

# THE NOVICHOK INCIDENT

**GRU officers named by British Intelligence in the attempted assassination of MI6 agent Sergei Skripal and murder of civilian Dawn Sturgess, as GRU 'Cleaners' fail to remove evidence of Kremlin involvement**

# The Salisbury Tales

## ASSASSINS IDENTIFIED?

Sergei Skripal



**F**ollowing extensive cross-referencing of 11,000 hours of CCTV footage in London, Salisbury and other locations in southern England, British Intelligence has identified two prime suspects in the attempted assassination of MI6 agent Sergei Skripal on 4 March 2018. The alleged Kremlin-sanctioned operation involving the deadly Novichok nerve agent also affected the health of Skripal's daughter Yulia. On 30 June, civilians Charlie Rowley and his partner Dawn Sturgess fell ill after they sprayed what they believed was perfume on their arms. Rowley had found the bottle in a rubbish bin in Salisbury. Sturgess died on 8 July from Novichok poisoning.

Other additional information collected from travel documents, places the suspects visited and stayed, plus unspecified documentation which Eye Spy understands was supplied by a 'third party' (foreign intelligence service), led to the naming of Russian nationals 'Alexander Petrov' and 'Ruslan Boshirov'. British Intelligence and New Scotland Yard Counter Terrorism Command believe the names are pseudonyms, assigned to the men by Russia's GRU (military intelligence).

### A JIGSAW PUZZLE

Investigative group Bellingcat (an assembly of private investigators and news collectors



2009 photo of GRU Colonel Anatoliy Chepiga

founded in 2014) traced military imagery of an individual pictured in a group photo of graduates in Chechnya. Some commentators suggest it is Boshirov.





**Ruslan Boshirov**



**Alexander Petrov**



**UK Secretary of Defence Gavin Williamson with US Secretary of Defence James Mattis at NATO headquarters. The US supports Britain's stance on Russia's involvement in the incident**



**Bellingcat lead investigator on the Salisbury case - Christo Grozen**

However, the reference to the person is Colonel Anatoliy Chepiga. Literature described him as an intelligence officer who served in

the 14th Spetsnaz Brigade in various theatres and was declared a 'Hero of the Russian Federation' in 2014. For accurate reporting it should be recorded that on Bellingcat.com a caption read: *'Bellingcat does not claim that the person in the photograph is Chepiga'*. What is known of the officer is that Chepiga was born on 5 April 1978 and he trained at one of Russia's most revered facilities - the Far Eastern Military Command Academy. His name also features on a memorial wall celebrating elite officers.

Seemingly supportive of reports Boshirov is Chepiga, UK Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson tweeted: *'The true identity of one of the Salisbury suspects has been revealed to be a Russian Colonel. I want to thank all the people who are working so tirelessly on this case'*. Interestingly, the tweet has since been deleted.

Also in reference to the story, former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson tweeted: *'Utterly predictable news that the GRU is behind Skripal atrocity'*. His tweet remains active.

#### CONFIRMATION?

In late September, a BBC investigative team travelled to the village of Beryozovka, 5,000 miles east of Moscow and close to the Chinese border. It was here where Chepiga was reportedly raised. A woman in the village was shown the photograph secured by Bellingcat and other images and immediately recognised him. She acknowledged that the



**A BBC investigate team travelled to the village of Beryozovka where Chepiga once lived. At least one resident recognised him**



**GRU chief Igor Korobov (right) and Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu**





**Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov caught on CCTV at Gatwick Airport 2 March**

image released by New Scotland Yard was also the same man, "only older." Speaking on the condition of anonymity, the woman said: "It's him in the photos, of course."

Of the allegations Boshirov and Chepiga are one and the same man, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the imagery proves nothing. "We don't know to what extent we can make any formal conclusions about who looks like whom, are they alike, where they lived, where they grew up. On Red Square there are still 10 Stalins and 15 Lenins running around, and they look remarkably like the originals." Peskov was referring to people who look like Stalin and Lenin and pose for tourists.

#### THE GRU DOCTOR

On 9 October Bellingcat and The Insider released a statement and imagery on the alleged true identity of Alexander Petrov. He was named as Dr Alexander Mishkin, 39 who is also a Hero of the Russian Federation. According to researchers at Bellingcat, Mishkin assumed his new identity in 2010.

Eye Spy was informed that much of the painstaking investigative research into discovering the true identities of the GRU men was conducted by The Insider's founder, Roman Dobrokhотов and journalist Sergei Kanev.



**UK Security Minister Ben Wallace**

Eye Spy was informed initial identification was made by MI5 and MI6 just weeks after the March incident, but details withheld as the investigation widened. However, this would explain why Britain was so quick to point the finger of blame at Moscow. Of additional note, the two suspects had used the pseudonyms for at least two years in several European countries (including the UK), to "strengthen the validity of their identification papers," according to MI6 sources.

#### COVER AND LEGEND

The release of photographs of Petrov and Boshirov showing the men in various locations



**The photo which allegedly shows GRU Colonel Anatoliy Chepiga (far right)**

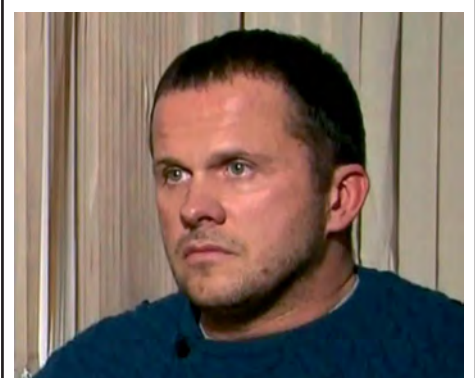
## TRADING PLACES



Photo of GRU Colonel Anatoliy Chepiga (above) and a still from the RT interview showing Ruslan Boshirov. It is alleged Boshirov is Anatoliy Chepiga



Below: Photographs secured by Bellingcat of Dr Alexander Mishkin - A.k.a. Alexander Petrov





in London and Salisbury accompanied by a detailed timeline of their movements, generated a plethora of stories and commentary from leading British officials and intelligence people alike. Downing Street said the assassins were both experienced GRU intelligence officers who had used “flawless documentation” to enter the UK and complete their mission - “to kill Sergei Skripal.” British Security Minister Ben Wallace, said President Putin was “ultimately responsible” for the “pathetic GRU operation” and said the operatives were “calamitous state assassins.” Wallace continued: “The [Russian] state clearly decided to sit behind this action and lend its logistics. The men were given genuine passports, provided with aliases that survived a certain level of test and visas used by many law-abiding Russians to visit Britain for holidays or business.

“The Russian state, which we know had invented Novichok, must have made sure it was put in a package that was there to

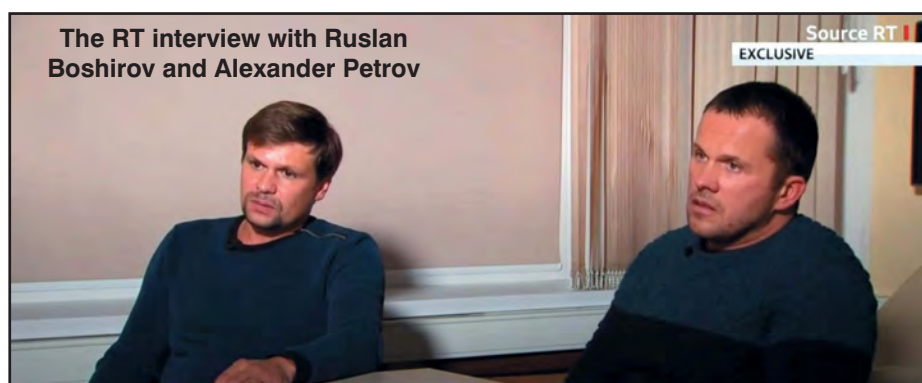


**Memorial of the Far Eastern Military Command School. Colonel Chepiga is the last name that features on the wall (far right - boxed)**

disguise it. If you let them [the operatives] into your system, airside in Russia, it becomes a harder thing to detect.”

In response, President Putin again insisted the Russians were simply civilians - “tourists who had embarked on a trip to visit special areas,”

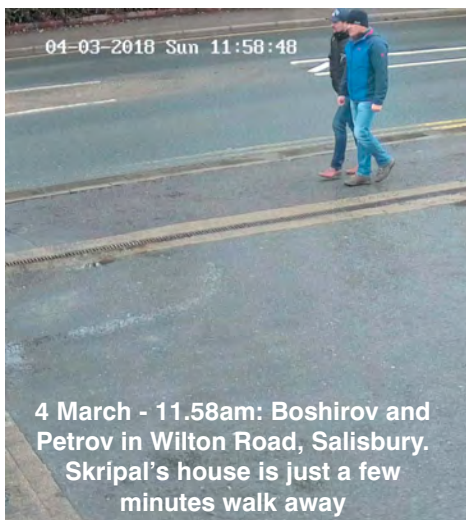
including Salisbury Cathedral. Putin’s comments followed an RT television interview broadcast in Russian, in which both men admitted being in Salisbury and may well have passed Skripal’s house, but denied spraying the nerve agent on his house door which the unfortunate spy and his daughter touched. ➤



**Tourists or assassins? Suspected GRU officers Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov pictured in Fisherton Road, Salisbury, England, close to the home of former MI6 agent Sergei Skripal on 4 March - the day of the attack**







4 March - 11.58am: Boshirov and Petrov in Wilton Road, Salisbury. Skripal's house is just a few minutes walk away



Mishkin's passport

Interestingly, while Putin supported the notion the suspects are simply civilians, intelligence watchers note that it is usually the president himself who awards the Hero of the Russian Federation medal - meaning he almost certainly handed it Colonel Anatoliy Chepiga and Dr Mishkin, who many now agree are Boshirov and Petrov. Though Boshirov is known to have travelled widely in Europe for the last two years, Eye Spy sources in Moscow believe he was given a new cover and legend almost a decade ago, making him the "perfect international traveller for overseas operations and tasks."

## 72 HOURS

Following collaboration between various security services and authorities, MI5 and New Scotland Yard developed a precise timeline of the suspects movements, which intelligence commentators believe negates the men's story of a "tourist trip."

**FRIDAY 2 MARCH:** Petrov and Boshirov fly into the UK from Moscow arriving at Gatwick Airport shortly before 3.00pm where CCTV shows them entering the country. They are also captured on several cameras at Waterloo and Victoria Stations. For the next 24-hours or

so they remain in London after checking in at the City Stay Hotel in the east of the capital.

**SATURDAY 3 MARCH:** The men book day return train tickets from London to Salisbury, where they are again captured in CCTV in the town. This trip was described as a "reconnaissance mission" by intelligence analysts. After a few hours they returned to London.

**SUNDAY 4 MARCH:** In the morning the Russians again travel to Salisbury where they are caught on a number of CCTV cameras in the town. One image taken at 11.58am shows the men on Fisherton Street, quite close to Skripal's residence. According to police sources, the imagery was captured shortly before they had sprayed Novichok on the front door handle of Skripal's house. By 4.45pm, the men had returned to London

At around 4.10pm, both Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia are found unconscious on a park bench in Salisbury - both were "foaming at the mouth," according to eye witnesses.

Petrov and Boshirov collect their sparse belongings at their hotel and journey to

Heathrow Airport. At around 10.30pm they depart the UK and a few hours later arrive back in Moscow.

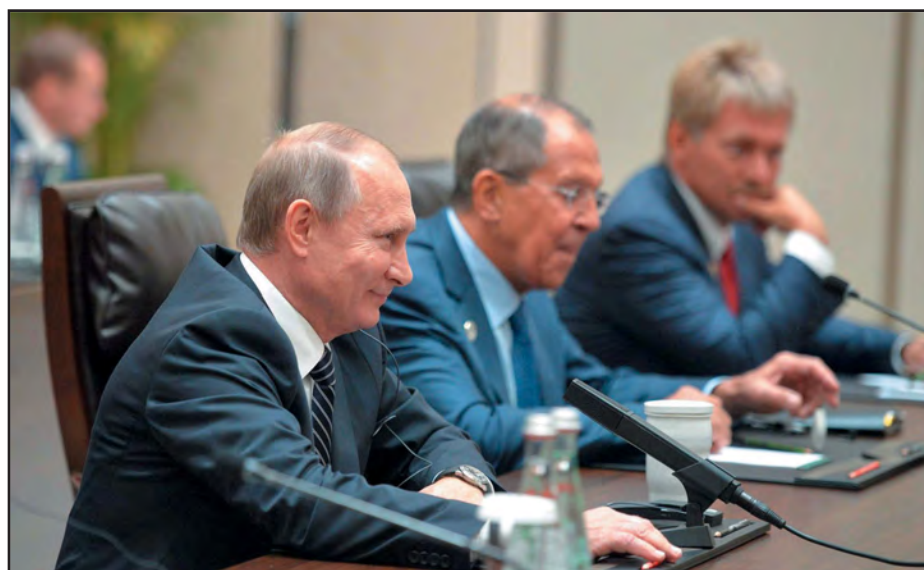
Missing from the released timeline, but undoubtedly secured by MI5, is information most sensitive. This concerns a field support group which, according to a number of informed correspondents, assisted Petrov and Boshirov in the operation and was probably controlled by other senior GRU people both in London and Moscow. According to the sources, Skripal was surveilled for weeks, perhaps months prior to the attack and his routine carefully noted. Similarly, on the day



Charlie Rowley



The charges against Petrov and Boshirov include the attempted murder of police officer Nick Bailey who was exposed to Novichok and hospitalised



President Putin has insisted the suspects are not GRU intelligence officers

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA





Karen Pierce UK Ambassador to the UN, delivers a scathing report to officials of the assassination attempt



British newspapers generally agreed that Ruslan Boshirov is in fact GRU Colonel Anatoliy Chepiga

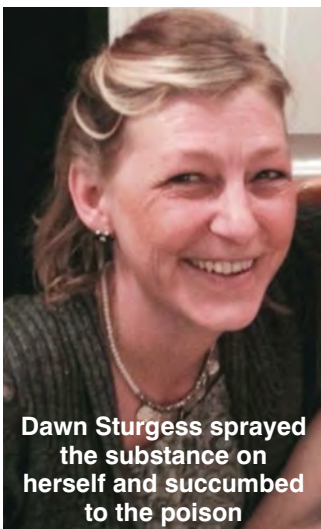


City Stay Hotel

the Novichok was sprayed on his front door handle (in broad daylight), both suspects must have acted without fear of being seen at his home, or, as some surveillance authorities suggest, the operatives used a less-than conspicuous third party to 'deliver' the poison - an act which would have taken seconds. Crucially, traces of Novichok were also discovered in the room the men had booked in the City Stay Hotel in London.

#### SUMMONED

Following release of the timeline and other



Dawn Sturgess sprayed the substance on herself and succumbed to the poison

information, Britain summoned a senior diplomat at the Russian Embassy to confirm charges had been brought against the two Russians. The official served to

replace Ambassador Alexander Yakovenko who was not in the UK at the time. A government spokesman said: "He [the Russian diplomat] was informed of the charges we have brought against the two Russian citizens, the fact that they were GRU officers and of our determination that they should be brought to justice.

"We also made clear that the UK expects the Russian state to account for the reckless and outrageous actions of the GRU and that the UK expects that Russia provide a full account of its chemical weapons programmes to the OPCW (Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons)."

The UK charges include conspiracy to murder Skripal by poisoning and UK police officer Nick Bailey, plus the use and possession of Novichok contrary to the Chemical Weapons Act.

#### EVIDENCE AND ARRESTS WARRANTS

European-wide arrest warrants (Red Notices) have duly been issued by Interpol. However, Russia has an 'embedded law' that it does not extradite its own nationals, regardless of the nature of the alleged crime or incident; the pair therefore are unlikely to return to the UK, though this does not mean New Scotland Yard

will simply end its pursuit of the GRU operatives.

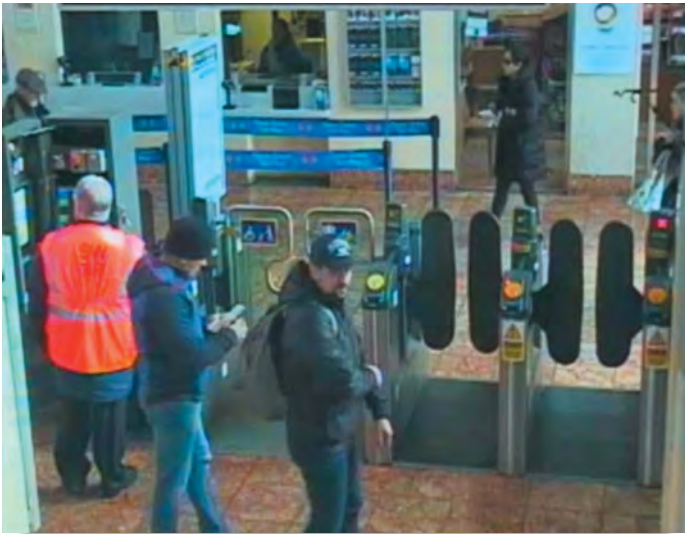
Besides an array of convincing imagery and supporting evidence, much of which remains secret, NSY also provided further details relating to the delivery method of nerve agent. The poison was contained in a bottle (boxed) labelled *Premier Jour* by Nina Ricci. On inspection, the label and container were found to be "convincing counterfeits."

Forensic specialists also confirmed the bottle had been adapted to support a tube which allowed the operatives to spray or drip the poison on the door handle without risk of contamination. And sadly it was this bottle and plastic tube that civilian Charlie Rowley, 43, discovered and handled in June. His partner Dawn Sturgess, 44, died after spraying the substance on her person.

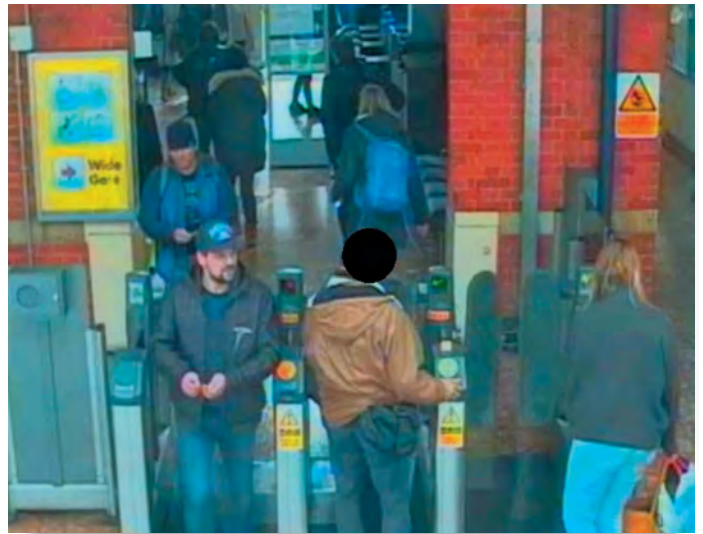
Complimentary information released by NSY also revealed Rowley had found the items in a rubbish bin in Salisbury, not in a park as previously reported. NSY described the concealment method of the Novichok as a "perfect cover for smuggling the weapon into the country and a perfect delivery method." However, they still have not ascertained if other items (contaminated) were used in the attack.







**4 March - 11.40am: Boshirov and Petrov arrive at Salisbury Train Station**



**4 March - 1.50pm: Boshirov and Petrov are again caught on CCTV cameras at Salisbury Train Station**

Analysts also said the amount of Novichok contained in the bottle could have killed as many as 4,000 people - a figure which has further infuriated the British Government.

The entire case file of evidence has since been presented to the UN Security Council, which may result in further sanctions against Moscow.

#### UNCOMFORTABLE QUESTIONS

Despite the weight of evidence secured by numerous investigative and intelligence bodies, Russia continues to blame the UK for the "loss of a toxic poison," and have dismissed suggestions the operation was

conducted by the GRU and supported by the Kremlin. However, the interview given by Petrov and Boshirov to RT, was described by one Russian commentator as "uncomfortable watching."

The men, supposedly in the "sports nutrition business," told their RT interviewer they were in the UK to visit the "famous Salisbury cathedral and its 123-metre tall spire," as well as the Stonehenge monument. However, the snowy and chilly weather conditions were not conducive to a lengthier stay and they opted to return to London quickly.

They have denied bringing Novichok into the country and are now "fearful of their own lives." Boshirov said: "We are afraid to go out... we fear for ourselves and the lives of our loved ones. Our lives have been turned upside down." The men insisted they want an apology from the UK authorities and want the real perpetrators to be caught and convicted.

Asked directly if they work for the GRU, Boshirov quickly injected, "I don't," while Petrov said, "And I don't... yes this is probably the scariest part of the UK charges and allegations."

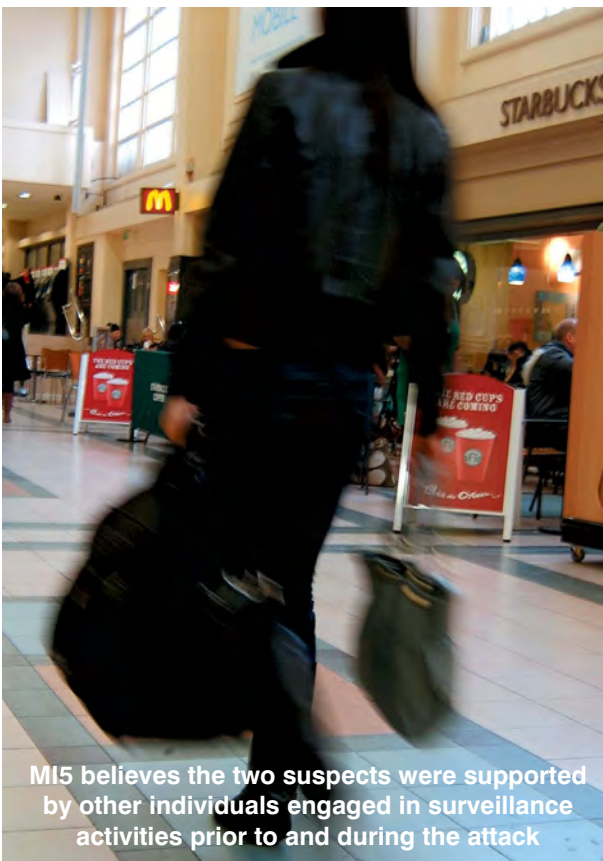
A body language specialist told Eye Spy, the men appeared nervous and uncomfortable: "They were motionless, and though attempting to display a calm exterior it appears they were briefed. At times they injected improbable comments, such as a specific reference to the

cathedral's 123-metre spire; there is tension and an obvious instruction to deliver their responses with little or no emotion." Downing Street called the RT interview "deeply offensive to the victims."

As for Bellingcat's information, there has been no reference to the GRU or the re-publishing of imagery in any notable Russian media house which convincingly shows two people who look remarkably like Boshirov and Petrov. MI5 and NSY have not disputed or commented on the investigative group's material.

#### THE SWISS LABORATORY

Another case file which could be connected to the Salisbury incident emerged in Holland and Switzerland. Two alleged Russian 'spies' were detained and later expelled from Holland earlier this year as they planned an operation against the OPCW-designated Swiss Spiez Laboratory which was examining samples of the Novichok nerve agent used in the attack. This incident seems inextricably linked or is part of the Dutch Intelligence investigation into the alleged GRU operation to hack into the computer main frame of the OPCW at the organisation's headquarters in the Hague. (See page 64).



**MI5 believes the two suspects were supported by other individuals engaged in surveillance activities prior to and during the attack**



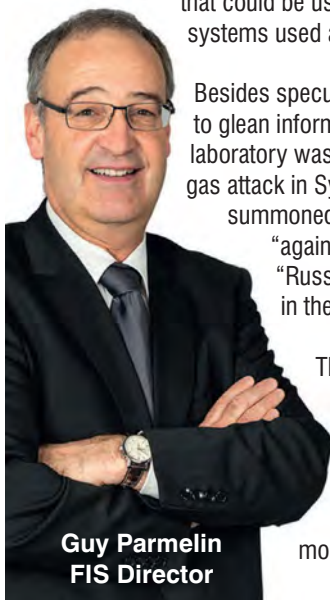
**The OPCW-designated Swiss Spiez Laboratory**





**4 March: The suspects pass through a security point at Heathrow Airport as they depart the UK for Moscow**

According to the *Tages-Anzeiger* newspaper (a Zurich-based Swiss-German publication) the suspects were carrying 'specialist equipment' that could be used to engage with the computer systems used at the Swiss facility.



**Guy Parmelin  
FIS Director**

Besides speculation that the men were attempting to glean information on the Salisbury case, the laboratory was also investigating data on a poison gas attack in Syria. Switzerland's Foreign Ministry summoned Russia's ambassador and protested "against the attempted attack," and said "Russia should immediately cease spying in the country."

There was speculation the two men expelled by Holland were the Salisbury suspects, but this is most unlikely, despite the men admitting they had visited Switzerland on a least one occasion in the last 12 months.

**Continued on Page 78**



**Foreign Secretary  
Jeremy Hunt**

# A NOTE OF CAUTION

**DR YURI FELSHTINSKY**



**Russian Intelligence Specialist**

**INTEL  
INSIDE**

Dr Yuri Felshtinsky authored the important book *Blowing Up Russia* with former FSB officer and MI6 agent Alexander Litvinenko. In 2014 he gave an exclusive interview to Eye Spy featured in issue 90. Here he provides insight on two important aspects of the Salisbury investigation

## GRU MINDSET

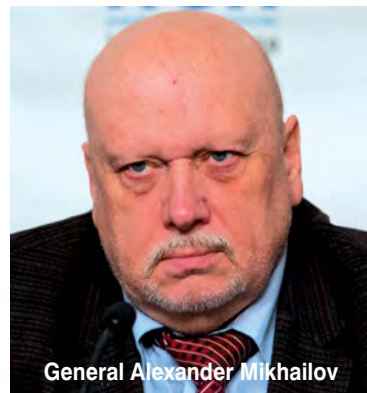
Even though they botched their covert attack on Sergei Skripal and are now publicly named, President Putin will praise the two members of the GRU and reward them in ways that will advance their career, promoting them as heroes now that their cover is blown. GRU attacks, moreover, have a broader brief than the lethal precision attacks organised by the FSB. In the case of the GRU, the death of innocent bystanders is seen as an accepted risk as was the case with the first use of Novichok against Ivan Kivelidi in 1995, when not only he but also his secretary died in Moscow from the poison placed on the receiver of his office phone.

For the GRU, a campaign in Britain is no different from the military campaign in Syria where civilians get killed.

## BELLINGCAT DATA

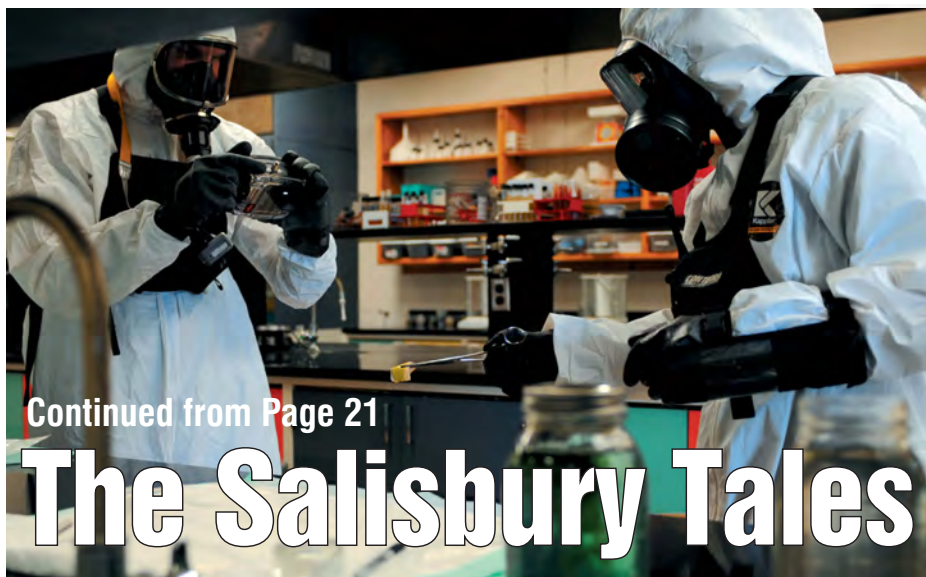
Bellingcat.com's evidence that Dawn Sturgess's killer Boshirov is in fact GRU Colonel Chepiga seems plausible. However, caution needs to be exercised to avoid a situation where Moscow parades the war hero on TV together with Boshirov to show how Western media fakes news.

Two facts give pause for thought at the moment: the fact that retired FSB PR General Alexander Mikhailov has denounced the identification. Only on Vladimir Putin's instruction would he get involved in a campaign of disinformation to make the West look unreliable as the creator of fake news about the killer of Dawn Sturgess. Secondly, Chepiga has a high-profile as a war hero, which must mean limited usefulness as a GRU secret agent if secrecy was the objective. In any case, while Boshirov and Chepiga may be the same or may be different people, one fact remains that Moscow cannot 'cloud' - Dawn Sturgess was definitely killed by Ruslan Boshirov.



**General Alexander Mikhailov**





Continued from Page 21

# The Salisbury Tales

No details concerning the exact date of the incident were published, but the GRU operation at the OPCW headquarters happened in April.

Eye Spy was told the attempted 'Swiss break-in' followed the Skripal incident and MI6 was "actively involved." This seems accurate following a statement released by the Swiss Federal Intelligence Agency (FIS). Head of Communications Isabelle Graber acknowledged British and Dutch Intelligence had "actively participated in the operation."

In Moscow, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov dismissed the reports, noting that nothing was "picked up at the time by the media."

Lavrov insisted the story was "bogus and made up by Western media," and called the report "groundless allegations."

## THE SALISBURY SANCTION

There has been enormous speculation as to why Sergei Skripal was targeted by the GRU.



3 March - 4.11pm: Boshirov and Petrov at Salisbury Train Station as they prepare to return to London after they had allegedly performed a reconnaissance mission



The converted perfume bottle found by Charlie Rowley which contained the Novichok nerve agent

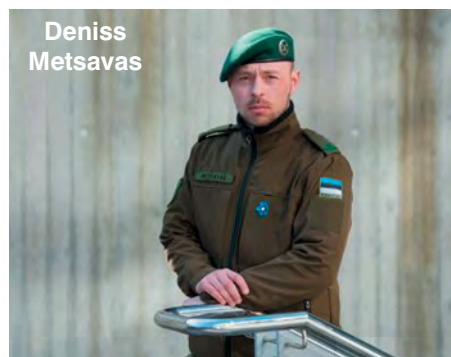
He of course was exchanged in 2010 along with three Western intelligence contact men for several SVR spies and officers arrested in the USA. Besides the obvious - being a designated traitor of Russia - Eye Spy sources suggest that the GRU initiated the operation



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov denies all UK charges

(planning) around the same time as high-profile meetings began in Moscow to explore the possibility of merging Russian intelligence organisations such as the FSB and SVR (See Eye Spy 117). "It's possible... to avoid being drawn into the talks and to retain its independence, the GRU wanted to prove it could action the most 'impossible' tasks," one informed Russian intelligence watcher told Eye Spy. "The GRU in proving its operational prowess, was determined to show its colleagues that it had the know-how and capabilities to act anywhere. By removing a traitor, the GRU would elevate itself further. The Skripal sanction was too good an opportunity to ignore."

Other scenarios have also been mentioned, including Skripal was still "active in the intelligence game." There are stories he provided background intelligence in 2012 to Czech Intelligence on the activities of Russian spy networks in the country. One reporter with NATO threads said that "so accurate was Skripal's observations and information, he was visited in Salisbury on at least two occasions by the Czechs to glean further material." Another report said he also provided officials in Spain with useful intelligence on Russian activities in the country.



Deniss Metsavas





**Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said comparing imagery was not reliable, and referenced the many Stalin and Lenin lookalikes who can be found in Red Square, Moscow, posing for tourists (top)**



**Dmitry Peskov**

In Russia itself, one story has been deliberately circulated amongst senior media editors, undoubtedly by Russian Intelligence. This concerns the 'outing' of several Russian spies in the Baltics and Eastern Europe. Skripal allegedly helped expose a number of Russian agents (GRU) in Estonia. Two of the agents were named as Deniss Metsavas (Estonia Defence Forces) who had access to NATO secrets, and his father, Pjotr Volin, believed to have worked in the Main Directorate of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces.

And then there are tales of a "polite well spoken Englishman who Skripal regularly met in Salisbury. He has been dubbed the 'tweed man' because of the type of suit he always wore. Some intelligence commentators believe he is in fact Skripal's MI6 controller or handler. Another report suggests the unidentified intelligence man has commercial threads to the so-called 'Trump Dossier' which has so-damaged relations between the White House and US Intelligence Community.

Beyond the rumours, speculation and imagination of some reporters, and far more important, Skripal knows the identities of dozens of key GRU and other Russian intelligence people and agents, some of whom he disclosed to MI6 in 2006 which led to his

arrest and jail sentence. This was one primary reason why Britain agreed to the exchange. "Moscow sees this as a danger to other active agents," a specialist in Russian Intelligence affairs said. "Skripal will have provided information and names useful to MI6 and allied forces."

#### DIPLOMATIC RESPONSE

Russia's Foreign Ministry said that despite the "new evidence" put forward by Britain, the Skripal case is "falling apart." Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov also said he has sent around 60 diplomatic letters to London demanding access to the investigation and Skripals. Also of note, Karen Pierce, UK Ambassador to the UN, referenced the worldwide operations of the GRU and Russia's continuing use of chemical weapons in several theatres.

UK Foreign Minister Jeremy Hunt, whose organisation oversees MI6 said: "It is not acceptable for Russia to instruct two GRU agents to use chemical weapons on British

soil. We have international norms where you don't use chemical weapons." He warned that the "price will be high."

Mr Hunt also drew reference to the assassination of MI6 agent Alexander Litvinenko in London over a decade ago by Russian Intelligence operatives.

#### THE CODE OF CONDUCT

As reported in Eye Spy, British Intelligence has accused the GRU (again), of breaking the spy exchange 'code of conduct', where unwritten rules apply that spies exchanged through diplomatic channels and even non-publicised covert ones, will not be targeted. In a little over a decade, several incidents in the UK have occurred whereby former Russian



**Oleg Gordievsky pictured following his defection**

intelligence officers who, for whatever reasons opted to switch sides have been targeted, the most infamous being Alexander Litvinenko in 2006. However, this was not an isolated case. In 2008 the former head of the KGB in Britain, Oleg Gordievsky, who defected in 1985, was almost certainly the victim of a poison attack at a party in southern England.

Speaking recently about his latest spy book - *The Spy and the Traitor*, which focuses on the

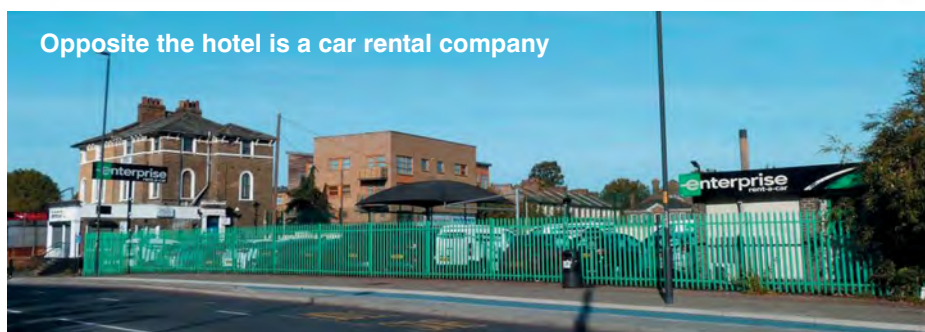


**The packaging and labelling found by Charlie Rowley which contained the lethal bottle of Novichok. The manufacturers said the items were counterfeit**





City Stay Hotel



Opposite the hotel is a car rental company



Bellingcat.com founder Eliot Higgins addresses journalists outside Parliament

life and work of Gordievsky, intelligence writer Ben Macintyre said since the Skripal affair, security has been increased dramatically to protect the former spy.

In America, moves are already underway to provide additional security to a number of former Russian CIA spies who have settled in the country. While the security programme has been hastened following events in the UK, new security procedures for the agents was already underway after an incident in Florida four years ago when FBI officers surveilled a suspected Russian assassin who had arrived in the country. There was real fear in Washington that the operative had been charged with conducting a "revenge attack," according to highly informed intelligence sources.

#### US INTEL RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME

The top secret CIA and US Intelligence 'Resettlement Programme' for the spies had not been breached, but officials did engage in a project to discover just how easy it would be for an outside party to track the spies and persons described as 'informants'. It is believed up to 100 individuals and their relatives are under protection. Neither Langley nor the FBI would engage with reporters regarding rumours a number of former agents have been relocated and given new identities. However, sources believe this is exactly what happened following the Salisbury incident.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Eye Spy has learned MI5 believe the men opted to travel by train to Salisbury, not for convenience or speed, but because there was little chance they would be stopped (routine or perhaps due to a traffic violation or incident). Of further interest, virtually opposite the City Stay Hotel in London is a major car rental company, thus MI5 believe the men kept their options open regarding travel arrangements. Similarly, we were advised the security services are still searching for other people, perhaps a surveillance support team.

Despite the complexities of this case, it's fairly obvious British Intelligence had no exact prior knowledge that the GRU were about to launch such an audacious and dangerous operation

## JOURNALIST FEARFUL

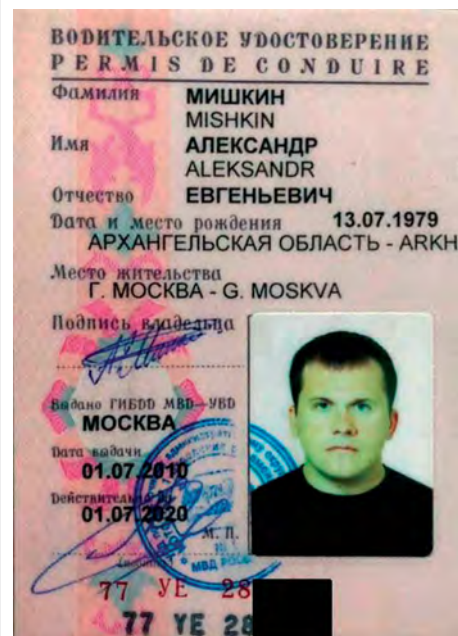


2018. Sergei Kanev speaking at a conference for investigative journalists in Riga

Russian journalist Sergei Kanev who participated in Bellingcat's probe to identify the two GRU officers in the Salisbury Novichok incident, has said he has left Russia "fearing prosecution because of his work." Kanev, who specialises in crime and police corruption, said "there are many of my investigations that have angered certain high-ranking officials. This is not only about Boshirov and Petrov.

against Skripal. This does not mean they were not fearful.

As for the header on our report - *The Salisbury Tales*, we heard reference amongst British



Anatoliy Chepiga's driving licence