

TOP SECRET

O.H.M.S.  
WHITEHALL

1944



-- Edward Arnold Chapman --

Agent 0747587949 / ZIGZAG



**DECLASSIFIED**

**01.01.2005**

**CLASSIFIED LEVEL 5 SECURITY.**

According to the Official Secrets Act 1911.

Inc. c.1700pp documents:

Interrogations transcripts, wireless intercepts, reports, descriptions, diagrams, internal memos, minutes, letters, diary entries, newspaper reports & photographs.

-- EDWARD ARNOLD CHAPMAN --  
"Eddie Chapman"

DoB: 16.11.1914

B. Burnup Field, Nr Durham

Known as: Edward Edwards,  
Edward Simpson,  
Arnold Thompson  
Fritz  
Fritzschen,  
Agent X  
Agent Zigzag

Appearance: Four gold teeth, scar on knee.  
Physically strong and lean.  
Handsome. Extremely attractive to women.

Character assessment:

Chapman is a man who likes - perhaps needs - to live on the fringes of society and has a strong desire to break its rules. He is driven by adventure and is often scornful of authority, with a talent for misbehaviour. And yet Chapman also shows a curious inclination to conform at times, perhaps motivated by patriotism; perhaps by an underlying sense of decency. Certainly religion does not seem to influence his moral code; Chapman is openly Godless, although he is also a staunch pacifist who abhors the use of violence both domestically and institutionally. Chapman undoubtedly thinks of himself as a principled crook, which may well be the most accurate label for him.

Intellectually Chapman is highly unusual. Whilst lacking much in the way of formal education he is nevertheless extremely astute and aspires to improve himself. He is a voracious reader and keen linguist but is easily bored and can quickly become insolent.

Whilst generally obstinate and single minded, Chapman is undoubtedly susceptible to the lure of attractive women, wealth and drink. Prolonged denial to any of these things can provoke unpredictable and destructive behaviour. Left to his own devices, Chapman will quickly turn to petty thievery or worse to support a lifestyle of prostitutes, cognac, gambling, Savile Row tailoring and fast cars.

## Condensed Biography:

Childhood poor but not destitute. Mother dies of TB, 1925. Lack of formal education and prolonged periods of truancy from school. Brief spell as guardsman in Coldstream Guards ends 1932, when Chapman absconds from leave. Arrested and detained at Aldershot military prison - the first of many gaol sentences.

1935-39. Chapman repeatedly imprisoned and fined for petty crimes including robbery, trespassing, attempted housebreaking, fraud, lewd behaviour and blackmailing. Criminal offences worsen as Chapman colludes with 'Jelly Gang', notorious gelignite safe breakers.

February 1939 Chapman captured in Jersey and sentenced to two years' hard labour - extended to three years after he escapes, temporarily, and reoffends. Teaches himself French and German from his cell.

October 1941 Chapman released from prison and sets up black market barber shop in Jersey, now under Nazi occupation. Bored, Chapman approaches German Intelligence and is recruited to 'Abwehr' by aristocrat and dilettante Stephan Albert Heinrich von Gröning.

Stationed in Nantes, Chapman is pampered, watched and trained in morse code, bomb making, parachuting and sabotage. 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 1942 Chapman parachutes into Cambridgeshire on espionage mission to blow up De Havilland Mosquito factory, Hatfield. Immediately turns himself in to British authorities.

Recruited as double agent by MI5, Chapman and renowned magician Jasper Maskelyne successfully fake bombing of De Havilland, 29<sup>th</sup> Jan 1943. Chapman continues to feed misinformation to Germany. Jan 1944 Chapman returns to France via Lisbon, where he stages sabotage of British merchant ship The City of Lancaster. Chapman receives Iron Cross for services to German war effort.

Chapman posted to occupied Norway, spring 1944, where he begins affair with Dagmar Lahlum, member of underground Norwegian resistance. June 1944 Chapman returns to Britain to inform on accuracy of German V1 attacks on London and, with MI5, skews reports so damage is directed away from capital. Commended by Churchill for services to British intelligence.

Post war, Chapman released by MI5 and returns to life of crime. Autobiography blocked under Official Secrets Act. Dies 1997 aged 83. Files released 1 Jan 2005.

Associates: Betty Farmer (mistress)

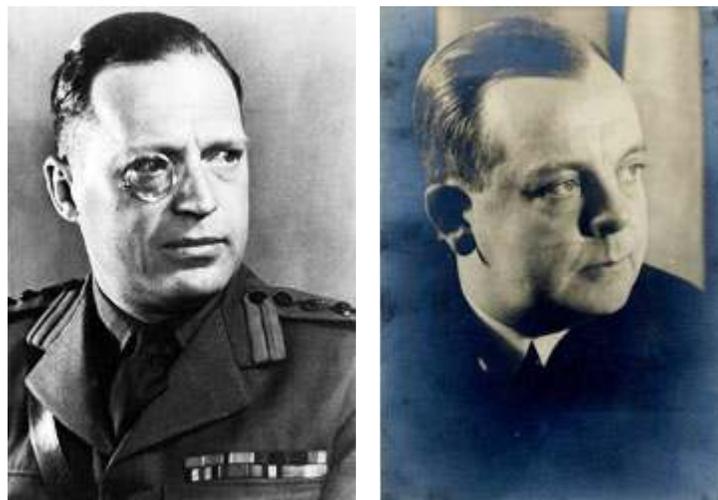
Frieda Stevenson (wife, and mother of daughter Diane Chapman, b. Southend, 1939)

Dagmar Mohne Lahlum (Norwegian mistress, spy)

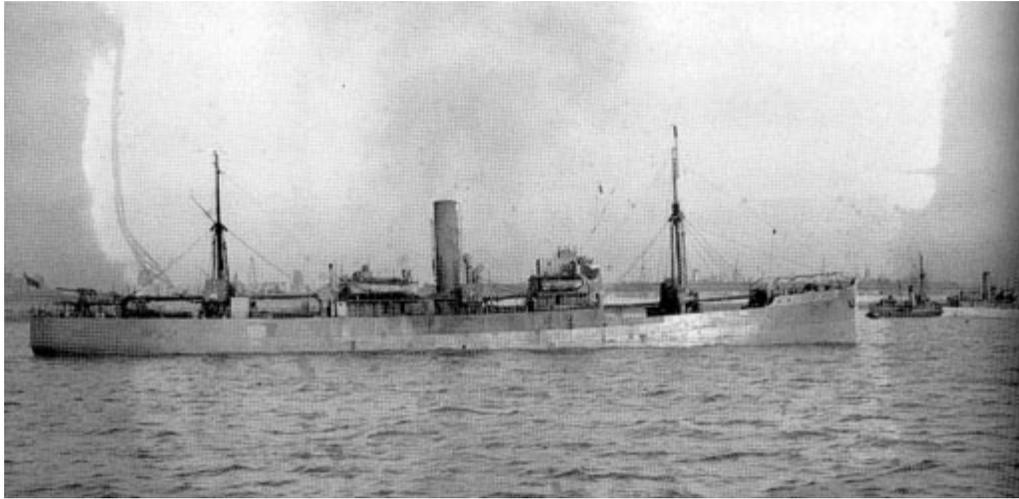


From left to right:

Betty Farmer; Dagmar Lahlum, the Norwegian girlfriend unofficially recruited by Chapman into MI5; Frieda Stevenson, pictured here with baby Diane, her daughter fathered by Chapman.



Left: Colonel Robin 'Tin Eye' Stephens, commander of Camp 020.  
Right: Rittmeister Stephan von Groning (alias Doctor Graumann), Chapman's aristocratic German spymaster.



The City of Lancaster: The 3,000 ton merchant vessel, commanded by Captain Reginald Kearon, which carried Chapman to Lisbon.



Left: The Mosquito bomber under construction at the De Havilland aircraft factory in Hatfield, Hertfordshire.



Left: Chapman in his pomp, posing with his Rolls-Royce.

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**1942**

Re: Agent Zigzag - character profile



The story of many a spy is commonplace and drab. It would not pass muster in fiction. The subject is a failure in life. The motive is sordid. Fear is present. Patriotism is absent. Silence is not the equipment of a brave man, rather it is the reaction to a dread of consequence. High adventure just means nothing at all.

The story of Chapman is different. In fiction it would be rejected as improbable. The subject is a crook, but as a crook he is by no means a failure. His career in crime has been progressive, from Army desertion to indecency, from women to blackmail, from robbery to the blowing of safes. Latterly his rewards have been large, and no doubt he despises himself for his petty beginnings. The man, essentially vain, has grown in stature and, in his own estimation, is something of a prince of the underworld. He has no scruples and will stop at nothing. He makes no bargain with society and money is a means to an end. Of fear, he knows nothing, and he certainly has a deep rooted hatred of the Hun. In a word, adventure to Chapman is the breath of life. Given adventure, he has the courage to achieve the unbelievable. His very recklessness is his standby. Today he is a German parachute spy; tomorrow he will undertake a desperate hazard as an active double agent, the stake for which is his life. Without adventure, he would rebel; in the ultimate he will have recourse again to crime in search of the unusual. The risk is considerable, but so long as there is a chance of success I think the risk should be taken.

For Chapman, only one thing is certain, the greater the adventure, the greater is the chance of success.

**Lieutenant Colonel Robin "Tin Eye" Stephens**

Commander of Camp O20, Britain's secret interrogation centre for captured enemy spies