

More Page-by-Page Bonus Material

- p.4 ‘Thuggish men... vessel’s cargo.’ (The piers at Hoboken were a focus for organised crime. In 1947 and 1948, *The New York Sun* ran a Pulitzer Prize-winning exposé of waterfront corruption and violence. Yet the problem persisted, culminating in two gangland executions near the entrance to Pier 3. Budd Schulberg, the journalist, screenwriter and novelist, was inspired by *The New York Sun* articles to write a long feature on the subject for *The Saturday Evening Post*. It provided the basis for his script of the Oscar-winning movie, *On the Waterfront* (1954), which was filmed on location in Hoboken.)
- p.5 ‘During its... fashion-world celebrity’. (Anna Wolkoff’s shop opened in June 1935 and closed in January 1939. Even after its closure, she retained her status as a minor celebrity. Confirmation of this is provided by the decision of Clark’s shoes to pay her to endorse a limited edition of women’s shoes, bearing a printed version of her autograph. These were being promoted as late as June 1939.)
- p.8 ‘Roughly the size... a balcony’. (The Nordic League’s meeting was held in the Great Hall at Caxton Hall.)
- p.8 ‘Tonight she had... and fascism.’ (Enid Riddell’s escort was Bob Ramsay, son of Captain Archibald Henry Maule Ramsay, one of the key figures within the Nordic League.)
- p.9 ‘Her clipped... elocution lessons.’ (Each week Miss Reade, the elocution mistress at St James’s School, would make all the girls press their hands against their stomachs while they recited the tongue-twisting lines, ‘Gold, gold, hard and cold, hugged right down to the churchyard’s mould, scorned by the young and loved by the old.’
- p.9 ‘Or she could... *Sylphides*.’ (The entertainments were billed as follows: ‘Hashem Khan: Russian and Gipsy Songs; Russian Ballet, Irina Baronova and Anton Dolin in ‘Pas de deux’ from Ballet ‘Les Sylphides’. At the piano Vladimir Launitz; Zinaïda Rostova in a

repertoire of Russian and Gipsy Songs; Medvedeff's Balailaika Orchestra and Dance Band.')

p.9 'She loved talking... in her orbit'. (Other titled friends included Pauline Daubegny, daughter of Prince Nicholas Galitzine; Lady Houston-Boswall; Lady Bailey; Count Albrecht Montgelas; Prince Michael of Russia; as well as Viscount and Lady Tredegar.)

p.9 'Just for starters... Queen Mary'. (Queen Mary had also been a customer of the antiques shop next to Anna de Wolkoff Haute Couture Modes. The shop was run by Prince Vladimir Galitzine, a friend of Admiral and Mme Wolkoff. Film footage of Galitzine's shop can be seen by visiting Criticalpast.com and keying in 'A woman looks at art objects.')

p.11 'A colleague of his... personal interest.' (That colleague was Oliver Conway Gilbert, who had helped to set up the Nordic League and could sometimes be seen on stewarding duties.)

p.11 'Jock had come... other MPs.' (There's a suggestion that John McGovan, the Independent Labour MP for Glasgow, attended the Caxton Hall meeting.)

p.13 'out of kilter... and texture.' (In her youth she had worked as a so-called 'matching girl' for a clothes designer based in Hanover Square. She talks about this in the *March of Time* newreel, 'White Russian Anna de Wolkoff at work in her haute couture boutique...', available at Criticalpast.com. A matching girl was responsible for assisting the designer by matching fabric swatches with dye samples and also with zips, beading, thread and other fabrics. According to Oriole Cullen, Curator of Early Twentieth-Century Dress and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, 'This entailed lots of running up and down between floors within an atelier and running around London to suppliers to obtain correct items.')

p.13 'In the presence of... guest speaker.' (This was Arthur F. Loveday, OBE, who believed

that Spain's deposed Republican government had been working in the cause of the supposed Judaeo-Masonic-Communist conspiracy against western civilisation. He went on to become a member of the Right Club, the new organization set up by Captain Ramsay.)

p.14 'Speaking in more... of mankind'. (Writing in his book, *World War in Spain*, he voiced an absurdly starry-eyed view of General Franco, the Spanish dictator: 'Hand in hand with his love of justice and unbending discipline has gone a mercifulness to the vanquished that the world has seldom seen.')

p.15 'Within the... at her shop.' (Anna Wolkoff's encounter was with Muriel Wright. The two women had first met in 1938. They'd been introduced by Wright's cousin, Bridget Hurt, who had lately married into the Mellon family, a wealthy New York clan. Wright had then worked at Anna de Wolkoff Haute Couture Modes between September and October 1938. Her aunt, Lady Winifred Elwes, widow of a famous oratorio singer, had invited her to the Caxton Hall meeting.)

p.15 'a new organisation... Ramsay.' (Captain Ramsay later claimed to have co-founded the Right Club with Major John Carlton Cross.)

p.17 'Volatile in... oppressed people.' (In a letter to Walter Winchell of *The New York Daily Mirror* on 8.3.44, Tyler Kent's mother wrote that he was 'enthusiastic' about the Soviet Union at the time he first went there.)

p.18 'Tyler secured... the US Consular Service.' (Tyler Kent's references came from such notables as Harry F. Byrd, the Democratic Party Senator for Virginia; Secretary of State Cordell Hull; Assistant Secretary of State R. Walton Moore; Wilbur Carr, an ex-had of the US Consular Service; John B. Cochran, the head of the Franklin National Bank; Charles Warden, a leading businessman in Washington, D.C.; and Gordon C. Sykes, the assistant to the Dean of Princeton University; and the Reverend Albert H. Lewis, the headmaster at St Alban's, Tyler Kent's old school. 'Mr Kent had a very enviable reputation at St Alban's for integrity and scholarship,' wrote the Reverend Lewis.)

p.19 'the Left Bank bohemian set.' (In Paris, Gene Pressly mixed with the likes of the poet Hart

Crane and the photographer Tina Modotti. His landlord Ford Madox Ford's 1934 memoir, *It Was The Nightingale*, ended up being dedicated to him.)

- p.21 'prosperous so-called "Dolphinians".' (Into this category fell two Hood House residents: Wing Commander Windham Hornby and Lady Clarke-Jervoise.)
- p.21 'a windowless modern kitchen'. (The presence of storage cabinets, a fancy new fridge and cooker, plus a stainless steel sink and draining-board justified its billing as a luxury kitchen. Handy for those occasions when Max Knight needed a snack.)
- p.22 'one of whom... ballet school'. (Valya Scott's daughter, Margi Scott, would go on to become the Bolshoi's first black ballerina. She worked as a Principal Dancer there. Later, she became a choreographer.)
- p.23 'Under the gaze of... formations.' (Those formations included industrial workers, sportsmen, acrobats, Cossack cavalrymen, as well as Uzbek dancing girls trailing streamers that made it appear as if someone was scribbling on the air above them. Also featured in the parades were tanks, anti-aircraft guns, motorcycles with sidecars, heavy artillery, groups of people carrying unwieldy replicas of aeroplanes and locomotives.)
- p.27 'thirteen agents'. (Those agents were a varied bunch. One of them was Robert Blockey, an ornithologist employed as Assistant Curator at the Haslemere Educational Museum in Hampshire. Another was Ferdinand Mayer-Horckel, a twenty-three-year-old German Jewish refugee who was training to be an actor. He'd later enjoy a successful film and television career under the stage-name of under the stage name of Ferdy Mayne.)
- p.30 'someone whose clothes... Cecil Beaton.' (Staged against a plain studio backdrop, along which railings have been crudely painted, Beaton's spectacular black-and-white photograph depicts a line of six female models. Each of them stands to attention in front of a row of sentry-boxes. One of the models is wearing a fitted navy-blue suit, marigold yellow blouse and blue beret, all designed by Anna Wolkoff. The picture spans two pages of British *Vogue's* special Coronation issue.)

- p.30 'Still... fashionable designs.' (As well as being a customer of Busvine's, Queen Mary used to patronize the antiques shop next-door to Anna Wolkoff's business. Prince Vladimir Galitzine, whose wife was a friend of Wolkoff and her parents, owned the antiques shop. Much of its stock was acquired from other White Russian émigrés who needed to sell possessions that they had brought with them from the Motherland. Between 1928 and 1934, Queen Mary purchased at least six items of Fabergé: a cigarette-box, an agate bird, two parrots, a duck and a cockerel. By visiting Criticalpast.com and keying in 'A woman looks at art objects', you can see the interior of Prince Galitzine's famous Conduit Street premises.)
- p.31 'from the septuagenarian... Anna's.' (The pharmacist was Theodor Dietzsch, who had been a Nazi Party member since August 1935.)
- p.34 'Before boarding... friend's agency'. (The New York offices of the International News Service were located at 235 East 45th Street. Tyler Kent's friend there was Barry Farris, who would sometimes dispense homespun wisdom. 'Stories are like vegetables,' he told one reporter. 'Use them quickly or they spoil.')
- p.42 "In a characteristically... neighbouring flat." (That woman was someone named Margaret Meadows.)
- p.30 'Convention dictate... "Miss Busvine".' (Mrs Paget-Jones, the manageress of Ann Wolkoff's shop, had been known as 'Miss Yvonne'.)
- p.30 'Run by... Nazi Part member'. (The boss of the German Hospital was Dr Otto Bode. His employees possessed strong ties to the neighbouring Hamburger Lutherische Church, which had an enthusiastically pro-Nazi pastor.)
- p.35 'he was married to... a viscount'. (Captain Ramsay's wife was the Honourable Ismay Ramsay, daughter of the fourteenth Viscount Gormanston and widow of Lord Ninian Crichton-Stuart, MP, who had been killed during the First World War. One of her relatives by marriage – Lord Colum Crichton-Stuart, MP for Northwich in Cheshire – became a Right Club member.)

- p.35 'numbered Queen Mary... his friends.' (Another of Queen Mary's friends was her former Lady-in-Waiting – Dorothy, Viscountess Downe, who was a Right Club member and a vigorous proponent of fascism.)
- p.37 'Thanks great Stalin... happier life.' (Another such Soviet placard declared, 'Now, comrades, life is better, life is brighter.')
- p.40 'His elder brother... be a friend.' (Henry W. Antheil's elder brother, George Antheil, was the composer of 'Ballet mécanique' (1927), a scandalous avant-garde concert piece performed at Carnegie Hall over a decade earlier. Multi-talented to an implausible degree, George Antheil collaborated with the beautiful Hollywood actress, Hedy Lamarr, in the research for an innovative 1942 patent. Together they developed what's known as spread-spectrum technology, which wouldn't be fully exploited until the dawn of mobile phones and WIFI.)
- p.41 'hungered for... social life.' (Max and Lois Knight's friends included Eric and Joanna St Johnston. Lois had first got to know Joanna the year before last. They'd met while Joanna had been on dog-walking duties. Max and his wife had become friends with the St Johnstons soon afterwards. Like Max, Eric St Johnston was an aficionado of cricket, his upbringing near the Warwickshire County Cricket ground enabling him to reminisce about great teams he'd seen there. Few of those were greater than the 1922 Australian IX, captained by Warwick Armstrong. Currently the Police Liaison Officer for the Borough of Fulham, Eric had been a constable in the West End at the time he and Max became acquainted. Not long after their first encounter, Max had read a Metropolitan Police report written by Eric about a hotel on Half Moon Street. The hotel had aroused Eric's suspicion because it was connected to another ostensibly separate establishment on Clarges Street. Eric – who had been under the impression that Max was a civil servant at the War Office – was astonished to discover that Max knew about the report. Max had then revealed to him that he worked for MI5, and that the hotel was of interest to the Security Service because it was a meeting place favoured by suspected Nazi sympathisers.)
- p.42 'Their home... end of Sloane Street.' (Max and Lois Knight lived in a now demolished

building at 38 Sloane Street. They shared the address with Adams & Watts, House Agents; and Margaret Meadows Ltd, Ladies' Sportswear. Adjoining No. 38 were Dorann Ltd, Ladies' Hairdressers; and Miss Agnes Mitchell, Complexion Specialists.)

p.44 'Alternative forms of entertainment... in the Soviet press'. (Shopping was another leisure activity that had been purged of enjoyment by the Soviets. Most shops were so crowded that you had to wriggle your way from counter to counter while you decided what you hoped to purchase. Then you had to add up the prices, wait in line at the cashier's desk and hand over your money. Receipt in hand, you'd return to the original counter, where you were supposed to present your ticket to the salesgirl. Assuming your chosen item hadn't been sold while you were waiting, she would wrap your purchases in newspaper. God help you if you'd miscalculated the price. You'd have to go through the whole rigmarole again.)

p.48 'For many years... ocean liners.' (Captain and Mrs Ramsay had been among the guests at a small debutante party thrown for Barbara Allen (née Dixon) by her mother, the Honorable Mrs Cecil Campbell.)

p.48 'It provided them with... in Hampshire'. (The Allens' house was Commonwood near Chipperfield. There, she and her husband employed a cook, at least one housemaid and a Parisienne *au pair*.)

p.48 'Though her mother... recurrent reminder'. (Barbara Allen was the daughter of the late Honourable Mrs Cecil Campbell, a socialite who had married a rich New Yorker. Mrs Campbell had in 1929 competed in the Ladies Singles tournament at Wimbledon. Her daughter, Barbara, shared this sportiness, golf rather than tennis being the preferred pastime.)

p.50 'The newest recruit was... squire of Tythegston Court.' (Marjorie Norah Amor had been born in Essex in 1898 and married in 1921. Her son, James Amor Mackie, had been born in 1923. There has been speculation that Marjorie Amor was using the alias 'Mrs Amos'. The source of that speculation is Joan Miller's memoir, *One Girl's War* (see p.22). Since

Miller repeatedly mis-spells people's names – 'Hélène', for example, becoming 'Helen' – 'Amos' is most likely a misspelling of 'Amor'.)

p.56 'More than £4,000... eventual collapse.' (The friend in question was Lady Janet Bailey, daughter of Lord Inchcape of Strathnavar, the Chairman of the P & O shipping line. Lady Bailey and her husband, Lieutenant-Colonel F.G. Bailey, had homes at 4 Audley Square and Lake House, Salisbury. A keen showjumper, who had been runner-up in the Champion Cup competition at the 1935 Horse of the Year Show, she socialised with minor members of the royal family. She also knew Lady Domvile, wife of Admiral Sir Barry Domvile, a leading British fascist who ran the Link. Admiral and Lady Domvile were friends of Anna Wolkoff's parents. The Domviles were, in addition, friendly with several of Wolkoff's circle, notably Anna van Lennep and Margaret Bothamley, as well as Admiral and Christabel Nicholson.)

p.57 'The party had... latched onto Max.' (The venue for the party was Flat 64 at 15 Portman Square, home of a young Etonian socialite named Charles Birkin, who worked in MI5's Transport Section. Outside office hours Birkin penned macabre horror stories, first collected in *Devil's Spawn* (1936). And he could be found at a variety of high society events – at a Grosvenor House ball, also attended by Lord and Lady Mountbatten; and at a *Beau Geste*-themed fancy dress party staged at Claridge's. His friends included Prince Vsevelode of Russia and Lady Mary Lygon, widely believed to be the model for the character of Julia Flyte in Evelyn Waugh's 1945 novel, *Brideshead Revisited*.)

p.57 'Following their chance... occasion demanded.' (Dennis and Joan Wheatley's home was at 8 St John's Wood Park.)

p.58 'his tearaway nineteen-year-old stepdaughter'. (This was Diana Younger, whose insolence, not to mention her obsession with men, bouts of drunkenness, admiration for the Nazis, and what Dennis Wheatley considered her tarty get-up – high heels, furs, beauty spot, exposed cleavage and long varnished fingernails – had made her a source of unremitting anxiety to him and his wife. 'The way you let your breasts hang half out of your dress at Quaglino's [restaurant] the other night,' he wrote, '...honestly made me

writhe.’ In the face of Dennis and Joan Wheatley’s vociferous opposition, Diana Younger had recently got engaged to a penniless bank clerk.)

p.60 ‘Anna had wangled... baronial pile’. (Set in gardens strewn with statuary, Gross-Ullersdorf Castle featured a narrow tower not unlike the minarets that Anna Wolkoff’s grandfather had sometimes painted, their outlines softened by bright, gauzy light. Attached to the tower was a huddle of pale buildings, each floor incorporating an arcaded gallery that faced the central courtyard. Inside, there was a banqueting hall as well as a chapel decorated with baroque murals.)

p.62 ‘On the strength... investigate them.’ (Among those Special Branch officers was Detective Inspector Tommy Thompson, who had worked alongside him previously.)

p.63 ‘In a phonecall to... potential member.’ (Exhibiting minimal imaginative powers, Detective Inspector Tommy Thompson posed as ‘Colonel Thompson’.)

p.70 ‘Inside the... hotting up.’ (Working alongside Tyler Kent and Henry Antheil in the Code Room was a brash, athletic young man named Edward R. Pierce. Like Tyler Kent, he hailed from Virginia, only *he* hadn’t been to college or prep school. Instead, he’d served on the crew of a transatlantic freighter and had later been a mailroom messenger at the State Department in Washington DC. An expert tennis player, Pierce would, whenever he could escape from the Code Room, head over to the senior staff’s dacha. He kept being invited there, not to socialise but as a tennis partner for Chip Bohlen, one of the ambassador’s principal aides. Pierce’s prowess on the tennis court also earned him repeated invitations to play staff from the Italian Embassy—invitations that came from the Italian Ambassador’s wife, a rich American who liked mixing with people from her own country. The knowledge that Pierce was moving in these exalted circles must have been galling for Tyler Kent, who was so status-conscious.)

p.70 ‘or even photograph it’. (Tyler Kent was a keen photographer, who certainly used his camera when he was inside Mokhovaya House.)

p.71 ‘Hobnobbing with Dennis... overlap between Max and Dennis.’ (One of the areas of

overlap between Max Knight and William Joyce concerned the latter's first wife, Hazel Barr. During the mid-1920s when Barr was eighteen and Max Knight was only a few years older, they'd got to know each other because they travelled on the same bus. While she was going to school in Fulham, Knight was heading to a private school in Putney where he taught. The two of them briefly courted, their romance progressing far enough for Barr to introduce Knight to her mother, who was impressed by the revelation that he'd already had a couple of detective stories published.)

p.71 'What united the... Dennis branded them.' (Dennis Wheatley's social circle encompassed people as varied as Peter Cheyney and Joe Links. While Cheyney was a roguish Cockney raconteur, successful pulp novelist and fascist sympathiser, Links was a respectable Jewish businessman who doubled as Dennis's closest friend and occasional literary collaborator.)

p.74 'diverse businesses'. (Its gargantuan, air-conditioned foyer was lined with shops, a newsagent's, a pharmacy, and a ladies' hairdressing salon among them. The hallway also featured a bank of sixteen lifts, waiting to whisk people to any of the building's other eight floors.)

p.74 'Guy Liddell... puffing on a cigarette.' (Despite being physically unimposing, Guy Liddell – a distant relative of Alice Liddell, the little girl who had provided the model for *Alice in Wonderland's* title character – was a highly decorated First World War veteran. He was also notable in his own right. He was a very talented amateur cellist, purportedly good enough to have turned professional. Often he held musical *soirées* at his flat just down the road from Maxwell Knight's Sloane Street home.)

p.74 'Francis Aiken Sneath... ex-university lecturer'. (Currently in his mid-thirties, Francis Aiken Sneath – who had only been working for MI5 since the beginning of May 1939 – was a product of one of the top public schools. Prior to taking the job, he'd worked as a university lecturer in Kiel and Berlin, his first-hand knowledge of the rise of fascism in Germany having nurtured his move from agnosticism to Christianity.)

p.75 'back from Hungary... tree-lined walks.' (Last on Anna Wolkoff's itinerary was Sigra

Castle, a recently modernised eighteenth-century Hungarian stately home. Fringed by a large game-shooting estate, the Castle was close to the village of Ivánc, where she could have indulged her artistic interests by visiting its famous Art Nouveau church. She was staying with the owners of the estate, Count and Countess Sigray, whose grown-up daughter inhabited the same English clique as Anna's youngest sister, Kyra. Traditionally addressed by his surname as a mark of deference, Count Antal Sigray was almost a decade-and-a-half older than his guest. Ever since his youth, he had spent a lot of time in London, where he liked to base himself at Claridge's, one of the city's priciest hotels.

He'd paid another visit to Anna's adoptive hometown just before she had embarked on her Continental jaunt. When they'd met in London, she and Sigray had talked about the tension between Germany and Poland. No sympathiser with the Nazis, he'd nevertheless sided with them in the dispute. Much to Anna's satisfaction, he'd commented on what he portrayed as their patient response to Polish provocation.

Debonair and beady-eyed, his physiognomy in accord with his penchant for political intrigue, Sigray was the patriarch of one of Hungary's wealthiest families, that wealth magnified by his durable marriage to Harriet Daly, daughter of an American multimillionaire. Anna's friend spoke perfect English, enlivened by upper-class idioms straight out of a P.G. Wodehouse novel. Until lately, Sigray had served as the Hungarian Ambassador to the United States, but now he was concentrating on his role as leader of the right-wing Catholic so-called Legitimist movement, the objective of which was to restore the Hungarian monarchy and install the exiled Archduke Otto von Hapsburg on the throne.)

p.76 'It was on Gloucester Place Mews...' (Anna Wolkoff was living at 44 Gloucester Place Mews. She'd previously been at 91 Gloucester Place Mews, where she'd moved after brief spells at three other London addresses: 71 Royal Hospital Road, 10 Mount Row and 17 Queensbury Mews West.)

p.76 'During the time... down well.' (Len Deighton and his parents, Doris and Leonard, lived at No. 47. 'When I last walked through Gloucester Place Mews a couple of years back it was little changed from when we lived there. The most evident change was the loss of the attractive cobbled surface,' Len Deighton wrote. '[...] My mother was a skilled and experienced cook for just about every English dish.')

- p.76 'One person... Anna's father.' (Margaret Bothamley's Earls Court flat was at 67 Cromwell Road, a four-floor building large enough to house its own caretaker, who passed on information about her to Special Branch.)
- p.77 'For years... Himmler.' (Looking back fondly on her 1934 audience with Hitler, Mary Allen wrote, 'For two and half hours I sat absolutely entranced [...] My German is elementary, yet this man's hypnotic gestures, his passionate, forceful voice and his visionary eyes held me spellbound.')
- p.84 'Only the previous... more office space.' (The increased office space enabled MI5 to bring together departments dealing with postal and telegraph censorship, translation, codes, and ciphers.)
- p.86-7 'Still, she had... merchants.' (During the early 1930s Mme Wolkoff had also made an ill-fated stab at earning money by renting out a large house at 56 Warwick Road in Earls Court. The house had lain empty for a considerable time while she tried to let it. In September 1932, a well-spoken man going under the identity of Wing Commander L.H. Dew, OBE, DFC, AFC, MC answered her advertisement and rented the property on the basis that he'd be using it as a boarding house. Along with a young woman posing as his wife, he moved in and furnished it on credit. By mid-January 1933 the two of them had vanished, owing the first quarter's rent, as well as money for gas and electricity. The Wolkoffs' two tenants took with much of the hire-purchase furniture.)
- p.87 'She reacted... Advanced Air Strike Force.' (Anna Wolkoff's application may have been supported by her friend, Philip le Grand Gribble, who had served in the RAF.)
- p.90 'an area... house there.' (The Arts and Crafts-style house was at 10 Mount Row, near Berkeley Square.)
- p.90 'his circle encompassing... Sir Oswald Mosley.' (Another of that circle was Lady Diana Cooper.)
- p.92 'A colleague of Max's... over at Wormwood Scrubs.' (That colleague was Jack Curry,

who had just got back to work after a long spell of sick-leave.)

- p.96 'a friend of President Franklin D. Roosevelt'. (The friend was the combative George H. Earle, who was also a friend of Ambassador William C. Bullitt.)
- p.101 'Among the recurrent... and press.'" (The Hitler-worshipping Australian was 'Professor' Cecil Serrocold Skeels, an elderly man 'with a gift for tub-thumping.' As well as being a member of the Nordic League, he belonged to the United Empire Fascist Party, the Imperial Fascist League and the White Knights of Britain.)
- p.101 'Other stalwarts... 'Jewish Problem'.' (The Arab League's representative was George Mansur, who had declared himself proud of the link to the Nordic League. Outside fascist meetings, however, he strove to conceal this genocidal racism. In a letter to *The Times* on 15.8.39, for instance, he pleaded 'on behalf of those 600 unhappy Jewish refugees' who were stranded on a boat that had been refused permission to dock in Palestine.)
- p.101 'One of those council... the Jew?'" (The rhetorical question, 'Must every saviour be crucified by the Jew?', was posed by Captain Elwin Wright. In saying that, he was quoting Major-General J.F.C. Fuller, one of the most prominent figures within 1930s British fascism.)
- p.101 'His praise for... proud to die.'" (The Nordic League member who referred to Hitler as 'that great Crusader', was the retired Royal Naval officer, Commander E.H. Cole, former Chancellor of the White Knights of Britain.)
- p.102 'There were suspicions... agents as well.' (The suspected agents were Victor Rowe and Takuidi Egushi. Rowe had even gone so far as to admit that all true friends of Germany should be prepared to carry out espionage.)
- p.102 'There were... stop there.' (Another Nordic League member, Cecil Serrocold Skeels, was definitely a Nazi agent.)
- p.102 'In the course of the meeting... and the group's leaders.' (The statement was made by

Oliver Conway Gilbert, part of the Nordic League's Governing Council.)

p.102 "Last autumn... Britain's readiness for war.' (The recipient of that visit was Oliver Conway Gilbert, one of the leading lights in the Nordic League. In partnership with his father, Oliver Gilbert owned a small, loss-making electrical shop on Shouldham Street, near Edgware Road Underground Station. During September 1938, MI5 surveillance had exposed Gilbert's connection to a former German naval officer named Ernst Wilhelm Kruse. Tipped off that Kruse was being sent across the Channel to gather information about Britain's readiness for war, the Watchers had kept him under observation throughout his visit. Someone had provided Kruse with a typewritten copy of Gilbert's name and address. In between visiting London Docks, attempting to engage in conversation with soldiers, and trying to locate barracks and anti-aircraft gun emplacements, Kruse had made a pilgrimage to the shop on Shouldham Street, though Gilbert hadn't been at home when he visited.)

p.108 'Max used the additional... Jimmy Dickson'. (Joan Miller – prone to offer garbled versions of people's names – is responsible for the widely held belief that John Dickson Carr was recruited to B5b instead of Grierson Dickson. See *One Girl's War*, p.60. John Dickson Carr was a better known and altogether more successful crime writer than Grierson Dickson.)

p.110 'HMS *Worcester*, moored... of the Thames'. (In those days the ship's mooring was moored in Greenhithe Bay.)

p.111 'Bill was nonetheless deemed... unrelated investigation.' (On Saturday 23 September 1939, Bill Younger was allowed to accompany Francis Aiken Sneath and two Special Branch officers on a raid launched against the electrical shop run by Oliver Conway Gilbert of the Nordic League. Gilbert was not there when they arrived, but his mother let them into the shop and adjoining flat. Their subsequent search netted all sorts of things. Included among these were large quantities of fascist propaganda; a Browning pistol and a couple of boxes of ammunition; a passport rubber-stamped by German border-officials; a sheet of wood with a swastika painted on it; gramophone records of speeches by Sir

Oswald Mosley; and a letter concerning fascist propaganda work in the army camp at Yeovil.

Towards the end of the search, Gilbert returned home. Finding a group of strangers sifting through his possessions didn't seem to surprise him.)

p.114 'His friend boasted... behalf by Tanya.' (Those items ranged from jewellery to leather belts, from wooden boxes to a fur coat and hat. The sapphire ring, mentioned with gleeful avarice by Tyler Kent's friend, was supposedly worth \$75-\$100. In total his friend stood to make more than \$1,000 from his illicit cargo, equivalent to four months' wages, though not all of that was profit. He'd advised Tyler to concentrate on smuggling diamonds out of the Soviet Union.)

p.115 'All but one of... from close-up.' (Less than a year after Hitler's rise to power, Guy Liddell had spent ten days in Berlin on an assignment to obtain access to German Communist Party documents seized during a police raid. He'd been outraged by the treatment meted out to Jews, Communists and other scapegoats.

Both Francis Aiken Sneath and Dick White – one of the two junior colleagues at the meeting – were also acquainted with the savage realities of life under Hitler, having spent much longer periods in Germany. On two occasions, the last of them only a few months earlier, White had been sent there by MI5, first to report on everyday life in the Third Reich, and then to enlist potential spies. Long before that, Sneath had been teaching there, his marriage to a German woman amplifying his concerns about what was happening to the country.)

p.119 'comfortable overnight accommodation.' (This was in the Hotel Norge. 'Clerks at the Hotel Norge extend a courteous greeting to one and all, supplying the demand for the London *Times*, arriving daily by air mail...', proclaimed one guidebook. 'The Hotel Norge is situated on the Ole Bulls Plass—so named from the monument to this famous son of Bergen whose statue stands with a well-poised bow above a musical fountain. It was Ole Bull, the pupil of Paganini, who first recognised the genius of Grieg and arranged to have him study in Leipzig at the age of fifteen... The builders of the Norge and of the Grand Café opposite—across the way from the Ole Bull fountain— were incorrigible optimists or ignorant foreigners: no others would have risked the creation / of sidewalk cafés in such

a climate. Norwegians, however, are capable of eating ices while sitting in a cold damp wind... From the windows of the hotel, Flöien, the weather-vane mountain, could be seen, encouraging us to saunter forth without umbrellas on days when clouds had lifted, or disclosing the restaurant whose lights winked a final goodnight.’)

p.121

‘Grosvenor Square was his destination.’ (The US Embassy lay just a short walk from his hotel. Twenty minutes at most. Following the most direct route, you turned left out of the main entrance, along Marble Arch and past a succession of shop-fronts set into the bases of big new buildings – big in comparison to most of London’s buildings yet puny next to the skyscrapers of Manhattan. Tyler Kent would have passed the Regal cinema, which was screening *Beau Geste*. Not the sort of movie that was shown at the Vostokkino or any of the other Moscow cinemas. “Three against the world... brothers and soldiers all!” *Beau Geste*’s poster proclaimed.

Where Marble Arch inexplicably mutated into Oxford Street, there was a succession of small shops, ranging from sweetshops and opticians’ to saddle-makers and player piano specialists. After nearly six unbroken months in Russia, the sight of this variety and abundance was alien. In Moscow, the scarcity of a product tended to be inversely proportionate to the number of replicas of that product on display in shop-windows. One facet of Soviet output that never seemed to diminish was the manufacture of papier-mâché cheeses, hams and legs of bacon. The necessities of life were always in such short supply that the mere rumour of something being for sale would spawn a long line. Even if people didn’t need whatever was in stock, they’d still get in the queue for it. They could easily turn a profit by selling or exchanging that item.)

p.127

‘Over the ensuing half-hour... sat in the restaurant.’ (Tyler Kent and his companion made their selections from a moderately priced menu so large and densely printed that you had trouble finding the ‘drinks’ section among the myriad dishes. Like any restaurant of that era, which sought to convey an impression of gourmet luxury, a high proportion of the items were written in French, one of the many languages in Tyler’s repertoire. But the illusion of luxury, conjured by the promise of Escalope de Veau Parmesane, couldn’t survive being juxtaposed by more mundane English fare: stewed prunes, sardines on toast, jam omelette and the unappetisingly titled ‘Wonder Cake’.)

- p.127-8 'Since their parting... sheaf of Embassy documents.' (Among those restaurants were the Monseigneur, A L'Ecu de France, as well as Quaglino and Sier's. Each had its own very distinct style. In the tiny A L'Evu de France, for instance, the staff spoke almost entirely in French and a 'House Full' sign tended to appear outside after 8 p.m.)
- p.129 'a cacophonous chorus... a bear cub.' (Max Knight nevertheless imposed a general rule on his pets – that they mustn't disturb his neighbours. You cannot get pleasure, he believed, out of keeping pets that are a source of trouble to others and a constant anxiety to yourself. If they made too much noise, he was prepared to find new homes for them.)
- p.129 'the associated signage... teeming cosmopolitanism'. (Such businesses included Romano Sante Restaurant; Zacharias & Kyriakos Hairdressers; Samuel Weinblatt, Draper; Patisserie Bruxelloise; Isow's Kosher Restaurant.; Chop Suey.; and Au Jardin du Gourmets.)
- p.133 'She also created slightly... Pavlova.' (A photograph of one of these dolls can be seen in *The Daily Mirror*, 11.5.20, p.9.)
- p.136 'The elderly but... north London suburb.' (Mrs Straker lived in an Edwardian house at 47 Arden Road in the north London suburb of Barnett.)
- p.137 'First-hand knowledge... hatred of Communism.' (On a couple of occasions while Tyler Kent had been stationed in Moscow, the NKVD had taken away Soviet citizens who lived in Mokhovaya House. Yet the Embassy staff hadn't seen the secret police enter. The arrest of one of the Russians – a friendly old Communist reporter named Pavel Mikhailsky –had only become evident after water had started pouring through the ceiling of the apartment directly below his. When two of Kent's colleagues had gone upstairs to find out what had happened, they'd discovered that NKVD seals had been placed on the door to Mikhailsky's apartment. Ignoring these, Kent's colleagues had gone inside. The flooding turned out to have been caused by a burst water pipe. Books, clothes and other possessions had been scattered around the flat, which had clearly been searched. Mikhailsky had never been seen again. Everyone assumed he'd been shot.)

‘Max was meanwhile... and the Right Club.’ (Max Knight also continued to investigate Oliver Conway Gilbert, Captain Ramsay’s colleague on the Governing Council of the Nordic League. On the afternoon of Wednesday 18 October 1939, Knight had travelled to Wandsworth Prison, where Gilbert was being held. Accompanying Knight was Jimmy Dickson, his friend and recently appointed subordinate. They were there to conduct MI5’s fourth interview with Gilbert. In the short time that Gilbert had been behind bars, he had, according to the prison Governor, distinguished himself as a troublesome inmate, always making petty complaints and annoying requests. Previous interviews, during which he’d made a distinctly unfavourable impression, had confirmed that he was an anti-Communist, pro-Nazi, anti-Semitic fanatic and ‘a most unpleasant character in every way.’

At 1:30pm Knight and Dickson confronted Gilbert, a shrewd, sandy-haired thirty-six-year-old Londoner. He appeared to have gone out of his way to cultivate a slovenly, unshaven appearance that masked his boyish complexion. There was a suspicion that he’d done this in order to appear mentally unstable and, as such, worthy of lenient treatment from the Advisory Committee, entrusted with deciding whether to sanction his continued detention.

Gilbert instantly asked whether he could see both his solicitor and fiancée.

He was told that matters of that sort had to go through normal channels, in this case the prison Governor. Then Knight and Dickson started quizzing him about the Governing Council of the Nordic League.

With surprising readiness to finger his comrades, he reeled off the names of people on the Council. He admitted that he was the Treasurer, but said that no single person was responsible for organising the League’s activities.

Caught in another of the lies that’d peppered his earlier interviews, he was challenged with a direct quotation from a letter he’d written. ‘I am the organiser of the Nordic League,’ he’d informed the recipient.

Hesitating slightly, he admitted that he *used to do some organising*.

Several minutes of further interrogation followed. There were more questions about the Nordic League. And there were questions about how he supported himself. The last set of accounts for his business had, after all, shown a deficit. This teed up the next question—how much had Takuidi Egushi paid him?

‘Nothing,’ Gilbert replied.

When the question was fired at him a second time, he repeated his denial. But he ended

up being caught out yet again.

It was put to him that MI5 had found letters to him from Egushi on which he'd noted down the expenses he'd run up in the course of attending Communist meetings.

Those had been for someone else, he explained before adding that Egushi had, indeed, refunded that person's costs.

Gilbert was now accused of running a small organisation for the purpose of supplying information to Egushi.

He insisted that wasn't true. Yet he admitted sending various people to Communist meetings on Egushi's behalf. Betraying signs that he was being worn down by patient questioning, he lashed out verbally at Knight and Dickson. Was there, he enquired, *anything wrong* in collecting information about a subversive organisation such as the Communist Party?

This drew a withering response. Surely, he was told, it would have seemed to be the duty of a patriotic Englishman such as he'd described himself to give such information to the government of his own country *rather than to a Japanese?*

In his defence he informed Knight and Dickson that he'd let Captain Ramsay—who was a Member of Parliament—have copies of the reports he'd given Egushi.)

p.140 'He was aware that... even more galling.' (The Berlin-bound code clerk was a twenty-three-year-old former telephone repairman named Robert Means Winfree, who arrived in the German capital on 1.11.39.)

p.140 'Tyler became a regular... regime there.' (June and Raymond Huntley lived at 15 Hinde House, just off Manchester Square. By the autumn of 1941, the writer Rose Macauley had moved into a flat in the same small block.)

p.141 'his job as a merchant banker'. (Johnny Coast had worked for the Rothschild banking firm, where he had been given his own luxurious office. His job experiences here may somehow have contributed to his anti-Semitism.)

p.143 'When Tyler... their activities.' (Guy Liddell's letter was addressed to Neal Borum, who had coincidentally been based at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow at the same time as Tyler Kent. Guy Liddell's letter to Borum ran as follows:

Dear Borum,

In the course of some investigations which I have been making my attention has been drawn to a woman named Evelyn Strand, an American citizen who is now said to be carrying on wireless work in New York in connection with the Communist Party.

I have record that this woman left London on May 2nd 1936, for Leningrad in the Russian ship *Alexei Rycoff*, and at that time her age was given as 25. This was not her first visit to Russia as she was certainly trained as a radio operator in Moscow somewhere between 1932 and 1935.

Other details about her which I am unable to guarantee are that she came from Boston, Mass, that she was trained as a GPU [an old Russian acronym for what had since become the security service known as the NKVD] agent as well as a radio technician, that she was attached to the explorer Nobile as his secretary under instructions from the GPU and that she has worked in the Communist Party Headquarters in New York.

Another wireless operator about whom I am anxious to gather further information is a British subject named Terence Edward Stephens, who was born in London on 5.6.11 and is the holder of British Foreign Office passport No. 281677, issued 28.9.34. This man was also trained in Moscow about the same time as Evelyn Strand. Stephens sailed in the *Lafayette* for New York on his way to Canada on January 8th 1936, and was in possession of a United States transit visa. He later returned to this country and left again in the end of 1937 for Spain where he fought in the International Brigade.

I have no definite information about him after this, but I have received a report that he went from Spain to the Soviet Union and from there to the United States where he is said to be operating an illegal wireless station.

I am enclosing a photograph of Stephens, whose description is given on his passport as being 5' 10", blue eyes, light brown hair.

If you could give me any information about his activities in the United States, I should be most grateful.

Yours sincerely,

Captain Guy Liddell.

Herschel V. Johnson, one of the Embassy's senior staff, the intention being that he would relay it to the appropriate authorities back home. It warned the Americans about a Soviet agent who operated under multiple aliases—Armand Labis, Armand Labis Feldman, and Abraham Feldman. The agent was working on behalf of a second agent who went under the name of Willy Brandes.

‘We have now ascertained that Feldman is to be located at Room 307, 1123 Broadway, New York City,’ Liddell had written. ‘We regard Feldman as a most important link in Soviet Military Intelligence activities directed against this country, and if it can be arranged, we would be most grateful if his business and private addresses could be searched and he could be thoroughly interrogated.

We think it probable that a search of his premises may provide us with the names of persons who are now operating in the United States on behalf of the Soviet government, and are naturally anxious to obtain as much information as possible to assist us in our investigations here.’)

p.145 ‘She had first befriended... to open.’ (Anna Wolkoff had been introduced to Major Philip le Grand Gribble by a mutual friend who thought that the Major might be interested in investing in the business. That friend was Major Geoffrey McNeill-Moss, a middle-aged former officer in the Grenadier Guards, who was married to the daughter of Baron Cushenden. Like Gribble, Geoffrey McNeill-Moss had gone from serving in the army to working as a freelance writer, whose work appeared under the pen-name, Geoffrey Moss. His output encompassed journalism for magazines such as *Women's Journal*, short stories, novels and non-fiction books such as *The Epic of Alcázar*, which portrayed the siege of the Alcázar at Toledo during the Spanish Civil War.)

p.149 ‘She revealed that... easier for Max.’ (Marjorie Amor's flat was at 71 Linden Gardens. The flats in that block were advertised as follows: ‘Charmingly furnished ROOMY FLATLETS, some with private baths, all fitted h. and c. water. P.O. telephones, fitted carpets, reading lamps etc. Single from 30/-, double from 50/-, Including breakfast, other meals optional, cleanliness, comfort and cuisine receive particular attention.’)

p.151 ‘a Russian cook’. (The cook's name was Alma Ott. Despite being Russian-born, she had spent most of her life in Germany, so she regarded herself as more German than Russian.)

- p.165 'Tyler and his gregarious... Barcelona'. (Tyler Kent's contact was Ferdinand Kuhn, who shared his pessimism about Britain's military prospects.)
- p.166 'Only eleven days... to tell Max.' (On the day of Marjorie Amor's report, another item was contributed to Anna's MI5 file. The item consisted of a letter forwarded by Albert Canning, the Chief Constable of Special Branch. Written by Mr H.T.W. Bousfield, the letter began, 'I have taken some days to consider whether I may be giving you information useful and valuable or whether I am merely a busybody. I have, however, been informed by too many people (who shall be nameless) that Miss Anna de Wolkoff, daughter of Admiral Wolkoff (Russian—he owns the Russian Restaurant near South Kensington) is behaving rather foolishly. This is all hearsay although I know the lady I have not met her for a considerable time.
- It appears from people too kindly to report the fact that she associates with and takes about her persons—young men chiefly—who not only extol the Germans but preach that a terrible and bloody revolution will happen in this country if the war continues.
- Sensible people take no notice of this nonsense but everyone is not sensible. I do not suggest that the lady herself is wilfully injuring or seeking to injure the country that has provided for herself and her family a hospitable refuge for so many years.
- But something that smells so much of Hitler's alleged Fifth Column ought to be discreetly investigated. So I think no doubt you will indeed treat my letter confidentially for as I said all this may be moonshine.
- The body in question by the way, is or was recently in the AFS. I do not know her present address. Perhaps you do.'
- Captain H.T.W. Bousfield, the author of this letter, was a Cambridge University-educated vicar's son, who worked in the advertising industry and pursued a parallel career as a writer. As well as publishing poetry and short stories, he had written for *The English Review*, a famous literary magazine founded by Ford Madox Ford. Captain Bousfield's wife, Mary, shared a friend with Mme Vera Wolkoff.)
- p.169 'This featured various friends of the family'. (Those family friends of the Wolkoff family included Princess Catherine Galitzine. Known to Anna Wolkoff as 'Katya', Catherine Galitzine – now getting on for fifty-years-old – used to work in the shop next-door to Anna de Wolkoff Haute Couture Modes. General Halfter, erstwhile commander of the

Moscow regiment of the Imperial Guards, was another of those family friends. As was Princess Mestchersky. Similar in looks to the elderly Queen Victoria, her bulbous physique sheathed in a uniformly black wardrobe, she had strongly pro-Nazi views and moved in the same circles as Mrs Ramsay.)

p.169 ‘among them a German baroness been interned.’ (The interned family friend was Baron Constant Pilar von Pilchau, a Russian-born naturalized German who was the London chief of the Nord Deutscher Lloyd Passenger Agency. He had been a Nazi Party member since 1934 and had been involved with a suspected German agent named Max Kerner. In an interview with Special Branch during 1939, Admiral Wolkoff referred to how Baron Pilar von Pilchau’s – ‘whose political beliefs he did not share’ – had been introduced to him by Sir Kynaston Studd, the onetime Lord Mayor of London.)

p.169 ‘Anna chanced... them before.’ (The widowed British aristocrat, who introduced Anna Wolkoff to Christabel Nicholson and Dolly Newnham, was Lady Ross. She was a friend of two high society fascist anti-Semites – Sherman Stonor, Baron Camoys and his wife, Jeanne Stourton. The latter had friendships with Sir Oswald Mosley and a number of Right Club members, notably Captain Ramsay, Gertrude Hiscox, Sir Barry and Lady Domville and the Duke of Wellington. Jeanne Stourton was the cousin of another Right Clubber, the Honourable J.J. Stourton, MP, who’d made speeches in Parliament praising Hitler. He had a flat at 60 Queen’s Gate, which lay close to the Russian Tea Rooms, where he’s likely to have aired his opinions.)

p.169 ‘As it happened... was involved.’ (The minor fascist group was the National Citizen’s Union.)

p.170 ‘Like a number of erstwhile suffragettes’. (Other former suffragettes who had embraced fascism included Mary Allen, Mrs Dudley Elkam, Mary Richardson and Dorothy Eckersley, all of whom were involved with the British Union.)

p.174 ‘Evidence against twenty-four... subject to restrictions.’ (Victor Rowe, Captain Ramsay’s

Nordic League associate, was among the detainees whose continued internment was rubber-stamped on the grounds that he'd been associating closely with people hostile to British interests.)

p.178 'Marjorie said that Wolkoff... rumoured to share their beliefs.' (In addition, Max Knight was informed by Marjorie Amor that there had been a certain amount of discussion between Johnny Coast and Anna Wolkoff regarding the disappearance from London of a person they referred to as 'Dynamite'. With the help of MI5's Registry, it was possible to identify 'Dynamite' as John Vaneck, who belonged to the Nordic League as well as the Right Club. At that time he was living in an Oxfordshire village. A Special Branch report from October 1938 described Vaneck as 'one of the most voluble of the clique' around Ramsay and 'definitely pro-German in sentiments.' More concerning was another report that cited him as being allied to those in the Nordic League who were 'prepared to go further' than mere propaganda.)

p.178 'On the Tuesday... their beliefs.' (The equerry named by Anna Wolkoff was David Scrymgeour-Wedderburn, who had, prior to finding employment with the Duke of Gloucester, gone from being a qualified barrister to serving with the Scots Guards.)

p.179 'the phone number... harvested by Tyler.' (The Danischewskys shared a flat at 5c Queensborough Terrace, the phone number of which was BAY[swater] 0757.)

p.180 'Every morning before Christmas... vocal around London.' ('Birdsong' was a term Max Knight disliked. He preferred to talk about 'birds' voices' because he regarded the idea of them *singing* as being somewhat misleading. It conveyed an impression of pleasure and entertainment. But those were the last things one would associate with, say, the blackbird's frantic alarm-call as it sighted a cat prowling near its nest. Together with all the other avian noises such as the courtship drumming of woodpeckers and wing-clapping of certain types of pigeon, birds' voices fascinated Knight.)

p.182 'Anna scheduled a... Mrs Dolly Newnham.' (The wife of the Midland industrialist was

Mrs E.M. ‘Marjorie’ Foster. She and her husband, Francis E. Foster – one of the directors of the Coventry-based Maudsley Motor Company – had a house in Strathdon, Aberdeenshire.)

p.182 ‘turned out not only... street as Anna.’ (Dolly Newnham lived at 17 Roland Way.)

p.184 ‘Though things... out to supper.’ (The mutual friend of Anna Wolkoff and Sir Oswald Mosley was Dr Eric Horning, an early middle-aged Australian research scientist who was on the staff of the Imperial Cancer Fund. In April 1940, Section B5b would produce a report stating that: ‘Dr Horning has for some time been very closely associated with Sir Oswald Mosley and the more conspiratorial persons in the British Union.’ Up to the time that war broke out, Horning was believed to be closely involved with Captain Ramsay’s activities. Sam Allen – husband of Barbara Allen –would later advise MI5 to interview Horning ‘as soon as possible, as he [Allen] felt sure he [Horning] could throw light on Anna’s connections.’ Despite Horning’s alleged involvement with Ramsay and Mosley, Horning served in the RAF between 1939 and 1941 when he was invalided out.)

p.191 ‘He used to go... weekends.’ (In the course of these weekend visits Max Knight would often leave Gwladys to her own devices and slope off with fellow enthusiasts for a day’s trout-fishing on the River Barle or Newlands Ponds. Sometimes they’d head for Sampford Peverell instead, and fish for pike. Next morning he would fry his catch in oatmeal at breakfast.)

p.194 ‘Many an evening... Xenia’s sons.’ (In around February 1939 Prince Dimitri’s financial problems had led him to take a job as a salesman with Chalié Richards, a wine merchant based on St James’s Street. A subsequent MI5 report on Prince Dimitri stated: ‘We have been informed that in about April 1939 the Prince’s connection with this company was abruptly terminated by one of the directors on account of the Prince’s disparagement of England and disloyal remarks about the British Royal Family.’)

p.194 ‘Hitherto resident... near Tyler’s flat.’ (Before moving to 5 Albion Street in Paddington, Princess Dimitri and her husband had lived in a two-storey early nineteenth-century house called Frogmore Cottage. In late 1940 they and Grand Duchess Xenia and other family

members were King George V's guests at Balmoral Castle, the British royal family's Scottish home.)

- p.194 'Neither of them possessed... and Duke of Kent.' (Princess Dimitri and her husband were also close friends with Princess Olga Dolgorouky who, following her marriage to Viscount Tredegar in March 1939, had become Lady Tredegar. Before moving on to regular haunts such as the Embassy Club, the 400 Club or the Nuthouse, the Dimitris spent one or two evenings each week with Lady Tredegar at her London home – 13 South Audley Street. As an anonymous MI5 officer noted, 'The Tredegar set-up is of interest as it is a perfect example of the circle in which the Dimitris move.' That same MI5 officer proceeded to describe Viscount Tredegar as 'a notorious homosexual [...] famed throughout Europe (Capri etc) and the East (Bali etc) as a pervert of the lowest order, a drug-addict and a drunkard. It is known that his parties – mostly at his seat – rival those of ancient Rome in their incredible perverted grandeur.')
- p.198 'Only a matter...ten shades.' (Those ten available shades bore such unappetizing names as Graphite, Goblin and Gunmetal.)
- p.201 'She and her husband... the US Embassy.' (Barbara and her husband, Sam, had a house at 19 Wilton Crescent.)
- p.206-7 'She lived in... edge of Mayfair.' (Jane Marmion Aitken lived at Carrington House, which was on Hertford Street.)
- p.209 'Anna had just obtained... Dolly Newnham.' (The copy of *Truth* may well have been given to Anna Wolkoff by her friend, Dolly Newnham.)
- p.211 'At least the top... proper air-raid shelter.' (This gas-proof shelter boasted its own generator and air-purifier.)
- p.218 'Tyler could, instead, afford... his flat.' (Tyler Kent appears to have used the Black Cat

Motor Company, which was based in Wigmore Place, which led off Wigmore Street. He was later found to possess a business card from this company. On the card was written, 'Ask for chauffeur Beeson.')

p.219 'She had just returned... conspiracy theory.' (The Roman Catholic priest was Father Denis Fahey who, with the approval of the Archbishop of Dublin, had produced a book expounding his version of the Judaeo-Bolshevik conspiracy theory.)

p.222 'the renowned writer, Henry Williamson'. (Anna's friend, Johnny Coast, had briefly worked alongside Henry Williamson who, in 1937, had purchased a North Norfolk farm. The acquisition had been motivated by a belief in Sir Oswald Mosley's strain of Green fascism – a belief that 'the roots of Britain are being dragged from the soil' and that urban life was synonymous with decadence. More than three decades later, Coast would contribute money to help finance the film adaptation of Williamson's most famous book, *Tarka the Otter*. I'm indebted to the journalist and military historian, Steve Snelling, for alerting me to the link between Coast and Williamson.)

p.222 'Anna and fellow activists... ensconced in the Grand Hall'. (On the attendance list is 'Mrs Foster', presumably Anna Wolkoff's Right Club colleague, Mrs E.M. 'Marjorie' Foster. Wolkoff's contingent of friends was swelled by the presence of Mrs Annabel Huth Jackson, an old family friend and customer of the Russian Tea Rooms.)

p.222 'She spoke in... airs and graces.' (Grand Duchess Xenia's lack of airs and graces was demonstrated by her willingness to act as a programme-seller at the charity fund-raising event that Anna Wolkoff had helped to organize at the Ritz Hotel during July 1939.)

p.222 'There was Captain Ramsay's son'. (The Right Club leader had two sons. This was Bob Ramsay, who had been at public school with Johnny Coast.)

p.228 'Soviet intelligence routinely... British fascists.' (A good example of this is provided by Alexander Kazem-Bek, one-time leader of the Young Russia movement and would-be Führer of the émigré radical right. His fascist credentials notwithstanding, Kazem-Bek

would eventually be unmasked as a Soviet spy. Like Tyler Kent, he was a close associate of Eugène Sabline.)

p.229 ‘On Monday of that week... down to its own.’ (The American journalist was Spencer Williams. Lean and dryly observant, his dark hair plastered to the crown of his attenuated skull, he had for the past decade been the Russian correspondent for the *Manchester Guardian*. In Moscow, he had a reputation for being adept at dealing with Soviet red tape and for being the best-informed of the resident Americans. He and other foreign correspondents used to drop round to Mokhovaya House for beer and snacks after covering each day’s instalment of the show-trials of Stalin’s alleged political opponents. Among the doomed defendants was Calligos, the NKVD agent whom Tyler Kent knew from the Hotel Metropole.

Finding *The Guardian*’s Moscow outpost closed until further notice, Williams was in England for no more than a few weeks before taking up a job with CBS radio in Bucharest. He was about to provide outraged coverage of anti-Semitic persecution in fascist Rumania.)

p.238 ‘After she had departed from the War Office’. (Before leaving the War Office, Anna Wolkoff gave Max a message to pass on to Nigel Watson, an old acquaintance of hers. She said she knew Nigel worked for Military Intelligence. The message was that her maternal uncle, General Michael Skalon, who was a great friend of Nigel’s, had died in Czechoslovakia, where he’d been living.)

p.239 ‘The obvious candidate... to the War Office.’ (The man whose name Anna Wolkoff had mentioned was Admiral Sir Reginald Hall. The Admiral had left the Royal Navy in 1919, having served as Director of Naval Intelligence during the First World War. He was a colleague of the Wolkoffs’ friend, Admiral Sir Barrie Domvile. Both Hall and Domvile had been signatories to a letter to *The Times*, published in October 1938.)

p.240 ‘Late on Wednesday... it through Customs.’ (Despite Hélène de Munck’s youth, neither of her parents were alive. Her mother, Marie, had died more than a decade earlier, while her father, Alphonse, had died in 1935.)

- p.244 'The Digby House Hotel... Ladies of Reduced Circumstances.' (Digby House Hotel – now demolished – was at the junction between Sackville Street and Egerton Road.)
- p.244 'His room abutted June's.' (Tyler Kent's room contained a bed, a wardrobe, brocade-covered armchairs and a sink that provided the luxury of hot as well as cold water.)
- p.245 'That evening June took... to him as "Hunk".' (Credited with shooting down two enemy aircraft, in 1943 Peter 'Hunk' Humphreys was promoted to the rank of Squadron Leader. That year he was also awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He survived the war and stayed in the RAF, but he was, at the age of only twenty-seven, killed in a midair collision during a training exercise in 1947.)
- p.246 'Back on dry land... discuss the sale.' (On the evening of Friday 23 March 1940 they went to Allens' Club. The evening after that, they probably spent the evening at the Moor Hall Hotel and Country Club, which advertised a 'first-class chef, cocktail bar [and] fortnightly dances.')
- p.250 'At a concert... Historical Museum.' (The concert had been organized by the Wolkoffs' friend, Princess Katya Galitzine. While Tyler Kent was there, he bumped into Katharine Ridley, whom he had first met at that cocktail party earlier in the year. She introduced him to Catherine Georgievsky (see note no.71, p.484), a self-assured forty-year-old woman who spoke English with a slight Russian accent. He got on well with her, though she could be touchy and aggressive, an undercurrent of complaint infusing her speech.)
- p.250 'He'd since been round... BBC Monitoring Service.' (A few days after being introduced to Catherine Georgievsky, Tyler Kent received a phone-call from her while he was at the Embassy. She said she'd like to continue their conversation. She mentioned that her brother, John, who was staying with her, would like to meet him as well. Kent found himself being invited to dinner at Catherine's flat, just a short tube ride from the West End to South Kensington Underground Station. Catherine lived in Winchester Court, a newish, eight-storey block of flats. Unless you were searching for it during the blackout, it wasn't the sort of building you could miss. Streamlined and wedge-shaped, the lowermost floors constructed from glossy black ceramic slabs that contrasted with the biscuit-coloured

brickwork above, it brought to mind a generous slice of rich, two-toned cake served in some Continental patisserie.

Once you entered its lobby, you were usually subject to appraisal by its caretaker. Kent didn't have to bother with the lift or stairs because Catherine had a ground-floor flat. As planned, the two of them were joined for dinner by her brother. John Georgievsky was about to take up a job with the Monitoring Service, a recently created arm of the BBC Overseas Intelligence Department, located on a country estate near the Welsh border. His task would be to supervise the important work of the staff transcribing and recording foreign language broadcasts within Germany, the Soviet Union and other countries. Through this type of monitoring, he and his colleagues would be able to give appropriate government ministries advance warning of announcements and speeches made by Hitler, Stalin and their subordinates.)

p.252 'The door to No. 24... 'the parlour'.' (The Manson Mews flat contained a bathroom and kitchen and a bedsitting-room. Beneath it was a garage that could accommodate as many as six cars.)

p.252 'Right up to the previous... people.'" ' (Another of her adverts for these tours proclaimed, 'It's young and jolly! A different German holiday...' Her other income, which came from renting out a high street property in the Surrey town of Ewell, amounted to around £150-per-annum, which is worth in the region of £20,500 in 2015 currency.)

p.253 'She had enrolled in tandem... fruitful contact.' (The pro-Nazi friend of Fay Tylour's was a Scotsman named Tony Dickson, who lived at 37e Elgin Crescent in west London – close to Admiral Wolkoff's friend, Boris Toporkoff, another Elgin Crescent-based Right Club member.)

p.253 'Guided by looks... the press called her.' (Fay Tylour's love of speed had, nearly five years ago, led her to enrol in the protest movement against the imposition of a 30mph speed limit on British roads. Rather than pay a modest fine for contravening that limit, she'd achieved well-publicised martyrdom by serving a brief prison sentence.

For someone so rebellious, she espoused remarkably conventional opinions about clothes—"I am a woman and I never wear trousers. Why? Because I happen to have been born a woman and I consider trousers to be a man's privilege."

p.253 'She could tell Anna... from her past'. (One of Fay Taylour's stock of probably apocryphal stories concerned how she had got involved with motor racing. She claimed she'd still been at school then. Chosen to play for the school hockey team, she said that she'd persuaded her parents to buy her a motorcycle, so she could get to the sports field. During a cross-country shortcut there, she had become conscious that she wasn't alone. Lots of other motorcyclists, all wearing overalls, goggles and helmets, were strung out behind her as she weaved along a series of woodland goat tracks. After about six miles of this, her story went, she flashed past the finish line, inadvertently winning her debut race.)

p.262-3 'His club occupied... self-published booklet.' (An undisguised portrait of the club during the Second World War appears in Graham Greene's novel, *The End of the Affair*.)

p.263 'Before the war... wide circle of friends.' (The friend of Anna Wolkoff's was Muriel Mitchell-Henry, who had worked as a nurse during the First World War.)

p.270 'Congregants... pornography.' (Another member of the congregation at St Philip's was Dr Egon Ostwald who, along with his wife, ran a tobacconist's at 10 Pont Street. Tyler Kent appears to have got to know him.)

p.270 'together with many of the Wolkoffs' friends'. (These included people such as Prince Vladimir and Princess Catherine Galitzine, General Halfter, Princess Mestchersky, as well as Boris Toporkoff. See note No. 73 on p.469 of *Rendezvous at the Russian Tea Rooms*. Further information about these people can be found under p.169 of this file.

p.273 'Swelling their number were... brought up as a German.' (Mollie Hiscox – one of the founder members of The Link – was of course the girlfriend of the Right Club member, Jock Houston. The two of them lived together at 50 Thornton Avenue in Streatham. In August 1939 MI5 intercepted the following letter that Hiscox had sent to Adolf Hitler:

‘Dear Herr Hitler

As an Englishwoman who was very often in Germany, I wish you to know that I have unlimited trust in you.

Yours,

Mollie Hiscox’

She and Jock Houston shared their Streatham home with her friend, Norah Briscoe, a former journalist who had been widowed in 1935. Between then and the outbreak of war, she made numerous trips to Germany, which consolidated her Nazi beliefs. Since September 1939 she had been employed as assistant to the well-heeled British fascist, Leigh Vaughan-Henry, who was in the audience at the Caxton Hall rally that Anna Wolkoff had attended earlier that year.

p.280 ‘In her letter... house in Kensington.’ (Anna Wolkoff’s uncle Gabriel was living in the Swiss town of Montreaux. The estate agent placed in charge of finding a tenant for Gabriel Wolkoff’s Kensington house was meanwhile demanding nearly £7-a-week rent.)

p.292 ‘It had even aroused... the hardships of rationing.’ (After the 9:15 p.m. news bulletin on Radio Hamburg, where the reception ‘was very poor throughout’, William Joyce delivered one of his talks. ‘Not only is there one law for the rich and another for the poor,’ he remarked, ‘but there is one rationing for the rich and one for the poor. Let us look at *The Bystander* of February 21st, suggesting that one might forget rationing at the Ritz.’

The BBC monitor, who was transcribing the broadcast, then noted: ‘Here followed a graphic description of a room at the Ritz, apparently got up as a dugout.

‘Two bottles with candles in them serve as chandeliers,’ Joyce added, ‘and there is a panorama of the Western Front with some nice rude drawings, and on two big boards stretching across the room, two lifesize paintings of La France and Britannia. One is reminded of [R.C. Sherriff’s hit play about the First World War] *Journey’s End* and expects that at any moment Captain Stanhope may appear to give you a rasping order to shut up. I can only say that I have never seen uniforms in a better setting in London... The plutocratic writer of this sort of stuff says, ‘Go and forget rationing.’ We bet those who are not plutocrats wish they could...’)

p.292-3 'Lit by an improvised... Bank of England notes'. ('What exquisite food they give you at the Ritz! Whether it is for lunch or... the kitchens never send up anything off-perfect,' the restaurant critic of *The Bystander* observed. Unlike the crowded menus of other hotels, such as the Cumberland, where Tyler Kent had stayed when he'd first arrived in London, the Ritz produced sparse, elegantly typeset menus that were changed every day. Inevitably, these were written in French, the language adopted by any restaurant with pretensions to elite status. A typical menu comprised these choices:

'Consommé Royale Crème Princesse or Croustade Deauvillaise
Blanc de Volaille St James, Côte de Boeuf a la Broche, Petits pois a la Menthe,
Doyenne du Comice Cardinal or Rocher de Glace Vanille or Sablés.'

p.294 'Their destination was next to... on Oxford Street.' (The existence of the Avesta Cafeteria defies the stereotype of mainstream wartime culture. Above its entrance was a very large sign, painted in green and red lettering. This read:

'SCIENCE SAYS
YOU NEED MORE
SALADS AND
VEGETABLES.'

p.295 'Joan Miller had something... at the Russian Tea Rooms.' (Reminiscing about the experience of infiltrating the Russian Tea Rooms, Joan Miller wrote: '[T]his was a nerve-racking business as I half-expected her to pounce on me at any moment, with the remark that she knew exactly what I was up to. I continued to sense a certain watchfulness in her which I felt was directed at me. I had to keep reminding myself that I'd seriously wanted to be an actress – an ambition obstructed by my father's side of the family who had no wish to see any of my mother's characteristics reproduced in me. If I had any talent at all, I told myself, I should be able to play this part with conviction.'

p.295 'Max—who was soon... with Joan'. (Miller was the first of the secretaries mentioned in Liddell's diary entry. According to Miller, their relationship began in the spring of 1940, by which time she was already working in Section B5b. Yet she didn't, in truth, become a member of B5b's staff until much later. In *One Girl's War*, she writes about him taking her for private tours of London Zoo and for day-trips into the country, during which he

gave her lessons in birdsong and plant identification. ‘What I found most overwhelming, though, was the way M used to send taxi-loads of presents round to my flat – enormous bunches of flowers mostly [...],’ she remembered. ‘“That man” was the way he signed himself; all these were accompanied by a note which ended “With that man’s love”.’ Echoing the experiences of Knight’s wives, Miller described the relationship as being unconsummated.)

p.295-6 ‘Over dinner with Joan... she was making.’ (According to her memoir, *One Girl’s War*, Joan Miller also knew Lord Cottenham, who had briefly been her boss at MI5’s Wormwood Scrubs headquarters. Cottenham, she recalled, ‘was in charge of MI5’s transport section [...] responsible for sending out despatch riders bearing top-secret communications, issuing petrol coupons and arranging transport for those in important offices.’)

p.296 ‘Later that evening, Wolkoff... befriend Joan.’ (At 5:00pm on Friday 26 April 1940 – three days after her dinner with Joan Miller – Anna Wolkoff turned up at the Brompton Square home of Major Philip le Grand Gribble and his wife, Mary. She’d phoned the Gribbles a few minutes earlier to make sure that it was convenient for her to pop round and speak to the Major. He was a potentially fertile source of inside-information about the progress of the war, having just returned on leave from France, where he was serving as a Liaison Officer between the British Expeditionary Force and the RAF. Though the Gribbles were poised to host a drinks party a bit later that evening, Wolkoff had been told that it was fine for her to join them.

Ushered into the house, she gave Mary le Grand Gribble the impression that she held a grudge against her, that she blamed her for influencing the Major’s decision to withdraw financial support for Anna de Wolkoff Haute Couture Modes. With the Major’s continued backing, Wolkoff’s shop might have still been trading.

Before the party got underway and the guests started downing the Gribbles’ sherry, Wolkoff had a chance to speak to the Major. She also had a chat with a Russian-speaking acquaintance whom she hadn’t seen since the outbreak of the war. She knew he worked in Military Intelligence. Her acquaintance, Nigel Watson, had rolled up almost half-an-hour earlier than the other guests. Not that he’d be staying long, he revealed.

Wolkoff said *she* wouldn't either. Then she enquired whether he'd received the message that she'd asked Captain King – one of the men who had interviewed her at the War Office – to pass on to him. [See earlier not re' p.238.]

But Nigel Watson replied that he hadn't been given the message.

Far from ideal though the circumstances were, Wolkoff ended up breaking the news to him that the message had been about the death of her uncle and *his* friend, General Skalon.

Watson said he'd have written a letter of condolence to her mother had he known about the General's death.

Talking of Captain King, she expressed curiosity as to whether Watson knew him.

Watson replied that he *thought* he'd met him at some point. Probably keen to steer the conversation towards less sensitive territory, he went on to quiz her about what she was doing these days.

Now she no longer had her clothes shop, she told Watson, she worked as a dressmaker and gave German lessons. She couldn't resist bragging about how one of her pupils was a member of the War Cabinet Secretariat.

While she and Watson chatted, other guests were arriving, Marjorie Amor among them. Through the noise and bustle of the party, it became apparent that there was a phone-call for Major le Grand Gribble. On his return from taking the call, he could be heard explaining that he'd been on the line to a fellow named Barclay who was being posted to Norway that night as a cipher officer.

Eventually, Wolkoff and Watson – steering clear of any references to the war – drifted into conversation about other members of her immediate family. The conversation soon focussed on her vampish, thirty-three-year-old sister Alice. Watson had known Alice back when she'd been working at the Victoria and Albert Museum. She'd left her job to pursue a career as a film actress. Her plans had amounted to no more than a few odd jobs at a movie studio, yet she still mixed in with showbusiness crowd that included the up-and-coming young actor Michael Wilding, later to marry Elizabeth Taylor, the American movie star.

Wolkoff told Watson that her sister was now renting a charming cottage in a village called Brill, close to the border between Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. What she neglected to mention was that Alice had what might euphemistically be described as a *rather complicated personal life*. Besides being the mistress of a stockbroker, who

covered her rent, Alice was embroiled in a lesbian relationship with her landlady, Anna's friend, Muriel Halliday. Last autumn, Muriel and Olive Hamilton-Roe, the woman with whom Muriel lived, had been arrested and fined for the unauthorised possession of confidential documents likely to assist the enemy.

When Watson announced that he was leaving, he offered Wolkoff a lift. She said she'd be very grateful if he'd drop her off at the Russian Tea Rooms.

Her parents' restaurant was less than a mile away. Down Brompton Road and into Cromwell Gardens. Left at the fork onto Thurloe Place and then right at the junction with Harrington Road.

Just before they pulled up outside the Tea Rooms, Anna suggested to Nigel that he should start taking German lessons under her tutelage. She said she knew he was adept at learning languages and, besides, she didn't suffer fools gladly, so she'd be very pleased to have him as her pupil. On that note she stepped out of the car and Watson drove away.)

p.297

'Both stations' output... light-hearted ditties'. (The Home Service listing for Tuesday 23 April 1940 ran as follows:

'7:05pm *Crime Magazine*, seventh edition, presented by Bill MacLurg. A weekly programme introducing famous detectives of fact and fiction.

1. Barton of the Yard, presenting Ex-Detective Inspector Jack Henry, late of New Scotland Yard in "Muffle Oars", written by Jack Henry and Patrick K. Heale.
2. Who Broke the Law? A series written by Charles Hatton showing how easy it is for the man in the street to break the law quite unknowingly. Listen carefully and see if you can discern the way in which the law is broken.
3. Meet the Arrow. A new series of detective adventures by Ernest Dudley. Meet Stephen Arrow—an entirely new radio detective who makes his bow in this evening's edition of *Crime Magazine*. Arrow is a humorous cynic, with a not always happy penchant for whistling a certain tune. Thus his identity is rather inclined to be revealed. There will be at least six of these Arrow episodes, and in each of them Arrow will tell the story, linking together dramatic episodes.

7:35pm. A memory of Zeebrugge, 23 April 1918. Lord Kennet.

7:45pm. A new English Journey by J.B. Priestley and D.G. Bridson. A programme for St George's Day telling the story of life in England today.

8:30pm. Bigger! Louder! Crazier! The return of *Danger: Men at Work!* (or *How To Speak*

With A Gag In Your Mouth) with Haver & Lee as the Men at Work, Jacques Brown, Doris Nichols, and Virginia Dawn, and the Hotel Mimeoar Dance Orchestra. The scene is the super-super Hotel Mimeoar, sole proprietress Mrs Pnsonby... Any resemblance to any persons living or dead will be a miracle.

9:00pm. Time signal/Greenwich. News.

9:25pm. Dominion Commentary. Grattan O'Leary from Canada. (Recording.)

9:40pm. The BBC Orchestra. Leader: Paul Beard. Conducted by Basil Cameron. Music by British composers. A London Overture, Ireland. An English Rhapsody: Brigg Fair, Delius. Imperial March, Elgar.

10:15pm. Our Country. A service of thanksgiving and prayer.

10:30pm. Gaelic news.

10:35pm. The BBC Salon Orchestra. Leader Jean Pougnet. Conductor: Leslie Bridgewater. Overture: The Arcadians, Monckton & Talbot. Lover, some back to me, Romberg. Teddy Bears' Picnic, Bratton. Danse de la Princesse Verte, Hue. Canny Cummertan, Gerrard Williams. Praeludium, Järnfelt. Selection: Sweethearts, Herbert.

11:00pm. Ambrose and His Orchestra with Evelyn Dall, Vera Lynn, Max Bacon, and Jack Cooper. From the Mayfair Hotel, London.

11:45pm. *Mr Mangan on Love*. A short story written for broadcasting by LAG Strong and read by the author.

12 midnight. Time signal/Greenwich. News.

12:15am. Close down.'

p.300 'His interest... successful conclusion.' (Jasper Harker was particularly alarmed by the concept of a British Fifth Column. 'He saw Britain as a fortress which contained 'large numbers of persons of doubtful loyalty' who must be dealt with urgently. 'It is clearly essential,' Harker wrote, 'that every person within the fortress must be either harnessed to the national effort or put under proper control.')

p.306 'His flat... "the Brown House".' (Lord Ronald Graham's recently acquired London home was a so-called service flat at 10 Courtfield Gardens. His main home was at The Warren, Little Canfield in Essex. In London his resident, fifty-one year old friend was Aubrey Lees, who had until late 1938 worked as an Assistant District Commissioner in Palestine. He had been relieved of his duties for engaging in anti-Semitic activities. Unsurprisingly,

he was a friend and admirer of Captain Ramsay's. He'd spoken at the Nordic League, and was rumoured to have been the lover of Molly Stanford, Anna Wolkoff's friend.)

- p.307 'Things had been... freelance seamstress.' (Anna Wolkoff's seamstress was Iris Zanelotti, who sometimes worked from home but more usually worked at the Roland Gardens flat.)
- p.308-9 'Pam's husband... research physicist.' (Before the war, Derek Jackson had more than once ridden in the Grand National.)
- p.313 'While Tyler and the... St Raphael rallies.' (In 1933 Enid Riddell had raced her MG K3 at Donnington and the Isle of Man's Mannin Beg circuit. The following year she'd finished second overall and emerged victorious in her MG's class at the Paris/St Raphael rally. That year she had also clocked the day's fastest time at the Les Eaux Hill Club. In 1937 she had gone on to compete alongside Dorothy Stanley-Turner as the co-driver of a green PB MG Midget in the Le Mans 24-hour race. And she had driven in the 440-mile Monte Carlo Rally.)
- p.314 'The Duke covered... their group'. (As the group entered the club, they'd have passed a table known to regulars as 'the Royal Enclosure', because that was where royal customers tended to congregate.)
- p.317 'Tonight – Saturday... US Consul-General.' (Tyler Kent's hostess was Mrs Anne Mitchell-Innes, who lived at 1c Airlie Gardens, Campden Hill Road.)
- p.322 'Compounded by the... subsidizing the British Union'. (Benito Mussolini had been paying £60,000-per-annum to the British Union, which represents about £11.9 million in 2015 currency.)
- p.339 'En route to Cranley Mews... trip to Wales'. (Christabel and Admiral Nicholson had been staying with Admiral Rowley Conway, the owner of Bodrhydden Hall, a seventeenth-century country house in North Wales.)

- p.341 'any of the other tenants.' (On the 20 May 1940 there were four other tenants: 'a German by the name of Ernst Adolf Hess who is said to have been in London for about six years; an Equadorian by the name of Rafael Coronel who said that he was connected with the Ecuadorian Consulate General in London; a Norwegian by the name of R. Keilland; and another Norwegian by the name of A.H. Kopping...')
- p.348 'His colleague rang...course of tomorrow.' (Sir John Anderson's Private Secretary was Jennifer Williams.)
- p.355 'Tyler's evening would... and government.' (La Coquille was located at 97 St Martin's Lane, not far from Trafalgar Square.)
- p.356 'Yesterday Anna had been... Hungarian Csárda'. (The Hungarian Csárda Restaurant was located at 77 Dean Street, where diners could probably hear the sound of tap-dancing from the Zelia Raye School of Stage Dancing, which occupied one of the upstairs floors. Regular customers at the restaurant included the movie mogul, Alexander Korda. And the writer George Orwell ate there on at least one occasion.)
- p.363 'Sensitive to... of his work'. (When the Right Club's membership list was finally made public many decades later, Sir Ernest Bennett's son, Sir Frederic Bennett, also an MP, wrote an angry letter to *The Daily Telegraph*. Conveniently ignoring his father's involvement with British fascism, Sir Frederic described the reference to Sir Ernest's presence on that list as a 'hurtful slur'.)
- p.381-2 'Soon after his... where they were now.' (Marjorie Amor found Mrs Nicholson at Gooch's, a department store at 63-77 Brompton Road, which promoted itself as 'Gooch's of Knightsbridge'. Its up-market range of merchandise included Persian carpets and rugs.)
- p.401 'Waiting for him... by Tyler's mother'. (The two former New York City Police Department detectives were John Shields and Edward Moran. They accompanied not only Tyler Kent's mother but also an American fascist multi-millionaire named Charles 'Carl' Parsons. He claimed to be a retired Death Valley gold miner, but he had inherited his fortune from his father.)

- p.410 'From July 1940 Bothamley... alongside William Joyce.' (Margaret Bothamley appeared on programmes that went under titles such as 'The Lady in the Mirror', 'Front Line Family' and 'Matters of the Moment'.)
- p.418 'A couple of days... had passed.' (According to an MI5 report, submitted in February 1941, the Labour MP and Right Club member, Sir Ernest Bennett, still hoped that the Churchill-Roosevelt correspondence could lead to Churchill's downfall. Bennett was trying to obtain the photograph taken by Nicholas Smirnoff – the photograph of one of the telegrams that Anna Wolkoff had borrowed from Tyler Kent. If the telegram demonstrated malpractice on the part of the Prime Minister, Bennett was confident in its ability to bring down Churchill.)
- p.419 'a low security establishment... their routine.' (Two theatre shows were laid on by Concert Party, an Isle of Wight-based wartime troupe that included two singers, a pianist, a male tap-dancer, a contortionist and a six-girl chorus line.)
- p.423-4 'Grabbing the chance... her son as a hero.' (The fascist anti-Semite who gave financial assistance to Mrs Ann Kent was Charles 'Carl' Parsons. Though he liked to present himself as a retired Death Valley gold miner, he had, aside from military service, never done any work. According to his FBI file, he was 'the first name on every "sucker list"... and is probably one of the largest holders of stock certificates in non-existent gold mines in the US.')
- p.426 'When Knight's second wife... autumn of 1940'. (Lois Knight had been given the job of secretary to her and Max's old friend, Eric St Johnstone, who had, in July 1940, been appointed as Chief Constable of Oxfordshire Constabulary.)
- p.426 '...her memoir, *One Girl's War*.' (The memoir originated in an interview she had given for a *Sunday Times* colour supplement feature, published under the sensationalistic title of "MI5's Mistress of Espionage". Weidenfeld and Nicolson had then commissioned her to expand her experiences into a book, due for publication in 1984. But the firm had dropped it after receiving a letter from lawyers representing the British government. Their

letter claimed that Miller and her publisher were in danger of breaching the Official Secrets Act if they released her book. Undaunted by the threat of prosecution, the doughty little independent Irish publisher, Brandon Books, came to her rescue and arranged to distribute her book in Britain. Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General in the Thatcher government, reacted by obtaining injunctions in the London and Dublin courts, preventing the book's sale or distribution. From the government's point of view, the danger posed by *One Girl's War* was related not to the book's contents but to the fact that it reinforced a dangerous precedent. This had been set by the government's botched attempt to prevent the publication of *Spycatcher*, Peter Wright's scandalous account of his post-war work as an MI5 officer. If Miller could get away with writing about her MI5 experiences, what was to stop other security service staff from publishing memoirs that might, unlike hers, pose a security threat?

Although Brandon Books succeeded in overturning the Irish injunction, they had no such luck in the British courts.)

- p.426 'Within the Security Service... libel and false imprisonment.' (Ben Greene had, funnily enough, been at the British Union's London Administrative Area meeting at the Criterion Restaurant in March 1940, also attended by Anna Wolkoff.)
- p.431-2 'Penniless when she... fabric for bedspreads.' (Admiral Wolkoff was living on a farm named Glanrafon. This was near the town of Llanfyllin, close to the Shropshire border.)
- p.432-3 'Supported by her... in South Kensington.' (Anna Wolkoff's address was 6 Manson Place, Queen's Gate, London SW7.)
- p.434 'Normally reliable... what they wanted to hear.' (Carl Marcus, aka 'Dictionary' was described by the MI5 officer, Major M.N. Forrest as 'a despicable traitor who should not be trusted.' In mentioning the 'Jahnke's receipt of SIS summaries and Kennedy's despatches in 1940, Forrest stated: 'It seems likely that Marcus is likely to lie in [talking about] just these points which are interesting to us...')

p.441 'the house possessed... film location.' (Among the films shot in Felix Hope Nicholson's house was the 1990 BBC adaptation of *Portrait of a Marriage*. The house provided the setting for several scenes.)

p.463 'Truda Ganghadaran... travelled to America.' (Truda Ganghadaran and her baby son, Peter, left Moscow in July 1941, just as the first German bombs were falling on the city. 'It took us 72 days to reach Washington DC,' she wrote in an unpublished memoir. 'Seventeen days on the Trans-Siberian railroad to get to Vladivostock. The train had no restaurant car and no running water. From Vladivostock to Tokyo, then to Shanghai. From there via Honolulu to San Francisco. We arrived in San Francisco on a glorious September morning. The mist was just lifting as we passed under the Golden Gate Bridge and San Francisco lay before us clean and beautiful in the morning sun. After the teeming millions of the Far East it looked like the Promised Land.

When I arrived in Washington DC, my friends in the State Department advised me to drop my married name since it was unpronounceable and to use my maiden name (except for official purposes). This I did. My maiden name was Rient.

In Washington I joined an office of the British government – British Security Coordination, the British Secret Service in the western hemisphere, with offices in Washington and New York City. My extensive knowledge of the Russian political scene, the land and its people as well as of other languages and lands proved a great asset.

When in the spring of 1945 the war in Europe was crawling to an end and British Security Coordination was closing up shop, General Donovan, head of the Office of Strategic Services [precursor to the CIA] asked me to join his office. After President Truman abolished the OSS in September 1945, General Donovan returned to his private law practice and I became his assistant in matters international.

In January 1947 I married Walter R. Mansfield. His son Matthew was seven years old and Peter was nine. From the moment the two joined us in March 1947, I dedicated myself to gluing the two families together. They attended the New Canaan Country School, where I taught as an assistant teacher until our daughter Trina was born in January 1949.'

Truda Ganghadaran's son, known as Peter Rient, would grow up to become a prominent and well-respected Washington DC-based lawyer. He worked as one of the prosecutors on the Watergate case.)

‘The party took place... second wife, Laura.’ (Countess Nathalie Benckendorff, who hosted the party, was the wife of an aristocratic investment banker named Jasper Ridley. Her father had been Eugene Sabline’s boss at the old Russian Embassy. She’d heard that Tyler had spent several years in her home country and spoke the language fluently, so she was keen to meet him. They turned out to have several mutual friends.

Over cocktails Tyler chatted with Katherine Ridley, the Countess’s tall, charming daughter, too. She had a passionate interest in all things Russian, which provided Tyler Kent with an obvious opening. He also got into conversation with Dr Gustave Kullman—the Swiss-born Second-in-Command of the League of Nations Commission For Refugees—and his Russian wife. Dr Kullman’s work offered him plenty of things to talk about, though it was hardly the stuff of idle chatter over cocktails. For the past few years he’d been involved in an increasingly desperate mission to find countries willing to accommodate thousands of refugees from the Nazis, many of them Jewish.)