for troops in south Alexandria, VA to communicate with forces in Fairfax City. Stand at Huntington Metro, the site of Fort Lyon, and imagine sending a signal to Fort Richardson, which stood on the high ground at South 18<sup>th</sup> Street and Glebe Road in Arlington. To get around an obstructed line of site, the signalman at Fort Richardson would have had to transmit the signal into the District of Columbia to a platform atop the Winders Building, which still stands on 17<sup>th</sup> Street, just west of the White House. The signalman on duty there would then have retransmitted the message to Fort Morton that stood on Wilson Boulevard at the intersection with Court House Road. Before reaching the signal platform atop the Fairfax Court House, the message would have to pass through three more sites, including a signal tower located on a double-decker platform built in a tall tree at Fort Ethan Allen, near Chain Bridge.

#### DIRECTIONS:

Fort Lyon: Take Telegraph Road north. Turn right onto North Kings Highway and left into Huntington Metro's "Kiss and Ride." Park and walk to the scenic overlook, which is near the site of the southeast bastion of Fort Lyon. From here, the strategic location of the fort can be appreciated. Fort Richardson: Exit the metro and turn right. Turn right onto Telegraph Road. Follow signs to 95 South Richmond. Exit onto I-395 North/Washington. Take right exit onto Glebe Road; head north. Fort Morton: Turn right onto Wilson Boulevard. At traffic wheel bear right past war memorial onto Clarendon Blvd. Proceed to the intersection with Courthouse Road. Turn left onto Courthouse Rd. Historical marker is on the left. Fort Ethan Allen: Take Wilson Boulevard west and turn right onto North Glebe Road. Pass Marymount University. Proceed across Chesterbrook Road. Turn right onto Old Glebe Road and right onto North Stafford Street. 3829 North Stafford Street was the south face of Fort Ethan Allen.

## BALLOONS:

### AN EXPERIMENT IN AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE

Among the many technological advances in the Civil War was the use of balloons for surveillance. While not alone, Professor Thaddeus S.C. Lowe was undoubtedly the most successful of the Civil War balloonists, and many of his ideas would continue to influence developments in aerial reconnaissance for years to come. Lowe built the largest existing aerostat: an aircraft using a gas lighter than air, which was supported by the buoyancy derived from air currents. On April 20, 1861, barely a week after the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter, Lowe made his first official ascension from Cincinnati, traveling over 900 miles in nine hours.

Realizing the importance aerial reconnaissance would have in time of war, Lowe immediately set forth for Washington to offer his services to the Army. Although he met resistance from the War Department, President Abraham Lincoln was intrigued with the idea and authorized the Secretary of War to allot Lowe \$250 for expenses involved in performing a demonstration. The professor and a telegraph operator ascended in the balloon "Enterprise," carrying a telegraph that was connected to the White House by a wire. From his perch high over the city, Lowe sent a telegram to Lincoln: "This point of observation commands an area nearly 50 miles in diameter. The city, with its girdle of encampments, presents a superb scene. I have pleasure in sending you the first dispatch ever telegraphed from an aerial station and in acknowledging indebtedness to your encouragement for the opportunity of demonstrating the availability of the science of aeronautics in the military service of the country. T.S.C. Lowe."

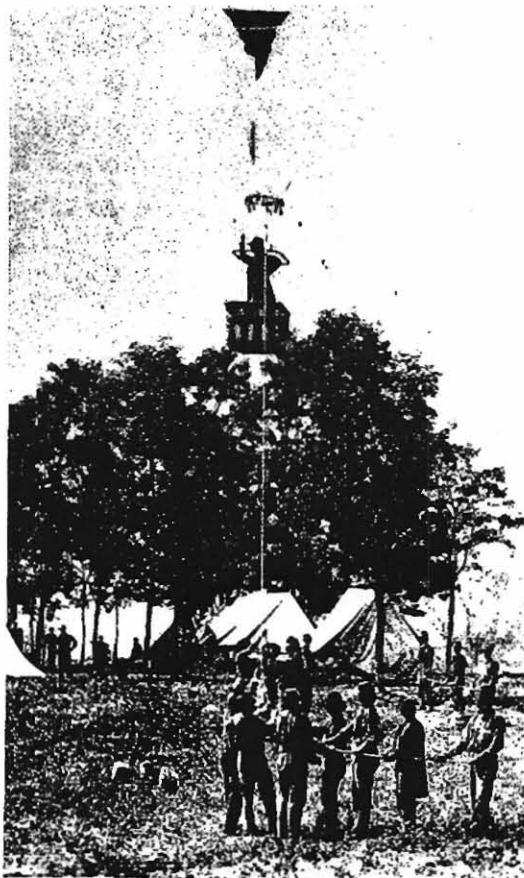
The "girdle of encampments" observed by Lowe included camps located in Arlington County, which was occupied by units of both the Federal and Confederate armies. There were many skirmishes and battles, and spies from both sides crossed enemy lines to collect intelligence. Suspicion and anxiety filled the air. All of Washington was apprehensive as the Federal Army rapidly constructed defenses and erected lookout towers to observe Confederate-occupied areas. The Confederates continually harassed Union troops as they worked, slowing construction projects as the soldiers reacted to every alarm. It was during these chaotic early days of the war

that Professor Lowe conducted the first balloon reconnaissance in American military history. A Falls Church historical marker near the intersection of Leesburg Pike and Arlington Boulevard designates the site where Lowe went aloft and observed Confederate cavalry on June 24, 1861.

On June 26 the US Army Corps of Topographical Engineers adopted the balloon for Army service. Employed as a civilian, Lowe carried the title of Aeronaut, Commanding Balloon Department, Army of the Potomac. Aerial observation, with Professor Lowe and other balloonists providing real-

time intelligence, allowed Union soldiers to carry on their work uninterrupted by false alarms. During the summer of 1861 Lowe made several more ascensions from Ball's Crossroads (now Ballston) and Arlington Heights (now the grounds of Arlington Cemetery) to observe Confederate positions in nearby Fairfax.

On December 22, 1861, the Balloon Corps of the Army of the Potomac became an official branch in the Army. Signal Corpsmen made numerous balloon ascensions during the war and signaled the intelligence gathered to headquarters, by both telegraph and flag. Lowe achieved another American first by directing Union fire from a balloon by telegraph. Although this artillery direction was successful, the main role of the balloon throughout the war continued to be observation. One of Lowe's most valuable contributions to the Civil War was the guidance he gave the Topographic Engineers in making reliable maps of battlefield areas and enemy positions, thus pioneering the science of aerial mapping.



Observation from balloons marked the beginning of aerial reconnaissance in the United States.



The Balloon Corps was abandoned August 1, 1863, two years after its activation and two years before the end of the Civil War. Although their advantage in altitude yielded observations the signal stations could not make, balloons presented burdensome logistical problems. Nonetheless, in its brief existence, the Balloon Corps had rendered valuable service and information and marked the beginning of aerial reconnaissance in the United States.

**DIRECTIONS:**

From I-395 North/Washington: exit on King Street West (Route 7) (King Street becomes Leesburg Pike, which becomes Broad Street in Falls Church). Turn right onto N. Roosevelt Street. A historical marker is on the right. Ballston: Turn left onto Broad Street and left onto Wilson Boulevard. At Glebe Road the traffic triangle straight ahead marks the site of Civil War balloon reconnaissance.

## FAIRFAX COUNTY COURTHOUSE:

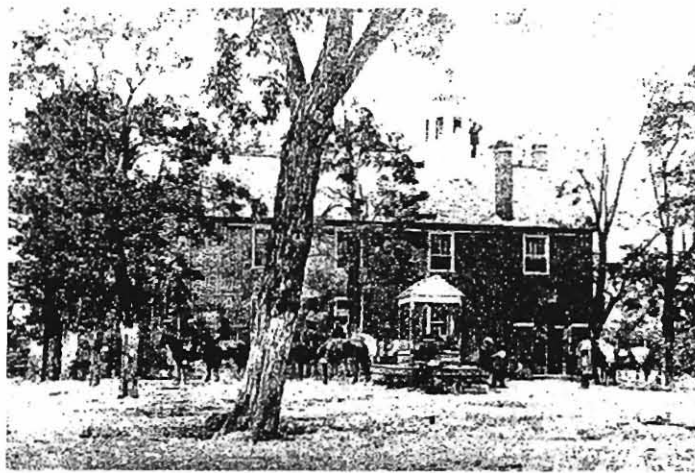
### CIVIL WAR ESPIONAGE

The Fairfax County Courthouse was the scene of one of the Civil War's earliest engagements, and throughout the war it remained a highly contested area between the two sides. Thousands of Union troops were stationed throughout Fairfax County, occupying many private homes and public buildings, including the courthouse. At the same time, Colonel John S. Mosby, known as the "Grey Ghost," and his band of partisan rangers operated almost at will in Fairfax County, harassing the Union camps, lines, and supplies.

Down the street from the courthouse, the Ford home (now Ford Building) was a center of intrigue during the Civil War. Antonia Ford, a young woman in her twenties, used her charms on behalf of her beloved Confederacy. The beautiful Rebel spy traveled about the Northern Virginia countryside making friends with Union officers, always managing to ask coyly, "how long do you intend to stay in our neighborhood?" By 1863 Antonia had become a key source of information for Colonel Mosby. From his spies and reconnaissance, Mosby learned the layout of the Union camp and

billeting locations of the Federal officers. His target was the Fairfax County Courthouse—the Union Army headquarters. Mosby's March raid resulted in the ignominious capture of Union General Edwin H. Stoughton in his bed. Stoughton and several of his staff were quickly spirited away to the Rebel headquarters in Culpeper.

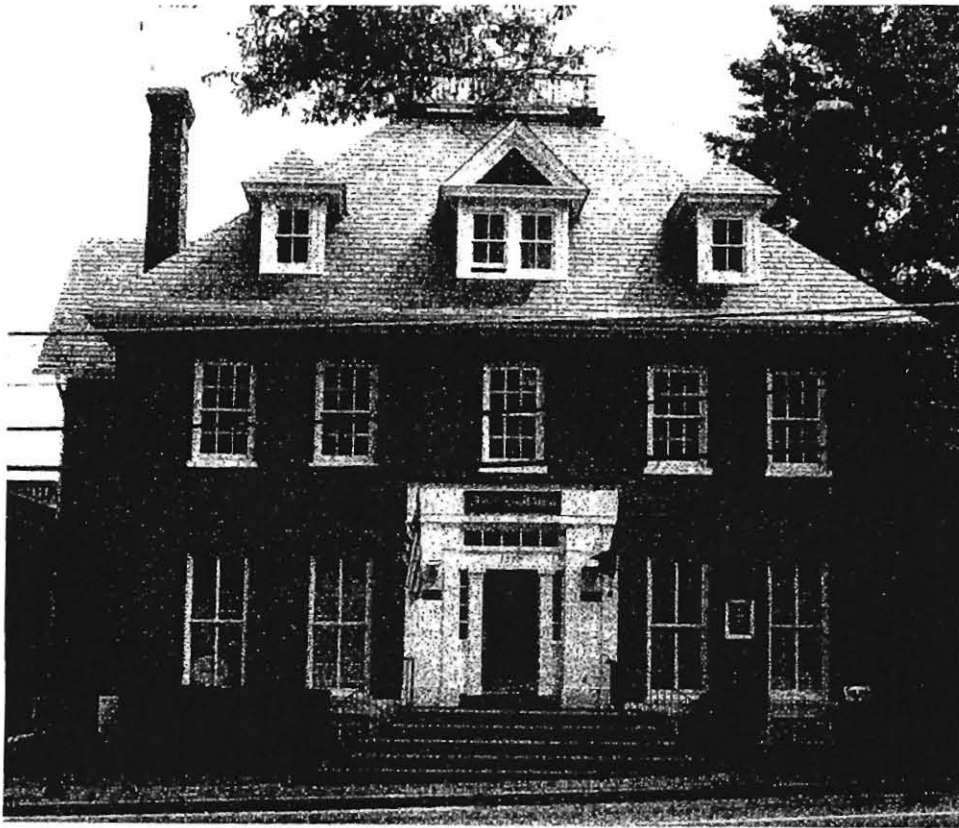
An incensed Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton ordered Lafayette Baker and



The Fairfax County Courthouse was occupied by both Northern and Southern troops during the Civil War.

the Secret Service to make the investigation of Antonia, who had been under suspicion for some time, an immediate priority. Antonia, her father, and other southern sympathizers were rounded up and sent to Old Capitol Prison in Washington, DC. However, as often occurred, romance accompanied intrigue, and Antonia's freedom was won by a Union officer, who had fallen in love with her. On March 10, 1864, a year and a day after Mosby's infamous raid, Antonia married Major Joseph C. Willard, cofounder of the Willard Hotel in Washington.

The Fairfax County Courthouse has been in continuous use for over 200 years, except for that brief period when it was commandeered by troops of both the North and the South.



Fairfax home of Civil War Confederate spy, Antonia Ford.

Although much of the rural landscape of Civil War Fairfax County has disappeared, there are still recognizable stone houses, walls and mills that serve as reminders of the Grey Ghost and his pursuers.

**DIRECTIONS:**

From I-395 North/Washington: exit on Duke Street West (Route 236) (Duke Street becomes Little River Turnpike, which becomes Main Street). The Fairfax County Courthouse is at the intersection of Chain Bridge Road and Main Street. Parking is available at the Fairfax City Museum on Main Street. From there, walk 3 blocks and turn right onto Chain Bridge Road and walk one block to The Ford Building (3977 Chain Bridge Road).

## **FORT MYER: THE BIRTH OF MILITARY AVIATION**

Since 1948, Fort Myer has been known as the home of the 3<sup>d</sup> Infantry or The Old Guard. Few people connect Fort Myer with the birth of military aviation. However, during the Spanish-American War in 1898, Fort Myer became the location of a small balloon element. Eventually, the detachment was upgraded to become the Aeronautical Division of the Signal Corps. By 1908, the military applications of a flying machine greatly interested the Army. When Wilbur and Orville Wright started testing the "Flyer"—their plane resembling a box kite constructed of wood, cloth and wire—on 3 September 1908, the Fort Myer parade field was the logical choice for the first flight from a military reservation.

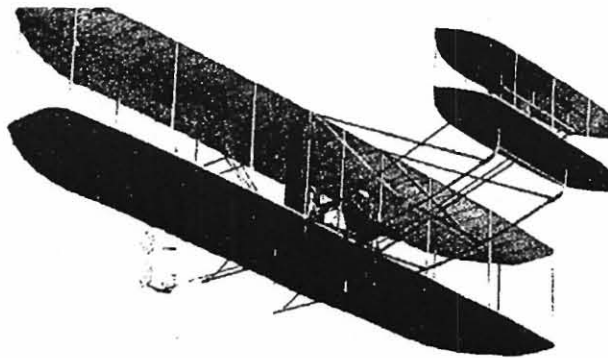
The flight started from what is today called Summerall Field. A small white monument near the reviewing stand marks these auspicious beginnings. The flight on 9 September of 6 minutes and 24 seconds was a record flight for two men: Orville Wright and passenger 1LT Frank Lahm, a cavalryman. However, the flight on 17 September did not fare as well; disaster struck when the plane took off with Orville Wright at the controls and his passenger 1LT Thomas Selfridge. A fitting used to hold a cable that steadied the propeller snapped and the loose propeller cut a wire. Without control of the plane, the crew crashed 50 feet from the west entrance to Arlington Cemetery. Wright was seriously injured and Selfridge died immediately. A marker at Fort Myer reminds all that Selfridge was "the first Army officer to pay the supreme sacrifice in an effort to aid man's endeavor to fly."

The tragedy didn't deter the Army. Believing the aircraft possessed great potential for observation and artillery spotting purposes, the Army pressed ahead and extended the Wright brothers a second chance. In July 1909, the Wright brothers returned to fulfill the challenge of flying round trip to Shooters Hill in Alexandria (now the site of the Masonic Temple) with a passenger (1LT Benjamin Foulois, who himself would go on to become a pioneer in Army aviation). The Signal Corps awarded the Wrights a contract and on 30 July 1909 airplanes became a part of the Army. Although it isn't one of the better known moments in aviation history, giving the Army

eyes in the skies would change modern combat and military intelligence forever. Used initially as only an observation platform, the airplane would soon be wedded with another emerging technology—photography. As a result, photographic intelligence (PHOTINT) played a major intelligence role for the American Expeditionary Forces of World War I. PHOTINT had come to stay.

**DIRECTIONS:**

From I-395 North/Washington: take exit 8b "Fort Myer". Take right exit onto Route 50 East (Arlington Boulevard). Bear right. Enter at main entrance and turn left onto McNair Road (past Memorial Chapel). Park in second parking lot on the right. Selfridge Gate to Arlington National Cemetery is across the parking lot from the Community Center.



Orville Wright flies over Fort Myer in 1908.

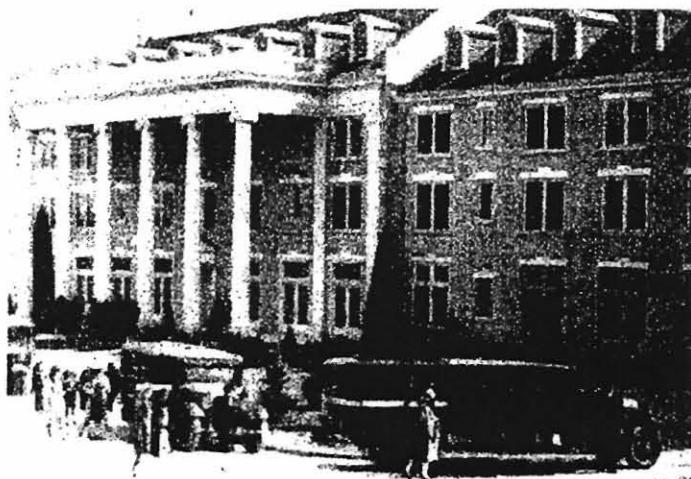
## ARLINGTON HALL:

### FROM COEDS TO CODEWORDS

History has a way of leaving its mark on contemporary scenes in a way that fascinates generations to come. Memorable events and settings can endow a place with an aura of greatness—a lasting reminder of great achievements. Such a place is Arlington Hall.

The 1941-42 edition of the Arlington Hall Junior College for Women brochure boasted to prospective students of a 100-acre campus offering "...interesting variety with its open lawns, landscaped gardens, and wooded sections." The main floor of the yellow-brick classic colonial building housed the offices of the school's president, dean and registrar and a well-stocked library. An auditorium was adjacent to the library. Drawing rooms, parlors, and classrooms comprised the remainder of the main floor. On the upper floors were the dormitory rooms, while behind the building stood the gymnasium and swimming pool. (Both the main school building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, and the gymnasium remain intact today.)

Unfortunately for the college, 1942 brought not students, but military and civilian personnel of the Signal Intelligence Service (SIS). Following the attack on Pearl Harbor the scope of signals intelligence (SIGINT) operations quickly exceeded the confines of the Munitions Building in Washington, DC. The SIS needed a secure location with room to accommodate their expanding mission, and by chance stum



This one-time college administration building has a lengthy association with signals intelligence.

bled upon the college. A party of officers, returning from an inspection of proposed locations for a new monitoring site at Vint Hill Farms, near Warrenton, VA, drove by the college grounds. They decided to stop. Their preliminary inspection of the grounds convinced the officers of the site's suitability. Arlington Hall was convenient to Warrenton and just 4 miles from Washington, yet isolated enough to provide the security so vital to a SIGINT mission. On June 10, 1942, the Army took possession of the college under the War Powers Act.

Once SIS completed its move to Arlington Hall, the grounds were soon covered with barracks and hastily-constructed temporary office buildings. Throughout the war, Arlington Hall was the scene of the vital US effort to exploit the enemy's communications as well as to secure its own. Here, 10,000 members of the Army's signals intelligence effort accomplished one of the great intelligence triumphs of World War II: the successful decipherment of the Japanese Army's cryptosystems. American success in code-breaking was credited with shortening the course of the war and saving countless lives.

Over the years, Arlington Hall Station hosted various Army and Department of Defense organizations. From 1945 to 1977, it served as the headquarters of the US Army Security Agency (ASA), a world-wide command providing intelligence to support the national intelligence effort and the Army in the field. ASA was followed by the US Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM) until its relocation to Fort Belvoir in 1989. In May 1993, history repeated itself when Arlington Hall once again became the site of a school: the State Department's Foreign Service Institute.

#### **DIRECTIONS:**

From I-395 North take right exit north onto Glebe Road. Take left exit onto Route 50 West (Arlington Boulevard). Bear to the right. At stop light at top of ramp (George Mason Drive) turn left, crossing Route 50. Entrance to the Foreign Service Institute, formerly Arlington Hall Station, is on the left.



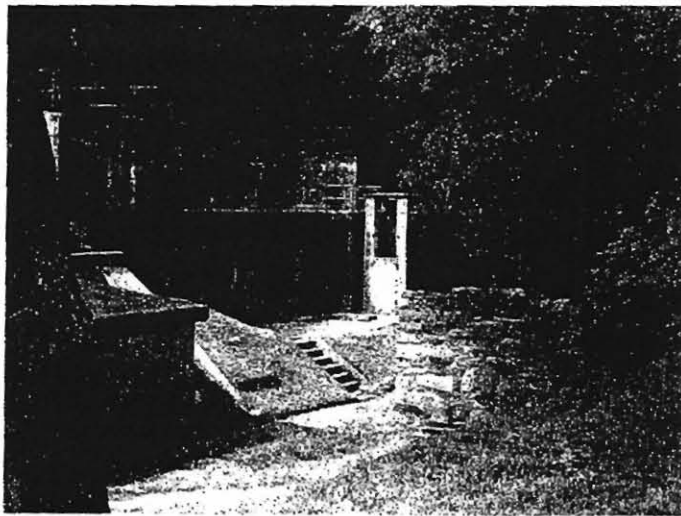
## **FORT HUNT PARK:**

### **WORLD WAR II "ESCAPE FACTORY"**

Fort Hunt Park, located along the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Fairfax County, Virginia, is a grassy 150-acre picnic ground with remnants of gun batteries dating from the Spanish-American War. For most of its existence, Fort Hunt served as a coast artillery site to guard the Potomac River approach to Washington, DC.

In the summer of 1939, Fort Hunt took on a secret mission when a group of soldiers arrived from Fort Hancock, New Jersey, to set up an intercept station for the 2<sup>d</sup> Signal Service Company. The new station intercepted Berlin-Rome diplomatic traffic giving US leaders insights into the growing prospects of war in Europe. Every day, Army personnel couriered copied messages to the Signal Intelligence Service (SIS) in Washington, DC. At SIS, the intercept was processed and passed on to the White House. When the United States entered the war, the intercept mission was transferred to the new East Coast Monitoring Station at Vint Hill Farms, near Warrenton, Virginia.

Fort Hunt next hosted a very sensitive operation, known as MIS-X (Military Intelligence Service-Department X). Surrounded by a protective cover of trees and close to Washington DC, Fort Hunt was ideally situated to serve as an information-gathering center where high-level prisoners thought to possess critical information could be held. German prisoners were routinely flown in from England in darkened airplanes and picked up in



Remains of towers and gun batteries recall Fort Hunt's storied past.

windowless buses that moved through the city of Alexandria to Fort Hunt. Here, they were interrogated, and any valuable information obtained was transmitted quickly to the General Staff at the nearby Pentagon.

MIS-X assumed a second mission when it turned Fort Hunt into the "Escape Factory." Agents taught codes to thousands of servicemen and instructed them to use the codes in letters to their families if they were ever captured by the Nazis. Other specialists devised and built escape tools that were smuggled to Allied prisoners of war held in German POW camps. These included pieces of a map disguised as playing cards, radio parts hidden in wooden brush handles, and concealed compasses, files, false papers and whatever else was needed to plan escapes. The purpose was to force the Germans to commit large numbers of soldiers to guarding POW camps and apprehend escaped prisoners. Although MIS-X was sending out as many as 300 contraband packages a week by the end of the war, the Germans never discovered the secrets of Fort Hunt.

In addition to escape and evasion devices sent into Germany, MIS-X produced written messages, known as "blood chits" that were issued to US aviators assigned to the China-Burma-India theater. Printed in regional languages on fabric, the chits were designed to encourage local inhabitants to provide not only the necessities of survival such as food and shelter, but assistance in returning to friendly forces. At the end of the war, all records of the MIS-X were ordered burned so that the activities of the Escape Factory would remain a well-kept secret. The structures that housed the MIS-X operation or the interrogation center are also gone. It is only through one's imagination that old Fort Hunt lives.

#### **DIRECTIONS:**

From Fort Belvoir turn north on Route 1. At Woodlawn Plantation, turn right on Route 235. Proceed around the large traffic circle past Mount Vernon onto the George Washington Memorial Parkway northbound. Exit to the right at the sign marked "Fort Hunt Road/Fort Hunt Park."

## OLD CAPITOL PRISON:

### THE "BASTILLE" OF THE CIVIL WAR

Few locations in Washington, DC have experienced such varied and unusual uses as the one where the US Supreme Court now resides. Originally, it was the site of the Old Capitol, built as a temporary meeting place for Congress after the British burned the first capitol building during the War of 1812. Later it served as a tavern, school, and boardinghouse.

Shortly after the opening shots were fired in the Civil War, the Federal Government purchased the great rambling structure for use as a prison. As such it played a large part in the workings of the War Department's Secret Service; its superintendent, William P. Wood, was a special secret agent. Crowded into the filthy and uncomfortable rooms were a strange collection of inmates: political prisoners, Union officers who had voiced opposition to the Lincoln Administration, Confederate spies, local prostitutes, blockade runners, and a host of varied lawbreakers. Mr. Wood frequently subjected his wards to searches and interrogations. The information gained was immediately forwarded to the Secretary of War.

In 1861, secessionist sentiment ran high and hot among the local population. One leading official estimated that some 20,000 citizens of Washington were southern sympathizers. To keep them from passing weapons to the prisoners through windows, guards routinely patrolled the prison. Women were as ready to spy for the Confederacy as men were to fight for it—some of the most notable spies housed in the prison were women. Rose Greenhow, Belle Boyd, Antonia Ford, and other Confederate spies spent time within the prison's walls.



Confederate spy Rose O'Neal Greenhow with her daughter. The prison's windows were boarded in a futile attempt to prevent inmates from communicating with southern sympathizers.

As a young girl, Rose O'Neal had come to Washington to live with an aunt who kept a boardinghouse. Under the influence of her Aunt's prominent boarders, she soon developed an ardent devotion to the South. Later as an attractive widow in her early forties, and a Washington socialite with a wide circle of acquaintances, Rose O'Neal Greenhow used her position to aid the southern cause. Authorities would attribute the Union's early loss at First Manassas to Confederate spies. Suspicion was immediately cast in the direction of Greenhow and her spy network. Famed detective, Allan Pinkerton, assumed the responsibility for apprehending Greenhow. Through observation, Pinkerton was able to gain enough proof to arrest Greenhow at her home (398 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW), just north of the White House. Even when locked up in the Old Capitol Prison, Rose remained undaunted and continued to send messages. She recalled in her memoirs "certain Federal officers, whom I induced without scruple...to furnish me with information, even in my captivity, which information I at once communicated with pride and pleasure to General Beauregard...."

Belle Boyd did her spying in the Shenandoah Valley, but was arrested when she made the mistake of entrusting an intelligence report intended for General Jackson to a courier who was in fact a Union agent. Boyd compared the Old Capitol Prison to the French Bastille. While walking in the prison yard, she supposedly carried a small Confederate flag in her bosom. She loved to sing, and, to the annoyance of the prison guards and pleasure of her compatriots, she nightly serenaded all with the Marseillaise of the South, "Maryland, My Maryland."

Colonel Lafayette C. Baker replaced Pinkerton as the new counterintelligence chief of the District in 1862. He zealously targeted all who even hinted at having sympathy for the South. Through the remainder of the war, Baker and his band of 30 agents kept the Old Capitol Prison full of spies and would-be spies.

#### DIRECTIONS:

Take I-395 North. Cross Memorial Bridge. Turn right onto Independence Avenue and proceed to First Street, NE. The Old Capitol Prison was at the corner of First Street NE and Maryland Avenue.

## EISENHOWER EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING:

### THE FIRST HOME OF ARMY INTELLIGENCE

The elaborate building at the corner of 17<sup>th</sup> Street and Pennsylvania Avenue today houses various agencies that comprise the Executive Office of the President, such as the Office of the Vice President, the Office of Management and Budget, and the National Security Council. Other than the occasional portraits of past Secretaries, there are few reminders that the building was once occupied by the State, War and Navy Departments. Through the years, the Eisenhower Executive Office Building's walls have been silent witnesses to many celebrated national figures and the historical events that have shaped America's destiny. Less well known, but nevertheless important, were a handful of visionaries who labored in the shadows to write the future of military intelligence.

Construction of a building to house all three departments began in 1871 on the site of the old War Department and Navy buildings west of the White House. It took 17 years, but when work was completed in 1888, the State, War and Navy Building was the largest office building in Washington, with spectacular marble and mahogany



The library of the State, War and Navy Building.

interiors, 16-foot ceilings, and over 550 offices—one of which was soon occupied by the newly created Military Information Division (MID) of The Adjutant General's Office (the Army's first permanent intelligence organization).

A major milestone of the Military Information Division occurred in 1889 when attachés were dispatched for the first time to European capitals to gather information. Reports were transmitted back to MID where they were read and filed. A second notable event was the arrival of Colonel Arthur L. Wagner, Army educator and visionary. Wagner is credited with writing *The Service of Security and Information*, the first manual on intelligence. While serving as Chief of MID, Wagner also exposed a number of young officers to the possibilities of military intelligence. Among them was Captain Ralph Van Deman, who would dedicate his life to the discipline and later earn the title, "Father of Military Intelligence." On the eve of the Spanish-American War, Colonel Wagner dispatched Lieutenant Andrew S. Rowan to establish contact with General Calixto García y Iniguez, leader of the insurgent forces in Cuba. Once war began in 1898, Colonel Wagner ordered a terrain analysis and established an order of battle map at the nearby White House.

Another individual to labor in the shadows at the Executive Office Building was Herbert O. Yardley, who would become the most colorful and controversial figure in the history of American cryptology. In 1913 Yardley was a young code clerk and telegrapher working out of a State Department office on the first floor. Yardley described his surroundings as a "spacious room with its high ceiling overlooked the southern White House grounds." He amused himself on the night shift by breaking coded diplomatic messages. Appalled at the "schoolboy codes and ciphers," Yardley wrote *Exposition on the Solution of American Diplomatic Codes* in which he revealed the weaknesses of State Department codes. After America's entry into World War I, Yardley applied for and received a commission in the Army and was appointed as the War Department's new chief of codes and ciphers.

#### **DIRECTIONS:**

Take I-395 North. Cross Memorial Bridge. Turn right onto Independence Avenue and left onto 17<sup>th</sup> Street.

## **ARMY WAR COLLEGE:**

### **THE EMERGENCE OF MODERN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE**

The Army established its first permanent peacetime intelligence organization in 1885 within the Adjutant General's Office. In 1908, the Military Information Division (MID) moved into quarters at the Army War College, now the National Defense University, located on the grounds of Fort McNair in Washington, DC. However, as a result of MID's merger into the War College Division (WCD) of the Army General Staff, military intelligence work had virtually ground to a halt.

In 1915 Major Ralph Van Deman returned to Washington, DC and was reassigned to the Army War College. To his dismay, Van Deman arrived to find a table piled high with unread reports from military attachés and other officers traveling overseas. Drawing upon his prior experience with MID, Van Deman began lobbying vigorously for the reestablishment of a healthy Military Information Division. He submitted numerous memoranda to the Army Chief of Staff, pointing out that the Army was being deprived of vital information because no military intelligence unit existed to process and disseminate it. He was not only ignored, but ordered by the Chief of Staff not to raise the subject with the Secretary of War.

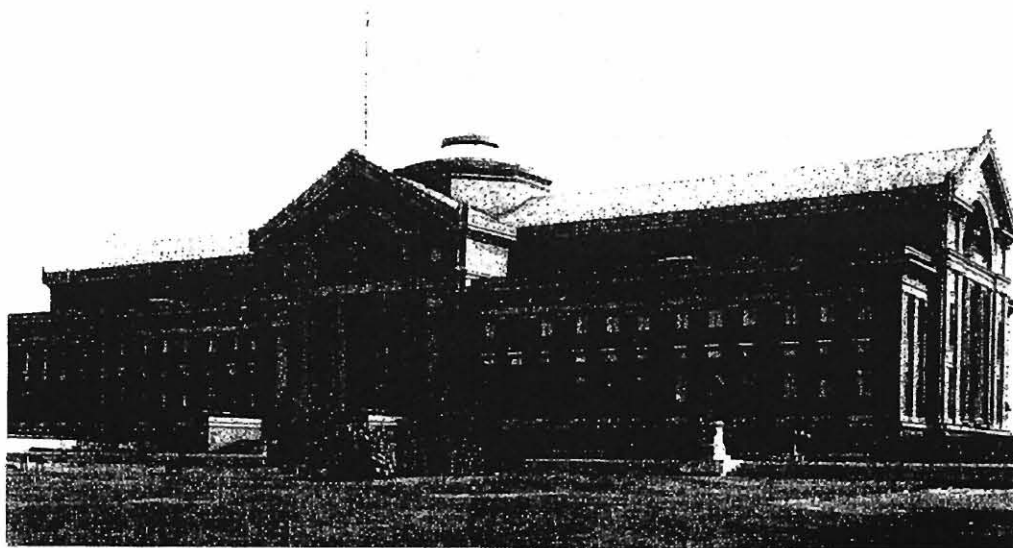
Major Van Deman then had to make a decision that could jeopardize both his professional reputation and his military career. Too much the soldier to disobey a direct order, he found a way to present his concerns to the Secretary of War through an intermediary. His persistence finally paid off when on 11 May 1917 orders were issued directing the establishment of a Military Intelligence Section, WCD. It began modestly, with now Colonel Van Deman, two officers, and two civilian clerks. Initially, its office space was confined to a balcony overlooking the War College Division's library; but it soon grew into a force of 1,500. Given the potential threat at home from spies and saboteurs, Colonel Van Deman directed much of his attention to establishing an effective Army counterintelligence organization. He also involved MID for the first time in the exotic world of codes and ciphers. One of his first acts after establishing the Military Intelligence Section was to commission Herbert O. Yardley a lieutenant and charge him with setting

up a cipher bureau. MI-8, known also as the Code and Cipher Section, operated initially at the Army War College.

For his efforts, Van Deman would be hailed as the "Father of Military Intelligence." He had established the MID once and for all as a permanent member of the Army's staff. He also defined the new discipline of counterintelligence and organized the Corps of Intelligence Police, which comprised enlisted specialists with investigative skills. By establishing a Code and Cipher Section, Van Deman also put into place the other pillar of military intelligence—signals intelligence—that would play an important role throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**DIRECTIONS:**

Take I-395 North. Take right exit onto Maine Avenue. Bear left on Maine. (After crossing 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Maine becomes M Street SW.) Turn right onto 4<sup>th</sup> St SW. Turn left onto P St. SW. Turn right into 3d Avenue Gate.



The Army War College was closely tied to nascent military intelligence.



## CONTINENTAL HALL:

### AN ACE IN THE HOLE

Since opening its doors in 1910, the Memorial Continental Hall has served as the permanent home for the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). However, during 1921-22, its auditorium (now library) was the location of the Washington Naval Conference and the scene of one of the highest stakes poker games in the history of military intelligence.

Herbert O. Yardley considered it "the most important and far-reaching telegram" that ever passed through the doors of the American Cipher Bureau, referring to the 28 November 1921 message sent from Tokyo to Japanese diplomats in Washington, DC. Decoded and translated by Yardley's "Black Chamber," the transmission contained Japan's fallback position on the relative tonnages of capital ships of the naval powers. The Japanese delegation to the Washington Naval Conference were told that, if pressed, they could forego a more favorable naval tonnage ratio of 10-10-7 and accept a ratio of 5-5-3, for the US, Britain, and Japan, respectively. Armed with this knowledge, Secretary of State Charles Evans Hughes had only to continue to hold out, knowing that eventually he would secure the more favorable terms. During the 3 months that the conference was in session, intelligence gained from cryptology remained of paramount importance to US negotiators.

During World War I, Yardley had established the Code and Cipher Bureau; in peacetime this effort had become the Black Chamber, operating under a secret arrangement between the War and State Departments. Working out of a New York City brownstone apartment at 141 East 37<sup>th</sup> Street New York, Yardley proceeded to break various countries' diplomatic codes. During the Washington Naval Conference, couriers traveled daily from New York to Washington, hand carrying the latest decoded secrets. An inveterate poker-player, Yardley must have taken a certain amount of personal satisfaction in having been able to stack the deck in the two-way negotiations between Washington and Tokyo.

**DIRECTIONS:**

Take I-395 North. Cross Memorial Bridge. Turn right onto Independence Avenue and left onto 17<sup>th</sup> Street. The library is in the DAR Headquarters complex (1776 D Street, NW) in the block bounded by C, D, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Streets, NW, a short distance southwest of the White House.



The Washington Peace Conference of 1921. The Black Chamber's success in breaking the Japanese diplomatic code gave US negotiators a bargaining edge.

## **WAR MUNITIONS BUILDING:**

### **ARMY CODEBREAKERS SET UP SHOP**

Following World War I, the War and State Departments maintained a clandestine code-breaking element operating out of a brownstone apartment building in New York City. Nicknamed, the "Black Chamber," the organization under the leadership of Herbert O. Yardley scored a number of important intelligence coups during the 1920's. However, the end came in 1929 when a new Secretary of State, Henry L. Stimson, closed down the operation on the grounds that such activities were unethical and unnecessary.

The demise of Yardley's Cipher Bureau did not mean an end to the Army's cryptanalytic effort, only its relocation and redirection. The Signal Corps had employed William F. Friedman in 1921 to design new codes and ciphers for the Army. In October 1929, Friedman, then Chief of the Signal Corps' Code and Cipher Compilation Section, was sent to New York to retrieve the files and records of Yardley's former organization. Friedman returned to Washington to take charge of the new Signal Intelligence Service (SIS). From 1929 to 1942, SIS was housed in the Munitions Building, a World War I vintage structure that formerly stood at 19<sup>th</sup> and Constitution Avenue in Washington, DC.

Friedman's talented staff—Frank B. Rowlett, Abraham Sinkov, Solomon Kullback, and John B. Hurt, would all become legends in their field. Together they broke the Japanese diplomatic cipher, PURPLE—one of the greatest achievements in the annals of military intelligence. During the 1930's, Friedman and his team created an electromechanical cipher device SIGABA. Offering unparalleled security, SIGABA became the backbone of high-level US communications in World War II. With the expansion of the work force brought about by World War II, the SIS was required to move in 1942 from the Munitions Building to the nearby Virginia countryside, site of Arlington Hall, a former girl's school.

**DIRECTIONS:**

Take I-395 North. Cross Memorial Bridge. Turn right onto Independence Avenue and left onto 19<sup>th</sup> Street. The Munitions Building stood at 19<sup>th</sup> and Constitution Avenue.



From 1929 to 1942, the Signal Intelligence Service was housed in the Munitions Building.

**ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY:  
A MILITARY INTELLIGENCE WHO'S WHO**

Arlington National Cemetery is not a place one would normally associate with military intelligence; however, the MI story is really a story of people who have made a difference. Among the rows of white marble markers are names of those who fill the pages of the military intelligence story. Thus, it is fitting that Arlington National Cemetery should be our final location to visit.

(Note: Directions to the grave sites may be obtained from the visitor information desk located in the visitors' center.)

**BG MARLBOROUGH CHURCHILL (1878-1942)**

Section 11      Grave Number 385

Member MI Hall of Fame. Assigned to the American Expeditionary Forces G2 during WWI. One of the three principal founders of Army intelligence. Succeeded COL Ralph Van Deman as Director, Military Intelligence Division. Served as Director, MID, War Department General Staff from 1918 to 1920.

**MG WILLIAM J. DONOVAN (1883-1959)**

Section 2      Grave Number 4874-RH

Member MI Hall of Fame. During WWII he was selected by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to be the Coordinator of Information. He later created and led the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the forerunner to the CIA.

**SFC JACK E. DUNLAP (1927-1963)**

Section 43      Grave Number 976

American spy for the Soviet Union. While assigned to the NSA as a courier, he photographed and sold secret information to the Soviets. He

fell under suspicion when his extravagant lifestyle became apparent. He committed suicide when he learned the Army and NSA had him under surveillance. Since no official charges had been lodged against him, the Army was required by law to grant his widow's request and bury him in Arlington Cemetery.

**WILLIAM AND ELIZABETH FRIEDMAN**

Section 8, Grave 6379A

(From Eisenhower turn right on Patton Drive; 3<sup>rd</sup> grave on left.)

William Friedman (1891-1969) Member MI Hall of Fame. Scientist, inventor, and cryptologist. Friedman has been called the "Dean of Cryptology." Following WWI he became the director of the newly established Signal Intelligence Service. His team solved the Japanese diplomatic machine-cipher, nicknamed "PURPLE." Pioneered efforts in cryptology, cryptanalytic training, data processing machine utilization, and cryptanalytic organization.

Elizabeth Friedman (1892-1980) Wife of William Friedman and talented cryptologist in her own right, earning the title of "America's first female cryptanalyst." Served the US as a cryptologist in both World Wars, and in the period between she won distinction for her work on international drug and liquor smuggling cases for the Treasury Department.

**BG GEORGE W. GODDARD (1889-1987)**

Section 59      Grave Number 527

Member MI Hall of Fame. Soldier, inventor, aerial photographer, and author from the 1920s through World War II. Goddard pioneered many of the advances in aerial reconnaissance, experimenting with infrared photography and long-focal length camera lenses.

**COL LELAND J. HOLLAND (1927-1990)**

Section 7A      Grave Number 98

Member MI Hall of Fame. Exceptional service in HUMINT and counterintelligence over 35-year military career. Army Attache in Iran. Taken hostage with other embassy personnel in November 1979. His valiant behavior and courage inspired and sustained his fellow hostages through their 14 ½-month ordeal.

**BG OSCAR KOCH (1897-1970)**

Section 5      Grave Number 6

Member MI Hall of Fame. He was the G2 for George Patton's Third Army in Europe for the duration of WWII. Described as "...probably the most penetrating brain in the American Army." It was Koch's situational awareness, his analytical skill, and his moral courage that provided General Patton with the military intelligence he needed for his campaign across western Europe. After the war he headed the Intelligence Department of the Army's Ground Combat School at Fort Riley, Kansas.

**COL ARTHUR D. NICHOLSON, JR. (1948-1985)**

Section 7A, Grave Number 171

Member MI Hall of Fame. Nicholson was a Military Intelligence officer serving with the US Military Liaison Mission at Potsdam, East Germany, when he was shot by a Soviet sentry in 1985. He was on a mission to observe Soviet facilities, as provided for in a long-standing international agreement, when he was killed.

**MG DENNIS E. NOLAN (1872-1956)**

Section 30      Grave Number 604

Member MI Hall of Fame. One of the three principal founders of Army intelligence. Served as Chief of Intelligence in Pershing's AEF; in effect making him the Army's first G2. Played a major role in organizing the Corps of Intelligence Police, forerunner of today's military counterintelligence units. He encouraged formation of the MI Officer Reserve Corps, which gave formal recognition to the need for professional intelligence personnel and was the precursor of the MI Branch and Corps.

**LCOL ANDREW S. ROWAN (1857-1943)**

Section 2 East    Grave Number 4856

Member MI Hall of Fame. Rowan is best known for "having carried the message to Garcia." Pending war with Spain in 1898, MAJ Arthur L. Wagner, Chief of MID, sent Rowan to Cuba to establish communications with the Cuban rebel leader and collect intelligence. He saw combat in the Philippines and was decorated for gallantry.

**BG ELLIOT R. THORPE (1897-1989)**

Section 11        Grave Number 496-1

Held a series of important intelligence positions in the Pacific during WWII. Became Assistant Chief of Staff, G2, for the US Army Forces Far East, where he headed the Army's entire counterintelligence effort in the SWPA. After the war Thorpe was made Chief of Counterintelligence and Chief of Civil Intelligence for General MacArthur in his capacity as Supreme Commander, Allied Powers. General Thorpe's accomplishments played no small part in the success of the American Occupation. Returning to the US in 1946 he oversaw the establishment of the Armed Forces Language School at the Presidio of Monterey.

**HERBERT O. YARDLEY (1889-1958)**

Section 30        Grave Number 429-1

Member MI Hall of Fame. Pioneer cryptologist and leader of US cryptanalytic efforts during WWI. He served in the MI8 section of the MID. Following the war he established the famed "Black Chamber" in New York City, where his successes enabled, among other things, foreknowledge of Japanese negotiating positions at the Washington Naval Conference of 1921-22.



**COL CHARLES YOUNG (CA.1870 - 1922)**

Section 3      Grave Number 1730-B

Graduated from West Point in 1889, the third African-American to do so, and was assigned to the 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. Young was an accomplished linguist, speaking Latin, Greek, French, Spanish and German. He entered intelligence work as the first Black officer to serve as an attaché. Young made an extended military reconnaissance of the Republic of Haiti and the neighboring Republic of Santa Domingo. Young's accomplishments greatly aided the occupation of Haiti by American forces. He also assisted in the creation of a frontier force for the Republic of Liberia, receiving formal recognition from both the American and Liberian governments. He was the second recipient of the Springarn Medal, an annual award that recognized the African-American who had made the highest achievement during the year.

## APPENDIX

The following museums, located in the Washington, DC area, are devoted to the history and achievements of intelligence.

### THE NATIONAL CRYPTOLOGIC MUSEUM

Located near the National Security Agency headquarters, the National Cryptologic Museum houses thousands of artifacts that sustain the history of the cryptologic profession. Exhibits include Enigma and Purple code machines used during World War II, a depiction of military field stations during the Vietnam War and information on William F. Friedman, a pioneering Army code expert.

Admission: Free

Hours: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Closed on Federal holidays.

Address: Colony 7 Road off Route 32, Fort George G. Meade, MD.

Web site: <http://www.nsa.gov/museum>

### INTERNATIONAL SPY MUSEUM

The International Spy Museum in Washington, DC, explores the craft, practice, history, and contemporary role of espionage. Among the exhibits is the School for Spies: an orientation into the world of espionage and the skills essential to a spy. The Secret History of History chronicles spying from biblical times to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Admission: \$

Hours: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, December 25, and January 1.

Address: 800 F Str., N.W.

Web site: <http://www.spymuseum.org>

#### **COLD WAR ONLINE MUSEUM**

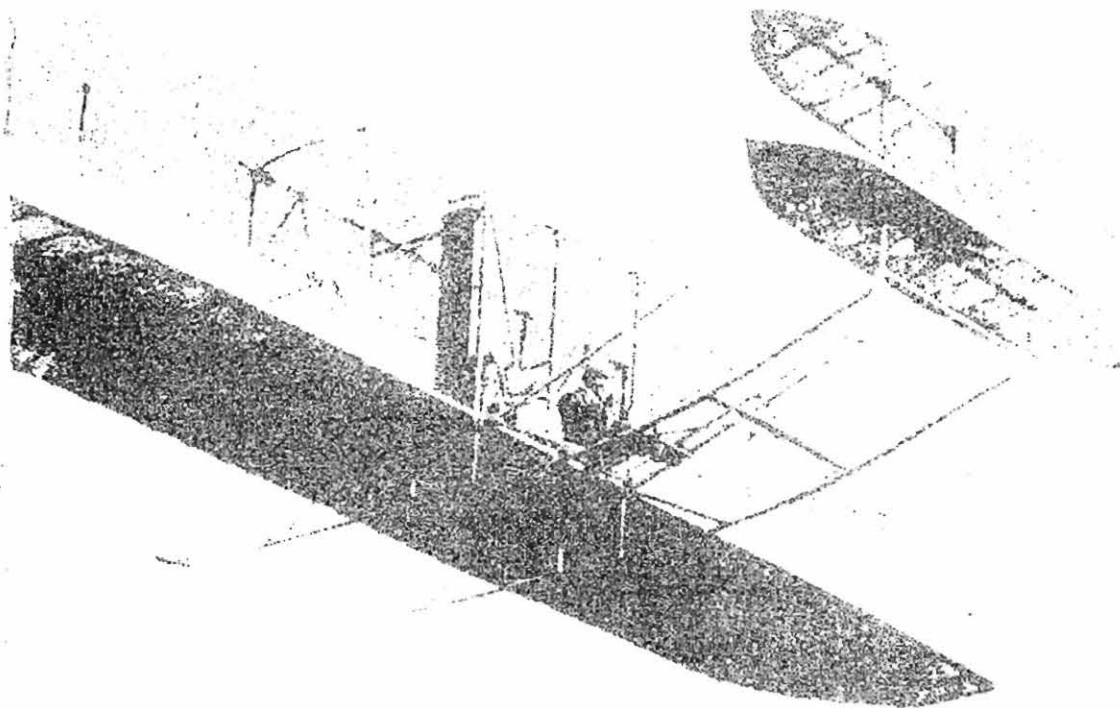
The Cold War Museum, founded by Francis Gary Powers, Jr., is dedicated to education, preservation, and research on the global ideological and political confrontations between East and West from the end of World War II to the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Plans and fundraising to build a permanent museum are ongoing.

Web site: <http://www.coldwar.org>

#### **THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY ONLINE MUSEUM**

The CIA Museum is not open to the public. Some artifacts are pictured and described on the agency's web site, including miniature cameras, a hollow "silver dollar" container and model of the U-2 aircraft flown by Francis Gary Powers, Sr.

Web site: <http://www.cia.gov/cia/information/artifacts/index.html>



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