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Undercover Heroines: The Role of Women in the OSS

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Undercover Heroines: The Role of Women in the OSS

Espionage is as old as warfare itself. *The Art of War*, an ancient Chinese military text on military strategy, states: “Thus enlightened rulers and sagacious generals who are able to get intelligent spies will invariably attain great achievements.”¹ During World War II, The Office of Strategic Services (OSS) was created in 1942². American women trained in espionage and risked their lives in World War II working for the OSS and other Allied intelligence organizations. Roles for women in the OSS were varied. The OSS employed anthropologists like Cora Du Bois in Southeast Asia,³ librarians like Adele Kibre in Stockholm, Sweden and undercover agents like Virginia Hall in Nazi-occupied France.⁴⁵ Agents in the field sent back reports to OSS headquarters in Washington D.C.⁶ Not all women involved in OSS operations participated in fieldwork. Some women worked as secretaries who received microfilms from abroad in the Washington D.C. Office.⁷ Women served in many different roles within the OSS. Their contributions were sometimes recognized by their male superiors in the government hierarchy. Examination of women working for the OSS reveals the different social expectations women faced. At times, women in the intelligence world experienced barriers to promotion. For example, anthropologist Cora Du Bois was prevented from becoming chief executive of Research & Analysis (R & A) operations in Ceylon on the basis of her gender.⁸ The

¹ Sunzi, and Ralph D. Sawyer. *Art of War*. Hoo: Grange, 2005. 233

² Central Intelligence Agency, *What was OSS?* Langley, VA: Central Intelligence Agency, 2008. Accessed December 1st, 2020 <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/intelligence-history/oss/art03.htm>

³ Seymour, Susan C. *Cora Du Bois: Anthropologist, Diplomat, Agent*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2015. 187

⁴ Peiss, Kathy. *Information Hunters. When Librarians, Soldiers, and Spies Banded Together in World War II Europe*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020. 46

⁵ Thomas, Gordon, and Greg Lewis. *Shadow Warriors of World War II: the Daring Women of the OSS and SOE*. Chicago, IL: Chicago Review Press, 2017. 196

⁶ Peiss, *Information Hunters: When Librarians, Soldiers, and Spies Banded Together in World War II Europe*, 46

⁷ Peiss, *Information Hunters: When Librarians, Soldiers, and Spies Banded Together in World War II Europe*, 66

⁸ Seymour, *Cora Du Bois: Anthropologist, Diplomat, Agent*, 183

contributions women made to the OSS were unique and vital in the Allied Powers' ultimate victory over the Axis Powers. Even though male leaders in the OSS bureaucracy at times undervalued women in terms of rank and wages, women excelled in roles that men may have been unable to effectively execute, whether for societal or biological reasons. Both in the OSS headquarters in Washington, DC and around the globe, women in the OSS performed their roles with a patriotic sense of duty to serve their country.

To quote Sun Tzu once again: "Warfare is the Way of deception".⁹ Although Aline Griffith was a young woman from Long Island, NY, within a matter of months, she completed OSS training and found herself face to face with Whitney Shepardson, head of the Secret Intelligence Unit of the OSS. Shepardson assigned Griffith a role that only a woman could have performed with such effectiveness. In her meeting with Whitney Shepardson, head of the Secret Intelligence Unit, he told her: "The job you have been selected for is vital. Too dangerous to entrust to a woman so young. But ironically, that is one of the reasons you are our candidate".¹⁰ Griffith was deployed to Spain.¹¹ Her mission involved two main goals: to deceive the enemy and to discover the enemy's plans.¹² Griffith was involved in the execution of Operation Anvil, the planned invasion of Southern Europe in 1944. Ironically, she did not know *how* she was helping to execute Operation Anvil. The OSS used her to feed information to a double-agent codenamed Pierre without her knowledge that Pierre was a double-agent¹³. In other words, the OSS used Griffith as bait to lead an unsuspecting Nazi double-agent to the wrong conclusions about the landing location for Operation Anvil. Griffith heard on the radio that "Ninety-four

⁹ Sawyer, *Art of War*, 168

¹⁰ Romanones, Aline. *The Spy Wore Red: My Adventures as an Undercover Agent in World War II*. New York, NY: Random House, 1987. 56

¹¹ Romanones, *The Spy Wore Red: My Adventures as an Undercover Agent in World War II*, 42

¹² Romanones, *The Spy Wore Red: My Adventures as an Undercover Agent in World War II*, 55

¹³ Romanones, *The Spy Wore Red: My Adventures as an Undercover Agent in World War II*, 292

thousand Allied troops are landing near a fishing village called Saint-Tropez”.¹⁴ This surprised her, because she had recently informed Pierre to deliver the message that the invasion would happen in Marseilles, France.¹⁵ Marseilles, France is over 100 kilometers (>62 miles) from Saint-Tropez.¹⁶ Mozart, Aline’s handler in OSS Madrid after the successful invasion told her: “The success of the invasion is also yours. If you had not done your job so well, we might be counting our casualties today instead of victory.”¹⁷ An OSS report titled *Report on OSS Agent Pierre Number 333* states: “In actuality he [Pierre] was being kept there to be used at the proper time to feed false information to the Germans on the Anvil landing location.”¹⁸ Griffith’s affection for Pierre helped to convince Pierre that Griffith was telling him the truth. Romanones writes: “The handsome Pierre was by my side for the field exercises.”¹⁹ It is unlikely that a man would have been able to pull off Griffith’s ultimate role.

To understand the historical implications of Romanones’s help in World War II, one must examine the historical background of Operation Anvil. Although Romanones writes about Operation Anvil in reference to the Southern invasion of France, this invasion is now historically referred to as Operation Dragoon.²⁰ Historian William B. Bruer writes in *Operation Dragoon: The Allied Invasion of the South of France*: “In one month’s time, far ahead of schedule, the

¹⁴ Romanones, *The Spy Wore Red: My Adventures as an Undercover Agent in World War II*, 291

¹⁵ Romanones, *The Spy Wore Red: My Adventures as an Undercover Agent in World War II*, 260

¹⁶ Google Maps. Saint-Tropez, France to Marseilles, France. Mountain View, CA: Google, Accessed November 30, 2020. <https://www.google.com/maps/dir/Marseilles,+France/Saint-Tropez,+France/@43.2983541,5.7156493,10z/am=t/data=!4m14!4m13!1m5!1m1!1s0x12c9bf4344da5333:0x40819a5fd970220!2m2!1d5.36978!2d43.296482!1m5!1m1!1s0x12cec7148316e747:0x912a1b632d84b9df!2m2!1d6.6407109!2d43.2676808!3e0>

¹⁷ Romanones, *The Spy Wore Red: My Adventures as an Undercover Agent in World War II*, 292

¹⁸ Romanones, *The Spy Wore Red: My Adventures as an Undercover Agent in World War II*, 294

¹⁹ Romanones, *The Spy Wore Red: My Adventures as an Undercover Agent in World War II*, 29

²⁰ Zinsou, Cameron. “Forgotten Fights: Operation Dragoon and the Decline of the Anglo-American Alliance: The National WWII Museum: New Orleans.” The National WWII Museum | New Orleans. The National World War II Museum, August 16, 2020. <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/operation-dragoon-anglo-american-alliance>

American and French ground forces had virtually destroyed Gen. Friedrich Wiese's Nineteenth Army, taken more than 100,000 prisoners, liberated the southern two-thirds of France, and joined with the Normandy invasion forces 475 miles north of the Riviera landing beaches"²¹ This means that Romanones's role and therefore also women's contributions to Operation Anvil were monumental.

Women in the past have often been barred from equal participation in the workplace alongside men. The man who secured Griffith an application at the OSS, John Derby, was taken aback by Griffith's desire to serve her country in WWII. He asked her: "Now, why on earth would an attractive girl like you, safe and sound here in New York, want to go abroad to become embroiled in a bloody massacre?"²² Griffith responded by saying: "I love adventure. I like taking risks. All the men I know are eager to get over there. Why would it seem strange that a woman wants to also?"²³ At times, Griffith experienced this societal expectation that expected her to stay away from the dangers of war. As an OSS Secret Intelligence Agent, Griffith was directly participating in the war with the Axis Powers. One time, Griffith's driver tried to strangle her death and in this scuffle, she shot him dead.²⁴ On another occasion, Griffith's handler Mozart advised her to use the lethal "L pill" if the enemy captured her, in order to avoid betraying classified information under torture.²⁵ Both men and women faced danger in their espionage duties. The Farm is the name that the OSS's recruits used to refer to their training ground.²⁶ At the Farm, only two women, including Griffith, were receiving OSS training, compared to over

²¹ Breuer, William B. *Operation Dragoon: the Allied Invasion of the South of France*. Novato, CA: Presidio Press, 1996. 249

²² Romanones, *The Spy Wore Red: My Adventures as an Undercover Agent in World War II*, 11

²³ Romanones, *The Spy Wore Red: My Adventures as an Undercover Agent in World War II*, 11

²⁴ Romanones, *The Spy Wore Red: My Adventures as an Undercover Agent in World War II*, 246

²⁵ Romanones, *The Spy Wore Red: My Adventures as an Undercover Agent in World War II*, 189

²⁶ Romanones, *The Spy Wore Red: My Adventures as an Undercover Agent in World War II*, 41

thirty men.²⁷ The two women trained alongside the men in all lessons at the Farm. As an agent in Spain, Griffith received hazard pay, which allowed her to buy the “Balenciaga dress which I [Griffith] had bought had cost the exorbitant sum of two thousand pesetas”.²⁸ Griffith received recognition from Whitney Shepardson after the successful conclusion of Operation Anvil.²⁹ Griffith’s colleagues treated her with respect and she was compensated for her efforts. Griffith’s contributions to Operation Anvil saved many American lives.

A man codenamed Whiskey briefed recruits at the Farm on information related to OSS training. He briefed the recruits, saying: “If you can pass the training, you’ll be the employee of a brand-new service, the Office of Strategic Services, and we’re accountable to only one guy-- General Wild Bill Donovan. No government department has jurisdiction over our operations-- except the President.”³⁰ “Wild Bill Donovan” is the nickname for William J. Donovan.³¹ On July 11, 1941, President Franklin Delanor Roosevelt signed an Executive Order stating: “ By virtue of power invested in me as President of the United States... 1. There is hereby established the position of Coordinator of Information, with authority to collect and analyze all information and data, which may bear upon national security”³². On June 13, 1942, the Coordinator of Information became the Office of Strategic Services³³ He went on to designate William Donovan to this newly established post, writing: “6. William J. Donovan is hereb[y] designated as

²⁷ Romanones, *The Spy Wore Red: My Adventures as an Undercover Agent in World War II*, 21

²⁸ Romanones, *The Spy Wore Red: My Adventures as an Undercover Agent in World War II*, 125

²⁹ Romanones, *The Spy Wore Red: My Adventures as an Undercover Agent in World War II*, 293

³⁰ Romanones, *The Spy Wore Red: My Adventures as an Undercover Agent in World War II*, 23

³¹ McIntosh, Elizabeth P. *Sisterhood of Spies: the Women of OSS*. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1998. 1-2

³² Donovan, William. Rockefeller, Nelson, Roosevelt, Franklin, Royal, Forrest. *Declassified documents relating to national security in World War II*. Langley, VA: Central Intelligence Agency, 2016. Accessed October 19, 2020.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/document/cia-rdp13x00001r000100080007-9>

³³ Central Intelligence Agency, *What was OSS?*, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/intelligence-history/oss/art03.htm>

Coordinator of Information.”³⁴ As McIntosh writes in *A Sisterhood of Spies*, Donovan envisioned that women would primarily aid in the OSS operations in secretarial positions in Washington D.C.³⁵ McIntosh quotes Donovan, who stated that most women in the OSS would be “behind desks and filing cases in Washington, *invisible apron strings* of an organization which touched every theater of the war.”³⁶ Overall, at the height of the OSS, nearly 13,000 men and women worked all over the world for the organization.³⁷ Donovan’s word choice of “apron strings” establishes a gendered distinction through evoking the notion of women as caretakers and, in this case, caretakers of the OSS. It is important to recognize the contributions of female OSS agents in the field such as McIntosh’s work herself in India and western China.³⁸ Yet it is also important to note that most women in the OSS were involved in secretarial positions rather than life-threatening espionage maneuvers behind enemy lines.

The U.S. during World War II enlisted even librarians in the fight. One does not usually think of librarians as intelligence agents. However, during World War II, the OSS needed all the help it could get. In *Information Hunters: When Librarians, Soldiers, and Spies Banded Together in World War II Europe*, historian Kathy Peiss describes the actions of librarians and microfilm units both in Nazi territory and in Washington D.C. offices³⁹. At Donovan’s insistence, President Roosevelt agreed to create the Interdepartmental Committee for the Acquisition of Foreign Publications (IDC).⁴⁰ The IDC at its peak had a staff of 183, including, according to Peiss,

³⁴Roosevelt, *Declassified documents relating to national security in World War II*.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/document/cia-rdp13x00001r000100080007-9>

³⁵ McIntosh, *Sisterhood of Spies: the Women of OSS*, 11

³⁶ McIntosh, *Sisterhood of Spies: the Women of OSS*, 11

³⁷ Central Intelligence Agency, *What was OSS?*, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/intelligence-history/oss/art03.htm>

³⁸ McIntosh, *Sisterhood of Spies: the Women of OSS*, 197

³⁹ Peiss, Kathy. *Information Hunters*, 43

⁴⁰ Peiss, Kathy. *Information Hunters*, 40

“many emigres and women.”⁴¹ Peiss writes: “Efforts to acquire open-source intelligence went beyond Europe, and IDC outposts appeared in neutral cities around the world.⁴² Open-source intelligence includes propaganda books and foreign newspapers.⁴³ Some OSS agents found open-source intelligence useful. The Secret Intelligence (SI) Unit of the OSS stated: “intelligence material from the foreign newspapers is of great value.”⁴⁴ The IDC employed Adele Kibre in Stockholm, Sweden, where she obtained Nazi newspapers and even some Nazi propaganda.⁴⁵ Peiss writes: “As the OSS London war diary observed, “this was but the beginning of an amazing record of accomplishment.”⁴⁶ This indicates that the OSS valued Kibre’s work for its merit. The IDC hired many women to translate and index the large quantity of microfilms coming into Washington D.C.⁴⁷ Although the work of individual female secretaries is less visible to history, these women were essential to OSS operations. Other women, such as Adele Kibre, collected and transmitted open-source intelligence.

While most women in the OSS were in Washington D.C. offices, Cora Du Bois utilized her anthropological knowledge of Southeast Asia in the field.⁴⁸ Du Bois was recruited to the Research & Analysis (R&A) OSS for her specialty in Indonesian culture and general knowledge of Southeast Asia.⁴⁹ After initially working in the Washington D.C. office, Du Bois successfully bargained to transfer overseas to the Southeast Asian Command (SEAC) in India.⁵⁰ OSS headquarters for SEAC soon moved to Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and Du Bois became the acting Chief

⁴¹ Peiss, Kathy. *Information Hunters*, 61

⁴² Peiss, Kathy. *Information Hunters*, 56

⁴³ Peiss, Kathy. *Information Hunters*. 59

⁴⁴ Peiss, Kathy. *Information Hunters*, 59

⁴⁵ Peiss, Kathy. *Information Hunters*, 46

⁴⁶ Peiss, Kathy. *Information Hunters*, 46

⁴⁷ Peiss, Kathy. *Information Hunters*, 61

⁴⁸ Seymour, *Cora Du Bois: Anthropologist, Diplomat, Agent*, 183

⁴⁹ Seymour, *Cora Du Bois: Anthropologist, Diplomat, Agent*, 171

⁵⁰ Seymour, *Cora Du Bois: Anthropologist, Diplomat, Agent*, 177

of R&A.⁵¹ However, the head of R&A in Washington, William Langer, decided to replace Du Bois with Edward Rhetts, who became the R&A chief for SEAC.⁵² Langer wrote in a private letter that “She [Du Bois] has much greater regional experience and professional competence than has Rhetts... On the other hand, it seems to me that a man could function better than a woman as chief of R&A...”.⁵³ Nonetheless, Dr. Charles Fahs, chief of the Indian section of R&A in Washington, tried to assuage her demotion, writing: “I am much less concerned as to how the official titles are divided up than I am that you and Lt. Rhetts should work together in such a manner as to make the strongest possible team for R&A in the theater.”⁵⁴ One can see that due to her sex, Du Bois was denied a higher rank at R&A, even when her superiors privately acknowledged her expertise as superior. At the conclusion of WWII, Du Bois was awarded the Exceptional Civilian Award.⁵⁵ In her career in the OSS, Du Bois met Julia McWilliams (later known as Julia Child) when they travelled to Kandy in Ceylon.⁵⁶

While some librarians overseas in the OSS sought to catalogue foreign newspapers, Julia McWilliams was a different kind of librarian. For her first role in WWII, McWilliams was a clerical assistant in Donovan’s office.⁵⁷ She catalogued intelligence reports in the Kandy, India database.⁵⁸ In a letter written to Julia McWilliams before she officially joined the OSS, James B. Opasta, the director of personnel writes: “Every person entering on duty with this agency is investigated in regard to suitability of character by the civil service commission.”⁵⁹ This record

⁵¹ Seymour, *Cora Du Bois: Anthropologist, Diplomat, Agent*, 182

⁵² Seymour, *Cora Du Bois: Anthropologist, Diplomat, Agent*, 183

⁵³ Seymour, *Cora Du Bois: Anthropologist, Diplomat, Agent*, 183

⁵⁴ Seymour, *Cora Du Bois: Anthropologist, Diplomat, Agent*, 184.

⁵⁵ Seymour, *Cora Du Bois: Anthropologist, Diplomat, Agent*, 204.

⁵⁶ Seymour, *Cora Du Bois: Anthropologist, Diplomat, Agent*, 182.

⁵⁷ Seymour, *Cora Du Bois: Anthropologist, Diplomat, Agent*, 182.

⁵⁸ McIntosh, *Sisterhood of Spies: the Women of OSS*, 216.

⁵⁹ Opasta, James B. *Letter from James B. Opasta to Julia McWilliams*. Washington DC: National Archives & Records Administration, 1942. Accessed September 25, 2020. <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/121635518>

establishes that the OSS required all of its recruits, regardless of sex, to have good moral judgement. McWilliams's official catalogued file in the Archives reveals that her salary per year at the OSS was \$2600 while she was stationed in Ceylon and \$2980 while stationed in China.⁶⁰ When one compares this to William J. Casey's salary at the OSS, one notices a discrepancy. Official OSS records in the Archives show that Casey's annual salary in June 1945 was \$6750, over twice McWilliams's salary.⁶¹ William Casey's salary was \$3770 more than Julia McWilliams's salary while stationed in China. Adjusting for inflation, this amount of money is equivalent to around \$55, 086.⁶² It is possible that men generally earned more than women at the OSS. In terms of character, no one seemed to be able to outdo Virginia Hall.

Virginia Hall was known as the limping lady because she had one wooden leg.⁶³ Due to her handicap, this woman disguised as an old lady may have seemed innocuous to the passerby. However, the Gestapo stated: "The woman who limps is one of the most dangerous Allied agents in France. We must find and destroy her."⁶⁴ Historians Gordon Thomas and Greg Lewis write in *Shadow Warriors: of World War II*: "She [Virginia Hall] was a key spy for the SOE [Special Operations Executive] before she became the OSS's greatest female spy in France."⁶⁵ British Prime Minister Winston Churchill described the SOE, the British intelligence service at the time, as "members of my underground army who collaborate and fight in the shadows."⁶⁶ The OSS

⁶⁰ Office of Strategic Services. *Julia McWilliams [Child] complete file*. College Park, MD: National Archives & Records Administration, 1945. Accessed October 19 2020. 6-7

https://catalog.archives.gov/OpaAPI/media/2180661/content/arcmedia/oss/McWilliams_Child_Julia.pdf

⁶¹ Office of Strategic Services. William J. Casey. College Park, MD: National Archives & Records Administration, 1945. Accessed November 23, 2020. https://nara-media-001.s3.amazonaws.com/arcmedia/oss/Casey_William_J.pdf

⁶² Official Data Foundation, *Inflation Rate between 1945-2021: Inflation Calculator, \$3,770 in 1945 → 2021* | Inflation Calculator. Accessed April 11, 2021. <https://www.officialdata.org/us/inflation/1945?amount=3770> .

⁶³ McIntosh, *Sisterhood of Spies: the Women of OSS*, 114

⁶⁴ McIntosh, *Sisterhood of Spies: the Women of OSS*, 114

⁶⁵ Thomas, Gordon, and Greg Lewis. *Shadow Warriors of World War II: the Daring Women of the OSS and SOE*. Chicago, IL: Chicago Review Press, 2017. 196

⁶⁶ Thomas, Gordon, and Greg Lewis. *Shadow Warriors of World War II*, VII

and the SOE often worked closely together.⁶⁷ Hall's role in the OSS was to organize the French resistance in preparation for the D-Day invasion.⁶⁸ Later on May 12, 1945, Donovan awarded Hall with the Distinguished Service Cross Award and Hall became the first female civilian to win the award.⁶⁹ This demonstrates that some women were held in high esteem for their efforts in the war.

The women of the OSS put forth a strong effort in many capacities during WWII. Some women such as Aline Griffith and Virginia Hall attempted life-threatening espionage maneuvers. However, most women simply labored away as the "apron strings of the organization", as Donovan had termed them. Despite the fact that more women in the OSS worked in clerical positions, it is more difficult to locate sources on these roles. One notable exception is Julia McWilliams, who worked as a clerical assistant for Donovan in Washington D.C. Further investigations into the role women played in the OSS should directly assess specific details of missions or work in the office. The different experiences women faced at the OSS also could be elaborated on for future investigations. For example, a more in-depth comparison between male and female wages at the OSS would provide a more comprehensive look at salaries of men and women in the OSS. If one is to fully examine how women in the OSS experienced their career, one could examine lives these women experienced after the war and whether or not their OSS service significantly impacted them in the long-term. Aline Griffith married into Spanish nobility and later worked with the Central Intelligence Agency.⁷⁰ Julia McWilliams married Paul Child.

⁶⁷ Central Intelligence Agency, *What was OSS?* <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/intelligence-history/oss/art03.htm>

⁶⁸ Thomas, Gordon, and Greg Lewis. *Shadow Warriors of World War II*, 198

⁶⁹ Donovan, William J. *Memorandum for the President from William J. Donovan Regarding Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) Award to Virginia Hall*. Washington, DC: Records of the Office of Strategic Services, 1945. Accessed September 25, 2020. <https://www.archives.gov/historical-docs/todays-doc/index.html?dod-date=512>

⁷⁰ Romanones, *The Spy Wore Red: My Adventures as an Undercover Agent in World War II*, 304

As Julia Child, she became a famous cook.⁷¹ Given that OSS files are more accessible in recent years and given that the OSS was global in scope with a diverse range of operations, scholars should now be able to offer new insights on the role of women in the OSS. Mozart, Griffith's codenamed handler in OSS Spain told her: "He's not the type who will be able to pull off the ultimate role we have in mind for you."⁷² The simple fact of the matter is that on the world stage of subversive espionage, women could play roles that were simply impossible for men to perform. At the same time, women in Washington D.C. offices humbly performed their duties as clerical assistants and translators. As Whiskey said when addressing the OSS recruits: "Repeat one word you've heard in this place to anybody without consent... and you'll be tried for treason".⁷³ This level of secrecy is not conducive to transparent research for historians. Yet historians owe it to the women like Virginia Hall, who gave her entire salary to her mother, to tell the full story about the women who contributed to the OSS. Mozart once gave Griffith Shakespeare's 24th sonnet to repeat upon meeting another agent: "For through the painter must you see his skill/ To find where your true image pictured lies".⁷⁴ Historians have to look at the full picture of the research that indicates that women were both essential to the mission of the OSS and also underappreciated by the same people who benefited from their hard work, including historians and popular culture in today's world.

⁷¹ Zarin, Cynthia. "Portrait of a Marriage: Julia Child Captured in Paul Child's Shimmering Photographs." New York, NY: New Yorker, 2017. Accessed December 4, 2020. <https://www.newyorker.com/culture/photo-booth/portrait-of-a-marriage-julia-child-captured-in-paul-childs-shimmering-photographs>

⁷² Romanones, *The Spy Wore Red: My Adventures as an Undercover Agent in World War II*, 85-86

⁷³ Romanones, *The Spy Wore Red: My Adventures as an Undercover Agent in World War II*, 26

⁷⁴ Romanones, *The Spy Wore Red: My Adventures as an Undercover Agent in World War II*, 194

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Primary sources:

Donovan, William J. *Memorandum for the President from William J. Donovan Regarding Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) Award to Virginia Hall*. Washington, DC: Records of the Office of Strategic Services, 1945. Accessed September 25, 2020.

<https://www.archives.gov/historical-docs/todays-doc/index.html?dod-date=512>

In this letter, William J. Donovan informs President Truman that a field agent named Virginia Hall is the first American civilian to be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. This document shows that men at the highest levels of power such as the President and the head of the OSS acknowledge that women in the OSS helped to win World War II.

Donovan, William. Rockefeller, Nelson, Roosevelt, Franklin, Royal, Forrest. *Declassified documents relating to national security in World War II*. Langley, VA: Central Intelligence Agency, 2016. Accessed October 19, 2020.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/document/cia-rdp13x00001r000100080007-9>

This document contains letters from different powerful men. The primary importance of this document is that it shows the moment in which President Franklin Delano Roosevelt created the position known as Coordinator of Information and appointed William J. Donovan to this position. All of the women who participate in espionage as OSS agents all work under Donovan's chain of command. Therefore, this is an important document in the history of the OSS.

McIntosh, Elizabeth P. *Sisterhood of Spies: the Women of OSS*, 1-2, 11, 114, 197, 216. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1998.

Elizabeth P. McIntosh was an OSS agent operating in the Pacific Theater of War. In this book she recounts different moments in her time in the OSS and also includes interviews from over a hundred other female agents in the OSS. These women conducted espionage in different ways including through spreading propaganda behind enemy lines, directing resources for insurgencies, reconnaissance, cryptography, and all forms of deception necessary in war.

Office of Strategic Services. *Julia McWilliams [Child] complete file*. College Park, MD: National Archives & Records Administration, 1945. Accessed October 19 2020.

https://catalog.archives.gov/OpaAPI/media/2180661/content/arcmedia/oss/McWilliams_Child_Julia.pdf

This document shows Julia McWilliams's full history as it relates to her salary, dates employed, previous employment history, and transfer of employment from Ceylon to China. A more comprehensive examination of an agent than this document would be difficult to find during this time period. Her salary was \$2980 per year in 1945. This shows that women in the OSS were compensated decently.

Office of Strategic Services. William J. Casey. College Park, MD: National Archives & Records Administration, 1945. Accessed November 23, 2020. https://nara-media-001.s3.amazonaws.com/arcmedia/oss/Casey_William_J.pdf

This document shows many aspects of William J. Casey's official OSS file. This includes details such as his employment history and his physical attributes. His annual salary for June 1945 is listed as \$6750. Casey's department in the OSS is Secret Intelligence (SI). Details from his OSS interviewer's comments are also listed in this file. Casey appears to be situated within an elite strata of society given his high salaries in past employment as well as his address in the Northwest part of the District of Columbia.

Opasta, James B. *Letter from James B. Opasta to Julia McWilliams*. Washington DC: National Archives & Records Administration, 1942. Accessed September 25, 2020. <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/121635518>

In this primary document, an OSS recruiter named James B. Opasta informs prospective agent Julia McWilliams about the process required to become an OSS agent. This includes a thorough background check and a questionnaire that must be filled out in its entirety. This paperwork demonstrates that the OSS had a rigorous application process and also shows that the OSS was actively seeking out women to serve in positions.

Romanones, Aline. *The Spy Wore Red: My Adventures as an Undercover Agent in World War II*, 11, 21, 23, 26, 29, 41-42, 55, 56, 85-86, 125, 189, 194, 291-294 . New York, NY: Random House, 1987.

This book is a firsthand account of Aline Romanones, formerly known as Aline Griffith, as an undercover Office of Strategic Services (OSS) Secret Intelligence agent in Spain. This story includes first hand witness of historical figures such as Whitney Shepardson, OSS training, and espionage in the field. Romanones provides many details about her journey from Long Island to Fascist Spain, where she risked death for her country.

Secondary Sources:

Breuer, William B. *Operation Dragoon: the Allied Invasion of the South of France*, 249. Novato, CA: Presidio Press, 1996. 249

Historian William Bruer in this book examines Operation Dragoon, which was the Southern invasion of France that took place after D-Day (Operation Overlord). Many important aspects of this book include troop deployments and military planning over the future of the Allied forces' strategy against the Nazis. Most American military leaders wanted to invade Southern France and have these forces join up with forces from Operation Overlord. However, Winston Churchill wanted to invade the Balkans.

Central Intelligence Agency, *What was OSS?* Langley, VA: Central Intelligence Agency, 2008. Accessed December 1st, 2020 <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/intelligence-history/oss/art03.htm>

This article provides information about the Office of Strategic Services, the predecessor of the Central Intelligence Agency. The article provides information about the date the OSS was created and different operations occurring in both the Pacific and European theaters of WWII. This also provides information about the peak amount of OSS employees in 1944.

Google Maps. Saint-Tropez, France to Marseilles, France. Mountain View, CA: Google, Accessed November 30, 2020. <https://www.google.com/maps/dir/Marseilles,+France/Saint-Tropez,+France/@43.2983541,5.7156493,10z/am=t/data=!4m14!4m13!1m5!1m1!1s0x12c9bf4344da5333:0x40819a5fd970220!2m2!1d5.36978!2d43.296482!1m5!1m1!1s0x12cec7148316e747:0x912a1b632d84b9df!2m2!1d6.6407109!2d43.2676808!3e0>

The distance between Marseilles, France and Saint-Tropez is significant because it is the difference between a successful Operation Anvil invasion and an unsuccessful invasion. Aline Griffith was placed in OSS Spain primarily to deceive the Nazis that the Allied forces would land in Marseilles, France. However, the true landing location for Operation Anvil was Saint-Tropez, which was over 100 kilometers away.

Lewis, Greg, and Thomas, Gordon. *Shadow Warriors of World War II: the Daring Women of the OSS and SOE*, VII, 196, 198. Chicago, IL: Chicago Review Press, 2017.

Historians Thomas Gordon and Greg Lewis write about the contributions of women during World War II through espionage. Some of these women include Virginia Hall, a one-legged American woman running operations in Vichy France who helped to coordinate supplies to resistance fighters. Elizabeth Deveraux Rochester was another American woman operating in Vichy France. This book provides a large overview for different American female agents operating in the OSS and coordinating with British intelligence.

Official Data Foundation, *Inflation Rate between 1945-2021: Inflation Calculator, \$3,770 in 1945 → 2021* | Inflation Calculator. Accessed April 11, 2021. <https://www.officialdata.org/us/inflation/1945?amount=3770> .

The value of money changes over time. The Official Foundation at officialdata.org has a function allowing one to observe the change in value of money over time. In the case of

observing a difference in pay, this is important for people far removed from the time period in the past to get a sense of what the difference in pay meant in terms of today's dollars.

Peiss, Kathy Lee. *Information Hunters: When Librarians, Soldiers, and Spies Banded Together in World War II Europe*, 40, 43, 46, 56, 59, 61, 66. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2020.

Historian Kathy Lee Peiss writes about the librarians in the OSS who provided the Allies with information about the newspapers circulating from Nazi occupied territories. The OSS branch created for this was called the Interdepartmental Committee for the Acquisition of Foreign Publications (IDC). Adele Kibre was one of these librarians stationed in Sweden who used open source intelligence and microfilm technologies to pass off critical information to headquarters for analysts to deconstruct the broader implications of Nazi propaganda.

Seymour, Susan C. "World War II and the OSS." In *Cora Du Bois: Anthropologist, Diplomat, Agent*, 168, 171, 177, 182-184, 187, 204. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2015.

Historian Susan C. Seymour writes about Cora Du Bois's contribution to the OSS in Southeast Asia. Du Bois was an anthropologist who had previously studied in the Dutch East Indies. Her knowledge of Dutch, Malay, Abui, and various social customs in Southeast Asia led her to become an important asset for the OSS and Allied Command for Southeast Asia (SEAC). Du Bois helped to coordinate maps, espionage teams, local resistance networks to counter the Japanese, and facilitate propaganda behind enemy lines.

Sunzi, and Ralph D. Sawyer. *Art of War*. Hoo: Grange, 2005. 233

Art of War by Sunzi (Sun Tzu) and translated by Ralph D. Sawyer has been a classic work on military strategy since its inception in Ancient China. The notes on the uses of spies is also a source of key insights on the importance and uses of spies. Sunzi notes that spies are an important part of military strategy, which echoes his statement that "all warfare is based on deception". Truly, in World War II, spies were key to the strategy of all sides.

Zarin, Cynthia. "Portrait of a Marriage: Julia Child Captured in Paul Child's Shimmering Photographs." New York, NY: New Yorker, 2017. Accessed December 4, 2020.
<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/photo-booth/portrait-of-a-marriage-julia-child-captured-in-paul-childs-shimmering-photographs>

Cythia Zinsou in this article writes about the life of Julia Child (formerly Julia McWilliams). Julia Child earlier in life had a career in the OSS, where she met her future husband Paul Child in Ceylon, which is now known today as Sri Lanka. Later, Julia Child appeared on television with French cooking recipes and she also released a book titled: “Mastering the Art of French Cooking”.

Zinsou, Cameron. “Forgotten Fights: Operation Dragoon and the Decline of the Anglo-American Alliance: The National WWII Museum: New Orleans.” The National WWII Museum | New Orleans. The National World War II Museum, August 16, 2020. Accessed November 17, 2020. <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/operation-dragoon-anglo-american-alliance>

This article provides details on the name change of Operation Anvil to Operation Dragoon. The article also provides clarity on the motivations of different military leaders among the Allied powers. Zinsou also provides information on the conflict between Churchill and American military leadership. For studies of military history, this provides some clarity on the reasons Operation Anvil/Dragoon, including the fact that Operation Overlord drew Nazi forces northwards, leaving southern France vulnerable.