



ESPIONAGE & INTELLIGENCE:

# THE ALLIED SECRET AGENTS & CODEBREAKERS OF WWII

APRIL 28-MAY 5, 2025 | OCTOBER 15-22, 2025

BLETCHLEY PARK | COVENTRY | THE MIDLANDS | LONDON

EMBARK ON A MISSION THROUGH ENGLAND





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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

TO: Friends of The National WWII Museum  
FROM: Stephen J. Watson

Join us in the United Kingdom on a fantastic journey into the Allies' intelligence operations during World War II. Settle in for a week of exploration as you discover stories of spies, operatives, and codebreakers along the way.

Bletchley Park is the centerpiece of this tour, and I am honored to have Sir John Dermot Turing's commitment to join the tour as we walk the grounds where his uncle Alan Turing's significant contribution to the war effort took place. Dermot Turing is the acclaimed author of Prof, a biography of his famous uncle, The Story of Computing, and most recently X, Y and Z - The Real Story of How Enigma was Broken. Dermot joined the inaugural tour in 2024 and mesmerized our guests who met him. His enthusiasm for and devotion to intelligence history is extraordinary.

The staff at Bletchley Park during the war could not do it all on their own, and our visits to the former Y-Stations at Beaumanor Hall and Chicksands will highlight the work of thousands of women who listened to German radio traffic and dutifully recorded the coded messages. The messages then traveled by courier to Bletchley Park where they would be decrypted. The staff at the Y-Stations were subject to the provisions of the Official Secrets Act, meaning that they could not discuss their war service for decades after its completion.

While exploring the Midlands, stop at a former airfield with a unique history. RAF Harrington resembled the dozens of airfields that were home to the bomb groups of the US Eighth Air Force, but the missions from Harrington were anything but ordinary. B-24s loaded with weapons, radios, and equipment for resistance fighters left Harrington to make their secret drops. Jedburgh Teams departed Harrington to supplement the resistance groups and establish direct contact with Allied intelligence.

A highlight of the program will be in London as we go "Behind the Glass" at the Churchill War Rooms during a private evening event. A reception and dinner underground will combine with a special guided experience inside the Map Room and several other locations that are not accessible during a regular visit. With exquisite hotels and expert guides throughout, you will experience the best of the Midlands and in London. I hope you will join us in the UK for this riveting journey into espionage in World War II.

Sincerely,



Stephen J. Watson  
President & CEO | The National WWII Museum



# INTELLIGENCE & ITS OUTCOMES IN WWII

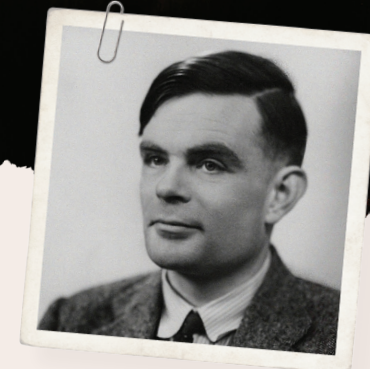
Behind every major operation in World War II was a foundation of intelligence. Whether gained from spies in the field, observers along the coast, or intercepted radio communications, the intelligence had to be analyzed and put together to create a big picture. Deception went hand-in-hand with intelligence. How can you find out the enemy's plans without letting the enemy know that you know their plans? In World War II, this played out in events all over the world.

During the Battle of Britain, Royal Air Force Chief Marshall Sir Hugh Dowding devised a system of information transmission and response to combat German attacks. Information on approaching German aircraft filtered from radar stations and coastal observers to Fighter Command Headquarters at Bentley Priory. Information then flowed from Bentley Priory to the operations room at each group headquarters. The information was tracked on plotting tables while the readiness of the fighter squadrons appeared on the wall. Anyone entering a control room could quickly grasp the current situation with a glance at a clock, a plotting table, and the wall.

In 1943, the Allies began Operation Bodyguard to obscure their plans to invade Normandy in 1944. A major part of Bodyguard involved a fake army, the First United States Army Group (FUSAG) that would conduct maneuvers in southeast England. Combined with radio traffic designed to be intercepted by the Germans, this operation bolstered German suspicions that the Allies would choose the shortest route for a cross-channel invasion. Spies and double agents fed information to the Germans to confirm those suspicions.

The Allied intelligence operation succeeded in masking the date, location, and units involved in D-Day. As the air and sea armadas set out across the channel, The French Resistance sprung into action. Supplemented by American and British operatives, resistance fighters sabotaged the railways and roads along the German routes to Normandy. The delays encountered in the German response allowed the Allies to secure their beachheads and begin the supply operations. The Road to Berlin would still require a determined effort, and intelligence was not always perfect. Still, the soldiers, sailors, and airmen could place their trust in a base of intelligence made possible by cryptologists, codebreakers, and spies.

## ALAN TURING & WWII INTELLIGENCE



Alan Turing has become synonymous with Bletchley Park and the code-breaking operation, but his overall role is much more complex—and interesting. After the Poles had created a working mechanism for decrypting messages sent by the German's Enigma machines, Turing set out to develop the next step in cracking German cyphers. The Polish method worked as long as the Germans did not change their procedures, which they did in 1940. Turing, who excelled at theoretical mathematics developed a system of decryption that was less sensitive to changes in German encryption procedures. The result was the Bombe Machine.

By 1942, the Bletchley operation had grown immensely in size and much of the work was being done mechanically. At peak output, Bletchley Park was decrypting 84,000 messages per month. With less theoretical work to do, Turing traveled to the United States to advise the Navy on their own Bombe Machines and worked with Bell Labs to encrypt communications. His work with Bell Labs created an encrypted line between Roosevelt and Churchill that was impenetrable for the Germans.

After the war, Turing worked on computing and artificial intelligence. His "Turing Test" for artificial intelligence came to the forefront recently with ChatGPT and other recent AI systems that have gone public. The test of whether an independent judge can determine whether he or she is communicating with a machine or a human is being discussed more often as these systems improve their communication.

Turing was arrested in 1952 after his homosexual relationship was uncovered. Homosexuality was a crime in the United Kingdom, and Turing was offered a choice of prison or probation with chemical castration. The chemicals he was forced to take had a profound effect on him, and Turing was found dead in his home in 1954.



# SPIES FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR TO THE PRESENT

## James Lafayette

James Lafayette was born enslaved in Virginia. As an adult, he became a valued spy for the American patriots during the US Revolutionary War. At the behest of France's Marquis de Lafayette, who fought with the Patriots, James risked his life to gather valuable intel from the British

behind enemy lines. His work as a spy provided critical military intelligence leading to an entrapment which crippled the British military [REDACTED] and helped secure American victory at the Battle of Yorktown. When he won his freedom after the war, James took the name Lafayette to honor his friend and comrade.

James Lafayette Lantern, 1824



## Noor Inayat Khan

After France was occupied, Noor Inayat Khan and her family left for England, where she trained as a radio operator with Britain's Women's Auxiliary Air Force. In 1943, recruited by the Special Operations Executive (SOE), she became the first female wireless operator sent to occupied France. Smuggled into occupied Paris with a radio hidden in a suitcase and the code name "Madeleine," Khan aided Britain's Prosper spy network. Her transmissions coordinated drops of weapons and cash, [REDACTED] and helped smuggle Allied airmen to safety. For three months, Khan single-handedly maintained communications between London and occupied Paris. She was posthumously awarded the Croix de Guerre with Gold Star and the George Cross after her capture and subsequent execution at Dachau concentration camp.



THE GORDON HOTELS			
GRAND HOTEL	LONDON	GRAND HOTEL	LONDON
ROYAL HOTEL	LONDON	ROYAL HOTEL	LONDON
WHITEHALL HOTEL	LONDON	WHITEHALL HOTEL	LONDON
ROYAL VICTORIA	LONDON	ROYAL VICTORIA	LONDON
FIRST AVENUE HOTEL	LONDON	FIRST AVENUE HOTEL	LONDON

UNCONNECTION WITH THE HOTEL ROYAL DIEPPE

21 Mars 1908

Cher Monsieur Hornes.

J'espère que vous

vous rappellerez de

moi, ou je devrais

il y a deux ans

à l'opéra dans  
Le Roi de Lahore  
Je vous prie de  
me faire un grand  
plaisir et de me  
donner une place  
pour l'opéra, pour  
ce soir.  
Je vous  
recom-  
pense  
très  
sincère-  
ment  
M<sup>lle</sup>



Letter written by Mata Hari, France, 1908

## Mata Hari

Born Margaretha Zelle in the Netherlands, Mata Hari gained fame as a dancer who claimed to be a Javanese princess. When World War I broke out, spymasters on both sides of the conflict eyed her for her contacts with high profile military and civilian men. She is said to have seduced [REDACTED] diplomats and military officers into giving up their secrets. She was trained by the Germans, but thought she was operating for France when, in February 1917, French authorities arrested her for espionage after intercepting an enemy telegram implicating her as a German spy. Mata Hari was found guilty and sentenced to death. But as a femme fatale, her legend lives on. [REDACTED]

## Mubin Shaikh

After coming out of extremism himself, Mubin Shaikh decided to use his connections as a former jihadist sympathizer and supporter to fight terrorism by working undercover for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Integrated National Security Enforcement Team to infiltrate extremist persons and groups. [REDACTED]

In 2005, he infiltrated a homegrown terror cell whose leaders were planning catastrophic terror attacks including placing three truck bombs in Toronto that were the size of Oklahoma City's bomb, storming the Parliament, [REDACTED] and beheading the Canadian Prime Minister. With Shaikh on the inside, the "Toronto 18" were arrested instead.







## TOUR ITINERARY

### DAY 1: ARRIVE IN LONDON

Arrive into London Heathrow Airport (LHR) and head north to Uxbridge and the Battle of Britain Bunker, home to the RAF Fighter Command No.11 Group Operations Room, from which most commands during the Battle of Britain were coordinated. This evening, settle in to the Midlands and enjoy a welcome dinner and an introduction to intelligence with historical examples of HUMINT and TECHINT.

*The Kingfisher (L, R, D)*



Tower of London

### DAY 2: BLETCHLEY PARK

Visit Bletchley Park, the home of Britain's WWII codebreakers. Located along the rail line north of London and between Oxford and Cambridge, Bletchley Park could attract the country's top mathematicians. During a guided tour, learn of WWII SIGINT and strategic deception through the recruitment, codebreaking, and computing operations at Bletchley. Through the exhibits in the various buildings, find out how the intelligence gained at Bletchley truly impacted the war. Historian and author Dermot Turing, the nephew of Alan Turing, will discuss Bletchley Park during our visit.

*The Kingfisher (B)*







Beaumanor Hall



Morse Cottages

## DAY 3: BEAUMANOR HALL

Start the day at the stately Beaumanor Hall with a tour of the facilities used by the women who worked the Y-Station. Requisitioned by the War Office, Beaumanor served as the main “ears” of Bletchley Park. German transmissions would be logged at Beaumanor and delivered to Bletchley Park for decoding. After lunch, continue to RAF Harrington to discover Operation Carpetbagger, special low-level flights to aid resistance groups in occupied countries. Learn about the SOE, the OSS (forerunner to the CIA), and the Jedburgh teams, who not only clandestinely gathered intelligence from occupied Europe but also carried out sabotage and assassination. *The Kingfisher (B, L)*

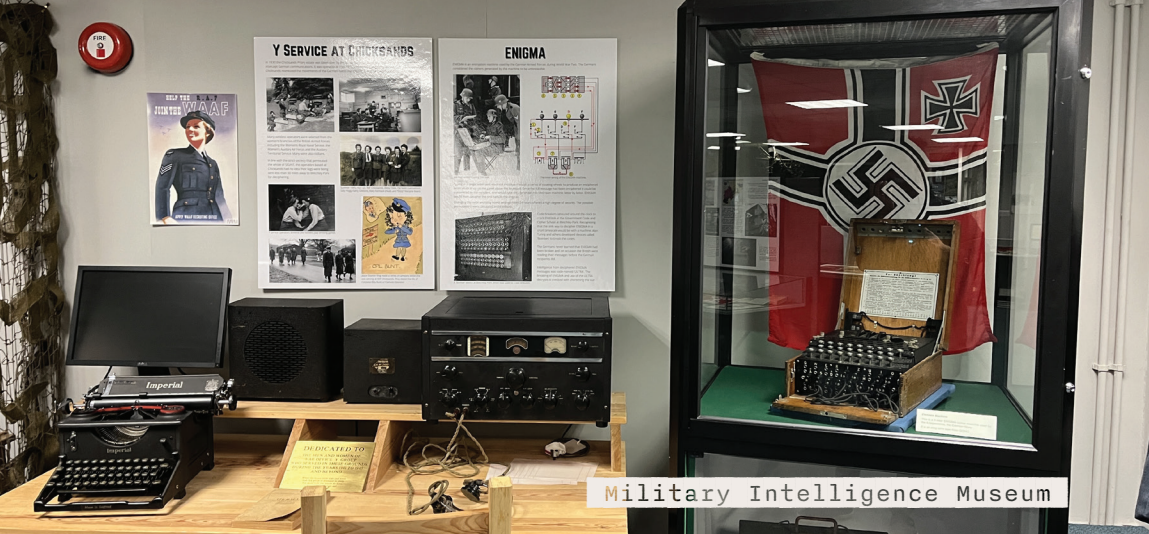


Coventry Cathedral

## DAY 4: COVENTRY

On the night of November 14-15, 1940, the Luftwaffe attacked the city of Coventry. More than 500 bombers approached the industrial city. By the end of the night, Coventry Cathedral was ablaze and over half of the city’s buildings received damage. After the war, speculation spread that Coventry was sacrificed to protect the intelligence operation at Bletchley Park. While Allied intelligence had uncovered German planning for a major raid, there was no definitive target. In the immediate aftermath of the bombing, the clergy of Coventry spoke of forgiveness, and Coventry today leads a network of cities advocating peace and reconciliation after suffering under bombardments. *The Kingfisher (B, L, D)*





Military Intelligence Museum

## DAY 5: MILITARY INTELLIGENCE

The Military Intelligence Museum at Chicksands boasts an impressive collection that deepens the understanding of intelligence collection and use. Through your visit, the concept of ISTAR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition, and Reconnaissance) is emphasized. The tour will also uncover details about British intelligence gathering operations during the Cold War, particularly in East Germany (BRIXMIS). Continue to the Shuttleworth Collection to view a unique aircraft collection including a Westland Lysander, the SOE's famous "Spy Taxi" of WWII. Transfer to London this evening and enjoy dinner on your own.

*Rubens at the Palace (B, L)*



House of Parliament

## DAY 6: THAMES HOUSE AND TOWER OF LONDON

Passing by Thames House, the home of MI5 from 1934-1939, your guide will discuss the operations of MI5 throughout the 20th century. During a visit to the Tower of London, learn of the eleven German spies executed there during World War I and the German HUMINT operations of World War II through Josef Jakobs, a German spy who was unveiled under the Double Cross system. Jakobs was the last spy to be executed in the Tower of London on August 15, 1941.

*Rubens at the Palace (B, L)*



Tower Bridge





Imperial War Museum London



M16 Building London

## DAY 7: VAUXHALL CROSS & SPY ACTIVITIES DAY

Passing by Vauxhall Cross, the current home of MI6, your guide will discuss the operations of MI6 throughout the 20th century. Visit London's Imperial War Museum, which boasts an impressive collection of artifacts from World War I to the present. You will then engage in a series of activities at a "spy training school" where you will learn how to communicate with your sources using live and dead letter boxes whilst spotting and evading surveillance. This evening, visit the Churchill War Rooms for a private Reception and Farewell Dinner Experience. *Rubens at the Palace (B, R, D)*



## DAY 8: DEPARTURES

Individual and group transfers to London Heathrow Airport for their flights home. (B)





# ACCOMMODATIONS

## THE BEDFORD SWAN HOTEL

Set on the embankment of the beautiful Great River Ouse in Bedford, Bedfordshire, The Bedford Swan Hotel offers luxurious rooms with free Wi-fi, air conditioning, elegant bed linen and all you need for a perfect night's sleep. Mixing contemporary fabrics and design with the original 18th Century features to create a stunning venue for your hotel stay. Nestled in the heart of Bedford, just steps away from the traditional Old Town markets and a 15-minute walk from Bedford Train Station, guests staying at The Bedford Swan Hotel can explore the wonderful countryside of Downs, Chiltern Hills, Green Sand Ridge, Marston Vale.



## RUBENS AT THE PALACE

For your stay in London, we are pleased to offer accommodations at the luxurious Rubens at the Palace Hotel, a historic property that dates back to the 1700s and has served royalty throughout the centuries since. Overlooking the Royal Mews of Buckingham Palace, The Rubens is moments away from Victoria Station and some of London's best shops and restaurants. Amenities include 24-hour room service, complimentary Wi-Fi access, luxury toiletries, plush bathrobes, iron and ironing board, and hair dryer.

# TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Exclusive itinerary designed by The National WWII Museum
- Presentations from the Museum's digital collections, including video and oral histories
- Special access to sites not offered on other tours
- Full-time logistical Tour Manager
- Expert local guides
- Roundtrip Airport Transfers (when arriving and departing on scheduled group tour dates)
- Luxury five-star and deluxe four-star accommodations throughout the journey
- Private, first-class, air-conditioned motor coach transportation
- Personal listening devices on all included touring
- Included gratuities to guides, drivers, porters and servers
- 7 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 3 Dinners, and 2 Receptions
- Free flow beer, house wine, and soft drinks with included lunches and dinner
- Personalized luggage tags and customized name badge

# PRICING

\$7,495.00 per person, double occupancy  
 \$9,295.00 per person single occupancy  
 \$230 per person taxes and fees  
 \$1,000 deposit



View the terms and conditions by scanning the QR code above with your smart phone camera.

# CONTACT US

For a comprehensive listing of all tour offerings and early booking discount opportunities, visit [ww2museumtours.org](http://ww2museumtours.org); call 1-877-813-3329 x 257; or email [travel@nationalww2museum.org](mailto:travel@nationalww2museum.org)





## TO RESERVE OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

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