

# Welcome

Secret Files from  
World Wars to Cold War:  
Intelligence, Strategy and Diplomacy

#SecretFiles

# Secret Files from World Wars to Cold War

- Collection of nine file series containing British government secret intelligence and foreign policy files.
- 4,500 files. 16,838 documents. 147,600 pages. Sourced from *The National Archives, U.K.*
- Spans four twentieth century conflicts - the Second World War, the Spanish Civil War, the Korean War and the early years of the Cold War.
- Majority of material from 1930 through to 1953.
- Resource provides key content for studies in Intelligence, British Foreign Policy, Military History and International Relations.
- Designed as a research and teaching resource.



# Editorial Board

- **Gill Bennett, OBE**, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London
- **Professor Anthony Glees**, Centre for Security and Intelligence Studies, University of Buckingham
- **Professor Michael Goodman**, King's College London
- **Professor Matthew Jones**, London School of Economics and Political Science
- **Dr Michael Morgan**, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- **Professor Denis Smyth**, University of Toronto

# Thematic Coverage

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





# FO 1093 Foreign Office Permanent Under-Secretary's Dept 1873–1985

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

- Details of U.K.- Soviet wartime relations. Includes an account of Churchill's Moscow meeting with Stalin.
- Discussion of proposed assassination targets ahead of Operation Overlord.
- Defection to Canada of a Soviet agent, who revealed information on a Soviet spying network in North America.
- Papers relating to the wartime imprisonment of Rudolf Hess.
- Fortnightly summaries of Soviet intentions – codenamed “Crystal Gazer” – prepared by the Russia Committee.



# CAB 56 Joint Intelligence Sub-Committee Minutes and Memoranda, 1936 –1939

(JIC) and the JIC's Sub-Committee on Air Warfare in Spain. The JIC assessed intelligence received from abroad and considered Britain's intelligence and security priorities accordingly.

- The Spanish Civil War.
- The growing threat and military power of Nazi Germany.
- The U.K.'s preparation for the eventuality of war against Nazi Germany.
- Foreign espionage activities in the U.K.

# **CAB 81 War Cabinet and Cabinet: Committees and Sub-committees of the Chiefs of Staff Committee: Minutes and Papers, 1939–1947**

Covers a diverse range of intelligence, strategic, and foreign policy matters throughout the Second World War.

- Key turning-points of the war, such as the Battle of Britain and D-Day.
- Analyses of Germany's strategic intentions, including predictions of the likelihood of German invasions of the U.K. and the U.S.S.R.
- The war in Asia, including analyses of Japan's strategy in China and the Pacific, and the treatment of prisoners-of-war by the Japanese.
- Assessments of enemy weapons development, including German long range rockets and other secret weapons.



# CAB 158 Ministry of Defence and Cabinet Office 1946 –1968

A series of Joint Intelligence Sub-Committee (JIC) reports, providing insight into Britain's evolving intelligence, military, and foreign policy concerns in the early Cold War.

- The threat of war with the Soviet Union, and assessments of Soviet military capabilities and intentions.
- The Korean War, and British, U.S., and Chinese involvement.
- Post-war diplomacy and international intelligence cooperation.
- Developments in the Middle East, including the partition of Palestine and anti-British insurgency.
- The spread of communism in East Asia, including intelligence summaries of the Chinese Civil War, and assessments of the likely impact of a communist victory on the region.

# CAB 159 Ministry of Defence and Cabinet Office 1947–1968

A series of Joint Intelligence Sub-Committee (JIC) meeting minutes, providing insight into Britain's intelligence, military, and foreign policy concerns in the early Cold War.

- Predictions of Soviet military and political intentions and analyses of the likelihood of war in the near future.
- Scientific intelligence, including intelligence on atomic energy, atomic weapons, and biological warfare.
- The Chinese Civil War, the Korean War, and the rise of communism in East Asia, and implications for U.K. and U.S. security and policy.
- Defectors and deserters from the U.S.S.R. and their exploitation for intelligence.



# CAB 163 War Cabinet, Ministry of Defence 1939 –1985

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

- Papers on security and intelligence planning and threats relating to Operation Torch, the Allied plan to invade French North Africa.
- Churchill's miscellaneous correspondence, covering a diverse range of topics, including enemy agents in the U.K., German troop morale, and communications between Churchill, Stalin, and Roosevelt.
- Sir Douglas Evill's 1947 report on the U.K.'s intelligence services.

# CAB 176 War Cabinet, Ministry of Defence and Cabinet Office 1942–1957

A series of Joint Intelligence Sub-Committee (JIC) and working party reports and intelligence assessments, circulated to JIC members as Secretariat minutes. The reports cover a range of intelligence, strategy, and foreign policy topics during and after the Second World War.

- Diplomacy and international intelligence cooperation, including the U.K.'s cooperation with the United States, the Soviet Union, and China during the Second World War.
- Intelligence gathering in and reports on countries around the world, including the Soviet Union, Japan, India, Iraq, and Palestine.
- Scientific intelligence, including German secret weapons and atomic energy.
- Hitler's will and political testament, copies of which are accompanied by British intelligence evaluations and an account of their capture
- Prisoners of war, including the interrogation of prisoners in the U.K. and Germany.



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

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

- The funding of MI5 and MI6 activities, including operations, interrogation, and bribery. These provide case studies of intelligence operations, including the bribery of politicians in the Second World War, and the financing of escape routes for Allied prisoners of war.
- The organisation and responsibilities of British intelligence. Relevant papers include Sir David Petrie's 1941 report on the inefficiency of MI5, and Sir Norman Brook's 1951 enquiry into MI5 and MI6.
- Commonwealth defence and the security of British missions overseas.
- The Special Operations Executive, including reviews of their activities across Europe and Africa and arrangements for funding their operations.

# HW 1 Government Code and Cypher School: Signals Intelligence Passed to Churchill 1940 –1945

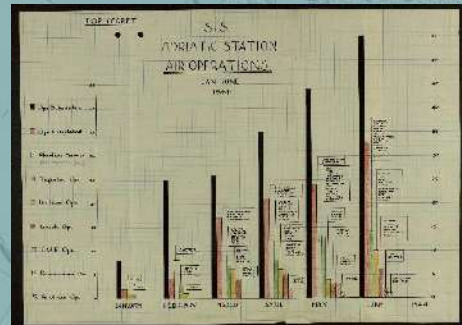
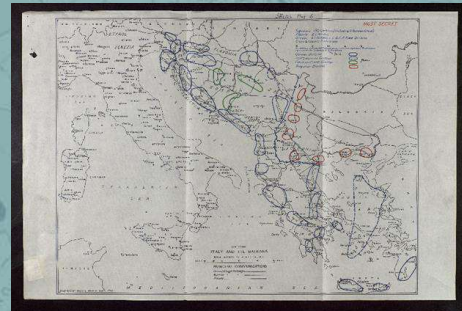
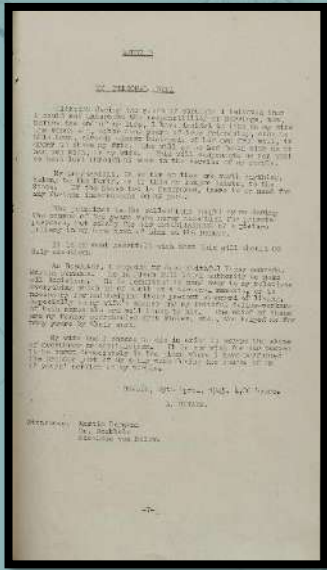
Thousands of signals intelligence reports issued by the Government Code and Cypher School and sent by MI6 to Winston Churchill. The files comprise the actual signals intelligence reviewed by Churchill, with associated correspondence and annotations. Includes intelligence derived from ENIGMA signals and covers all aspects of the Allied military campaign against Germany, Italy, and Japan.

- Detailed army and air force intelligence across all areas of operation, including the Eastern Front, North Africa, and the Normandy campaign.
- Intercepted diplomatic telegrams, including Japanese communications on strategy and Japan's relations with her Axis allies.
- Naval intelligence on enemy and neutral shipping activity.



# Document Types

The digital collection contains 9 document types:



Correspondence
Directives
Financial Records
Maps
Meeting Minutes
Memoranda
Reports
Signals Intelligence
Miscellany

# Metadata Fields

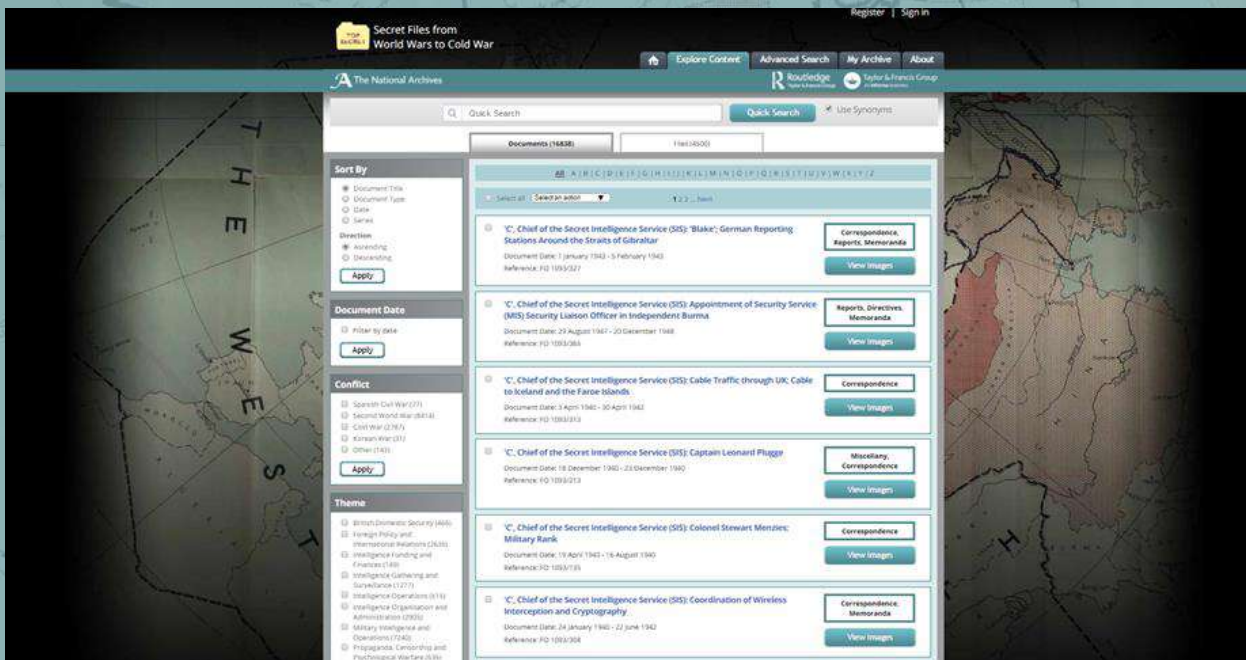
File Title	Conflicts
Reference	Themes
Date	Regions
Government Department	Countries
File Accession Date	Organisations
Description	People
Document Title	Keywords
Document Type	Notes

**All documents have been read using Optical Character Recognition technology**



# Key Features & Functionality

Click [here](#) to go to the videos



The screenshot displays the 'Secret Files from World Wars to Cold War' website interface. At the top, it features the 'TOP SECRET' logo and navigation links for 'Explore Content', 'Advanced Search', 'My Archive', and 'About'. The main header includes 'The National Archives' logo and 'Routledge Taylor & Francis Group' branding. A search bar with 'Quick Search' and 'Use Synonyms' options is present. Below the search bar, a list of documents is displayed, each with a title, document date, reference ID, and action buttons like 'View Images' and 'Correspondence, Reports, Memoranda'. The left sidebar contains filters for 'Sort By', 'Document Date', 'Conflict', and 'Theme', each with an 'Apply' button. The background of the interface is a map with the words 'THE WEST' and 'THE SOUTH' visible.

# Editorial Board Feedback

*“This collection represents some of the most valuable files from the British official archive on intelligence, defence and foreign policy... From students at many different levels working on their projects, to academic researchers with a specialist interest, there is an Aladdin's cave of secret history to be found here.”*

**Professor Matthew Jones | Professor of International History at the London School of Economics and Political Science**

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

**Professor Denis Smyth | University of Toronto**



Thank you

[www.secretintelligencefiles.com](http://www.secretintelligencefiles.com)

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