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# Cry Spy! True Stories of 20th Century Spies and Spy Catchers

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shows that even in the era of sail the major problems facing the operating forces were personnel, support by the shore establishment, and communications. In that era press gangs provided seamen, and dockyards were inefficient, if not corrupt. Communications were slow and unreliable, even among ships in company.

Adm. Sir George Rodney's professional life spanned nearly half a century, from the war with Spain in the mid-1730's until the conclusion of the American Revolution. David Spinney, accurately and with great skill, describes the pitfalls which an 18th century Royal Navy officer had to avoid in order to have a successful career. Because advancement was uncertain, a naval officer had to play partisan politics, which at that time were rough.

As a vice admiral, Rodney ran for Parliament. For all practical purposes, he bought the votes that put him in office, thereby ruining himself financially. It was necessary, because only by being politically important could he hope to be given suitable commands. Some commands were more sought after than others, primarily because of the prize money involved. A flag officer's or captain's share was considerable. The wranglings, vexations, and heartaches accompanying the awarding of prize money were such that the modern naval officer is glad he is spared that problem.

As a politician, Rodney had a genius for miscalculation, which his speeches and political alignments in retirement prove only too well. If his forte was not politics, he was above all else a truly outstanding naval officer. His two passions at sea were gunnery and the welfare of his seamen.

The record Rodney left is replete with evidence of his prodding and his dynamic efforts to better the lot of his men. In an age not noted for its humanity, this one trait endeared him to British sailors, who frequently re-

quested to serve under his command.

Today Rodney's passion for gunnery could be called operational readiness. He was more than justified in his rigid insistence upon training, seamanship, and discipline. The proof came in a remarkable series of victories over the Spanish and the French. It was only by the merest chance that Sir Thomas Graves and not Rodney met the Comte de Grasse off the Chesapeake in 1781. As a result of Graves' mishandling his ships, which Rodney probably would not have done, De Grasse was able to cut off Cornwallis from reinforcements by sea at Yorktown.

The style of this work is lucid and readable, and the research is thorough. The result is a definitive biography of an outstanding naval officer and an entertaining description of the times in which he lived.

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Wilkinson, Burke, ed. *Cry Spy! True Stories of 20th Century Spies and Spy Catchers*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Bradbury Press, 1969. 271p.

Burke Wilkinson, who headed the Navy's Magazine and Book Section as a Naval Reserve commander before he became a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State and then Civilian Advisor to SAC Europe, ends this book with a quotation from Allen Dulles (the founder of CIA) that bears repeating: "In a free society counterespionage is based on the practice most useful for hunting rabbits. Rather than look for the rabbit, one posts oneself in a spot where the rabbit is likely to pass."

These true stories—many in the recorded words of the spies or spy catchers themselves—might help us position ourselves to prevent or catch the next "big security break."

A new generation is taking over the military-government-political-social world, and many of these young people have not had security bred into them.

They have not known someone who faced a court-martial or who was called to his office at 2 a.m. to explain an unsecured document. They may even believe that spies are really "James Bonds" or "aging men with a chill who want to quit" and the country will always be safe in the last few feet of colored film.

Commander Wilkinson's true spy stories range from Mata Hari to "Lucy," from Cicero to Sorge, from Abel to Crabbe, and Philby to Wynne. He suggests that we read them for adventure, for entertainment, and for information, but not for "escape from the strange,

spy-ridden world in which we live." This reviewer urges that they also be read for their lessons, extrapolated or projected, to put us on guard for the rest of this "century of the spy." The *Pueblo* could not happen nor the Fuchs' theft of nuclear secrets nor Lang's theft of the Norden bombsight . . . What unexpected or impossible security breach will happen next? Reading *Cry Spy!* may be a valuable as well as entertaining step toward catching that next big rabbit before he steals too much lettuce.

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