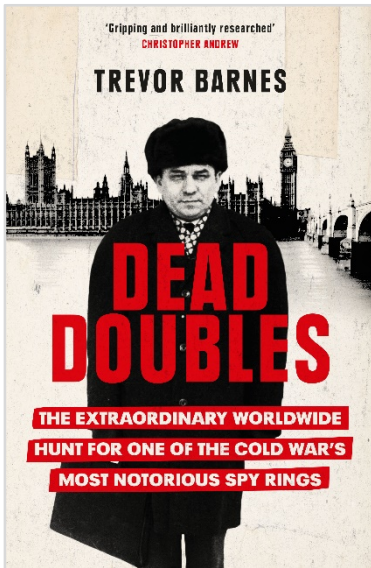


PRESS RELEASE  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson



# DEAD DOUBLES

THE EXTRAORDINARY WORLDWIDE HUNT FOR ONE  
OF THE COLD WAR'S MOST NOTORIOUS SPY RINGS

by TREVOR BARNES

*"An enthralling account of one of the last great spy mysteries of  
the 20th Century - I loved it"*

John Preston, author of *A Very English Scandal*

Published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson on 3 September 2020 in  
hardback at £20.00, eBook £10.99, audio £19.99

September 2020 marks the 60th anniversary of the amazing breakthrough by Britain's spycatchers that enabled MI5 to round up the Portland Spy Ring - one of the most dangerous and remarkable KGB espionage rings ever to operate in the UK.

On 3 September 2020, for the first time, the remarkable full story of the top-secret investigation by MI5 into the Portland Spy Ring will be told in **DEAD DOUBLES**. Based on hitherto secret MI5 and FBI files, and research in the USA and Moscow, espionage historian Trevor Barnes publishes new revelations about the spy ring. Astonishing but true, this new history reads like a John Le Carré thriller but also reveals how Russia's spies are operating the same way today.

The Portland Spy Ring was one of the most infamous espionage cases from the Cold War. People all over the world were shocked in 1961 when its exposure revealed in Britain the shadowy underbelly of deep cover KGB 'illegals' - spies operating under false identities stolen from the dead.

The CIA's revelation to MI5 in 1960 that a KGB agent was stealing secrets from the world-leading submarine research base at Portland in Dorset looked initially like a dangerous but contained lapse of security by a British man and his mistress. The couple were tailed by MI5 'watchers' to covert meetings with a Canadian businessman, Gordon Lonsdale, who in turn led MI5's spycatchers to an innocent-looking couple in suburban Ruislip called Peter and Helen Kroger.

But within weeks the CIA rang the alarm and MI5 was forced to arrest the spy ring - British citizens Harry Houghton and Ethel Gee, Lonsdale and the Krogers - immediately. More shocks followed. The Krogers were exposed as two of the most important Russian 'illegals' ever, whom the Americans had been hunting for years. And Lonsdale was no Canadian, but a senior KGB controller from Russia.

*Contd./*

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**DEAD DOUBLES** reveals for the first time:

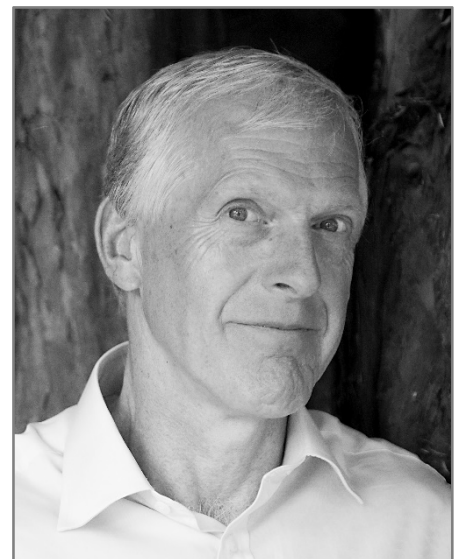
- the full inside story of how MI5/GCHQ tracked down the spies from the first clue to their arrest
- how 60 years ago on 12 September 1960 MI5 burgled the London bank deposit box of Lonsdale and chanced on damning evidence that he was an undercover KGB spy
- the key role of women in the spy ring
- the personal stories of the two main MI5 spycatchers
- how the FBI/MI5 uncovered the real identity of Gordon Lonsdale - a Russian called Konon Molody
- MI5's covert negotiations with Lonsdale while in jail trying to persuade him to defect
- the secret background leading to the famous spy swap in Berlin in 1964 of Gordon Lonsdale for British spy, Greville Wynne (the focus of the high profile Benedict Cumberbatch film, *The Courier* - due for release in US cinemas on 28 August 2020 and later this year in the UK)
- how the betrayal to the Russians of the secrets of Britain's world-beating sonar for the UK's first nuclear submarine *Dreadnought* helped the Soviet Navy build their own version
- how the espionage ring did more damage to the West than previously thought, controlling more spies and stealing more secrets
- how Putin's Russia has turned the three KGB 'illegals' in the Spy Ring into national heroes and how Russia and China use 'illegals' as much as ever today to further their spying in the West.

**Never before has any intelligence agency around the world opened their files on a Cold War counter-espionage investigation as MI5 has done here.**

Already highly acclaimed before publication, and with a TV drama option sold to Red Productions, **DEAD DOUBLES** tells this riveting true story with many fresh revelations based on meticulous original research.

**About the author:**

**Trevor Barnes** studied the history of espionage at the University of Cambridge and as a Kennedy Scholar at Harvard. His pioneering research was published in the *Historical Journal*. Subsequently he worked as a BBC radio and TV senior journalist on programmes including Radio 4's *Today* and BBC Two's *Newsnight* and worked as a lawyer. Trevor has written for, among others, *The Times*, *Observer*, *The Evening Standard* and *The Boston Globe*. He is also the author of three crime novels and researched and wrote *Trial at Torun*, a BBC radio play about the trial in Poland of a secret-service murder case.



**Trevor Barnes is available for interview or to write articles.**

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**PRAISE FOR *DEAD DOUBLES*:**

"A gripping and brilliantly researched history of the rise and fall of the Portland Spy Ring, which reveals much about the operations and personnel of Russian, British and American intelligence at the height of the Cold War."

**Christopher Andrew, author of *Defence of the Realm* and *The Secret World***

"The definitive account of the famous Portland Spies - fascinating, detailed and completely gripping."

**Richard J Aldrich, author of *GCHQ***

"A highly readable account of a classic Cold War MI5 investigation. Assiduously researched and a real page-turner."

**Nigel West, author of *MI5* and *The Illegals***

"*Dead Doubles* will keep readers on the edge of their seats, turning its pages like a delicious spy novel. Its pace and wide scope of research take us into a hidden corner of Cold War England in the early 1960s."

**Katherine Sibley, author of *First Lady Florence Harding: Behind the Tragedy and Controversy* and *Red Spies in America: Stolen Secrets and the Dawn of the Cold War***

"Reads like a le Carré thriller - only true. Rich in detail. A must read."

**Ray Batvinis, former FBI Supervisory Special Agent of Counterintelligence and author of *Hoover's Secret War Against Axis Spies***

"Former KGB officer Vladimir Putin's modern-day Russia employs the same espionage methods now against the West. The themes of *Dead Doubles* – deception, betrayal, blackmail, chemical and biological weapons, atomic secrets, international rivalry – are as topical today as in the 1960s."

**John Sipher, Former Head, CIA Russian Operations, and CIA Station Chief in Asia and Europe.**

"A rare combination of thrilling story and carefully documented history, the writing has a remarkable 'you are there' quality that transports the reader back to the height of the Cold War."

**Nicholas Reynolds, former CIA Officer and author of NYT bestseller *Writer, Sailor, Soldier, Spy***

"An exemplary work of historical scholarship that is also highly entertaining, *Dead Doubles* is the definitive history of the Portland spy ring."

**John Earl Haynes, co-author of *Early Cold War Spies: The Espionage Trials that Shaped American Politics***

"I read *Dead Doubles* with admiration...fascinating and meticulous...Using all available American, British and Russian sources, Trevor Barnes has produced a remarkable book."

**Harvey Klehr, co-author *Spies: The Rise and Fall of the KGB in America***

- ends -

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