

IMPORTANT DATES AND COUNTERINTELLIGENCE EVENTS

POST CIVIL WAR TO WORLD WAR I,
1866-1919

1871	1 July	Department of Justice is established.
1876		U.S. Supreme Court issues Totten Decision, affirming that the President has the power to appoint "Secret Agents" and pay them from the Contingent Fund.
1882	23 March	Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) established within the Bureau of Navigation.
1884	6 October	Navy War College is established at Newport, Rhode Island.
1885	October	The War Department establishes the Bureau of Military Intelligence (Military Information Division -MID) at the Adjutant Generals Office.
1889	27 February	Army institutes the Military Attaché system that was approved by Congress in 1888.
1898	15 February	U.S. battleship <i>Maine</i> destroyed by an explosion in Havana Harbor.
	21 April	The Spanish-American War begins. The War ends almost four months later on 13 August.
	10 December	ONI overseas networks demobilized at the conclusion of the Spanish American War.
	10 December	Treaty of Paris signed. Spain granted Cuba its freedom and ceded Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines to the United States.
1901	6 September	President William McKinley assassinated by Leon Czolgosz, an anarchist.
	6 September	Secret Service tasked with Presidential Protection.
1902	18 June	Separate Military Intelligence Division (MID) established in Division of the Philippines, later absorbed by the MID.
1903	14 February	G-2 for military intelligence created with the designation of General Staff Corps.
1908	24 June	G-2 and G-3 merged.
	26 July	Attorney General Charles Bonaparte appoints a force of special agents.

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1908	30 June	Secret Service, which fulfilled a counterintelligence function during the Spanish American War, stripped of all but investigations of treasury violations and presidential protection, and is prohibited from investigating members of Congress.
1909	16 March	The special force in the Department of Justice becomes the Bureau of Investigation.
1910	26 March	Congress amends the Immigration Act of 1907 to prohibit criminals, paupers, anarchists and diseased persons from entering the US.
1911	7 March	President Taft dispatches 20,000 troops to the Mexican border as fighting in the Mexican Revolution occurs close to US territory.
	26 October	General Bernardo Reyes' conspiracy to use Texas as a base of operations to overthrow the Mexican government is stopped.
1914	September	First successful U.S. aerial reconnaissance by airplane.
	9 April	An unarmed group of sailors from the USS <i>Dolphin</i> , patrolling in Mexican waters, is arrested in Tampico, Mexico after they accidentally enter a restricted area while seeking to secure supplies.
	21 April	American forces bombard Vera Cruz, Mexico and occupy the city to prevent a German ship from landing arms there.
	28 June	Serb nationalist at Sarajevo, Bosnia, assassinates Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austrian throne. Incident leads to World War I.
	7 July	Berlin summons its Ambassador, Johann von Bernstorff, home from the United States.
	18 July	Congress authorizes Formation of an Aviation Section within the Army Signal Corps.
	30 July	German Military Attaché Franz van Papen leaves Mexico for the United States.
	August	Russian Navy reportedly finds a German naval code book, which is given to British Naval Intelligence.
	2 August	Von Bernstorff returns to the United States with sabotage instructions and funds to finance them.

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1914	4 August	President Wilson issues a proclamation of neutrality on outbreak of World War I.
	22 August	German Military Attaché to U.S., Franz von Papen, tasks Paul Koenig to form an intelligence and sabotage ring in New York.
	September	Horst von der Goltz fails to blow up the Welland Canal.
	2 November	German General Staff issues directive to military attaches in neutral countries to recruit anarchists for sabotage operations.
	15 December	Von Bernstorff receives cable from German Foreign Office instructing him to target Canadian Railways for destruction.
1915	1 January	Roebing wire and cable plant in Trenton, New Jersey is blown up.
	26 January	Von Bernstorff and von Papen urged to recruit Irish agitators for sabotage by German Foreign Office.
	28 January	A German ship sinks an American merchant ship carrying wheat to Britain.
	2 February	Werner Horn captured attempting to blow up the Vanceboro Bridge.
	April	Germans covertly establish a munitions plant, the Bridgeport Projectile Company, in Connecticut to divert U.S. war materials destined for its enemies.
	2 April	Doctor Walter Scheele forms a front company in New Jersey to manufacture incendiary devices for German sabotage operations.
	3 April	Captain Franz von Rintelen and Robert Fay arrive in U.S. with sabotage assignments.
	7 May	Lusitania torpedoed by German U-boat off Irish coast.
	15 May	Unexploded bombs found in ship docking at Marseilles; devices traced to von Rintelen operation.
	2 July	U.S. Capital bombed.
3 July	Financier J.P.Morgan shot by protester.	

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1915	15 July	Doctor Heinrich Albert leaves portfolio with plans to foment labor unrest, other German schemes on subway. A Secret Service agent, following Albert, takes the portfolio.
	13 August	Von Rintelen captured by British at Dover as he was attempting to return to Germany.
	30 August	Documents of Austro-Hungarian Ambassador Constantin Dumba, which included instructions for subversion and implicating Von Papen and Captain Karl Boy-Ed, seized by British; President Wilson demands recall of Dumba.
	24 October	Robert Fay arrested, further implicates Von Papen and Boy-Ed in German sabotage operations.
	1 December	President Wilson demands recall of Von Papen and Boy-Ed.
	28 December	Von Rintelen indicted for fomenting strikes in American munitions plants.
1916	January	Director of ONI complains that Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt is forming his own secret intelligence bureau separate from ONI.
	16 February	Key meeting at Section 3B, German General Staff takes place to plan sabotage and use of new incendiary devices in U.S.
	9 March	Pancho Villa raids Columbus, a New Mexico border town, killing 17 American soldiers and civilians.
	15 March	President Woodrow Wilson dispatches a Punitive Expedition under Brigadier General John J. "Blackjack" Pershing against Villa.
	May	House of Representatives defeats anti-espionage legislation proposed by the Attorney General.
	21 June	US troops in Mexico are attacked at Carrizal.
	9 July	German merchant submarine <i>Deutschland</i> arrives in Baltimore; provides front for Captain Frederick Hinsch's sabotage activities.
	30 July	German agents blow up Black Tom Island, a munitions transfer point between New York and New Jersey. The explosions killed two and caused \$20 million in damage.

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1916	10 August	Hilken pays \$2,000 to Hinsch for the Black Tom sabotage.
	29 August	Council of National Defense is formed to coordinate war preparedness efforts in American industry.
	4 November	Secretary of State Robert Lansing creates the Bureau of Secret Intelligence, funded with confidential funds, much of which comes from American businessmen.
1917	11 January	Fire destroys the Kingsland Plant.
	1 February	Germany launches unrestricted submarine warfare.
	3 February	President Wilson breaks off diplomatic relations with Germany; sends Von Bernstorff home.
	5 February	General Pershing's Punitive Expedition withdraws from Mexico.
	24 February	The British give The Zimmerman Telegram to Walter Hines Pages, the U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain.
	22 March	American Protective League established to support the government in its domestic investigations of "radicals."
	31 March	Attorney General, Thomas W. Gregory, without congressional authority, authorizes Bureau of Investigations to investigate German espionage in the United States.
	3 April	Most German saboteurs leave U.S. because, under declaration of war, anyone committing sabotage can be sentenced to death.
	6 April	U.S. declares war on Germany.
	13 April	Fred Herrman, German saboteur, writes Paul Hilken, German sabotage paymaster, invisible message requesting funds to blow up Tampico oil fields.
	14 April	First wartime Executive Order dealing with the broad subject of censorship issued by President Wilson.
	28 April	Secretary of War given wartime censorship control over telegraph and telephones leading out of the United States.

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1917	3 May	Col. Ralph Van Deman, head of Military Intelligence, initiates unauthorized secret intelligence efforts, contrary to orders of the Chief of Staff.
	3 May	Military Intelligence Section of the U.S. Army War College is created.
	18 May	Selective Service Act is passed.
	10 June	Van Deman hires Herbert O. Yardley to head the Code and Cipher Bureau (MI-8), thus beginning the US government's special effort to decipher foreign coded communications.
	15 June	Espionage Act passed.
	13 August	Corps of Intelligence Police officially established.
	31 August	General Pershing creates the Intelligence Section, General Staff.
	6 October	Trading with Enemy Act passed which authorizes president to place an embargo on imports, forbids trade with enemy nations, and allows the government to censor the mail.
	12 October	President Wilson creates the National Censorship Board.
	12 November	First Signal Corps intercept station in World War I operational at Souilly, France.
	25 November	Corps of Intelligence Police arrived in St. Nazaire, France.
20 December	Bolsheviks create the Cheka, the Soviet forerunner of the KGB, now the SVRR.	
1918	1 February	Lothar Witzke arrested crossing into U.S. and confesses role in Black Tom Island sabotage but later recants.
	22 February	Radio Intelligence Service created in MID to intercept and record all messages originating in Mexico,
	28 August	Negative Branch (counterintelligence) officially created in Military Intelligence Division.
	16 May	The Sedition Act, an amendment to the Espionage Act, is passed.
	17 August	Witzke convicted and sentenced to hang; only man thus sentenced in U.S. in World War I. Sentenced later commuted and he is eventually freed.

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1918	14 September	Eugene Debs, Socialist Party, is found guilty of making seditious statements that impede recruitment efforts and is sentenced to 10 years in prison under the Espionage Act of 1917.
	16 October	The Deportation Act passed by Congress; provided for the deportation of aliens who were anarchists.
	11 November	Armistice ending World War I signed.
1919	January	MID orders all civilian investigations to cease; MID personnel to confine investigations to military reservations.
	2 June	A bomb explodes in front of Attorney General Palmer's townhouse in Washington, D.C. The bomber was killed, but leaflets found on the body suggest foreign involvement.
	13 June	Soviet Representative Marten arrested and deported in 1920.
	12 August	J. Edgar Hoover appointed Head of the General Intelligence Division.
	7 November	The General Intelligence Division, headed by J. Edgar Hoover, raided the offices of the Union of Russian Workers, a labor society.
	22 December	Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer initiates a series of raids against communists, anarchists and other radicals.