

ESPRIONAGE

The Faceless Ones

The romance of spying went out with Mata Hari. Such is the nature of the game today that a lowly government code clerk or a technician who punches computer cards at a missile site may be a more important intelligence source—and far more difficult to detect—than the disgruntled general or the indiscreet diplomat. Last week, in a case that has still undetermined links in Britain, the FBI arrested a characteristically obscure technician on charges of conspiring with the Russians. Held on \$50,000 bail was a crew-cut Air Force communications operator and repairman, Staff Sergeant Herbert Boeckenhaupt, 23, who had worked for some 17 months in the Air Force's Pentagon communications center, and was distinguished only by his unhappy childhood in Nazi Germany.

The Government, not wanting to prejudice its case in court, would give only sketchy details of the alleged conspiracy, but the pattern was as commonplace as the personalities. Boeckenhaupt had top-secret clearance and access to many high-level communications, including those on the Moscow-Washington hot line. His contact, said the FBI, was Aleksey Malinin, a low-ranking clerk in the commercial section of the Soviet embassy. In June 1965, at the first of at least two meetings in Washington's Virginia suburbs, according to the FBI, the Russian merely questioned Boeckenhaupt about his duties in the Pentagon. At the second, in a bowling alley parking lot last April, Malinin gave him a 35-mm. slide listing the location of future rendezvous and drop areas where, presumably, information could be left for later pickup.

"One of the Many." The FBI said it had picked up the slide, as well as papers used for secret messages and notes taken at the second meeting, in Boeckenhaupt's apartment in Riverside, Calif., near March Air Force Base, where he was stationed at the time he was arrested. At March, he had access to information going through the cryptographic machines. Shortly after his arrest last week, Scotland Yard picked up Cecil Mulvena, 47, a quiet Southend-on-Sea businessman, on charges of violating Britain's Official Secrets Act, and English newspapers hinted that further arrests were planned.

Of the three, Malinin, described by one observer as "just one of the faceless many" in the Russian embassy, clearly had the brightest future, suffering only the embarrassment of being expelled from the U.S. If convicted, Boeckenhaupt, on the other hand, could receive the death penalty; Mulvena, 14 years in one of Britain's sometimes insecure jails. Whether or not Boeckenhaupt passed on important information or, indeed, any information at all, he had every opportunity to glean intelligence of interest to the Russians. The Penta-



SUSPECT BOECKENHAUPT
Obscurity pays.

gon post where he worked not only has positions of U.S. combat aircraft and missiles but also is Washington's direct line of communication with the President when he is aboard Air Force One, the flying White House.

HISTORICAL NOTES

Into the Archives

At the request of the Justice Department, 65 carefully guarded X rays, color slides and black-and-white negatives of pictures taken during an exhaustive autopsy on the body of John Kennedy at Bethesda Naval Hospital were turned over to the National Archives last week by the Kennedy family.

At the time that the Warren Commission was making its inquiry into the assassination, the X rays and photographs were available to investigators, but none felt it necessary to inspect them after hearing the minutely detailed testimony of the three autopsy surgeons. The doctors themselves had never seen the photographs either, though they had worked from the X rays during the post-mortem surgery.

Unwitting Support. Thus the commission unwittingly lent support to those who would later insist that Lee Harvey Oswald must have had an accomplice. Their suspicions were based primarily on the commission's controversial "single-bullet theory." This is its conclusion that a bullet hit the back of Kennedy's neck and emerged through his lower throat before it struck Texas Governor John Connally in the back, smashed across a rib, shattered his right wrist, and punctured his left thigh. Commission members accepted this explanation after they saw a tourist's film of the assassination, which indicated that the interval between Kennedy's reaction to being hit and Connally's first visible reaction to his wounds was—at the most—1.8 sec. Because of the time it took to operate the bolt action on his rifle, Oswald

could not possibly have fired more than once every 2.3 sec.

Ultimately, the conspiracy theorists claimed that the doctors' entire autopsy report had been tailor-made to bolster the commission's single-bullet theory. The doubters argued that 1) the wound was probably lower on Kennedy's back, and 2) the first bullet had actually lodged in his body. They insisted that only the X rays and photographs could offer incontrovertible proof of how Kennedy was really wounded. In fact, an X ray does not indicate a bullet's path through soft flesh.

Corroborating Evidence. If the commission had really set out to present a fake autopsy, nothing would have been more logical than to retouch the photographs to support synthetic medical reports. The photos were examined last week by two of the autopsy doctors (the third is on duty in Viet Nam); they agreed that the evidence fully corroborates their testimony before the Warren Commission.

Even though the X rays and photographs are now in the archives, the controversy will undoubtedly continue. One enigma is how the Kennedys—who consistently denied to the press that they had possession of the films—ever got hold of them; presumably, the Secret Service handed them over at the request of the then-Attorney General, Robert Kennedy. In any case, the family has stipulated that the pictures be sequestered from public inspection during the lives of J.F.K.'s immediate family, including those of his children, who are now eight and five years old.

The Mythmakers

For many who believe that there was a conspiracy to assassinate John Kennedy in Dallas, the most mesmeric argument of all is that an extraordinary number of people involved in the case—however remotely—have since lost their lives under mysterious circumstances. As of last week, the toll had, in fact, reached 14. To conspiracy theorists, the clear implication is that the victims knew too much and were systematically liquidated.

Chief mythologist and drumbeater for this theory is Penn Jones Jr., 52, the diminutive (5 ft. 2½ in.) editor of a Texas weekly newspaper, the Midlothian Mirror (circ. 765). In 1965, Jones began a seemingly inexhaustible Mirror series intended, as he put it, to "bring into some intelligible whole all the events surrounding the assassination."

This month, San Francisco's slick *Ramparts* magazine, a onetime Catholic quarterly turned New Left monthly, also carried several of the Jones reports, along with the outcome of what the magazine breathlessly describes as an eight-month probe by "a team of *Ramparts* editors, aided by researchers and trained investigators," who "traveled to Dallas a dozen times and interviewed nearly 100 people throughout the country knowledgeable about the assassina-

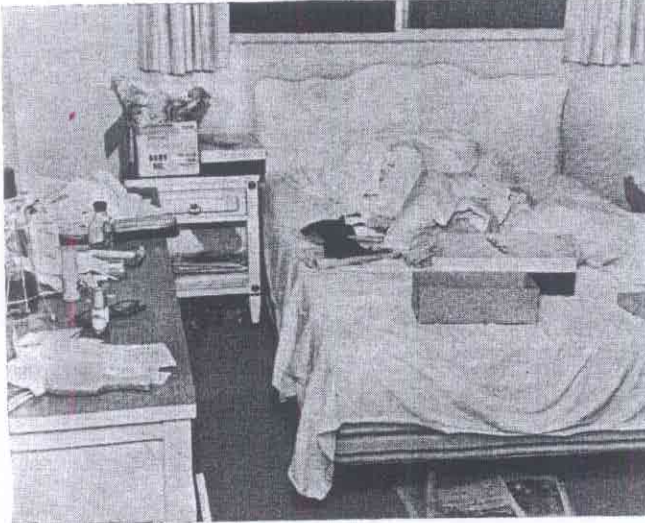
tion." Oddly enough, a majority of the people most closely involved in the incidents reported in the *Ramparts* article never heard of the magazine or its "team." Thus it is not so odd that the *Ramparts*-Jones non-history is riddled with factual errors and perverse conclusions. Items:

► Earlene Roberts, 60, the fuzzy-minded housekeeper who ran the Dallas rooming house where Lee Harvey Oswald lived—and proved a helpful witness before the Warren Commission—died last January. *Ramparts* says that she had been subjected to "intensive police harassment," adds with sinister implication of foul play that "no autopsy was performed." In fact, Mrs. Roberts had severe heart disease, throat ulcers and cataracts. The cause of death, "acute

killed Eddy and served 20 months in prison for manslaughter.

► On the Sunday night that Jack Ruby shot Oswald, six men met in Ruby's apartment. Editor Jones reported that three of the men at that "significant meeting" have "died strangely." With typical hint-and-run reporting, he wrote that Dallas Times-Herald Reporter Jim Koethe was later "killed by a karate chop" in his apartment, that Long Beach (Calif.) Independent Reporter Bill Hunter was shot to death in a California police station, and that Dallas Attorney Tom Howard died of a heart attack after which "no autopsy was performed." All three are indeed dead, but it takes a powerful imagination to detect any connection. Reporter Koethe was a beer-drinking bully who lallied to hang out

WILLIAM A. ALLEN—DALLAS TIMES-HERALD



JACK RUBY'S BEDROOM AFTER HIS ARREST & POLICE SEARCH
A case of hint and run.

myocardial infarction," was determined after an autopsy by a doctor at Parkland Hospital.

► William Whaley, 51, the cab driver who picked up Oswald after he fled the book depository building, was killed in a head-on car crash in December 1965. *Ramparts* views his death with suspicion because Whaley had never had an accident before and was the first Dallas cab driver to die on duty since 1937. In fact, Whaley was killed because an 83-year-old man (who also died) was driving north in a southbound lane.

► Eddy Benavides, 29, identified as the look-alike brother of Domingo Benavides, a witness in Oswald's slaying of Patrolman J. D. Tippit, was shot to death in a Dallas tavern in February 1965. *Ramparts* reports that Dallas police classed it as death by "pistol shot, wrote up a cursory report and marked the case 'unsolved.'" The magazine also suggests that "Domingo was the intended victim." In fact, there is a full police report on the shooting (it was a shotgun, not a pistol). Moreover, one Radford Lee Hill, 41, confessed that he

with thugs; he had been strangled, not "karate chopped," and police suggested that homosexuality may have been a motive. Hunter was shot accidentally by an exhibitionistic detective he had known closely for years while the cop was clowning foolishly with a revolver in the station pressroom. As for Tom Howard, according to others who were there, he was not even at Ruby's apartment that night.

► Hearst Gossip Columnist Dorothy Kilgallen died in her Manhattan house in November 1965. Because she was the only journalist ever allowed a private interview with Jack Ruby after his arrest, Penn Jones naturally decided that hers could be added to "that list of strange deaths." Even *Ramparts* editors could not swallow that one, conceded that "no serious person really believes" Kilgallen's death—from alcohol and barbiturates—was part of the plot.

Nor, for that matter, can a serious person really believe that the rest of the *Ramparts*-Jones saga is anything but a macabre and mischievous exercise in mythmaking.

CITIES

Anniversary of The Night

In Manhattan, guests at a round of parties will sip their drinks in the dark. In Boston, Harvard students planned a series of lights-out beer busts. For stay-at-homes, a chain of New York novelty shops offered a kit containing 50 "I Was There" buttons and a candle. Most of the 30 million Americans who lived through history's biggest blackout a year ago this week approached the first anniversary of The Night with a certain nostalgia. The memory also prompted a more practical concern. What, if anything, has been done to prevent another failure on the scale of the 1965 eclipse that plunged 80,000 sq. mi. of the U.S. Northeast and Canada into Stygian darkness?

The area's power companies have belatedly mounted a massive effort to overhaul, augment and modernize equipment and procedures. At the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission's Sir Adam Beck Plant No. 2, where the region-wide short circuit originated in an overloaded relay fuse, more relays have been added to increase the system's safety margin. To prevent the area's vast, interlocking power grid from being pulled down again, newly designed switches have been installed in northwestern New York State so that the southern part of the system can automatically cut itself off from the pool.

Generators & Computers. Throughout the area, electric companies have bought oil-fueled "black start" generators to help reactivate giant turbines more quickly. Some companies are making plans to install computers programmed to monitor loads and correct "cascading" frequencies of the kind touched off by the Beck blowout. New York's Kennedy International Airport, whose runway lights vanished before the eyes of bewildered jet captains, has put in eight diesel generators that can kick on within twelve seconds. Many Manhattan skyscrapers are now equipped with emergency power for elevators, in which thousands of New Yorkers were trapped, and auxiliary lighting for the stairs down which many more thousands had to escape.

Much still remains to be done. The New York City subway system, in which 800,000 passengers were stranded last fall, has yet to set up its own emergency power system or even a lighting plant. On the basis of the lessons learned from the blackout, both the Federal Power Commission and the Interior Department's Bureau of Reclamation strongly endorsed a bill in Congress this year that would have given the FPC greater control over power-grid planning. The measure died, largely because the utilities lobby opposed it. And though—until 1965—utility companies had for years denied that a major blackout could happen, they now concede that a repeat is by no means impossible.

T.M.E, NOVEMBER 11, 1966