





Who's Killing The Star Wars Scientists ? Dia 22 SD1 Researchers Really All Commit Suicide ?

Fifty-year-old Alistair Beckham was a successful British aerospace-projects engineer. His specialty was designing computer software for sophisticated naval defense systems. Like hundreds of other British scientists, he was working on a pilot program for America's Strategic Defense Initiative--better known as Star Wars. And like at least 21 of his colleagues, he died a bizarre, violent death.

It was a lazy, sunny Sunday afternoon in August 1988. After driving his wife to work, Beckham walked through his garden to a musty backyard toolshed and sat down on a box next to the door. He wrapped bare wires around his chest, attached the to an electrical outlet and put a handkerchief in his mouth. Then he pulled the switch.

With his death, Beckham's name was added to a growing list of British scientists who've died or disappeared under mysterious circumstances since 1982. Each was a skilled expert in computers, and each was working on a highly classified project for the American Star Wars program. None had any apparent motive for killing himself.

The British government contends that the deaths are all a matter of coincidence. The British press blames stress. Others allude to an ongoing fraud investigation involving the nation's leading defense contractor. Relatives left behind don't know what to think.

"There weren't any women involved. There weren't any men involved. We had a very good relationship," says Mary Beckham, Alistair's widow. "We don't know why he did it...if he did it. And I don't believe that he =did= do it. He wouldn't go out to the shed. There had to be something...."

The string of unexplained deaths can be traced back to March 1982, when Essex University computer scientist Dr. Keith Bowden died in a car wreck on his way home from a London social function. Authorities claim Bowden was drunk. His wife and friends say otherwise.

Bowden, 45, was a whiz with super-computers and computer-controlled aircraft. He was co-founder of the Department of Computer Sciences at Essex and had worked for one of the major Star Wars contractors in England.

One night Bowden's immaculately maintained Rover careened across a four-lane highway and plunged off a bridge, down an embankment, into an abandoned rail yard. Bowden was found dead at the scene.

During the inquest, police testified that Bowden's blood alcohol level had exceeded the legal limit and that he had been driving too fast. His death was ruled accidental.

Wife Hillary Bowden and her lawyer suspected a cover-up. Friends he'd supposedly spent the evening with denied that Bowden had been drinking. Then there was the condition of Bowden's car.

"My solicitor instructed an accident specialist to examine the automobile," Mrs. Bowden explains. "Somebody had taken the wheels off and put others on that were old and worn. At the inquest this was not allowed to be brought up. Someone asked if the car was in a sound condition, and the answer was yes."

Hillary, in a state of shock, never protested the published verdict. Yet, she remains convinced that someone tampered with her husband's car. "It certainly looked like foul play," Hillary maintains.

Four years later the British press finally added Bowden's case to its growing dossier. First, there appeared to be two interconnected deaths, then six, then 12--suddenly there were 22.

Take 37-year-old David Sands, a senior scientist at Esasams working on a highly sensitive computer-controlled satellite-radar system. In March 1987 Sands made a U-turn on his way to work and rammed his car into the brick wall of a vacant restaurant. His trunk was loaded with full gasoline cans. The car exploded on impact.

Given the incongruities of the accident and the lack of a suicide motive, the coroner refused to rule out the possibility of foul play. Meanwhile, information leaked to the press suggested that Sands had been under a tremendous emotional strain.

Margaret Worth, Sands' mother-in-law, claims these stories are totally inaccurate. "When David died, it was a great mystery to us," she admits. "He was very successful. He was very confident. He had just pulled off a great coup for his company, and he was about to be greatly rewarded. He had a very bright future ahead of him. He was perfectly happy the week before this happened."

Like many of the bereaved, Worth is still at a loss for answers. "One week we think he must have been got at. The next week we think it couldn't be anything like that," she says.

This wave of suspicious fatalities in the ultrasecret world of sophisticated weaponry has not gone

unnoticed by the United States government. Late last fall, the American embassy in London publicly requested a full investigation by the British Ministry of Defense (MOD).

Members of British Parliament, such as Labour MP Doug Hoyle, co-president of the Manufacturing, Science & Finance Union, had been making similar requests for more than two years. The Thatcher government had refused to launch any sort of inquiry.

"How many more deaths before we get the government to give the answers?" Hoyle asks. "From a security point of view, surely both ourselves and the Americans ought to be looking into it."

The Pentagon refuses comment on the deaths. However, according to Reagan Administration sources, "We cannot ignore it anymore."

Actually, British and American intelligence agencies are on the situation. When THE SUNDAY TIMES in London published the details of 12 mysterious deaths last September, sources at the American embassy admitted being aware of at least ten additional victims whose names had already been sent to Washington. The sources added that the embassy had been monitoring reports of "the mysterious deaths" for two years.

English intelligence has suffered several damaging spy scandals in the 20 century. The CIA may suspect the deaths are an indication of security leaks, that Star Wars secrets are being sold to the Russians. Perhaps these scientists had been blackmailed into supplying classified data to Moscow and could no longer live with themselves. One or more may have stumbled onto an espionage ring and been silenced.

As NBC News London correspondent Henry Champ puts it, "In the world of espionage, there is a saying: Twice is coincidence, but three times is enemy action." Where SDI is concerned, a tremendous amount is at stake.

In return for the Thatcher government's early support of the Star Wars program, the Reagan Administration promised a number of extremely lucrative SDI contracts to the British defense industry--hundreds of millions of U.S. dollars the struggling British economy can little afford to lose.

Britain traditionally has one of the finest defense industries in the world. Their annual overseas weapons sales amount to almost \$250 billion. The publicity from a Star Wars spy scandal could seriously cut into the profits.

It would appear that only initial promises made to Prime Minister Thatcher hold the U.S. from cutting its losses and pulling out. A high-ranking American source was quoted in the SUNDAY TIMES saying, "If

this had happened in Greece, Brazil, Spain, or Argentina, we'd be all over them like a glove!"

The Thatcher government's PR problem is that the scandal centers around Marconi Company Ltd., Britain's largest electronics-defense contractor. Seven Marconi scientists are among the dead.

Marconi, which employs 50,000 workers worldwide, is a subsidiary of Britain's General Electric Company (GEC). GEC managing director Lord Wienstock recently launched his own internal investigation.

Yet, the GEC and the Ministry of Defense still contend that the 22 deaths are coincidental. A Ministry of Defense spokesman claims to have found "no evidence of any sinister links between them."

However, an article in the British publication THE INDEPENDENT claims the incidence of suicide among Marconi scientists is twice the national average of mentally healthy individuals. Either Marconi is hitting abnormally unstable scientists or something is very wrong.

Two deaths brought the issue to light in the fall of 1986. Within weeks of each other, two London-based Marconi scientists were found dead 100 miles away, in Bristol. Both were involved in creating the software for a huge, computerized Star Wars simulator, the hub of Marconi's SDI program. Both had been working on the simulator just hours before their death. Like the others, neither had any apparent reason to kill himself.

Vimal Dajibhai was a 24-year-old electronics graduate who worked at Marconi Underwater Systems in Croxley Green. In August 1986 his crumpled body was found lying on the pavement 240 feet below the Clifton Suspension Bridge in Bristol.

An inquest was unable to determine whether Dajibhai had been pushed off the bridge or whether he had jumped. There had been no witnesses. The verdict was left open. Yet, authorities did their best to pin his death on suicide.

Police testified that Dajibhai had been suffering from depression, something his family and friends flatly denied. Dajibhai had absolutely no history of personal or emotional problems.

Police also claimed that the deceased had been drinking with a friend, Heyat Shah, shortly before his death, and that a bottle of wine and two used paper cups had been found in his car. Yet, forensic tests were never done on the auto, and those who knew Vimal, including Shah, say that he had never taken a drink of alcohol in his life.

Investigating journalists found discrepancies in other evidence. "A police report noted a puncture mark on Dajibhai's left buttock after his fall from the bridge," explains Tony Collins, who covered the story for

Britain's COMPUTER NEWS magazine. "Apparently, this was the reason his funeral was halted seconds before the cremation was to take place.

"Members of the Family were told that the body was to be taken away for a second postmortem, to be done by a top home-office pathologist. That's not normal. Then, a few months later, police held a press conference and announced that it hadn't been a puncture mark after all, that it was a wound caused by a bone fragment.

"I find it very difficult to reconcile the initial coroner's report with what the police were saying a few months later," Collins contends.

Officials didn't fare any better with the second Bristol fatality. Police virtually tipped over themselves to come up with a motive for the apparent--and unusually violent--suicide of Ashaad Sharif.

Sharif was a 26-year-old computer analyst who worked at the Marconi Defense Systems headquarters in Stanmore, Middlesex. On October 28, 1986, he allegedly drove to a public park not far from where Dajibhai had died. He tied one end of a nylon cord around a tree and tied the other end around his neck. Then he got back into his Audi 80 automatic, stepped on the gas and sped off, decapitating himself.

Marconi initially claimed Sharif was only a junior employee, and that he had nothing to do with Star Wars. Co-workers stated otherwise. At the time of his death, Sharif was apparently about to be promoted. Also, Ashaad reportedly worked for a time in Vimal Dajibhai's section.

The inquest determined that Sharif's death was a suicide. Investigating officers maintained that the man had killed himself because he'd been jilted by an alleged lover. Ashaad hadn't seen the woman in three years.

"Sharif was said to have been depressed over a broken romance," Tony Collins explains. "But the woman police unofficially say was his lover contends that she was only his landlady when he was working for British Aerospace in Bristol. She's married, has three children, and she's deeply religious. The possibility of the two having an affair seems highly unlikely--especially since Sharif had a fiancée in Pakistan. His family told me that he was genuinely in love with her."

Police suddenly switched stories. They began to say that Sharif had been deeply in love with the woman he was engaged to, and that he'd decapitated himself because another woman was pressuring him to call off the marriage.

Authorities claimed to have found a taped message in Sharif's car "tantamount" to a suicide note. On it, officers said, he'd admitted to having had an affair, thus

bringing shame on his family. Family members who've heard the tape say that it actually gave no indication of why Sharif might want to kill himself.

Sharif's family was told by the coroner that it was "not in their best interest" to attend the inquest.

"It's been almost impossible to get to information about deaths that should be in the public domain," Tony Collins laments. "I've been given false names or incorrect spellings, or I've not been told where inquests have taken place. It's made it very difficult for me to try to track down the details of these cases."

In the Sharif case, two facts stand out: Ashaad had no history of depression, and there was absolutely no reason for him to be in Bristol.

A widely held theory among the establishment press is that the mysterious deaths are stress-related accidents or suicides. Such theories may not be far off the mark. According to a high-ranking British government official, for the past year and a half the Ministry of Defense has been secretly investigating Marconi on allegations of defense-contract fraud--overcharging the government, bribing officials. The extensive probe has required most of the MOD's investigative resources, conceivably reaching as far as Marconi's sub-contractors and into MOD research facilities such as the Royal Military College of Science and the Royal Air Force Research Center.

Almost all of the dead scientists were associated with one or more of these establishments.

If Marconi employees were being forced by management to perform or to cover up illegal activities, it may be that the stress did indeed get to them.

"In America, there are considerable incentives for people to blow the whistle if they're being asked to perform illegal acts like ripping off the government," a confidential source in Parliament explains. "However, in this country there have been perhaps 20 people who've blown the whistle, and none of them have ever worked again. They didn't receive any compensation. Here, you don't get any recognition. You get threatened with prosecution under the Official Secrets Act. They can fire you. Then they can take away your home and get you blacklisted.

"It's an impossible position to be placed in," the source adds. "It's quite conceivable that these people could have killed themselves because they felt terribly ashamed of what they'd done. For that matter, some of the accidents or suicides could have been men who'd taken bribes but who couldn't face the embarrassment of public disclosure."

If Marconi = was = systematically defrauding the government for millions of pounds each year, perhaps an employee stumbled upon incriminating evidence

bombing death of a researcher director from the Siemens Company--a high-tech, West German electronics firm. They have yet to take credit for any of the scientists.

A more outrageous theory suggests that the Russians have developed an electromagnetic "death ray," with which they're driving the British scientists to suicide. A supermarket tabloid contends the ultrathin waves emitted by the device interfere with a person's brain waves, causing violent mood shifts, including suicidal depression.

The genius of such a weapon is that the victim does all the dirty work = and = takes all the blame. Yet, if the Soviets = have = actually developed such a weapon, why waste it on 22 British defense workers?

Are the scientists victims of a corrupt defense industry? Have they been espionage pawns? Are the deaths nothing more than an extraordinary coincidence? Guess.

DOSSIER OF DEATH

AUTO ACCIDENT--Professor Keith Bowden, 45, computer scientist, Essex University. In March 1982 Bowden's car plunged off a bridge, into an abandoned rail yard. His death was listed as an accident.

MISSING PERSON--Lieutenant Colonel Anthony Godley, 49, defense expert, head of work-study unit at the Royal Military College of Science. Godley disappeared in April 1983. His father bequeaths him more than \$60,000, with the proviso that he claim it by 1987. He never showed up and is presumed dead.

SHOTGUN BLAST--Roger Hill, 49, radar designer and draftsman, Marconi. In March 1985 Hill allegedly killed himself with a shotgun at the family home.

DEATH LEAP--Jonathan Walsh, 29, digital-communications expert assigned to British Telecom's secret Marlesham Health research facility (and to GEC, Marconi's parent firm). In November 1985 Walsh allegedly fell from his hotel room while working on a British Telecom project in Abidjan, Ivory Coast (Africa). He had expressed a fear for his life. Verdict: Still in question.

DEATH LEAP--Vimal Dajibhai, 24, computer-software engineer (worked on guidance system for Tigerfish torpedo), Marconi Underwater Systems. In August 1986 Dajibhai's crumpled remains were found 240 feet below the Clifton suspension bridge in Bristol. The death has not been listed as a suicide.

DECAPITATION--Asaad Sharif, 26, computer analyst, Marconi Defense Systems. In October 1986, in Bristol, Sharif allegedly tied one end of a rope around a tree and the other end around his neck, then drove off in his car at high speed. Verdict: Suicide.

and had to be done away with. It would be easy enough to make it look like an accident.

Consider the peculiar death of Peter Peapell, found dead beneath his car in the garage of his Oxfordshire home. Peapell, 46, worked for the Royal Military College of Science, a world authority on communications technology, electronics surveillance and target detection. Peapell was an expert at using computers to process signals emitted by metals. His work reportedly included testing titanium for its resistance to explosives.

On the night of February 22, 1987, Peapell spent an enjoyable evening out with his wife, Maureen, and their friends. When they returned home, Maureen went straight to bed, leaving Peter to put the car away.

When Maureen woke up the next morning, she discovered that Peter had not come to bed. She went looking for him. When she reached the garage, she noticed that the door was closed. Yet she could hear the car's engine running.

She found her husband lying on his back beneath the car, his mouth directly below the tail pipe. She pulled him into the open air, but he was already dead.

Initially, Maureen thought her husband's death an accident. She presumed he'd gotten under the car to investigate a knocking he'd heard driving home the night before, and that he'd gotten stuck. But the light fixture in the garage was broken, and Peter hadn't been carrying a flashlight.

Police had their own suspicions. A constable the same height and weight as Peter Peapell found it impossible to crawl under the car when the garage door was closed. He also found it impossible to close the door once he was under the car.

Carbon deposits from the inside of the garage door showed that the engine had been running only a short time. Yet, Mrs. Peapell had found the body almost seven hours after she'd gone to bed.

The coroner's inquest could not determine whether the death was a homicide, a suicide or an accident. According to Maureen Peapell, Peter had no reason to kill himself. They had no marital or financial problems. Peter loved his job. He'd just received a sizable raise, and according to colleagues, he'd exhibited "absolutely no signs of stress."

We may never know what is killing these scientists. Everyone has a theory.

The National Forum Foundation, a conservative Washington D.C., think tank, believes the deaths are the work of European-based, left-wing terrorists, such as those who took credit for gunning down a West German bureaucrat who'd negotiated Star Wars contracts. The group also claims the July 1986

SUFFOCATION--Richard Pugh, computer consultant for the Ministry of Defense. In January 1987 Pugh was found dead, wrapped head-to-toe in rope that was tied four times around his neck. The coroner listed his death as an accident due to a sexual experiment gone awry.

ASPHYXIATION--John Brittan, Ministry of Defense tank batteries expert, Royal Military College of Science. In January 1987 Brittan was found dead in a parked car in his garage. The engine was still running. Verdict: Accidental death.

DRUG OVERDOSE--Victor Moore, 46, design engineer, Marconi Space Systems. In February 1987 Moore was found dead of a drug overdose. His death is listed as a suicide.

ASPHYXIATION--Peter Peapell, 46, scientist, Royal Military College of Science. In February 1987 Peapell was found dead beneath his car, his face near the tail pipe, in the garage of his Oxfordshire home. Death was due to carbon-monoxide poisoning, although test showed that the engine had been running only a short time. Foul play has not been ruled out.

ASPHYXIATION--Edwin Skeels, 43, engineer, Marconi. In February 1987 Skeels was found dead in his car, a victim of carbon-monoxide poisoning. A hose led from the exhaust pipe. His death is listed as a suicide.

AUTO ACCIDENT--David Sands, satellite projects manager, Eassams (a Marconi sister company). Although up for a promotion, in March 1987 Sands drove a car filled with gasoline cans into the brick wall of an abandoned cafe. He was killed instantly. Foul play has not been ruled out.

AUTO ACCIDENT--Stuart Gooding, 23, postgraduate research student, Royal Military College of Science. In April 1987 Gooding died in a mysterious car wreck in Cyprus while the College was holding military exercises on the island. Verdict: Accidental death.

AUTO ACCIDENT--George Kountis, experienced systems analyst at British Polytechnic. In April 1987 Kountis drowned after his BMW plunged into the Mersey River in Liverpool. His death is listed as a misadventure.

SUFFOCATION--Mark Wisner, 24, software engineer at Ministry of Defense experimental station for combat aircraft. In April 1987 Wisner was found dead in his home with a plastic bag over his head. At the inquest, his death was ruled an accident due to a sexual experiment gone awry.

AUTO ACCIDENT--Michael Baker, 22, digital communications expert, Plessey Defense Systems. In May 1987 Baker's BMW crashed through a road barrier, killing the driver. Verdict: Misadventure.

HEART ATTACK--Frank Jennings, 60, electronic weapons engineer for Plessey. In June 1987 Jennings allegedly dropped dead of a heart attack. No inquest was held.

DEATH LEAP--Russel Smith, 23, lab technician at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment. In January 1988 Smith's mangled body was found halfway down a cliff in Cornwall. Verdict: Suicide.

ASPHYXIATION--Trevor Knight, 52, computer engineer, Marconi Space and Defense Systems. In March 1988 Knight was found dead in his car, asphyxiated by fume from a hose attached to the tail pipe. The death was ruled a suicide.

ELECTROCUTION--John Ferry, 60, assistant marketing director for Marconi. In August 1988 Ferry was found dead in a company-owned apartment, the stripped leads of an electrical cord in his mouth. Foul play has not been ruled out.

ELECTROCUTION--Alistair Beckham, 50, software engineer, Plessey. In August 1988 Beckham's lifeless body was found in the garden shed behind his house. Bare wires, which ran to a live main, were wrapped around his chest. No suicide note was found, and police have not ruled out foul play.

ASPHYXIATION--Andrew Hall, 33, engineering manager, British Aero-space. In September 1988 Hall was found dead in his car, asphyxiated by fumes from a hose that was attached to the tail pipe. Friends said he was well liked, had everything to live for. Verdict: Suicide.

Interview On The Stephen Carr Murder Conspiracy

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This is a transcription of an interview with Peter Dale Scott, co-author with Jonathan Marshall, of COCAINE POLITICS.

[Dennis Bernstein is referring to Stephen Carr, who was murdered before he was due to testify in court against criminals in our Government.]

DENNIS BERNSTEIN: I did some research on this myself and I know, in terms of the autopsy, the coroner's office in Los Angeles was immediately notified that this was a potential Congressional witness, and nevertheless, the body sat over a week-end unprotected, and there were many concerns about how it was being kept and being transported. There are still many questions about that.

PETER DALE SCOTT: My memory is that the family insisted on moving the body to Florida and, when it was moved to Florida, insisted on another autopsy report. And for the first time, there was a report of needle marks behind the left elbow, which doesn't sound like your classical way of ingesting cocaine, so I think it was a very suspicious death. Not the only one, by the way, of witnesses to this case. Other witnesses who did testify had their lives threatened. A bomb went off outside the house of Joe Couline. Jack Terrell was told that if ... what happened to Jack Terrell is a whole story in itself, but his life was threatened. And I must say that it was amazing to me as I went, as a university professor, to Washington at the height of the Iran-Contra affair. During the hearings, I was in Washington talking on your WB1 show from time to time. And the number of people in Washington who had bravely helped to break the Contra drug story, but who were terrified and who will not allow me to name who they are because that's how terrified they are. And this was happening right in the nation's capitol.

DENNIS BERNSTEIN: So here we are with Felipe Vidal and Rene Corvo in Costa Rica financed by Frank Castro and Jose Couline was working on as an informant for the Miami PD, and he actually found information, or testified, or reported to his handlers at the Miami PD that Frank Castro was involved in drug trafficking, and, in fact, that information was passed along to the FBI, because it is stamped "FBI" and "George Kuzinski" on the actual interviews with Couline. So they did know rather early.

PETER DALE SCOTT: Yes, and they were actually the subject of an investigation which went nowhere and enlarged eventually into an investigation of Corvo and Vidal down in Costa Rica. What we haven't mentioned so far - and this is the key to what made this so sensitive - is that when Oliver North assumed responsibilities for coordinating various Contra efforts and finding support for them, he had a leg man, Robert Owen, whom people may remember from the hearings. He testified under oath that there was absolutely nothing to the Christie charges, although many of them are corroborated by his notes to Oliver North, which we now have. Owen was going down to Costa Rica and to Honduras and to El Salvador. In Costa Rica he would regularly see John Hull, and he regularly saw a man he

called Max who was Felipe Vidal. He regarded Rene Corvo as a bit of a maverick, but he relied very heavily on Felipe Vidal to coordinate activities with the assets - the right-wing Cubans in an outfit called Frigonicos de Puntarenas. It was a shrimp freezing outfit which was actually designated by the DEA [U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency] as a front for laundering drug money. These were drug traffickers that Felipe was working with Robert Owens and Oliver North's encouragement. And things had gotten so mixed up and inverted down there that in one of Owens' memos - which was heavily censored by the Iran-Contra Committee, but we have it from a Christie deposition - Owen was talking about how the Cubans and the Frigonicos and Felipe Vidal were going to run some shrimp boats for covert operations, and Owen was negotiating with North to get two DEA agents seconded down to Costa Rica to work under the direction of these drug traffickers. So you can see just how high level this collaboration between the White House and the National Security Council and the drug traffickers in Costa Rica had become.

Now, Jack Terrell brought this to the attention of the FBI. And the FBI already had an investigation of Corvo going because of the bombing of this bank in Miami. And you had a young Assistant U.S. Attorney in Miami, Jeffrey Feldman, talking to people in Costa Rica about what it was that Corvo and Vidal were doing. And he expected to have the support of the U.S. Embassy. And pretty soon he learned, to his amazement, that the Embassy became very involved in this case, but involved on behalf of the people whom he was trying to interview, and [the Embassy] actually advised John Hull not to interview and, also advised Washington - which is to say, Oliver North - of what was going on.

The upshot of all this, which was partly talked about in the Iran-Contra report, was that the whole investigation was stymied. Jeffrey Feldman had recommended going to a grand jury. First of all, they just turned that down. Then, at a higher level, without his knowing, they turned his recommendation to go to a grand jury into a recommendation NOT to go to a grand jury, because this would be "a fishing expedition". Then the Justice Department, or individuals in it, leaked this falsified recommendation, the opposite of what he had recommended. They leaked it to the Press at exactly the same time that the Christie Institute had filed its lawsuit against some of these individuals as defendants.

Right now, these CIA and DEA criminals against the American people are fiercely attempting to destroy the Christie Institute and thus, to assassinate the last force of justice to be dogging their trail. The criminals are brandishing the power of the people, vested in the Federal Government, as their assassination weapon. They have corrupted the Federal courts to rule against the Christie Institute's lawsuit on behalf of the American people. These corrupt courts have leveled fines approaching two million dollars, in an effort to bankrupt the Christie Institute.

The USS Liberty-Gate Scandal

From Defense Electronics, October 1981.

Editor's Note: This article is printed by *Defense Electronics* as an example of a direct attack on U.S. forces by a nation that has access to advanced western military equipment, and which is an ally. In light of the Libyan-U.S. air clash in August and the loss of advanced equipment in U.S. forces by a hostile Third World nation is apparent. This article is presented in unabridged form and represents only the views of its author.

PART ONE

Israeli Attack on U.S. Ship Reveals Failure of C3

By James M. Ennes, Jr., Deck Officer of the USS Liberty

Fourteen years ago, the USS Liberty was attacked by Israeli Warplanes and ships, resulting in the deaths of 34 Americans and the wounding of 171 others. The attack lasted 2 and 1/2 hours and ended the Navy's program of dedicated electronic intelligence collection ships.

Fourteen years ago, one of the most serious peacetime American naval disasters occurred, and perhaps the most serious since the sinking of the battleship *Maine* in 1898. But while every bright schoolchild remembers some details of the explosion that led to the Spanish-American War, hardly anyone can recall the attack on the USS Liberty in 1967, which cost the lives of 34 Americans, wounded 171 others, and brought a premature end to the Navy's program of dedicated electronic intelligence collection ships.

The attack on the USS Liberty by Israeli forces on the fourth day of the Arab-Israeli Six Day War is not widely known because the facts are politically and diplomatically awkward. The truth about the attack includes evidence that this was a planned, carefully coordinated and deliberate attack by a friendly power upon a known American naval vessel, and a botched exercise of Command, Control, and Communications. But such knowledge is politically unwelcome in the United States, so the facts about the attack were withheld from the American people.

In 1967, the US Navy operated a worldwide fleet of electronic intelligence collection ships under tasking from the Department of Defense. These consisted of United States Ships *Oxford*, *Georgetown*, and *Jamestown*, which operated on converted Liberty hulls; *Belmont* and *Liberty*, on Victory hulls; *Banner*, *Pueblo*, and *Palm Beach*, on converted 180-foot AKL hulls; and civilian-manned United States Naval Ships *Private Jose E. Valdez* and *Sergeant Joseph P. Muller*, on converted 338-foot T-AG hulls.

In May 1967, as tension built rapidly toward what would soon become the "Six Day War," USS Liberty was diverted from her usual patrol area on the west coast of Africa to patrol a section of the Gaza Strip in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The trip required 16 days of hard steaming, and when Liberty arrived at her assigned station, the war was four days old and almost over.

I was Liberty's electronic materials officer. A 34-year-old former enlisted man, I took special pride in my Navy commission, my lieutenant's rank, and my specialty in cryptology. I was soon to be assigned officer of the deck for special sea detail and general quarters. And as the ship arrived on station 13 miles from the Israeli and Egyptian coasts, I was to be officer of the deck for the forenoon watch.

THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT

The ship had been reconnoitered throughout the night by Israeli military aircraft. Well before midnight, Liberty's cryptologic operators had detected fire control radar directed steadily at the ship by orbiting Israeli aircraft. But the supervisor on duty refused to believe that Israeli forces would direct fire control radar at an American ship, and so he insisted that the operators must have misinterpreted the signal. The signal went unreported.

0700 HOURS

At about 0700, as I relieved the watch on the bridge, I was told that a "flying boxcar," later identified as an Israeli Nord 2501 Noratlas reconnaissance aircraft, had circled the ship from a distance at sunrise.

I checked out colors, found them dirty and ragged after several days of high-speed steaming, and ordered them replaced. Two extra lookouts were stationed above the bridge, and I ordered them to keep an eye on the flag to assure that it never fouled.

0900 HOURS

At 0900, the ship reached point "alfa," the northernmost point of our assigned patrol track. I turned south and slowed to five knots, and at that moment we were reconnoitered by a single jet aircraft. I immediately checked the flag and saw it clearly displayed in a good breeze. We were headed almost directly into a four-knot wind, giving us nine knots over the decks, which was more than enough to hold the flag aloft. For the next several hours, the wind increased steadily, reaching 12 knots over the deck before the ship came under attack.

1000 HOURS

At about 1000, the ship was circled three times at low level by two armed Israeli Mirage jets, each carrying 18 rockets under each wing. One of the pilots was heard reporting by radio to Israeli headquarters that we were flying the American flag, but this was no news to the Israeli war room. Duty officers in the war room had identified the ship long before and had plotted her track on a large wall chart, along with her name, her top speed, and a reference to her intelligence mission. And according to several reports,

Israel's immediate reaction to the ship's presence was to complain bitterly to the United States via the Central Intelligence Agency, demanding that the ship be moved.

The United States made several serious, almost frantic attempts to move the ship. As the Liberty approached Gaza, the Joint Chiefs of Staff first sent a priority message ordering the ship to move 20 miles from the coast; the message was swamped by higher precedence traffic and was not processed until long after the crisis had ended. Hours later, a JCS duty officer phoned naval headquarters in London to relay an urgent JCS order to move the ship 100 miles from the coast; the telephone call was ignored, and Liberty's copy of the confirming message was misrouted to the Philippines before being returned to the Pentagon, where it was again misrouted, this time to Fort Meade in Maryland, where it was lost.

Eventually, at least six critical messages were lost, delayed, or otherwise mishandled. Any one of those messages might have saved Liberty. None reached the ship.

During the next four hours, the ship was visited five more times by Israeli reconnaissance aircraft, usually flying at very low level, and always close enough that I could readily see the pilot. On one occasion, the captain was on the bridge when the Norliss approached at masthead level, causing him to warn me of a possible bombing run; the aircraft passed overhead at such low level that the deck plating shook.

The continued close surveillance was reassuring. Israel was an ally and, although several Arab states were then hostile toward the United States, Israel clearly dominated the sky, and we were comforted to be watched so closely, as this seemed to assure that there could be no mistakes.

1400 HOURS

After being relieved of the watch at noon, I spent most of the noon hour on the bridge preparing for a general quarters drill scheduled for 1300. Finally, at 1400, all drills and bridge duties were completed, and I was preparing to go below after nearly seven hours on the bridge when three aircraft and three high-speed surface craft were simultaneously picked up on radar, all approaching the ship from starboard quarter.

Moments later, the ship came under severe and continued attack, first by Israeli Mirage jets that momentarily knocked out our four puny 50-caliber machine guns and disabled all radio antennas, then by slower Israeli Mystere jets, which plastered the stack, gun mounts, open bridge, and superstructure with an inferno of napalm.

When technicians jury-rigged an antenna in order to call for help, radiomen found the frequencies blocked by buzz saw signals from the jets. Radiomen worked on their hands and knees and held microphones close to the deck to escape

smoke and heat from fires nearby, and in less than nine minutes, they broke through the jamming. The carrier *Saratoga*, operating about 500 miles away from the Sixth Fleet near Crete, was first to answer.

On the bridge of the Saratoga, Captain Joseph Tully promptly turned his ship into the wind and relayed Liberty's message to the Sixth Fleet commander, Vice Admiral William Martin, who was on the bridge of his flagship conducting maneuvering exercises. Because of the emergency, Captain Tully addressed the message directly to Admiral Martin with his personal call sign on the Primary Tactical Maneuvering Circuit (PRI-TAC), and then he duplicated the transmission by teletype and flashing light with information copies to naval headquarters in Washington and London.

Admiral Martin immediately directed carriers *Saratoga* and *America* to launch aircraft to defend Liberty, but when the launch order was executed, only Saratoga launched. Except for some F-4 Phantoms that were eventually sent up to defend the fleet, *America* did not respond. She had, according to some reports, been authorized to relax from an alert posture that was imposed on much of the rest of the fleet. (The aircraft *America* did launch for air defense were thought by some to have been armed with nuclear weapons, since it was widely known that nuclear-armed weapons were in alert status, but it is now clear that no such aircraft were launched.)

Captain Tully sent a flashing light query to Captain Donald Engen on the America, and got no reply. Moments later Saratoga's aircraft were recalled without explanation by Rear Admiral Lawrence Geis, who commanded the carrier task force.

America, which had no appropriate conventional armament in position, started bringing up weapons from below decks, while Saratoga, which *was* prepared to defend Liberty was required to wait - apparently for White House permission.

Meanwhile, unobstructed by Sixth Fleet air power, the three Israeli torpedo boats arrived on schedule to finish the job. The target was already in flames after 25 to 30 minutes of aerial strafing and napalm bombardment by perhaps a dozen aircraft.

The boats approached at high speed and fired torpedoes from 2,000 yards but, owing to a near collision between two boats at the moment of firing, the first shot went wild. One torpedo passed safely astern, where it missed by a bare 25 yards. Another passed so close ahead of the ship that it vanished under the bow, "sounding like a motorboat" to Petty Officer Rick Aimeri, who stood, astonished, on the forecastle. And one torpedo made a direct hit on the ship's cryptologic spaces, where it killed 25 men and momentarily trapped at least 50 more in the flooded compartment.

The Death Of The Kemper Marley Machine In Arizona

According to intelligence sources of the Phoenix police, who prepared a background profile of Kemper Marley the week following The Bolles murder, Marley was at one time directly connected to the remnants of the old Al Capone mob, operating the TRANSAMERICA WIRE SERVICE. This betting service was originally established in 1941 for Capone's heirs by Gus Greenbaum. Greenbaum was a Phoenix socialite seen at all the society balls in Phoenix, usually in the company of the Bary Goldwaters and Harry Rosenzweigs. In 1958 Greenbaum and his wife were found dead in their bed, their throats cut. This inaugurated a series of grisly gangland-style slayings here.

When Marley died July 1990 his wealth was considered to be second only to Fite Symington who was a new comer to Arizona. Marley owned 5 square miles of Carefree, the highest priced real estate in Arizona. The smallest lot in this most exclusive township is zoned for one acre. By some coincidence the Tax Assessors made the same mistakes evaluating Marley's properties as he did on Charlie Keating's properties. This oversight was saving Marley a million dollars a year. Of course the official investigation showed no wrongdoing in either case.

For the last 40 years Marley bankrolled Harry Rosenzweig who doled out Marley's great wealth to a slate of Republican candidates who were almost universally successful in obtaining high political office. Marley was able to control the Democratic party as well. Every congressman and every senator in Arizona currently owes his position to the Marley machine. Dennis DeConcini was facing a tough reelection in 1990 seeing as how he was nailed creaming off a cool \$5 million with his family on a land deal dependent on the Senator's inside senatorial knowledge. The last thing in the world the Republicans wanted was to lose DeConcini's seniority. Before any other Republicans could announce the party hierarchy formally announced their support for the weakest candidate that one could imagine. Keith DeGreen had ties to the Republican party that were so weak he had not even voted in the last 2 election, and this was a senate race!

At one point Marley served as Chairman of the Board of the VALLEY NATIONAL BANK. When Bugsy Siegel, on instructions from Meyer Lansky, built the FLAMINGO CLUB, Las Vegas's first casino, the money was borrowed from the VALLEY NATIONAL BANK (VNB). Involvements in narcotics trafficking on the part of VNB are hinted in the ARIZONA PROJECT.

Al Lizanetz, who served as Kemper's public relations man for 20 years is one of the richest sources for background on the liquor magnate. The Bolles murder

In 1948 fifty two employees of Kemper Marley's Arizona liquor monopoly, UNITED LIQUOR, went to prison on federal liquor violations, including Jim Hensley, the father-in-law of Senator John McCain. Hensley was the general manager of UNITED LIQUOR. On the basis of this some people might feel UNITED LIQUOR could be described as organized crime. The slick attorney who kept Marley out of this trial and sent McCain's father-in-law to prison in his place was William Rendquist, currently the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court!

It was the judgment of the court that Jim Hensley would be prohibited from working in the liquor industry ever again. Of course such judgments meant nothing to Marley. When Jim Hensley got out of prison Marley arranged a BUDWEISSER distributorship for Hensley which is now in the hands of John McCain and reported to be worth \$200 million.

The best source for an introduction to the environment of total corruption in Arizona is THE ARIZONA PROJECT: HOW A TEAM OF INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS GOT REVENGE ON DEADLINE, a book written by Michael Wendland. Wendland was part of the group called INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS AND EDITORS who came to Phoenix in the wake of the car bombing of the ARIZONA REPUBLIC'S investigative reporter, Don Bolles. It was the conclusion of this group that Marley, by far the wealthiest man in Arizona, was behind this murder.

There are many reasons to believe that Don Bolles was not killed because he was a white knight. When Bolles testified before the HOUSE ORGANIZED CRIME COMMITTEE he required immunity. Why? The best clue to his death lies in his last words: "Adamson, EMPRISE the mafia". John Adamson was the hit man arranged by the establishment attorney, Neal Roberts. EMPRISE was a dog track interest which had changed its name from SPORTSERVICE. There was a court case #xxxxxxx SPORTSERVICE V JARVIS STIEGER available to anyone interested in the motive which contained all the plausible reasons for this hit. Exhibits in this case alleged that Bolles, who was visibly living beyond his means, was wheeling and dealing with the gangsters.

A good companion reader to this is THE LAST RAMPAGE OF GARY TYSON. Written by a Journalism professor from the UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA, this book documents how authorities here let Tyson escape from prison after he succeeded in carrying out a contract on another inmate, Tony Sera, who was giving affidavits regarding the land fraud of Ned Warren. It is the thesis of this book that this contact was given by establishment attorney, Neal Roberts, who was described in the ARIZONA PROJECT as the murder broker in the Bolles killing.

property in a round about way involved a swindle of Indian lands.

The definition of a politician: Anyone who, when they are being tarred and feathered and ridden out of town on a rail can make it appear as if they are leading a parade. In true fashion, McCain and DeConcini got themselves appointed co-chairman of a senate investigative committee to delve into these crimes against the Indians. Enter McDonald and Hawkins. The big Bog ranch was purchased in the mounting by developers Bud Brown and his partner for \$19 million and sold that afternoon for \$27 million to Peter McDonald (no relation to Melvin) on behalf of the Navajo nation. Bud Brown and his partner made a quick \$8 million. In order to explore this corruption, McCain and DeConcini granted immunity to Bud Brown and his partner so that they could give testimony about the \$10,000 and the BMW that gave as a bribe to the corrupt Indian chief. Meanwhile the ARIZONA REPUBLIC repeatedly hammered the Indian chief day after day while not mentioning Bud Brown. The Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, Tom Fitzpatrick, in a Feb. 15, 1989 NEW TIMES article called this "the best real estate deal between white men and red men since the purchase of Manhattan."

Another example is the Bartel Cocaine case. Dr. William Bartel was caught with 81 pounds of cocaine after police observed him meeting with Stan Akers, Jr., a notorious cocaine broker here. Akers was the son of the former Arizona Speaker of the House of Representatives. As an example of how the narcotics industry is politically protected Akers was convicted of possession of 6 pounds of cocaine and sentenced to 5 years in prison. After being sentenced, Akers told the D.A. he would testify about an unsolved drug murder of Greg Case which he had witnessed. On Akers' testimony Paul Brookover was sent to prison and Akers walked free. Knowledgeable people close to this case believe Akers ordered the hit.

The police found \$3 million in bonds in the safe deposit box of Dr. Bartel. Bartel's father-in-law, Al Burke, came forward to claim that the \$3 million was his and that his son-in-law was only keeping it safe for him. Naturally Burke retained former U.S. Attorney, Mike Hawkins to represent him in this matter and in a few days the U.S. Attorney's office "returned" the bonds. Anyone having to establish their financial affairs for the IRS over a 20 year period knows that this can not be done in a few days.

I spoke with Jim Lacey, Assistant U.S. Attorney responsible for all prosecutions of large narcotics cases in Arizona. He admitted the irregularities of the AMERICA WEST pilots case and the \$300 million dollars LAGUNA ARMY AIR FORCE BASE cocaine incident. He expressed his regret that the statute of limitations had run out. Checking the dates I find that there is still 8 weeks before these cases are dead. If the U.S. Attorney's office will not respond I propose forming a Citizen's Investigative Committee.

was part of a package deal that was to include a hit on Lizanetz. According to Lizanetz, the Marley machine placed the highest priority on placing lawyers in all the key state and municipal positions. Former Attorney General Bob Corbin, who accepted a \$55,000 campaign contribution from Charles Keating in a race where he was unopposed, worked for Marley in the insurance industry in the 50s.

Marley placed his people in the top positions of the Department of Public Safety. The county prosecutor was also key to him. Lizanetz claims that Marley recruited Eugene Pullium to come to Phoenix to start the ARIZONA REPUBLIC/PHOENIX GAZETTE, the monopoly newspaper here which has succeeded in covering up these matters. Pullium then started the PHOENIX 40 a group of the largest business interests who virtually run the state. Eugene Pullium is the grandfather of Dan Quayle. Dan Quayle grew up in Paradise Valley next door to Robert Welsh, the founder of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY. The ARIZONA REPUBLIC/PHOENIX together with the INDIANAPOLIS STAR are reported to be worth \$5 billion.

Marley's mentor was Sam Brauffman, the progenitor of the SEAGRAMS empire. When Brauffman visited Marley in Arizona he came in the company of Al Capone. Lizanetz claims that Jack Ruby, assassin of Lee Harvey Oswald, was also on the Brauffman payroll. Perhaps by now readers are beginning to understand how a phenomena like Charles Keating could arise in such a climate. I don't need to mention how lavishly Keating paid off the local politicians here. DeConcini \$72,000. McCain \$112,000. A shopping center deal with McCain's wife that netted almost a half million in 6 months. A \$200 million dollar unsecured loan to DeConcini's campaign manager, Ron Ober. This only scratches the surface. All cannot be told is so short an article. With this as background let me now provide some detail.

There is a certain law firm which includes as principals two former Arizona U.S. Attorneys, Melvin McDonald and Mike Hawkins. One man was appointed by Democrats and the other by Republicans giving them a lock on political leverage here. Like Robert Pelouin, former head of the Organized Crime Strike Force of the Justice Department they learned that they could make 20 times as much money working for the criminals. Melvin McDonald was the chief council for Charles Keating. When ever anything of particularly bad odor needs to happen one of these slimebags is called in. A case in point was the scandal surrounding the sale of the BIG BOQUES RANCH to the Navajo nation. This matter was so stinky it called for the diligence of both Mike Hawkins and Melvin McDonald. It so happened that back in Washington D.C. Dennis DeConcini and John McCain were getting heat from their colleagues about all the swindles of the Indian lands. As a matter of fact McCain and DeConcini were leading the charge of the swindlers. Keating's acquisition of his Estrella

More On The Death Of The Kemper Marley Machine In Arizona

said to be the ringleader, has submitted a list of 25 witnesses that say the suspect never left Tucson the night in question.

The Thai ambassador "just happened to be in Phoenix" for the arrests. During one short sound byte he repeated three times that his being in Phoenix was just coincidence. His praise for Arizona law enforcement sounded a bit too lavish for the circumstances. All readers can be assured that the smiling Thai ambassador is no stranger to the politics of heroin in Southeast Asia. Equally as disingenuous was the statement of the Sheriff that there was no racism involved in the crime, (but only in the selection process of the scapegoats.)

When Lt. Col. James Bo Gritz returned to the Golden Triangle of Burma in 1987 to video tape the drug overlord, General Khun Sa, naming the names of the U.S. officials who were the general's largest customers for heroin, he was startled to find that a two lane highway had been constructed in the 5 months since he was last there. This highway, which went right to the general's front door, was built by the Thai government using Rome plows left over from the Vietnam war. Coming out, as the Colonel went in, were 10 ton trucks, covered and loaded, with the Thai Army insignia on the side. There is only one product that comes out of the Golden Triangle, heroin! It is a certainty that the smiling Thai ambassador has an accounting of every truck.

The importance of the discovery of this heroin highway lies in the fact that what had trickled out on the backs of horses and mules now flows out in 10 ton trucks. This highway, which is easily verifiable with satellite imaging, is to this day denied by our government. When Col. Gritz's team lead Tom Jerrills of CBS 2020 in to meet with Khun Sa, none of the trucks seen in the Colonel's video tapes were seen by American viewers. There was even phony footage of Jarrells riding on a mule and no shot of the Toyota pick-up that actually carried him there.

It so happens that the people associated with the Temple think there was a narcotics connection. Fong Miller lost both her mother and daughter in the massacre. When I told her that I thought the Phoenix Bangkok heroin connection factored into the slayings, her words were, "That is what we think also." Absolutely no speculation to this effect has surfaced in newspapers here.

Last year Phoenixians were shocked to find that the state government had committed to a \$30 million toxic waste incinerator which was well under construction by the time ENSCO, had an abysmal safety record everywhere they had existed.

In order to satisfy the public hearing requirement, a remote hearing site located 40 miles outside Phoenix was selected. The deputies of Tom Agnos were issued stun guns and pictures of GREENPEACE toxics expert, Brad Angel, and instructed to respond with "maximum force" to "environmental terrorism".

I expected the sky to fall after my July article linking the activities of Charles Keating and General Singlaub. Nothing happened. The reaction to my September article exposing Terry Burke, former top DEA in Arizona as a possible key element in the illegal narcotics network in Arizona, however, was immediate and unmistakable. Within days of my FAXing this story I was served with a court summons, and nastly death threat was left on my answering machine and my offices were entered, my files, book cases and furniture dumped and overturned.

The last few days there has been a 6 foot 6 inch Latino following myself and an associate. He makes the top hit man for the Medellin cartel look like a sissy. Since Terry Burke, the former CIA station chief in Laos who administered the Phoenix Assassination Program has been closely associated with Theodore Shackley since 1962, this revelation coming in the wake of the unsolved Buddhist murders must have sent shock waves far and wide. Ted Shackley was George Bush's number 2 man at CIA when Bush was CIA Director. Among those in the know, Ted Shackley and an operative named Richard Armitage are the weakest points in the armor of George Bush and the New World Order.

More significantly, I am tempted to speculate that this revelation, coupled with my suggestion of a probable heroin connection to the military style execution of the 9 Buddhist monks, lead to the panic arrest of five innocent Tucson kids for the murder of the monks. Supposedly, on the basis of a tip received Sept. 3 from a patient in a mental hospital, the deputies of Maricopa County Sheriff, Tom Agnos, arrested and charged four Hispanic and one black youth, all selected from the poorest neighborhoods of Tucson. It was apparent from the start that this action was bogus.

First, law enforcement alleged that these youths stole a late model Bronco and a Blazer that were seen at the Temple the day of the crime. These vehicles were never reported stolen! Where are these vehicles today? If these kids were in fact criminal elements, wouldn't they have driven these four wheeled all terrain vehicles across the border to Mexico where they would have been worth more than in the U.S.? They could have made a quick \$15,000 doing this. I visited the Temple. It is more than obvious that there was nothing of value there.

Rapidly the case against the kids began disintegrating. One suspect was working at a dog track during the murders and was video taped performing his duties. He had to be released. It soon became clear that there was no physical evidence linking the youths to the crime only their confessions, confessions that the Dean of the Law School at ASU says can not be used in court because they were so obviously coerced. It turns out that the deputies worked on the youths for 12 hours in separate rooms with no windows, no food or water, in the midst of serious threats.

One youth was told that he would be "found in a lake with an anchor wrapped around his neck if he did not cooperate". This process took place not at police headquarters but in separate rooms of a hotel. The attorney for Dante Parker,

In order to further stifle public outcry, the high school auditorium was partitioned so that only 25% was usable. Frictions developed when most of the 400 people who showed up were told to go home there was not enough room for them. TV viewers that night were horrified at the spectacle of a 65 year old lady being repeatedly zapped by the deputies with the sun guns. She was not even one of the environmentalists. This incident coupled with the arrests of the innocent Tucson kids would insure a speedy trip down the toilet for Agnos and his top confederates in any other municipality in the nation.

The previous sheriff distinguished himself by placing an ad in the classified section of the ARIZONA REPUBLIC for truck drivers, then busting two respondents for trucking cargo arranged by the sheriff. He also had one of his informers fly a plane load of marijuana in from Mexico so that he could have members of the press available at the landing site to witness the arrest of those meeting the plane. He survived both incidents. Hopefully Agnos will not be as lucky.

The reader is probably asking how could such things happen. For the answer to this we must do what Col. Fletcher Prouty advises, "Go back and examine the beginnings." Arizona is Kemper Marley territory. Kemper Marley was the big man in Arizona.

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available to anyone interested in the motive for this crime. Exhibits in this case allege that Bolles, who was visibly living beyond his means, was wheezing and dealing with the gangsters. Today the EMPRISE CORPORATION continues to flourish in Arizona under the name DELAWARE principals.

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