

The Cold War Spy Pocket-Manual

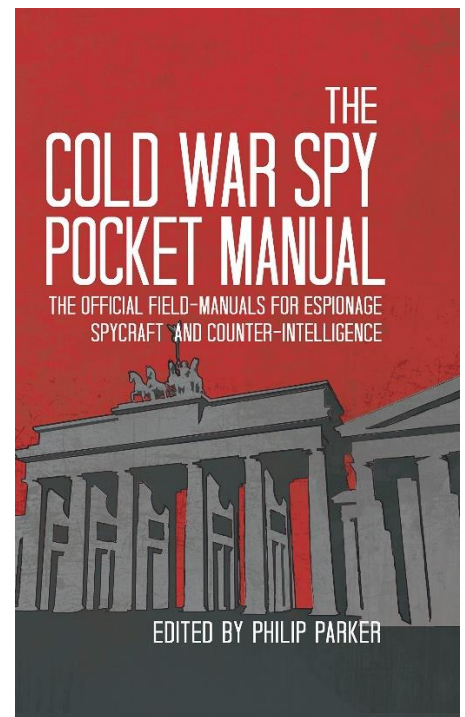
The Official Field-Manuals for Spycraft, Espionage
and Counter-Intelligence 1945-1968

Compiled and introduced by Philip Parker

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"We were both at the appointed place on time at 4:00 PM. He had the green book and the tennis ball and I had the four gloves..."

It may sound like a line from an Ian Fleming novel but this is a quote taken from official handover notes from the KGB to their agent handlers in the US and their first meeting with agent Klaus Fuchs. The date: 1945 - the start of what was surely the golden age for espionage, the Cold War years.

Spy books and spy movies are quite popular these days. One of the new spy books is *The Cold War Spy Pocket Manual*, edited by former British diplomat Philip Baker. This book is somewhat different from other spy books because it is not the average spy novel nor does it cover the standard spy stories and agency info. The book is a combination of stories about spy operations, stories about defectors and manuals and directives from Soviet, East German, British and American intelligence agencies. A rather unusual but interesting combination.

Contents:

- In the early 1940's Camp 020, near Ham Common in Richmond, was set up by the British MI5 as an interrogation centre for enemy spies. The interrogation techniques used in Camp 020 were published in a document called *A Digest of Ham*, as guidelines for future use by the intelligence agencies and are now included in the Pocket Manual.
- Part of *The Official CIA Manual of Trickery and Deception* is included in the book. It gives some info on recognition signals and more. How to make contact when both parties do not know each other, or only one knows the other.
- *The Prikhodko Lecture*, written by Lieutenant-Colonel Ivan Prikhodko, of the GRU's Anglo-American Affairs Directorate, provides a manual for Soviet spies operating in the USA. It includes the characteristics of agent communications, guidelines for the use of VHF radio, dead drops and other ways to communicate.
- I found the *Undercover Residency* item the most interesting part of the Pocket Manual. It is written by Viktor Suvorov, which is the cover name of Vladimir Rezun who was a major in the GRU.

The undercover residency is one of the basic forms of intelligence set-up for the GRU abroad. In every country where official Soviet representation exists there is a GRU undercover residency. Suvorov describes in detail how an undercover residency is set up and more importantly the roles of the various staff members like the Operational Officer, the Radio / Cipher officer, the Radio Monitoring Station Officer, the Technical Services Officer, etc.

As a radio enthusiast I am of course interested in the communication items. I learned that the Radio / Cipher Officer was the second important person in the residency. He was so important that no-one was allowed to enter his radio/cipher room, not even his boss or the ambassador. He was only allowed to live in official Soviet embassy accommodation and was guarded around the clock. Neither the officer or his wife is allowed to leave the guarded territory. So in fact he was living in a cage. Not a nice life in my opinion. That is the reason why a deployment lasted no more than two years.

- *The Vassiliev Notebooks.*

After the Cold War, the SVR decided to allow limited access to the KGB's archives to foreign publishers working with retired KGB operatives. One of the operatives is Alexander Vassiliev who compiled a number of notebooks which were later smuggled out of Russia. The notebooks concentrate on Soviet-American and Anglo-American affairs, including the Manhattan Project, which is described in Vassiliev's Yellow Notebook #1.

The Manhattan Project was a research and development project that produced the first nuclear weapons during World War II. It was led by the United States with the support of the United Kingdom and Canada. The US papers about the Manhattan Project have been declassified and can be found here: https://www.osti.gov/opennet/manhattan_district.jsp

- *Berlin.*

I guess that many of us are familiar with the stories about the Berlin Tunnel, a 300 metre long tunnel across the east-west border, dug in 1954 by an Anglo-American intelligence team to tap East German telephone lines. That was only one of the many western intelligence activities in Berlin during the Cold War. In November 1958 the STASI published their assessment of western intelligence operations in Berlin. The assessment covers the activities of the British, West German, French and American intelligence agencies in Berlin. Both the discovery of the tunnel and the STASI assessments are described in the Pocket Manual. Below excerpts from the part about the French intelligence activities:

IV. French secret service:

Sûreté National – organizes counter-espionage – above all [against the] MfS – [Unger [name]] West Berlin, Müllerstraße, uses violence in interrogations.

DR[11]/Marine – works on Baltic coast – chiefly via Hamburg.

DR/SR[12]: (a) army (b) air force (c) political and economic espionage

Strict separation of responsibility.

Main base in Germany: Baden-Baden.

French are making preparations for withdrawal.

Equipping agents with radio sets.

Aids:

Japanese tissue paper (Seidenpapier)– shoes with hollow sole – radio sets – winder and board which opens out as well as Morse key. [handwritten note: [agent] does not need to be a radio operator]

Radio sets with tape just like the Americans.

Characteristic features:

French secret service is currently generous with financial resources – pays in advance monthly salary for one year, makes agents buy motorbikes and radio sets

- The final chapter of the book covers KGB's basic instructions for checking agents and includes a chapter of Vladimir Kuzichkin's book *Inside the KGB*. Kuzichkin was a Major in the KGB and was deployed in Iran. He escaped to Turkey with the help of the British MI6. The British brought Kuzichkin in contact with the CIA, which in turn contacted the government of Iran. His information led to the arrest of nearly 20 Soviet KGB field officers in Iran.

Conclusion:

I have read many books about espionage but this book is different from most other spy books. The inclusion of directives and manuals from various intelligence sources is why *The Cold War Spy Pocket Manual* is an interesting, informative, and entertaining book.

Reviewed by Ary Boender for Numbers & Oddities / UDXF