

William John VASSALL

In October 1962, William John VASSALL, a British Admiralty clerk, was convicted under the Official Secrets Act and sentenced to eighteen years imprisonment for passing classified information to members of the RIS. VASSALL's recruitment was based on homosexual compromise and his case is illustrative of the methods and techniques utilized by the RIS.

VASSALL first entered the British Admiralty service as a temporary clerk in 1941. He continued with the Admiralty, apart from a four-year period with the RAF during the war, and in March 1954 he was posted to Moscow to take up the position of clerk to the Naval Attache at the British Embassy.

Among the locally employed members of the British Embassy staff in Moscow was a Pole named Sigmund MIKHAILSKY. MIKHAILSKY made himself useful to many of his colleagues by obtaining railway and theatre tickets, etc. He was particularly popular with the junior members of the staff and one of the people with whom he struck up a friendship was VASSALL who was anxious to explore the theatres, museums and restaurants of Moscow. Moreover, MIKHAILSKY was also a homosexual and this, in retrospect, must have contributed towards the progress of his friendship with VASSALL.

In October 1954, MIKHAILSKY and VASSALL dined together at the Aurora Restaurant in Moscow. They found themselves sitting next to two Russians who, during the course of dinner, got into conversation with them. Both Russians spoke excellent English and before parting company one of them, a skier, arranged to have dinner with VASSALL a couple of days later. At this meeting the skier told VASSALL that a friend of his had just arrived from the country and that he would like to introduce him to VASSALL. VASSALL agreed and the introduction took place in a nearby underground station. The skier then excused himself and VASSALL accepted an invitation to dine with his new acquaintance at the Berlin Hotel.

On arrival at the hotel VASSALL was taken to an upstairs room where he was introduced to six or seven more Russians, all of whom spoke English. They had a lavish dinner after which VASSALL was plied with strong brandy. VASSALL felt the room become very hot and noticed that his companions had removed their jackets. His jacket also was removed and later he was undressed and a homosexual orgy with several members of the party took place on a divan. While this was going on the man who had brought him to the party took photographs. VASSALL was then helped to dress and finally sent home in a taxi.

In November VASSALL attended another dinner party at which he was introduced to a man who described himself as a journalist but who later proved to be an RIS officer named CHURANOV. Nothing improper took place at this dinner which VASSALL considers was arranged in order that CHURANOV could have a look at him.

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VASSALL continued to see his skier friend and through him arrangements were made for VASSALL to meet a military officer in March 1955 near the Kievsky Station. VASSALL went to the rendezvous as arranged and was introduced to the military officer by the skier. VASSALL accompanied the two Russians to a flat where they had drinks, after which the skier told VASSALL that the military officer wanted to kiss him in another room. VASSALL went into another room with the military officer who did kiss him. After about twenty minutes the lights in the room went out, the door was opened and the military officer rushed out. VASSALL, who was by then very frightened, followed and, instead of seeing his skier friend, was confronted with CHURANOV and another man known as "Nikolai". VASSALL was obliged to sit at a table with CHURANOV and his companions who interrogated him until about 3:30 the following morning.

During the interrogation they produced a pile of photographs and showed two to VASSALL of himself in shameful positions at the Berlin Hotel orgy. They told VASSALL that what he had been doing was a serious offence in the Soviet Union which could be punishable with a prison sentence. They asked him how he would like it if they were to show the photographs to Lady HAYTER<sup>1</sup> as an example of the way members of the Embassy staff spent their leisure. They told VASSALL that they could publish the photographs in the press to reveal how Western diplomats behaved in the U.S.S.R. They asked VASSALL how he would like his parents to know that he did this kind of thing. Later they told VASSALL that they would like him to make a statement. VASSALL refused to do this. They then told VASSALL that they would not let him leave the room until he promised to meet them again the following evening. VASSALL agreed to do this.

VASSALL met Nikolai and CHURANOV the next evening and they went to the Sovetskaya Hotel where VASSALL was again subjected to an intensive interrogation. During the interrogation Nikolai and CHURANOV told VASSALL that they knew that several members of the British Embassy staff, including some of the Service Attaches, were spies. They asked VASSALL to tell them who the spies were. VASSALL pretended that he did not know and they again produced the photographs hinting that they might cause an international incident if VASSALL told the British Embassy what had happened. Finally, VASSALL agreed to meet them again some days later near the Yaroslavskiy Station where most of the subsequent meetings with his Russian controllers took place.

VASSALL soon began meeting his Russian controllers at three-weekly intervals and at these meetings he was questioned about the activities of the British Embassy in Moscow and about the members of the Embassy staff. It was about September 1955 that VASSALL was told they required something more interesting than what he had given them

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<sup>1</sup>Wife of the then British Ambassador to Moscow.

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so far. As a result of the pressure put upon him VASSALL agreed to bring documents from the Embassy with him to further meetings. He continued to do this until he left Moscow. It appears that the documents were photographed at the safe flat and returned to him.

VASSALL's activities during his tour of duty in the U.S.S.R. were kept under close scrutiny by the RIS following his compromise and recruitment. All of his trips in and out of the U.S.S.R. appear to have required prior authorization from his Russian controllers. VASSALL's tour of duty in the U.S.S.R. ended on 2 June 1956 and prior to resuming work at the Admiralty in London he took a trip to Finland, Scandinavia, the U.S.A. and Canada. VASSALL visited an old acquaintance in Vancouver, B.C., and spent a weekend with him and with a third male who shared living accommodations with VASSALL's friend. The duration of VASSALL's weekend visit was spent at a summer cottage near Vancouver with these two persons. One of these two individuals admitted to past homosexual activity although he denied being a homosexual at that time (1956). These two individuals have been living together since 1949 and gave every indication that they were in fact active homosexuals.

Upon return to England in July 1956 VASSALL resumed work at the Admiralty. From 1956 to 1962 VASSALL was successfully run as an agent by the RIS and supplied them with numerous highly classified documents. His espionage activities, which severely damaged British secret Naval research, ended in September 1962 following an investigation [REDACTED]



RCMP EYES ONLY

APPENDIX 5David Moffat JOHNSON

On 14 October 1959 a self-confessed homosexual reported that from his conversations with other homosexuals and his observations of JOHNSON's habits and behavior he had no doubt that JOHNSON, who was at that time Canadian Ambassador in Moscow, U.S.S.R., was a homosexual. This information was immediately passed to the Department of External Affairs; however, that Department was of the opinion that the evidence against JOHNSON was too inconclusive to warrant recalling him from Moscow.

Further investigations among known homosexuals revealed that JOHNSON was known to have visited notorious homosexual meeting places in Montreal and New York, and London, England. In addition, a known homosexual reported that in 1956, just prior to JOHNSON's departure for Moscow, JOHNSON had attempted to "date" him.

In April 1960, in an interview with the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, JOHNSON admitted having had homosexual relationships during his service in the Canadian Army (1943 to 1945) but denied any such liaisons since being appointed Ambassador to the U.S.S.R. JOHNSON agreed to resign from the Department but instead was placed on loan to the United Nations Technical Assistance Board in Nigeria until his resignation on 6 September 1963.

On 28 October 1965 JOHNSON was interviewed by the RCMP but contributed nothing to our overall knowledge of events during his four and one-half years as Canadian Ambassador in Moscow. He appeared, however, to know a great deal more than he cared to admit.

While there is no evidence to indicate that JOHNSON was ever successfully homosexually compromised and recruited by the RIS, it is of interest to note that Anatoliy NIKITIN alias GROMOV, the KGB officer who controlled the British defectors BURGESS and McLEAN and who was involved in the homosexual compromising of JOHNSON's predecessor in Moscow, John Benjamin Clark WATKINS,<sup>1</sup> appears to have attempted<sup>2</sup> to talent spot and cultivate JOHNSON during his stay in Moscow. In addition, it was while JOHNSON was the Canadian Ambassador in Moscow that [REDACTED] (see APPENDIX 1) was compromised by the RIS.

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<sup>1</sup>See also APPENDIX 3.

<sup>2</sup>JOHNSON rebuffed NIKITIN's attempt by making NIKITIN unwelcome at the Canadian Embassy in Moscow.

TOP SECRET

RCMP EYES ONLY

## APPENDIX 6

John Wendell HOLMES

[REDACTED], a self-confessed homosexual whom the RIS attempted to blackmail into recruitment in May 1958 (see APPENDIX 1), stated voluntarily to RCMP investigators in an interview on 22 November 1958 that he had engaged in homosexual relations with John Wendell HOLMES on three separate occasions in September of 1948. At this time HOLMES was Charge d'Affaires of the Canadian Mission in Moscow. [REDACTED] further stated that when he returned to Ottawa in March or April of 1949 he again had homosexual relations with HOLMES and continued having such relations approximately once a month for some two years. In 1955, while stationed in Paris, [REDACTED] again met HOLMES who was travelling to Moscow with Mr. PEARSON. During his three-day stay in Paris, HOLMES had homosexual relations with [REDACTED].

In view of this evidence and the knowledge that the RIS had shown an increasing tendency to exploit this particular field, HOLMES' association with members of the Soviet-bloc Missions in Canada was reviewed. HOLMES was on quite intimate terms with Mieczylaw SIERADSKI, Charge d'Affaires of the Polish Legation and had not been submitting reports of his contacts with SIERADSKI. In addition, HOLMES was associated with V.I. PEUTIN, Counsellor of the U.S.S.R. Embassy, Ottawa, an identified KGB officer of high calibre whose main task while stationed in the U.K. from 1951 to 1954 appeared to be the penetration of the Foreign Office.

In November 1959 HOLMES was interviewed and admitted to being a homosexual and to having had homosexual relations with [REDACTED] and other homosexuals. HOLMES also stated that he had had homosexual relations with a member of the staff of a friendly foreign country's Embassy in Moscow in 1948. These acts took place in HOLMES' suite on one occasion, in his "partner's" quarters, and on several occasions in the woods outside Moscow. On some of the latter occasions HOLMES and his "partner" were part of groups going on small staff picnics which had been driven to the picnic sites by Russian chauffeurs. HOLMES further admitted to having had homosexual relations with an artist in New York in 1950 and with a former Canadian Government employee who was working at the United Nations.

In the spring of 1960 HOLMES who was then Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs was asked to resign from the Department and subsequently joined the Canadian Institute of International Affairs of which he is now President. Further investigation has revealed that HOLMES might have had homosexual relations with a Soviet national who was a chauffeur at the Canadian Embassy in Moscow.

Continued investigation of HOLMES has failed to reveal any evidence indicating that the KGB has exploited or tried to exploit his character weaknesses. In addition, there is no evidence to date that HOLMES has ever been involved in espionage activities.

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[REDACTED]

On 16 April 1958 the Department of External Affairs advised that they has reason to suspect that [REDACTED] serving with the Canadian contingent of [REDACTED], was a homosexual. The initial evidence of [REDACTED]'s homosexuality was based on his reported nocturnal associations with young male Laotians and with Andrzej JEDYNAK,<sup>1</sup> Political Counsellor with the Polish section of the ISC. [REDACTED] returned to Canada in 1958 and was employed in the [REDACTED] division of External Affairs. In October of that year confirmation of his homosexual tendencies was obtained.

[REDACTED] a confessed homosexual, admitted that he was being "kept" by [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] lived in the same apartment, and was provided with spending money and a car by [REDACTED]. In return, [REDACTED] acted as [REDACTED]'s homosexual partner and assisted in typing speeches for "Ministers of the Government" as well as writing French correspondence for [REDACTED].

In September 1959 [REDACTED] was asked to resign from the Department of External Affairs and he subsequently took employment with the CBC where he is now [REDACTED] of the English-language network.

There is no evidence to indicate that [REDACTED] was successfully compromised or recruited by the Polish Intelligence Service (PIS); however, his character weakness was probably made known to the Soviet-bloc intelligence services through the suspected PIS officer Andrzej JEDYNAK.

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<sup>1</sup>A Mr. JEDYNAK, probably identical, was subsequently identified [REDACTED] as an "operations officer of the PIS".

Jean Phillipe LUPIEN

Jean Phillipe LUPIEN, a senior vice president of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and a resident of Hull, Quebec, travelled to Vancouver, B.C., in February 1967 in order to attend a federal-provincial housing conference.

While in Vancouver, LUPIEN was arrested following a police raid of the Parkway Motel in Vancouver on 3 February 1967, together with Serge Marc BOISVERT, twenty-one, an entertainer from Montreal. They were jointly charged with Gross Indecency under Section 149 of the Criminal Code.<sup>1</sup>

BOISVERT, dressed as a woman, was found in bed with LUPIEN about to commit a grossly indecent act. BOISVERT informed the police that he had met LUPIEN at the Kit Kat Club in Vancouver and knew of him because he and LUPIEN had "been to bed together before in Montreal".

Although this particular case is not of security interest, it has been included to demonstrate how easily class lines and geographic boundaries can be crossed by homosexuals.

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<sup>1</sup>LUPIEN was found guilty of this offence in County Court on 15 June 1967 and was fined \$750. BOISVERT had previously pleaded guilty.



James Duncan ALBRIGHT

James Duncan ALBRIGHT, a self-confessed homosexual, is employed as a security guard with the House of Commons Protective Staff in Ottawa. In 1963, after being given a one-year suspended sentence for Gross Indecency, ALBRIGHT provided the names and occupations of his homosexual acquaintances in the Ottawa area, some of whom he had had homosexual relations with, others whom he knew or suspected to be homosexuals.

Included in the list of some thirty-three names that ALBRIGHT provided were ten members of the Armed Services, two Members of Parliament, and seventeen Government employees at various levels in both sensitive and non-sensitive departments.

ALBRIGHT's case is noteworthy because, first, although his employment does not provide him with direct access to classified information, he is admirably placed to provide information as to the identities and positions of known and suspected homosexuals who do have such access, information which would be of great value to a hostile intelligence organization and, second, his wide range of contacts with other homosexuals in the Ottawa area demonstrates how easily class and security boundary lines may be crossed by a homosexual employed in a Government post of no special sensitivity.