

IMPOSSIBLE SCENARIOS GROUP

The Millennium's End London Sourcebook

A freeware sourcebook for Millennium's End
By
Roger Stenning, Gary Newsham, and Mark Baker

Third Edition

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London.

The seat of modern democracy.

With fraying edges.

This book will introduce you to a different London. A London where things are most definitely in a state of siege from all angles, both political and criminal.

In this environment, BlackEagle / BlackEagle have a major office, and run some of the most challenging assignments on Earth.

Bring your body armour.

You'll need it.

PDF version compiled by Roger Stenning (roger@the-isg.co.uk)

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The Millennium's End London Sourcebook

Written and illustrated by Roger Stenning, Gary Newsham, and Mark Baker.

Third (2000 AD) Edition.

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Third (Y2K) Edition Preface...

Happy Y2K!

Well, we made it. The much-feared Millennium Bug was more a whimper than a bang, and the internet has failed (so far) to come crashing down about our ears. Maybe next year, same time, same place <grin>?

Anyhow. The ISG main website is now in a new location, with it's own top-level (www.the-isg.co.uk) domain name, which we're vastly proud of. A fitting start to the new millennium, in our less-than-humble opinions.

So.

Welcome to the Millennium's End London Sourcebook. This sourcebook is totally unofficial, and is the work of a few dedicated Millennium's End referees, who decided to make their work available to others on the world wide web. We have tried, wherever possible, to keep to the stated history in the "Millennium's End v2.0" rules book, but there will be areas where this hasn't been entirely possible. As a GM, it's up to you what you use, and what you don't. have fun, and please let us know if this is useful to you - there's a feedback form at the end of the e-book for your use. We look forward to hearing from you!

We therefore have the following disclaimer to state, before we do ANYTHING else!

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Editorial to the third (Y2K) edition

or,
a slightly tongue-in-cheek set of comments on London...

Firstly, a legal disclaimer:

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OK. Now we've got that out of the way, we have to point out a few things. The London described in this e-book is based on the 'real world' London, but with **significant** changes. The so-called 'Ring of Steel' **was** put into place. It's manned by normal CoLP officers. At times of tension, there may be armed officers present, but it's most definitely NOT a regular occurrence. While there is a City of London Police Service, there is NO City of London Police Check Point Guard Force, although the principle of its' establishment is practical enough. Many former members of the Armed Services do go into the Law Enforcement professions.

The technology, both surveillance/security-wide and communications-wise, may well exist. We do **not** have access to classified material, so we've guessed a hell of a lot, based on current technology, with a bit of brainstorming.

The internet technology described does not yet exist, but it's starting to get there. The nearest we have is 'SUPERJanet', which is a new high-capacity, high-speed internet-based system of links, primarily between academic establishments like Universities, which could well be the forerunner of a new high-speed optical network for internet use in the UK. With this in mind, British Telecom recently rolled out its' new '**Homehighway**'™ technology, combining ISDN and digital speech telephone lines to provide a faster than 56kbs access system to small and medium-sized businesses and home users; while rather higher in cost to the normal modem access, it's not as fast as an ISDN connection, of course.

By 2001, however, it is planned to have ASDL (**A**symmetric **D**igital **S**ubscriber **L**ine) technology available to all who want (and can afford) it. While the exact plans are still pretty-much up in the air (see <http://www.bt.com/adsl/>), **OFTEL** (**O**ffice of **TE**lecommunications), the UK telecommunications watchdog, has instructed BT to get a move on, and there are questions (well, arguments, the way we've heard it, anyhow, between BT and OFTEL) as to how BT will enact the new (for the UK, anyhow) system, particularly with regard to other telecomms companies having access to the technology, since BT's monopoly on UK telecomms was broken, due to the de-regulation that occurred in the UK a few years ago. Again, time will tell... you can find out more on the real world situation at www.bt.com, and www.oftel.org...

In late 1999, a new company, The Millennium Map Company (MMC), issued a news release, giving details about the company.

Their intent is to photographically map out the entire UK, and sell the images over the internet.

Naturally, civil rights (read: 'Leave Me Alone, you Fascists!') and pro-privacy (read: 'I Have Everything to Hide!') groups are rather upset about this. Central Government were a bit put out, too, worrying about National Security, with, it has to be admitted, fairly good cause. In reply, MMC stated that imagery of 'security areas' would not be made available for sale. They completely ignored the other concerns, with, I think, a fairly good degree of sense, as most people don't really appear to give two hoots about Pro-Privacy and Civil Rights groups within the UK, as they tend to be, shall we say, rather noisy about everything from politics to road-building, and beyond. Don't get me wrong - some of the work these groups do is important. It's just that they get on the nerves of your average Joe Subject more often than not!

In any event, MMC is due to 'go live' with the Millennium Map in late 2000 - which leads us to CMI Systems Plc, a fictitious company within this source book. CMI Systems Plc, is conceptually possible within the next few years, given the right financial backing. The technology is there, as are the delivery systems and manpower. All that's required is the willingness, and, frankly, that's anyone's guess. Time will, as usual, tell.

The Millennium Tower portrayed in this e-book didn't make it past the drawing board. Instead, we got a Millennium **Dome**... which was still dogged with PR problems at the time of writing this e-book... such things as reputedly poor attendance figures, what's gonna happen after it closes, and so on. As the PR guys at the 'Millennium Experience' are finding out, the life of a Spin Doctor is not a happy one...

The Jubilee Line extension hit a major SNAFU a while ago: It was discovered that the trains designed to run on the line were too wide/long (we can't remember which) to run in the tunnels that have been constructed... oops, LT!... Still, at least they got it fixed, after a fashion, although it DID mean a major re-think and re-design in several key places along the route... At the time of going to (electronic) press, they'd finally opened the darn thing.

Overdue (like most over-ground trains in the capital, as it happens), and way, way over budget...

Arguments are still raining as to what's going to happen in the long term for London's transport system. Plans have recently been released to make an already traffic-crammed part of the west end a pedestrian zone. God knows where the traffic will go, but there are also plans to introduce a levy on vehicles entering the centre of London. Maybe that'll do it, but who knows?!

The riots described never happened, although most said that there was a good chance that they could well have happened. Slick political moves averted the tension.

London is to get a Mayor, with a chamber of 'representatives'; It's rather unclear if these people will be elected or appointed. The political parties of the capital are still involved in internal in-fighting as to who will be put forward to head up the post of Mayor. To the politicians reading this (some chance!): At the end of the day, folks, it's the people who'll decide - quit worrying!

At the time of writing this editorial (mid January 2000), the Liberal Democrats have had their candidate up and running for well over two months; The Conservatives have only just announced their candidate, and we've two months to wait on the result of Labour's rather convoluted selection process...

Finally, the section for the BlackEagle office has been completely re-written in this edition, following a question from Rob Thomas (a member of the Millennium's End Mailing List), followed by some rather good discussions, with Rob as an 'Interested Party'. We've therefore combined the office with one of the two Logistics And Procurement (L&P) warehouse and support facilities - the other (according to the game background and timeline) is in Atlanta!

As to the rest of it, London's a busy place. It's home to millions of people, and it's a pretty cool place to live, in our humble opinions.

Relax! London, as portrayed in this e-book does NOT exist. In the real world, London's pretty peaceful, Armed Crime is going down, the Police are friendly (in the main), and we're nice people.

Come visit!

Roger

Roger Stenning
Editor, The Millennium's End London Sourcebook.
www.the-isg.co.uk/melsb/melsb_index.html

London: A City On Edge...



London is far too large a city to completely cover in any detail in this sourcebook. Instead, we're concentrating on Central London, primarily the two cities of London, the 'West End' and its surrounds, including the City of Westminster, and the financial centre of London, the City of London, or the 'Square mile', as its also known.

London is a maze of roads, lanes, and side alleys, the majority of which were established with little or no thought for motor-vehicles, back in the mists of history. London is an OLD city, dating back to Roman times (Londinium), which grew from a small river port in those times, to a bustling major port in the mid nineteen-twenties, to a high-tech financial and trading centre as it is now.

London, in 2000, is a centre for most international air routes into and out of Europe, a financial centre, a tourist attraction, and a major entertainments centre in its' own right, with many of the worlds leading galleries, theatres, and cinemas.

Clubs also thrive in the capital, with night life in central London a busy scene. It's often said that if the rest of the country is asleep, London is awake, and partying!

There's also a seedy side to London, in Soho, the centre of pornography, sleaze joints, and prostitution in the

King's Cross area, a couple of miles to the north-east of Soho.

Trade wise, London is a centre for all manner of trade, both in Shares, Stock, Equities, and other financial transactions, and in gems, fashion, electronics of many types and flavours, consumer goods, and much more besides. All in all, a busy and thriving city.

London also sports one of the best integrated public transport systems on the planet, even if it's been severely under funded by the state over the last couple of decades. The above ground trains, formerly run by British Rail, are now run by private companies, with the track, stations, and depots, owned and run by yet another company ('Railtrack'). The Busses used to be owned and run by London Transport, but now all LT does is subcontract the routes to private companies. There are still loads of them, with a good night bus system as well. The London Underground (The 'Tube') train system is still run by London Underground, a division of LT, and although straining under budget cuts, and a massive investment of cash to the new Jubilee Line extension (more later), still runs, after a fashion.

All in all, the three systems link up with each other, to provide the most comprehensive public transport system on the globe. Prices, though low for the busses and tubes, are high for the trains, but help to keep the system running. Coupled with the traffic restrictions that are due to go into place in the year 2000, the public transport system in London is about to undergo a renaissance - and not before time.

But London's not without its major troubles. Over the last few years, London has been the home to race and income riots, crime, and widespread political intrigue and scandal, most of which is detailed later in this e-book. The London of the civilised past does not exist. A London where you could walk the streets at night in safety, a London where young men helped older people across the road. A London where fair grounds would appear, as if by magic, over public holidays.

The London of an era past is dead. We therefore cordially invite you to the future.

Bring your own body armour.

London's Recent History...

In 1992, the UK was under the Conservative government. The EC had got going in a huge way: Border barriers between member states were abolished, trade and immigration barriers were lifted, all tariffs were standardised (creating huge rows in the UK with EC-enforced introduction of a blanket Value Added Tax (VAT) on food and other so-called 'essentials', such as food and fuels, like Electricity and Gas).

To add to the ideology of a 'United Europe', the Ecu (€) was instituted across the board as Europe's new currency, to coexist for four years with national currencies, to phase in the new European Monetary Union under the Maastricht Treaty. In 1996, national currencies were abolished in the member countries of the European Community. At that time, each € was worth about US\$2, so was fairly strong, as international currencies go. As financial policies on the € were united, this value has remained pretty constant, and now stands in 1999 as one of the most stable currencies on Earth. In this respect, the policy is good, but nationally, not so good. EC-imposed policies on limiting the number of hours that employees could work, and in the various national minimum wages, have left their marks, and unemployment rates have suffered in most member states of the EC.

The abolition of the border controls between member states also caused an immediate increase in smuggling from mainland Europe to the UK, of such items as hard-core pornography, which is heavily censored in the UK, alcohol, illegal drugs, weapons, counterfeit currency, and many other items of contraband. Her Majesty's Customs and Excise (HM C&E) in the UK were swamped out of all pretence of control.

At the same time, Brussels made sure that the policy of using national ID cards as inter-EU passports was continued, and further legislated that failure to present such national ID to a Police Officer on request was made an imprisonment offence, in the face of rising crime and illegal immigration into EU states (*It is worth noting that this policy was finally ratified by an Act of Parliament, in the form of the UK Citizenship Act of 1999, after much arguing back and forth by the right and left wings of the three big political parties, about the sovereignty of the UK, and remote-control governing of the UK by Brussels. Comparisons of who ran the UK aside, the Act was passed on a slim majority, and became law*).

The UK, and, most importantly, London, became Europe's new black market for about a year, until the HM C&E got a grip on the situation again. Although they could not stop 50% of these illegal (in the UK) cargoes coming into the UK, they could, under UK law, stop the other 50%; the Pornography, Drugs, and weapons and counterfeit currency. This they did. Many operations with the Police all over the country were performed, and success rates went up again.

Then, in 1997, Just before the UK General Election, Hong Kong reverted to Chinese rule, prompting a massive exodus of scared Hong Kong Chinese citizens. The 'invited' 2 million Hong Kong residents fled to the UK, in possession of valid UK Passports, granted by a policy decision announced by the Prime Minister, John Major in 1996 (during an address to the Hong Kong Legislative Assembly at that time).

Within two months, trouble began to erupt. The UK crime rate soared in an apparent direct relationship with the influx of the Chinese immigrants who arrived, and was not helped in the least by the right-wing tabloids, who inflamed anti-immigrant xenophobia at every turn, decrying the government for allowing the already stretched welfare system to care for the new wave of immigrants. The confusion in the corridors of Power at that time, due to the impending General Election, helped no-one.

Brixton, Peckham, Southall, and a few other areas, such as Tottenham, were particular trouble spots. The income gaps, caused by poorly educated people finding it difficult (if not impossible) to find decently-paid work, were caused by the poorly thought out education policies and financial cuts of the recent past.

What didn't help was the manner of the cuts; while cuts in education were made by most local councils, the left wing councils, generally under the control of Labour's 'Loony left', made hand out grants to all manner of (according to the tabloids) loony ideas, fronts, and cults, in record amounts. Cases were specified in the tabloids, and the matters were pushed out of all proportion to the grants awarded. When the government cut funding for Social Security (what the UK calls Welfare) due to the increased strain on it by the Chinese immigrants, the anger rose. Well paid people were angry about the cuts and the grants. Poorly paid were angered about the cuts and the job scene.

To make matters even worse, the education cuts had created a generation that relied on welfare support, which the central government funded, and which it had severely cut to the bone. All in all, London was a fuse, lit, and growing shorter.

Riots broke out in several prominent Labour-controlled London borough council chambers, instigated by the ultra-left in the public galleries. Marches were organised by the moderates, and 'hijacked' by the extremists for their own political ends. The Police clamped down. And the anger settled, seething under the carpet, unquenched.

Then, in April 1997, the long-awaited (after five years of unpopular policies and cuts) UK General Elections took place. It was heralded as make-or-break time for the reining Tories, who were being blasted from all sides with accusations ranging from failing the country in European issues, to tabloid accusations of sleaze (the most notorious being the accidental death of a high party member in a menage-a-trois in a Soho Strip-joint), to the 'Homes for Votes' scandal in Westminster, and to MPs of the party 'defecting' to other parties (most noticeably the Labour party, and the Liberal Democrats).. And of course, the cuts in funding.

The return of a Labour government in the election caused a huge political upset; the Conservative government was decimated, retaining only twenty seats. Even the Liberal Democrats had more seats in the House of Commons. As a Political Party, the Conservative Party was almost dead in the water.

In the mean time, the new Chinese immigrants were easy pickings for the already crime-ridden China Town elements in most UK cities, and London, with the biggest China Town in the UK, was hit hardest. The Tongs, or Triads, as they're also known, were in direct competition with the other gangs in London, most noticeably the Yardies, with their drugs and prostitution, and the Mob, with their Gambling and yet more prostitution rackets. Since the Triads ran all three rackets, It was inevitable that not only would gang wars flare, but Racial attacks as well, and this they both did in late 1997.

Coupled with the unrest of the poorly paid already in London, and the strain the benefit system was placed under with the influx of the Hong Kong Chinese, the anger in London erupted.

The result was an orgy of violence over Christmas and the New Year, and into January of 1998. The Police took a hammering, with, in one confrontation alone in Soho, twenty Officers killed, caught in three-way gang fight, that got even worse with the use of firearms by the Yardie drug gangs, a long-time thorn in the side of the Police (Yardies hail from Jamaica, and are notorious for their levels of mindless violence).

Civil unrest in Brixton erupted, and riots - small ones, in comparison to what came later - were commonplace.

The picture was the same in Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, and other built-up inner-city areas with large immigrant populations. On top of all the armed crime in London at the time, and the threat from terrorism from the IRA, London didn't need this as well.

Despite having been given a set of instructions by the Home Secretary to curb the violence, due to the inevitable financial restrictions, nothing could be done to alleviate the situation. Completely frustrated with it all, the Commissioner 'blew his stack', as one Assistant Commissioner was quoted as saying at the time.

The Commissioner went public, decrying the curbs on his budget as political point-scoring and infighting, and demanded an immediate review by the Police Authority and the Home Office of the financial restrictions place upon the Metropolitan Police. Surprisingly, he wasn't fired, and got a grant from the Home Office for overtime payments to curb the violence.

He sent in the armed police tactical teams of SO19, each time the gangs went to war. The gangs soon got the message, when eighty of them (from all three sides) were caught in a cunning Police Ambush, after an informant told Police about a forthcoming 'rumble'. From March onwards, the gangs kept the war small, and relatively private, only killing each other, rather than everyone in sight. Selective killings were the rule. The Mob tended to win this side of things, mainly due to their slightly better American assets, which they shipped in for specific jobs, spiriting them out again afterwards, under the noses of Police.

The money from the Home Office soon ran out, though, and the violence showed no signs of ceasing. The Police, ever under financial restrictions, soon came to the crunch: stop authorising overtime, special surveillance operations crucial to the solution of serious crime, and institute other draconian financial measures, or go bankrupt. They opted for solvency, and again, the crime-rate soared.

The newly formed Labour government had a lot of problems at the same time, most of them financial, on top of the public order trouble. The 'Millennium Fund', the money set aside by previous Parliamentary administrations for the huge nation-wide party to celebrate the coming of the new century, and the passing of the old, was found to be hugely insufficient to the task.

In June 1998, the government asked the public - in a huge gamble - what it would like the government to do. A national referendum, given eight options, choose a windfall tax - a one-off levy - on the hugely profitable National Lottery. The tax raised € 500 million, saving the celebrations. Naturally, Camelot, the consortium that ran (and which, in 1999, still runs) the Lottery, appealed the decision in the High Court - and lost. It appealed, again, this time to the House of Lords - the highest court in the land, and again lost. The levy was kept, and distributed as required, with a hefty 200 million going to construct the Millennium Tower - Europe's Largest skyscraper - in Greenwich.

The Millennium Tower project was begun, and an army of builders and labourers got to work. The building, being 386 metres tall, would be the tallest in Europe when completed. Being so close to the end of the century, all the stops were pulled out, and construction progressed at a huge rate, with the building structure to be complete by February 1999, and fitting out to be complete by November, 1999. Greenwich borough council helped all they could - it being advantageous for them to do so, since it was their borough that the tower was being built on, and sent a company-sized team of buildings inspectors there, full time, to speed up the compliance process. But residents were split on their opinions of the project. Many subscribed to the "NIMBY" ("Not In My Back Yard") mentality, and created a lot of noise in the press. The project went on regardless.

Almost at the same time, the Jubilee Line extension project to the London Underground (subway train system) was completed. The extension, to points south and east of the centre of London, connects many points of the capital to the rest of the Underground rail network.

Hailed as a triumph of modern engineering, it was rolled out by the new government as a display of British Engineering Excellence - despite the cost. Critics went on record as stating - for the umpteenth time - that the moneys pumped into the project should have been spent on upgrading and improving the existing network, which desperately needed help. Many London newspapers repeated the funding call, but the government, as expected, ignored this plea, and carried on regardless.

Meanwhile, the civil unrest and crime wave in London was still unabated. The newly-appointed Police Authority for London went cap in hand to the Greater London Council (GLC), newly reformed as well, following the return of new government, who believed in strong local government, and who approved the budgetary increase. Given Labour's 'high tax image', this wasn't too much of a surprise: What did surprise the press was that the government had agreed with the Police - the normal Labour stance hitherto had been to either ignore, or even lambaste, the police service.

Never the less, it was much too little, much, much too late.

Over the course of four months, the Police had lost control of three areas crucial to public order in London. Brixton, Peckham, and Southall. They regained control of Peckham and Southall, but Brixton defied them. The public outrage rocked the country, and tourism almost died overnight. By 1999, tourism in the Capital had still not recovered.

A fresh depression, this time centred on the tourism industry, set in to plague the country, again, like the previous depressions of the last two decades, caused large-scale unemployment. This time, however, the Labour Government had acted, at least a little bit. There was 'safety net' in place, in the form of special compensation packages for those who were out of a job as a result of the riots (but only for workers in the recognised tourism trades) and back-to-work schemes for those who wanted them. It eased the tenseness of the situation for the government, to allow it to concentrate on more pressing matters - like crime.

It was during the height of the gang wars in June 1998, that the death of an outspoken Community Leader, Julius N'Bota, crushed to death when he was accidentally run over by a Territorial Support Unit of the Met Police on an emergency call, prompted a race and income riot on a scale that made the riots of the 70's look like a storm in a teacup.

Brixton Police station was attacked, overrun, and burnt to the ground, along with the Police stables and ten police Horses in it at the time. Rumours had Police Horse steaks at €1 a kilo. Thirty Police firearms, including ten MP-5 carbines, vanished. The bodies to eight Police officers, three of the women, listed as in the station at the time of the attack, were never recovered.

The Prime Minister put his political career on the line, and declared a local state of emergency, sending the troops in. They regained control, but at a price. Over one hundred rioters were killed in smallarms fire exchanges.

The Home Secretary, (by coincidence, he was also the local Labour MP) Marcus Palham, visiting the scene during the height of the storming of Brixton, along with his two Special Branch bodyguards, was shot through the head by an unknown sniper, while giving a live television interview, and died instantly; his two bodyguards were not so lucky. The two bodyguards got off one shot between the both of them, before the same rioter shot them to death too - each received painful wounds before dying. The entire incident was caught on a CNN camera, live. The sniper got away in the confusion.

Although the troops had re-taken Brixton, and the two-week state of emergency was lifted, the situation was far from solved. Like Miami's Red Zone, due to the damage inflicted by both the rioters and the troops in the pacification action, Brixton was in dire need of a re-build. The centre of Brixton became a no-go zone after dark, and businesses and families fled the area in droves. By the end of 1998, the area was occupied by the dregs of society; a modern leper colony, in comparison. The Met only went in with Armed back-up - even in daylight. The place looked like Belfast (and still does, in places, in 1999) on a bad night in the early 70's.

**TRANSCRIPT OF CNN BROADCAST FROM
BRIXTON:
MURDER OF HOME SECRETARY PALHAM**

Camera pans over Brixton's main shopping street, in a scene reminiscent of Beirut, centring on Central News Network (CNN) reporter Charlie Hammond

CNN - We're here in Brixton, with the Home Secretary, Mr. Marcus Palham, at the site of the ongoing riots. Mr. Palham, following the assault by the soldiers of the Parachute Regiment, authorised by you, what do you say to the public outcry of a second Bloody Sunday by the Paras?

Camera focuses on Home Secretary

HS - It's nothing of the kind. Here, we DEFINITELY have armed rioters, bent on violence on a massive scale, that the Police just aren't able, equipped, or trained to cope with, so the Army is the only agency we can use. The fact that live ammunition was used reflects that fact that the rioters fired on the troops, despite repeated warni-

Camera catches head shot of Home Secretary being hit by bullet to the centre of his forehead, and flying backwards out of picture. Blood on camera lens. Camera picture tilts as cameraman takes cover. Sounds of gunfire and confusion for twenty-four seconds, image of Home Secretary's feet, one shoe missing, in a heap, blood rapidly collecting on the ground.

CNN - Oh, Shi... I can't believe this, but the Home Secretary's been shot, with his two bodyguards, right in front of me - tell me you got that, Angus!

OFF CAMERA

("OC") - Aye, Ah got it - ah got it.

CNN - There's troops all over the place, all firing - you can see this - on a building to our rear -

OC - Sir, you must leave now. It's not safe. Stop filming - I'm confiscating that tape as evidence.

CNN - What about press freedom, Lieutenant? We've a press pass from the Home Office who-

OC - -never thought this'd happen. Leave NOW of face arrest. Your choice, sir.

Picture breaks into static.

END TRANSCRIPT - CNN 4625485/K

Central Brixton, by now derelict and abandoned, with detours leading around it, was in such disrepair that even the people living there tended to avoid it after dark. The tunnels in the London underground station, the scene of mass carnage during the riot (Troops had entered the area via the tube, for maximum surprise value on the rioters, and used demolition charges to destroy barricades that the rioters had put in the tunnels (Someone in the riot hierarchy was 'very switched on' ("clever"), as a Paratroops Major later said to the news media), permanently closed since the riots, caved in during July 1999, taking part of the central area of the high street with it, and three suburban above-ground train lines to boot.

The trains were re-routed, and the Army's Royal Engineers tasked by Central Government to rebuild the rail routes (at no extra cost to the tax-payer, a point not lost on the electorate). They went in with infantry protection, which proved necessary, as the thugs living in the area tried everything from protection rackets to arson to keep them away.

Four looters were shot in the process of rebuilding the new non-stop rail links. Armed guards from the Army are now a regular feature of the trains that pass through the area. The work was accomplished in three months. Civil engineers had said it couldn't be done in less than three YEARS, showing the huge inefficiencies in London's civil engineering machine. Having been shown up by the Army, building work in London sped up, by about two times what it had been.

Now, in 2000, the situation in London has eased somewhat. Although the Police maintain a high state of alert, and the drug wars have reduced in size, London still echoes to the sound of occasional gunfire; Armed police are a way of life in the capital, with Armed Response Vehicles (ARVs) being the rule, rather than the exception, in the troubled areas. In the suburbs, the local Police are still able to walk around - albeit in pairs - with Armed response vehicles being about ten minutes away if required.

The public is again able to walk the west end without wondering if a drug shoot-out is about to happen just around the corner, and nightlife has returned, on a slightly reduced level, in the Clubs and pubs. It's reminiscent of London after the blitz; people are relaxed, but under the skin is the worry of another outbreak of rioting and terror.

Remarkably, the advent of the change of the millennium was met by good natured parties and fun, with a less than usual amount of trouble for a new year in the capital - only 140 arrests, London-wide, were made, a figure normally double that in the past. It was a refreshing change.

Terrorist-wise, the IRA has renewed its terror campaign, starting with the Brussels bombing on 12th May 1999, and a few telephone box briefcase bombs through to July. A drive-by sub-machine-gun attack on the 5th August 1999, against an Army recruiting Office in Blackheath, opened the door to a new form of attack on the mainland, but since then, the mainland of the UK has suffered attacks in most other Cities in the UK, on an average of one per fortnight. The Police still stop and search suspicious vehicles with ARVs, but by and large, the threat is fairly low in the capital, with most citizens aware of the threat, and keeping their eyes open.

Since the start of the new year, however, the IRA has been conspicuously quiet, leading Security Sources to conclude that they're planning a fresh offensive. Whether this will be in the UK or mainland Europe, however, remains to be seen.

Just another day, as the saying goes.

Institutions...

Government...

The Politics of London...

To understand the nature of London, it is first necessary to know how London - and indeed, the UK as a whole - is governed.

Unlike the USA, local politics is, by and large, a haphazard-like array of councillors, party politics and ideology, and a multi-level mess of local council employees, who operate in a similar fashion to the Civil Service of central government (and if you've seen the hit BBC TV series 'Yes Prime Minister', you've got a good grounding in this!).

While no one person holds the reins of power in a given borough, The US method of a powerful "Mayor For London" has just been enacted, and is due to be in place by Spring of 1999. Local Borough Councils meet on a regular basis, and decide the actions or policies that that council will undertake in the future.

While there are countless small political parties in existence in the UK, vying for power both locally and nationally, there are three main political parties, who collect the majority of votes cast in every election, both local and national (or 'General'), even if their policies tend to steal the ideas of each other, thus leaving little for the average voter to choose from. Notwithstanding this, in no particular order, these parties compete vigorously with each other all the time, and try their best to gain the upper PR hand. These three 'big parties' are the Conservatives (generally centre-right wing), Labour (the generally centre-left), and the Liberal-democrats (middle, and ducking the shots of the other two most of the time). These parties run the country on a local basis, with central government and Parliament setting the 'big picture policies' that they expect the local councils to enact. With or without (generally the latter) extra funding.

In local politics, the citizens of each voting area, or 'Ward', elect the person that they feel will represent (or, at any rate, is *supposed* to represent) their views and interests for the next four or five years. So far, this process is not too dissimilar to the system in the USA. The difference is in the amount of power that elected officials are invested with, when (if) they are returned to the Council that runs their Wards and Borough. The council (i.e., the elected representatives, or 'Councillors') employs a Chief Executive, who in turn employs a large number of local citizens on behalf of the council, to operate the council's business, everything from refuse collection, to collecting local funds, by means of the Council Taxes (a 'Roof tax' system, where the tax collected is based on the value of the home, on a sliding scale) and various fees and penalties (including parking fines!).

There is also a difference in the positions open for public election, and in who the councils may appoint to positions of power. For instance, the local chief of police, or Chief Constable, is appointed by a county's Police Authority, a committee appointed by the Councils of the major administrative Council of an area, such as the Kent County Council, or the Greater London Council, and not by a public election.

There were two exceptions in the appointment of Chief Police officers until the new Government attained power, in London (Metropolitan Police Service) and Northern Ireland (Royal Ulster Constabulary), both of whom were appointed by the Home Secretary, a Cabinet-level Minister of Parliament. This was changed by the new Labour Government (see below), who convened Police Authorities for both areas, and gave the areas back the power to appoint or dismiss their own Chief Constables (in the case of London, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police).

In local elections, the elected Councillors (not the vote-casting members of community) of the majority party elect their leader, who will be the Mayor of the Borough or County (as appropriate). His powers are limited, and by and large, mainly ceremonial (official openings of such places as council offices, parks, fêtes, shopping centres, the opening of each new round of sessions of the local council (much like the state opening of Parliament by Her Majesty the Queen), and other such events, etc.). He cannot just go ahead and enact his own pet policies, he has to get the council to debate them, and then vote for them, which are normally carried by the majority party voting these policies in; it's not a forgone conclusion, however. Should the other two parties (or more, sometimes) have more councillors than the ruling party, they can, and often do, vote down these policies, creating all manner of problems - as intended - for the majority party. And in this manner, the UK has been ruled, on a local level, for ages.

In national elections (the General Elections), the voters elect a candidate from their ward to take a 'seat' in the House of Commons in Parliament, who then represents them there. As you'd expect, they debate, and decide on, the laws and policies that the country will take for the next five or so years. They do this in conjunction with the other House, the House of Lords.

Members of this "Other House", are members of the British 'Nobility', and come in two types. Hereditary peers, and appointed peers. Hereditary peers are those nobles who have a seat in the House of Lords by 'right of ascension', where their families have geographical seats of 'power', such as in Earls, Barons, and so on. These 'nobles', as they are (sometimes) called, may have symbolic or ceremonial powers, but they retain their seats through their historical and family connections, and thus a hand in the running of national politics, as all laws passed in Parliament have to pass successfully through both Houses of Parliament, the Commons, and the Lords.

The other type of noble, the 'nominated' peers, are (relatively) ordinary citizens, who, for one reason or another, have been recognised for their services to the country, and are names in one of the two 'honours' lists each year, either the New Year Honours list, or the monarch's Birthday Honours list (Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Second, at the moment, thus making it the "Queen's Birthday Honours list"). These people are 'raised' to the House of Lords for mainly political reasons, but generally, the award is for outstanding service to the country.

In this system do the roots of power lie in London. And in this system lies the fundamental core of the troubles that London has suffered over the last thirty years.

This system of power in local governments and ideologies has led to some of the most outrageous local party policies from the so-called 'loony left' (the term 'loony' describes a pretty insane and/or ludicrous method, theory, or practice) of the Labour party, from extremist gays being given more cash than a third world country's GNP, to starving the Local education system of funds, thus producing a generation of delinquents.

This was not to say that the Tories hadn't done similar things: They had. They'd enacted stringent 'out-sourcing' policies on Local government, and the Tory boroughs and county councils were only too happy to enact those policies. Cuts in services were more often than not the result, with local Welfare, Health and Education the prime targets. The outcries were just as vigorous, the results just as vicious. Hospital waiting lists (the queues for operations, and other treatments) went up. Schools found themselves unable to afford text books, and financial relief from the new Council Tax was in short supply. All in all, a hell of a mess, which is going to take a hell of a long time to fix.

Political Scandals...

While the 'loony left' of the Labour party have been in the public limelight for their often controversial policies in local government, and their Parliamentary ultra-left wingers, the Right wing extremists in the Conservative party have not been that immune, either, although their efforts tend to be more carefully hidden from the prying eyes of the electorate (and the press).

Nepotism and vote-rigging have been frequent callers to the front pages of tabloids, with the most blatant effort coming from the Conservative 'flag ship' borough, the City of Westminster, which in the early 1990's was rocked by the 'Homes for Votes' scandal, where Conservative-sympathetic voters were sold council houses (through government policy on the sale of council housing), in such a way as to ensure that council 'seats' representing 'marginal' wards in the borough were turned into 'safe' seats.

This was called "Gerrymandering" by the central government Audit Commission, and the leader of the council was not only censured for it, but prosecuted too, as were half a dozen other councillors.

This has not been helped in the least by the Race Problem. Like all major cities around the world, London has a diverse population, with a good percentage being coloured, including Afro-Caribbeans, Asians, and Orientals. Since the predominant skin colour in the UK is white, the coloureds are in the minority: The Ethnic Minority, as they are collectively known (if you're Politically Correct). Many people (known as 'Race Activists') have made this their Issue in life, and seek every opportunity to exploit it - both for good and bad. But, whether good or bad, the popular view of such activists is pretty poor, which has left many people with the so-called 'chips on their shoulders'.

Since the population of the UK votes on pretty much a basis of income, the Conservatives, or 'Tories', get the higher paid voters; Labour the underpaid, the ethnic minority, the poorly educated, and others such as the long-term unemployed (who like the Labour promises); and the Liberal Democrats - the 'Lib-Dems' - getting the undecided rest, barring the few who vote for the really extreme or way out 'political' parties.

Since home owners group in areas that reflect their relative incomes, areas of rented council housing will attract poorer people - generally those from the ethnic minorities (prejudice is often against them in getting jobs, so income is limited), and expensive areas will attract higher paid people.

The disparity of incomes is one area that has sparked off riots in London, the most notorious being the 'Poll Tax' riots of the late 1980's in central London, around the Trafalgar Square area. In addition, the differences in income will show in the general crime statistics for a given area, with low income areas having, by and large, a higher crime rate, especially in violent crime, such as drugs, muggings (street robberies), and other crimes against the person.

This isn't to say that high income area are crime free - they aren't. Alcohol abuse in kids and young people in their late teens and early twenties has been rife, and in the nineteen eighties, a term, 'Lager Lout', came into popular use, to describe their actions. Use your imagination.

A new mayor for London...

In early 1999, elections took place to elect the new Mayor for London.

Naturally, the popular choice was a local millionaire, who had been outspoken in politics for years, and was, surprisingly, a member of the defeated Conservative Party - Lord Cooper, a media magnate in his own right, who owned the Independent Group of newspapers. Using his own money, he financed his publicity campaign in a very American style of pre-election PR exercises, advertising campaigns, and personal appearances, pledging to reform London into a trade, living, and working centre that Britain would be proud of.

He actually means it, too, which, for a Britain which seems to suffer from politicians who try to make their own little empires, is quite refreshing.

Currently, in Spring 1999, he's just about to take office, in the newly-refurbished London Building, a building rented by the Mayor's Office for the purpose of governing London. It's located a stone's throw from Westminster, in the heart of the West End.

There are still recruiting drives aimed at getting the staffing he will need, and much of the press is speculating on his first political appointments to the 'advisory board' of the Mayor's Office, which, along with the elected members of the new Greater London Council (GLC), will 'assist' the mayor in running London. The new authority will run alongside the Central Government's Minister For London for a period of two years, which should prove interesting (to say the least), as the mayor is NOT in the same political Party as the Minister...

The European Parliament (and everything else Euro)...

The main bugbear of being a member of the European Community, as far as most British citizens seem to be concerned, is the kow-towing the UK Government makes to the European Parliament.

Never mind that everyone in the UK is entitled to vote for an MEP (Member of the European Parliament) candidate every four years. Never mind that British MEPs have helped Britain out of European legislation that would've cost citizens hundreds - if not thousands - of Ecu. It seems to be the fact that non-English-speaking people are having a major say in the lives of the British that has many up in arms...

The MEP's are elected in a similar manner to MPs for the House of Commons: Once every four years, an election is called. Candidates (representing much larger constituencies) step forward, present their ideas and policies to the electorate, and hope (and sometimes pray) to be elected.

However, instead of sitting in the UK Parliament, they go to Brussels, where the European Union (formerly the European Community) Parliament ('EuroParl') sits. There, they figure out - or should, at any rate - what the EU is going to do over the next four years. Much of their legislation is backed by the various member states' national law, so, in practice, what Brussels decides, the rest of the EU must do.

In the UK, this does not sit well for some decisions, and many claims of useless and frivolous legislation have been bandied about (from the size of the EU food stocks, to the shape of Cumberland Sausages - and their contents!). Never the less, EuroParl is here to stay, and it does have a national impact on the member states of the EU. In effect, it is another layer of bureaucracy, on top of the member states governments, which, at times, they really, really, hate... and can do very little about...

London's Police and enforcement agencies in 1999...

The popular tourist's image of the London 'bobby', equipped only with a 12-inch long oak truncheon has taken a battering (sic) over the last decade.

London's various Police Services...

Generally speaking, despite the recent crime troubles, London is still policed by a largely unarmed Police Service, and the Metropolitan Police ("the Met") is split in a pretty-much 50/50 division on the subject of a regularly armed Police service. The argument centres on a combination of personal protection and the 'friendly unarmed policeman' image of old, with newer officers tending to the 'Arm The Police' side of the argument, and older officers wanting to retain the 'user-friendly' Unarmed Policing By Consent image. There are pro's and con's for both sides of the argument, and it looks like the issue will remain an open 'hot potato issue' for some considerable time to come.

London is Policed by several Police services, primarily by the Met, which is controlled from New Scotland Yard. There are currently five main Police forces with headquarters within the M25 belt, all with some jurisdiction powers or other. These are:

- The Met has Jurisdiction over the whole of the metropolis within the M25 motorway belt (with a couple of variations where 'County Forces' have jurisdiction), excluding the City of London.
- The City of London Police have sole Jurisdiction of the district of the City of London, comprising the 'Square Mile'.
- The British Transport Police (BTP) have Jurisdiction over all public transport in the UK, and in London, this means all railway stations and lines, London Underground stations and Lines (including the Docklands Light Railway), bus stations and terminuses, and the Docklands Airport.
- The Department of the Environment's Royal Parks Police, with Jurisdiction in the various Royal Parks, which are dotted about the Capital.
- The Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) has a joint Jurisdiction with the Met for the immediate areas around all MoD facilities, and sole Jurisdiction for the inside of all MoD installations - note that this is not the same as an Army Barracks, where the Royal Military Police (RMP) have jealously guarded their jurisdiction over Soldiers and other persons subject to Military Law. The Royal Air Force (RAF Police, or RAF-P) and Royal Navy (Regulator Branch), who also have installations in the London area, also have their Police (or 'Provost') sections, and likewise protect their jurisdictional areas like hawks. Although the MDP can use their powers over service personnel as well, they tend to leave the policing of those persons to the Service Police. It keeps the professional relationships smoother, that way (and saves on paperwork, too!).

The Uniform & Equipment of the (Unarmed) Met

The Met uniform, in general with all other UK Police Services, has changed little in the last fifty years. These days, however, the average London Beat Policeman is equipped with the usual Blue 'suit' style uniform, plus: A 36-inch nylon-coated polycarbon baton; a set of non-flexible qwikcuffs; a CS-stream defence spray; a concealed level CL II ballistic/anti-stab vest, worn under the uniform shirt. The cone-like Police helmet is still issued to all officers, along with the checker-banded peaked cap, but has been toughened with a single layer of Kevlar-like cloth, protection against thrown missiles in bar fights, disturbances, and other violent incidents. It also has a better chin strap for those occasions, too.

Riot training and Uniforms...

All officers in the Met are trained to a basic level in anti-riot policing; there are, however, more comprehensively trained officers throughout the Met, who are attached to 'Territorial Support Groups' (TSG), the uniformed branch of SO 16, the Public Order Unit, who are normally used as a fast response to emergency calls of a group trouble nature, such as Pub fights, Racial attacks, and so on. 'Large Disturbances', as they're now called.

The TSG normally wear the usual Met Beat uniform. In riot likely situations, though, they will change to a more intimidating uniform. This comprises a one-piece fireproof set of Police Blue overalls, Combat boots, a Kevlar-lined crash helmet with riot visor (bullet-proof nylon), forearm and lower leg armour polycarbon armour, designed to deflect close-in attacks, and an overt level III wrap-around bullet- and stab-proof vest, with ceramic trauma plate front and back. Equipment carried is the same as a beat officer, with the following differences:

- A rubberised lead-weighted 48" baton replaces the 36" lightweight polycarbon police baton.
- The CS constant-stream defence spray is replaced by an aerosol version, with a wider area of effect, but shorter range. The idea is to affect close attackers as a group.
- A respirator (gas mask) is carried on the belt, in a military style haversack.
- A special 'Met Shield' (transparent polynylon bullet resistant riot shield) is carried by all officers.
- Certain officers are equipped with 38mm Baton round & CS gas grenade launchers. **See Valkyrie magazine issue 18 (ISSN 1355-2767) for more details on these anti-riot weapon systems.**

NOTE: The use of CS gas grenades must be authorised by at least an Assistant Deputy Chief Constable or higher.

London's Not-So-UnArmed Police...

In 1995, Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police (The 'Met'), enacted a Policy whereby all armed Met officers, from the Diplomatic Protection Group (DPG), Special Branch, Royalty Protection Group, Flying Squad, right through to the Airports Police unit at London Heathrow and the SO19 (now, following the Met's recent re-organisation, in late 1999, TO 01) Armed tactical units, would now OPENLY carry their weapons.

Previously, the Met had their officers conceal their handguns in specially designed trouser pocket holsters, which were sewn into the lining of the pocket, for better retention in the holster, and security. It also provided a lip-service to the public notion that the police were not regularly arming it's officers on the streets of London.

Since the riots of '98, and the introduction of the City of London Police Check Point Guard Force (see below), Armed Police have become a regular sight in Central London, and Armed Response Vehicles are being seen more and more in the suburbs, responding to armed crime.

The Uniform & Equipment of the (armed) Met

Armed officers generally wear the same uniform as unarmed police, but with the addition of a standard Price-Western leather gun-belt and holster, with two speed-loader or magazine pouches (depending on the handgun carried) as well. Handcuffs ('qwik-cuffs') are carried by beat and DPG officers. Nylon 'riot cuffs' (cable ties, by any other name) are carried by TO 01 and Riot Police.

The Diplomatic Protection Group carry Smith & Wesson .38" Special revolvers (various models), in hip-height Price-Western leatherwork. They are identified by not only the sidearms, but the special 'Divisional numbers' worn on their shoulders, prefixed by the letter 'TO'.

Tactical Armed Branch (TO 01) officers (formerly SO19, or Special Operations branch number 19) are normally seen in tactical uniforms, resembling the Army's combat uniforms, but in a uniform deep blue colour, almost black. They always wear level IV armour, and head-dress is the dark blue Met beret, with a subdued (read: Boot-polish blackened) metal cap badge. Divisional numbers start with 'TO'. Arms carried in the normal course of events by TO 01 are a combination of .38"spcl S&W revolvers, the Glock 17 9mm Autopistol, and the H&K MP5A5 with fixed stock and flashlight furniture to the front, and the Remington 870P Police shotgun, chambered for 12-bore (American = 12-gauge). Laser sights are NOT used. Police Snipers use the Accuracy International PM rifle, chambered in 7.62mm NATO, and carry the Glock as a backup, in case they get surprised by a resourceful criminal. SO19 are divided into three wings.

- **Armed Response Vehicle (ARV) units**, who wear the regular 'beat' issue uniform, and travel in outwardly normal patrol cars, four officers to a team (in Army terms, a half section, or 'fire team'). Armed with 9mm Glock 17 autoloading pistols, and H&K MP5 Semi-automatic carbine.
- **Siege units** of 'regular' TO 01 tactical teams, four men to a team. These are the siege sitters, trained in concealment, long-range accuracy, and tons of patience, since they sit out situations where criminals with firearms are cornered, whilst Police negotiators try to talk the criminals out of their bolt-holes peacefully, and
- **Assault teams**. Four-man attack units, whose sole purpose is to identify, invade, and pacify said bolt-holes if all else fails. Ideally, they take live, unhurt prisoners, but these days, no-one's really that fussy if the attack has to 'go in'. Armed Crime is on the increase, and the Met is under greater public pressure to quell it (with a reduced budget). They are the **ONLY** police officers trained in the use of concussion grenades and explosive entry charges (frame charges). The Attack teams liase with the SAS on many training exercises, learning the skills of the SAS in terms of swift storm-entry methods, and suppression of hostiles in arrest situations, some of which the SAS actually pioneered.

Other specialist branches of the police in London...

The 'Thief Catchers'...

One of the so-called 'elite' units in the police force, the Robbery Squad are now also known as SO 19 (as well as the 'Flying Squad', from their habit of flying around corners at high speed to catch criminals, and 'The Sweeney', origin of this nickname lost in the mists of time), and specialise in the investigation and solution of serious crimes, mainly armed robberies and similar offences. Relying on a large base of informants across the Met's operational area across the capital, their image is one of alternatively glamour and good policework, and heavy-handed incompetence, depending on who you talk to. There is no denying, though, that they're VERY effective.

Often receiving assistance from TO 01 (see entry above) in the more dangerous set-piece traps they set, the squad is a relatively small, but permanently armed, section of the Met. All officers go through what's called Level 3 firearms training, which makes them 'authorised shots'. While not as intensively trained as TO 01, they're still very good if the situation turns to (to be polite) manure...

Special Branch

There is not just one Special Branch, covering the entire country, but one branch per police service: Each police force in the country has its own and they are all, in theory, at any rate, co-ordinated by Scotland Yard. In the Metropolitan Police structure, Special Branch is known as 'SO 21'.

The emphasis in a Special Branch is on violent criminals, specifically those with a political agenda such as terrorists, though they also keep records on members of non-violent political groups such as Greenpeace, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) and the National Council for Civil Liberties (NCCL). These are the guys and gals that'll 'give you the knock' at about four in the morning, to execute a Search Warrant, if they believe ("with reasonable cause") you to be involved in activities likely to endanger the security of the Realm...

Quoting from the official guidelines document, 'The Work of a Special Branch' of December 1984:

'A Special Branch assists the Security Service in carrying out its tasks of defending the Realm against attempts at espionage and sabotage or from the actions of persons and organisations, whether directed from within or without the country, which may be judged to be subversive to the State. A Special Branch provides information about extremists and terrorists to the Security Service.'

In other words, they act as the legal enforcement arm of the Security Service. Other tasks include the assessment of planned political meetings and marches that might pose a threat to the public order, with a power to ban them; ensuring that restricted foreign nationals remain within their limited boundaries; maintaining surveillance at airports and seaports; and providing protection to members of the Royal family and other public figures (in conjunction with the Royal and Diplomatic Protection Groups. A National Joint Unit exists to co-ordinate information from the different Branches with regard to activities covered under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

While a Special Branch acts within a police force, frequently the Chief Constable is kept in the dark about their activities, mainly due to the ever-present 'need to know' factor. Almost all of the work this section of the Police undertakes is of a classified nature. So much so, that it's often unwise for BlackEagle/BlackEagle operatives to upset officers of Special Branch. These folks have LONG memories, and wider than usual powers to back said memories up...

The relationship between Special Branch and MI5 is typically strained. MI5 officers are frequently contemptuous of Special Branch which leads to some friction. However, it is a mark of prestige in a Branch for one of their officers to have an MI5 contact. The regular police force also has a noticeable dislike for Special Branch officers.

Unlike the other organisations which make up the security and intelligence services, and are mainly dominated by white males, Special Branches employ a surprisingly high proportion of female, black and Asian officers.

Other specialist units and branches

There are many different sections of the police, which in the Metropolitan Police Service are normally referred to by their department number in Special Operations, or SO xx; for instance, SO 02, the Anti terrorist Branch, and SO 05, the Drugs Squad.

Customs and Excise

While not a section or branch of the police, HM C&E is the enforcement branch of the Treasury, charged with collecting duty and excise fees on virtually every indirect tax in the UK. These are the people that you meet in the customs lounges of all airports, docks, and ports of entry into the UK. They have a massive array of powers available to them, which outstrips the Police in terms of search/seizure, arrest, and records access. This branch ensures that the nations' purse is always full.

They are also charged with ensuring that illegal items ('contraband') does not enter the country. Though not always successful in this field, they are still the most effective branch of the law enforcement organisations in the country, and almost single-handedly halted the flow of illegal drugs coming into the country after the abolition of most border controls across Europe.

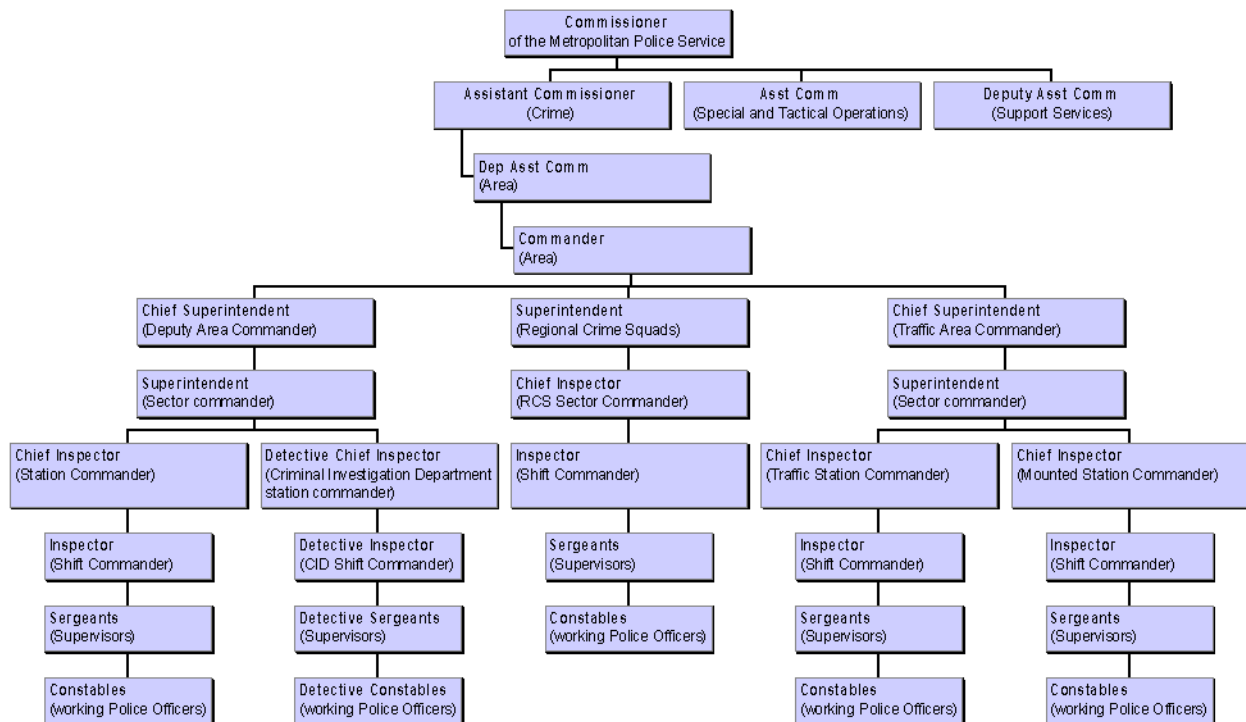
Organisation of the London Metropolitan Police

The operational requirements of the last ten years on the Metropolitan Police Service has had it's toll, both financially and physically. In 1989, the Met was able to cope with most forms of crime quite adequately; this is not now the case in 1999, although the Met is beginning to get a grip on things.

As seen in the "Brief history of London" earlier in this sourcebook, the Metropolitan Police is under huge financial constraints. Not only had budget cuts come at more than inopportune times in the past, but staffing cuts as well. All this has given the current head of the Met, **Commissioner Peter Hart-Gordon**, a good knowledge of what the Met can do well, and what it most certainly can't do well. To cope with this, and to allow civilian staff to take on more of the less sensitive administrative work that the Police Service had to perform, a complete re-organisation was mounted in late 1999.

This re-organisation was intended to not only bolster the financial load on the Police, but to add strength where there were weaknesses, and maintain the strengths already present. While the reorganisation of the Met was controversial, it seems to have done what was intended: make the Met a leaner, fitter, more flexible and capable crime-fighting organisation.

The new organisation is reproduced in the chart below.



Hart-Gordon realised that, while the **Area** and **District** system worked, it was too complicated. He reduced the number of areas to five: **Central** (Number 1 area), **North** (Number 2 area), **East** (Number 3 area), **South** (Number 4 area), and **West** (Number 5 area). Then, he simplified the District system, which hitherto had been generally organised along London Borough boundaries.

The Districts were enlarged; Instead of the system that existed running upon borough boundaries, they now run upon a combination of time-to-destination and population density statistics; the idea being to maximise the available resources in a given geographical area. The prime consideration in developing a district is in making sure that officers can move from one 'end' of the district to the other, in as short a time as possible, using main routes (the 'A' and 'B' route system).

Also, in order to ensure that the traditional systems were not completely re-arranged, the existing command structure was, by and large, left 'as-is'.

Rank and appointment structure

An area commander would hold the rank of 'Commander'; a district commander would hold the rank of Chief Superintendent, and one of these would normally deputise for the Commander at certain times (in the Met, as in the Armed forces, this is called 'Double Hatting').

The district is then split into three or more Sectors, each covered by it's own Police Station. In charge of each sector will be a Superintendent; At Station level, the station commander will be a Chief Inspector, and the three shifts commanded by it's own Inspector, who will have Sergeants acting as supervisors, Control Room commanders, and Custody Suite commanders (the 'Custody Suite' is a euphemism for the cell-block in each main station of the Met). Naturally, the Constables, the individual Police Officers, come at the bottom of the rank ladder, and are what the public sees at the 'front end' of all policing.

Specialist Station posts...

While Special Operations branches exist, they are run separately from the main organisation at the 'front end' of normal policing. Each main Police Station has an investigative element; this is called the Criminal Investigation Department, or 'CID'. Ranks are prefixed with the word 'Detective', and the responsibilities of a CID section are to investigate crimes in a stations operational area, that uniformed resources either do not have the training for, or are unable to deal with for other reasons. The mainstay of CID work is Level One crime.

Level Two crime is normally reserved for the Uniformed sections of a stations resources, and constitutes and 'bread and butter' of London's Policing, from traffic violations, to brawls and punch-ups, from telling the time to someone (rare as rocking horse droppings, but it happens!), to giving someone directions on how to find a location or address, and, of course, the oft-despised, but none the less necessary, 'point duty', or traffic direction taskings, such as school crossing duty (where a crossing guard, or 'lollipop lady' is unavailable), to directing traffic around incidents and accidents.

The Dog Section...

Acting in immediate support of 'front end' day-to-day Police operations, the Dog Section, SO 06, is an effective aid to the average Police Officer, whether it be to make a group of drunks sit back and take notice, or to track down a violent criminal, or merely to aid in searching for missing persons. Operating from five locations about the capital, Dog Section officers use the 'main set' radios, which link in to Information Room at New Scotland Yard, where calls made on the public '999' emergency telephone number system are allocated to the nearest available Police unit. 'IR' also handles the area traffic radio network, the 'Main Set', and it is this system that Dog Section officers are generally tasked from.

Regional Crime Squads...

Individual Police Districts have limited resources. As a result, pools of personnel have been assembled at Area level, known as Regional Crime Squads (RCS), which bring together normally uniformed officers in a plain-clothes role. This is normally the stepping-stone to an officer making the change from Uniformed duties, to a career within the CID organisation.

RCS is tasked with bringing additional assets to bear on local crime problems, such as drugs, car crime, spates of burglaries, and so on, which wouldn't normally require the very specialist resources of the Special Operations directorate.

Area Traffic Branch operations...

In addition to the RCS units, each area has a branch of SO 25, the Traffic Branch, assigned to it. Each Area Traffic branch operates from a 'Garage Station', which is **not** equipped to handle prisoners. Instead, any persons arrested by Traffic Branch, are taken to the nearest station with an operating Custody Suite with available empty cells, where the suspect will then be properly processed.

Garage Stations are a hive of activity, and are **very** secure. Normally operating 24 hours per day, seven days per week, like a normal Police Station, these stations contain a fully staffed and comprehensively equipped garage, devoted to the maintenance of all manner of Police Vehicles, not just Area Traffic assets. It is at these garages that routine and special maintenance and repairs are performed to all the Metropolitan Police's fleet of road-going vehicles, including, in the number 5 Area garage station, the Metropolitan Police's only water-cannon-equipped armoured Bedford 4-tonne truck, which at the moment, is used in purely training exercises at the Met's riot training facility near Hounslow, west London.

Area Mounted Branch operations...

Operating from within the SO 25 Special Operations directorate, the Mounted Branch is a sub-section of the Traffic Branch. Operating from a central area stable, the horses of the mounted branch are then moved to their deployment stations by dedicated horse transporting trucks, to one of two or three locations in each traffic area.

Tasked in the main with patrolling rough ground, wooded areas, heaths and parkland, the Mounted Branch is also tasked with ceremonial and public events, as well as riot and crowd control duties.

Radio Communications in the Met...

The normal radio system, called 'PR', for 'Personal Radio', is a semi-frequency agile system called a trunk system. Each transmission is made on a pre-determined series of channel hops, and each PR set can be re-programmed, included, or excluded from the radio network from Information Room, as required. It's a far more secure system than the Met previously had, which was geared to one frequency per sector of operations, and which was frequently scanned by criminals, seeking to avoid interception by the Police.

The second system in use is a seven channel 'Main Set' system, used by Traffic Branch, the Mounted Section, and the Dog Section. Each of the first five channels is dedicated to a specific Area number, with the spare channels for specific operations, such as Ceremonial and Special events, and large-scale public disorder (riots, in other words).

Lastly, there is 'CougarNET', a fully encrypted and now frequency-agile secure radio communications system, used by the tactical elements of TACS, and the covert or sensitive branches of the Special Operations directorate, which, to all intents and purposes, is uncrackable - in other words, impossible to decode. Like the new 'PR' system, each CougarNET radio (there are both personal radios and vehicle-mounted sets) can be re-programmed, included or excluded from the networks using the radios, from 'IR' at New Scotland Yard.

The Special Operations directorate...

The entire Special Operations structure was re-organised, mostly by either re-naming branches, re-numbering them, or moving them to other sections of the SATO (Special and Tactical Operations) structure. In addition, certain branches were split up, and re-targeted, to allow better use of resources, and avoid the 'cross-pollination' factor which had hampered some investigations and operations in the past. Lessons had been learnt, and now they were put into practice.

The entire firearms sections, **SO19** (Tactical Armed Response and Armed Response Vehicle branch), **DPG** (Diplomatic Protection Group) and **RPG** (Royalty Protection Group), plus the **SEG** (Special Escort Group), were all placed under the **TACS (TACTical OperationS)** branch.

The responsibility for TACS was moved from a Chief Inspector to an Assistant Commissioner; Each TO (Tactical Operations) branch would be headed up by a Commander, due to the responsibility involved in the use of Police Firearms.

Support services were hived off to their own division as well, and placed under a Deputy Assistant Commissioner. Anything and everything to do with getting the Met to work effectively behind the scenes was given to the new **SUPport Services** division, from Property and buildings maintenance, to training and educational doctrine and methods. A lot has been 'contracted out' to civilian businesses, but the core and sensitive areas, including training, still operate with uniformed Police officers, including the Metropolitan Police College at Hendon.

The new organisation for Special Operations, TACS, and SUS look like this:

Special Operations divisions

Specialist Operations (SO)

SO 01	Air Support Branch	(Known as "India" call signs)
SO 02	Anti-Terrorist Branch	(Known as "Eagle" call signs)
SO 03	Arts & Antiques Squad	(Known as "Two-Alpha" call signs)
SO 04	Counterfeit Unit	(Known as "Plate" call signs)
SO 05	Drugs Squad	(Known as "Planet" call signs)
SO 06	Dog Section	(Known as "Delta" call signs)
SO 07	Fingerprint Bureau	(Not on radio)
SO 08	Forced Rapid Entry Team (FRET)	(Known as "Keyhole" call signs)
SO 09	Fraud Squad	(Operates under Area radio call sign system)
SO 10	Intelligence Branch (General Crime)	(Known as "Watcher" call signs)
SO 11	Intelligence Branch (Organised Crime)	(Known as "Watcher" call signs)
SO 12	Intelligence Branch (Sports and Hooligan elements)	(Known as "Spotter" call signs)
SO 13	Internet Crime Investigations	(Known as "Packet" call signs)
SO 14	Murder Squad	(Operates under Area radio call sign system)
SO 15	Public Carriage Office and Cab Enforcement Team	(Known as "Tout" call signs)
SO 16	Public Order Unit	(Known as "Serial" call signs)
SO 17	Paedophilia Unit	(Known as "Minder" call signs)
SO 18	Racial Crimes Unit	(Known as "Target" call signs)
SO 19	Robbery Squad	(Known as either "The Sweeny" or the "Flying Squad")
SO 20	Serious Fraud Squad	(Known as "Rubber" call signs)
SO 21	Special Branch	(Known as "Green" call signs)
SO 22	Special Investigation Branch	('internal affairs', in US terminology; Known as "Red" call signs)
SO 23	Scenes of Crimes and Forensic Support branch	(Known as "SOCO" call signs)
SO 24	Surveillance Department	(Known as "Shadow" call signs)
SO 25	Traffic Branch	(Known as "Oscar" call signs)
SO 26	Vice	(Known as "Punter" call signs)

Tactical Operations (TACS)

TO 01	Tactical Armed Branch	(TAB, otherwise known as "Trojan" call signs)
TO 02	Armed Response Vehicles	(ARV, Otherwise known as "Rapier" call signs)
TO 03	Close Protection Wing	(CPW, otherwise known as "Watchdog" call signs)
TO 04	Special Armed Escorts Branch	(SAEBr, otherwise known as "Sabre" call signs)
TO 05	Diplomatic Protection Group	(Known as "Stag" call signs)
TO 06	Royalty Protection Group	(Known as "Crown" call signs)

Support Services

SU 01	Property and Buildings Management	
SU 02	Scenes of Crime Support	
SU 03	Special Events Stores and Supplies	
SU 04	Technical Services (Computer Support)	
SU 05	Technical Services (Radio Communications)	
SU 06	Technical Services (Specialist Equipment Stores)	
SU 07	Technical Services (Telephone Communications)	
SU 08	Technical Services (Vehicles and Garages)	
SU 09	Training and Education Branch	(including the Police Training Centre, Hendon)

The City of London...

The fight against PIRA...

For well over two centuries, the City of London has been home to Europe's (and, lately, America's and Japan's) finest financial houses; Barings, Couttes, The Chemical Bank, The Bank Of England, BZW, Allied Dunbar, Rio Tinto Zinc (RTZ), The Guardian Royal Exchange, The Baltic Exchange, Citibank, Nippon-Tokiyobank, and of course, Lloyds of London.

Despite the Blitz in the second World war, despite power cuts in the 'Winter of Discontent' in the early 70's, and despite a hideously under-funded public transport system coupled with practically gridlocked traffic during the working day, the Square Mile has retained its name - despite some spectacular crashes in recent memory (particularly Barings, in 1995, and 'Black Monday' in the mid-80's) - as a place of distinction for financial trading.

This has never been more true since the institution of the Maastricht Treaty clause on Economic Monetary Union in 1992, which gave controversial birth to the common European currency, the Ecu (pronounced Eh-Koo), symbolised by the symbol "€".

Prior to 1990, crime in the City was low; recreational centres, in the way of bars, clubs, restaurants, cafes, cinemas, Theatres, 'Exercise Clubs' (posh - very high class, in English slang - Gymnasiums), and so on, were plentiful. The atmosphere, while high-pressure, was congenial to business. Even the Police were helpful (and unarmed).

Then the Provisional IRA (PIRA) detonated a bomb estimated at two tons of HME (Army speak for Home made Explosives), and destroyed the Baltic exchange, and most of Leadenhall Street as well. The writing was on the wall. Life in general - and Policing - was about to change in the Square Mile.

Even before the bombing of the Baltic Exchange, the centre of the City of London ('The City', or 'Square Mile') was the best Policed city in Europe. Since then, resident for resident, over the last two years alone (since 1997), over two hundred more officers have Been recruited, bringing the ratio of resident to Police officer to about 1000 to 1. The highest in Europe.

The Square Mile has attracted so much business over the last decade, despite the terrorism, that security was essential to maintain the claim of London being Best For Business. So in 1994, the City Elders ordered the City of London Police to secure the city. This they did, with the so-called 'Ring of Steel', as the media called it. The public had another name: The 'Plastic Partition' (so dubbed because of the massive numbers of traffic cones they had to purchase!).

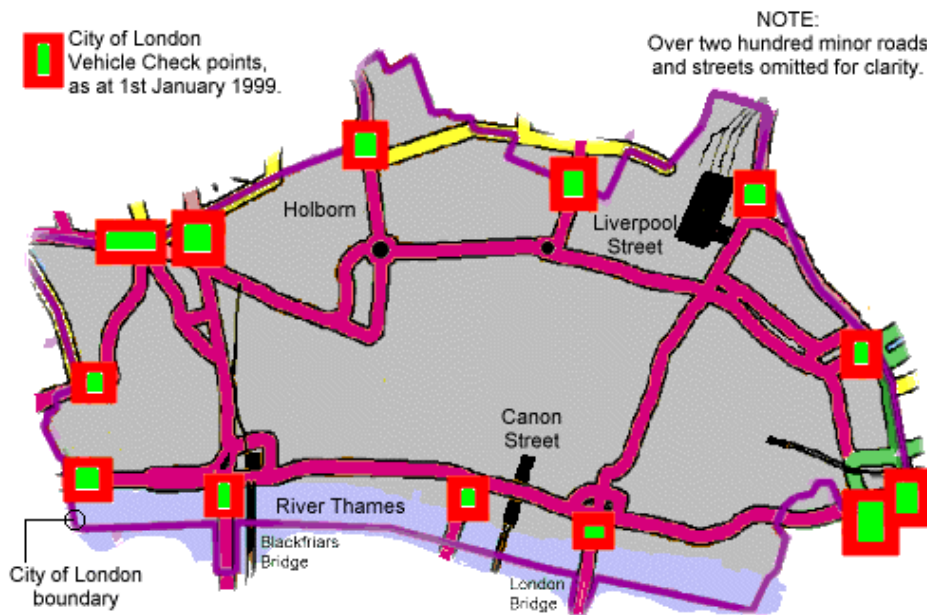
They blocked off all minor roads into the City, and introduced non-permanent vehicle check-points (VCPs) on the six most major routes into the City. These checkpoints were manned by the City Police's Firearms trained and equipped armed response branch, who suddenly appeared on a cold, wet Monday morning, sporting Styer AUG 9mm submachine guns - much to the sensationalism of the tabloid press. The furore soon died down, never the less. PIRA had been sent a message. Don't come here again, or we'll shoot.

With the failure of the Peace Talks in 1996 and the Docklands bomb fresh in everyone's minds from 1996, it was not surprising that the City Elders authorised the introduction of tougher check points, on a permanent basis, at a further seven routes into the City, making a total of thirteen check points, and the permanent blockage, except for pedestrian access, of the minor routes, by means of thick, low, 'scenic' walls, which were completed inside a month (a record, for the Corporation of London's Civic Works Department!).

The City of London Police Check Point Guard Force...

By now, it was clear that the City of London Police were not really up to the task of standing around all day, waiting for a terrorist to just happen along, and remain as alert as possible at the same time. Boredom set in, and Police Officers were beginning to call in sick just to avoid VCP duties. Nothing was provable, though, and no action was taken against officers who went 'sick'. It seemed a version of the infamous New York Police Department's so-called "Blue Flu" had arrived. The City Elders decided that a new wing of the City Police was required. Whilst agreeing to keep the VCPs under police control, they needed people who were used to the mindless tedium of armed guard duties. So they looked to recently de-mobilised soldiers, particularly those who had seen service in Northern Ireland.

They recruited a infantry-company-sized team of recent ex-soldiers, and trained them over a normal six-



month course as City Police officers. They then had a month or refresher training in the firearms branch, familiarising themselves with the weapons that the City police used, and with the Rules of Engagement that they had to follow, and the behaviour that was expected of them.

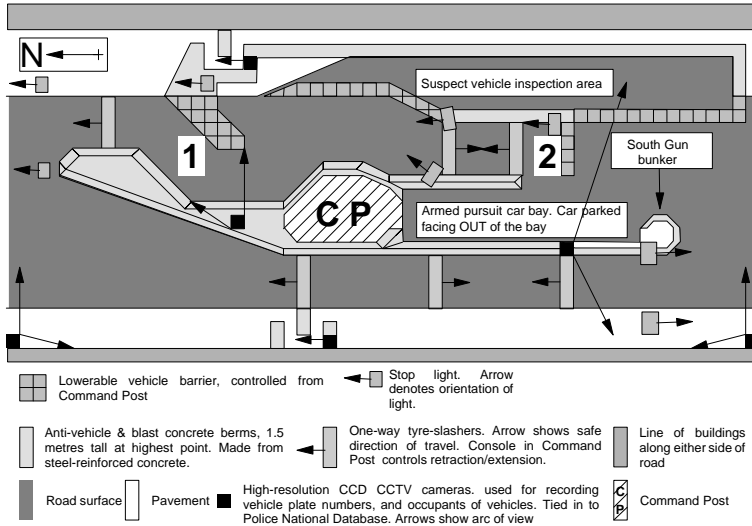
The map to the left shows the locations of all thirteen VCPs under the control of the City of London Police, as at the First of January, 1999.

Once deployed to the streets in late 1997, they were permanently seconded to the VCPs. The wing is called the CPGF, or Check Point Guard Force, and is used as armed Guards for the City. The idea seems to have worked, as no terrorist incident has occurred, or been attempted, since their introduction. That most of them are ex-paratroopers has not gone un-noticed by the press, who call the CPGF the City's Private Army. The City Elders counter the claims that they have a private army on the streets of London, with the counter that since the CPGF were deployed, not one terrorist incident has occurred within the area protected by the VCPs, which is, outside Military installations, one of the best protected areas in Europe!

Besides, they keep stating: It is still illegal to recruit mercenaries in the UK - despite what the press might claim!

Description of a typical VCP...

A typical layout (at Bishopsgate, near Liverpool Street railway station) is shown here.



The first thing that you see when you near a CoLP VCP is the lack of trees. All that is visible is buildings and angled concrete bunker. It's intimidating as heck, and intentionally so. The City Police want to AVOID confrontation, not invite it. By showing that they are completely protected against a terrorist attack, they show that they can and WILL use whatever is at their disposal to deal with it.

As can be seen in the diagram of the Bishopsgate VCP, traffic flowing OUT of the city is, while being narrowed down to one lane, unrestricted. The checks are on traffic entering the city, the assumption being that traffic leaving the city poses no threat.

The hub of the VCP is the 'Security Island', from where the VCP is controlled. In the Command Post (CP), are several CCTV monitors, with 24-hour video recording, and a CCD photo recognition system on line at all times, to watch for known terrorists attempting to enter the City. To prevent motorcycles and push-bikes from being ridden through the pedestrian access points, a zigzag barrier (concrete) has been installed on both sides of the street, designed to force pedal cyclists to dismount prior to entry, and prevent the egress of motorcycles.

The CoLP RULES OF ENGAGEMENT...

Similar to the British Army's 'White Card', every Armed Officer in the city carries a copy of the CoLP ROE in his or her Warrant Card wallet. These are the RoE:

ALL other means of attempting to arrest a suspect **MUST** have been tried, before the use of firearms is considered. It is to be understood that the use of firearms is to be a **LAST** resort in attempting to make an arrest.

- A **CLEAR, UNAMBIGUOUS, SHOUTED** warning is to be issued **BEFORE** any shots are fired.
- **SINGLE, AIMED** shots are only to be fired if:
 1. It is the **ONLY** way to prevent serious injury or death to yourself or another person.
 2. It is the **ONLY** way to prevent an armed suspect from escaping lawful custody.
 3. It is the **ONLY** method available to prevent wide scale destruction, i.e., a suspect with a suicide bomb, with the trigger in his or her hand, ready to initiate the device.

REMEMBER: Your actions are subject to the Rule Of Law, and possible Criminal Prosecution. **THINK FIRST** before opening fire.

Unexpected VCP encounters

The CPGF have also had a few run-ins with the normal breed of criminals as well.

In July 1998, a gang of armed robbers attempted a wages snatch from a Royal Mail Cash In Transit armoured van. The robbery took place just around the corner from the Bishopsgate VCP, on Camomile street. The robbery went as the robbers had planned, and no-one, thankfully, was shot. It was then that their luck departed them. An Armed Response vehicle belonging to the Metropolitan Police was returning to it's beat, having re-fuelled just up the road. When it saw the scene, the crew de-bussed, and issued "HALT! ARMED POLICE!" challenges, as required by law. The robbers fired a few rounds, causing the police team to take cover, then fled with the cash.

It was here that the driver of the getaway car made the mistake of turning towards the new VCP, rather than away from it, at high speed. Since the car was travelling at well in excess of the speed limit, the robbers must have missed the 100 metre warning sign, but since they screeched to a halt at the fifty-metre point, they definitely saw the second. The ARV hurtled around the corner at this point, and blocked the road, challenging the robbers again.

Not wanting to stay in the open, the robbers must have figured that by driving into the crowd, they could get a hostage, and get away. The ARV had relayed the full details of the robbery they'd seen by this time, and the CPGF on duty team was appraised of the situation by radio, and began clearing the point of civilians.

The robbers second mistake occurred here. They debussed - openly armed - and fled towards the VCP.

Two loud-hailer warnings were issued, and ignored, and the CPGF personnel opened fire.

At post mortem, it was found that each of the four raiders had two rounds in the head, and two rounds in the chest. Four rounds for each raider from each gun that the four man CPGF team fired from the VCP.

The incident was released on the national news, and all of a sudden, armed crime in the vicinity of the City vanished overnight.

As road traffic passes through the VCP, it has to negotiate a tight right-left-right series of turns, designed to limit the speed of traffic. As traffic negotiates the turns, the number plate of the vehicles are optically scanned by a character recognition system. The system interrogates three separate databases: The Police National Computer (PNC), the Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) database of all registered vehicles in the UK, and the Security Service Watch List (SSWL). It then checks via the other cameras watching the VCP that the vehicle (a) matches it's database description, and (b) is not on the warning list of vehicles to be stopped. Such a check normally takes about four seconds, start to finish. Assuming all is well, the car is allowed to proceed on its way.

If, however, the details of the vehicle do not match the database on the PNC, or it appears on the STOP list, the vehicle is stopped, and directed to enter the vehicle inspection bay, where a team of specially trained CPGF officers will search it from top to bottom - often beyond - for anything 'out of the normal', and arrest the occupants if necessary. The search includes the driver and all passengers.

For oversized vehicles, such as busses and articulated traffic, the initial right-left-right turn is avoided, by lowering the barrier marked '1', which recesses into the floor of the VCP; before that barrier lowers, though, traffic ahead of the vehicle is allowed to leave the VCP, and barrier '2' is raised. Barrier '1' is lowered. The vehicle moves to the point at barrier '2', at which time barrier 1 is raised. Barrier 2 is lowered, and the vehicle is allowed to proceed, as is traffic behind it. Traffic is halted by Stop Lights during the times when barrier 1 is lowered, so that the barrier can be safely raised again after the passage of the oversized vehicle.

In comparison, the system works much like an airlock, for oversized vehicles. It also works quite quickly, taking about a minute to process a petrol tanker, for example. The airlock system can be overridden from the CP to allow emergency vehicles (Fire trucks, etc.) into the city in a speedy manner.

Firearms are very much in evidence at VCPs. At least two police officers, carrying Styer AUG Para 9mm sub-machine guns and Glock 17 autopistols cover both approaches to the VCP, from firing positions in the CP, at an armoured firing port, covering the northern approach to the VCP, and from a similar position covering the southern approach to the VCP, in the South Gun Bunker, while officers at the inspection bay carry Glock 17 autopistols. Cameras are as overt as possible, and signs, written in red on a white illuminated background are placed at 200, 100, and 50 metres away from the VCP, on the vehicle approaches stating:

At the 200 metre point:

**YOU ARE ENTERING AN
ARMED POLICE
CHECK POINT.
TURN OFF HEADLIGHTS NOW.
STOP WHEN ORDERED.
USE OF LETHAL FORCE AUTHORISED.**
CITY OF LONDON POLICE
CHECK POINT GUARD FORCE OPERATIONAL AREA.

At the 100 metre point:

**"ARMED POLICE".
TURN OFF HEADLIGHTS NOW.
STOP WHEN ORDERED.
FAILURE TO OBEY COMMANDS
MAY BE MET BY LETHAL FORCE -
FURTHER WARNINGS MAY NOT BE
GIVEN.**
CITY OF LONDON POLICE
CHECK POINT GUARD FORCE OPERATIONAL AREA.

And at the 50 metre point:

**VEHICLE CHECK POINT:
"ARMED POLICE".
HEADLIGHTS OFF NOW**



OR YOU WILL BE FIRED ON.
CITY OF LONDON POLICE
CHECK POINT GUARD FORCE OPERATIONAL AREA.

The VCP is floodlit at night by eight well-positioned sets of halogen lights fixed at height on the buildings either side of the VCP, and at least two officers are in the central island of the VCPs Command Post at all times.

Constructed from shallow-angled steel reinforced concrete (much like a blast berm at military ammunition dumps), the VCPs are designed so that a suicide bomber wouldn't make too much of an impact on the structure of the CP.

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

The warning signs were thought out with the CPGF Rules of Engagement in mind, and were agreed by the Home Office before they were erected.

However, as soon as they were erected, as expected, Civil Rights organisations screamed long and loud about the rights of the individual to proceed without fear for his or her life.

The Home Secretary, in one of his last acts before his murder in Brixton, met with the representatives of leading civil rights organisations, including Amnesty, and discussed the Rules of Engagement situation.

In a four hour-long meeting, held at the Home Office, all views were exchanged - sometimes in a heated manner, according to unnamed sources.

In a press statement issued by his office after the meeting, he stated that the Rules of Engagement would be "reviewed regularly".

As was widely expected after the press statement, no changes have yet been made, and the RoE are expected to be fixed for some time to come.

The CP doubles as a rest room, canteen, and operational command post, and has two levels, a ground floor, the actual Command Post, and a larger basement, giving access to the rest areas, and the machinery of the lowerable barriers, for maintenance purposes.

On top of the VCP is an 'aerial farm' of radio transceiver aerals, and a powerful public address loud-hailer system. Whilst most communications are by secured and sealed landline systems (fibre-optic links to the nearest City Police station), encrypted radio communications connects to the Anti-terrorist branch at New Scotland Yard, in case of emergencies. The radio comms also acts as a back up in case of land-line failure, and is similarly encrypted when operating. In addition, local armed and unarmed Police radio communications in the immediate area, both from City of London and Metropolitan services, are monitored for unusual local activity, to give the COPGF officers time to clear their particular check point of civilian activity, in case an armed confrontation looks likely to occur, for instance, in the event of an armed robbery spilling onto the CPGF check point site (as has happened before, and as noted above).

Uniform of the CPGF...

Everyday operational dress for the CPGF is a complete set of dark blue (almost black) combat clothes, comprising; a dark blue 'T' shirt (and 'Norwegian'-pattern roll-neck military style sweater in cold weather) worn under a dark blue combat jacket, dark blue cotton fatigue trousers (like military 'greens', but in police Blue), black polished 'Hi-Tec Magnum' combat boots, a level IV ballistic armour vest with Ceramic trauma plate inserted both front and rear, complete with a British military type Kevlar helmet, in dark blue, sporting a dark-blue helmet cover and thick transparent Perspex flip-down 'riot visor', which is normally worn in the 'up' position.

The helmet cover is embroidered with the word POLICE in light grey on the rear. Individual Officers' Divisional numbers (the so called 'shoulder numbers') are embroidered on the rear of the helmet cover in a subdued mauve colour, and embroidered on the shoulder epaulettes of all other clothing in the same subdued mauve colour. Officers inside the CP, on monitor duty, are permitted to omit the ballistic vest and helmet (the CP is armoured as a bunker) in favour of a dark blue beret, with a subdued (anodised dark grey metal) City of London Police cap-badge in place.

Weaponry of the CPGF...

The CPGF is, for all intents and purposes, a paramilitary police force, as opposed to a peace-time police service. As such, the weapons and equipment are very much military style, as is the uniform, described previously.

Standard weaponry includes the Glock 17 9x19mm autopistol, carried with three magazines, one in the weapon, two in a military-style pouch on the police officer's utility belt. Officers on duty at the check points (known as being 'on stag' within the CPGF) carry a 9x19mm Steyr AUG Sub Machine Gun (see the publication Ultramodern Firearms, Chameleon Eclectic Entertainments publication number 012-001, page 74). Officers in the CPGF have recently expressed grave doubts about it's safety (although the rumour mill privately says that it's nothing to do with safety, but with image - they want gun with a menacing image, and a plastic gun, coloured a nice, soft shade of green, doesn't really cut the mustard!), and it's expected that the City Fathers will authorise the replacement of the AUG by H&K MP5s by the year 2002. Again, each officer carries three magazines for his or her weapon, one in the weapon, two in pouches on the uniform utility belt.

Other equipment is as normal for a police officer; qwikcuffs, a side-handled baton (called the PR-24 in the UK), a mag-lite torch, two-way encrypted radio, and the usual assortment of paperwork that police officers have to carry. In addition, each officer in the CPGF is required to carry a small field medic pouch on his or her utility belt, in case a fire fight erupts, and innocent citizens get hurt. The first aid provided to them while the ambulance arrives could be crucial in the recovery of the citizen. These guys are, after all, police officers, charged with public safety. Or so the city fathers say, in all their press releases. The press, however, still have their doubts.

Benefits of having the CPGF deployed...

Besides the visible drop in violent crime in the city, there are several material benefits to the city by having the VCPs in place.

Pollution has been halved in the city - more vehicles are taking the long way around the city, and avoiding it completely in rush hour times; this has caused a knock-on effect of reducing the cleaning bills of a few landmarks in the city due to vehicle exhaust fumes.

The flip side is that the Pigeon population of the City of London, having always a pest problem, has tripled in the two years the controls have been in place.

The air is, it seems, clearer.

At least for the birds.

The Security and Intelligence Services

The Security Service (formerly known as 'MI5')

Until recently, with the introduction of a special Act of Parliament called the Intelligence Services Act, the Security Service did not officially exist. The function of the Security Service is counter-intelligence, specifically counter-espionage, counter-sabotage and counter-subversion, in all British territories. The organisation moved to their current headquarters at Thames House on Millbank in 1993, but still retains various properties around London.



BE/BE and the Security Service...

BlackEagle operatives may well come into contact with the Security Service, and it is worthwhile cultivating these relationships.

Access to the Security Service records or undercover agents, or to the bugging technology and phone interception that it has at its disposal is a useful asset.

Unfortunately, cells might also find themselves in conflict with the Security Service as well.

A change in the focus of its activities brought about by the relaxing of tensions between East and West at the start of the decade, and the increased Eco-terrorism and formation of radical political groups from both ends of the political spectrum in the UK itself, led to a restructuring of the organisation, although many of its core activities remained the same. The new threats facing the country, against which the Security Service is supposed to protect, are targeting business and the economy rather than military and government secrets, and this has also led to a shift in emphasis. Combined with pressure to provide value for money, The Security Service has had to bow to the growing 'corporatisation' of central government, and now markets their services as security advisors to British corporations and businesses.

The Administrative Branch employs the largest numbers, although the term 'Administrative' is something of a misnomer. In addition to providing technical support to the other branches,

they are also responsible for phone and mail interception, bugging, and surveillance.

Phone tapping is carried out by a department of British Telecom, referred to as 'secret squirrels' who operate from 81 Newgate Street in London. With the System X exchanges, no 'tap' is actually required, the call is merely routed via the 9th floor of BT's Gresham Street headquarters where an array of operators transcribes them, although there are other, smaller tapping centres. The transcript is then passed electronically to the Security Service. A tap like this, using the exchange to control the routing, is totally undetectable; and because all the telephone companies such as Mercury and Nynex, public call boxes, and the cellular networks like Orange, Vodaphone and Cellnet, still use British Telecom exchanges for routing their calls, any call originating or terminating in the UK can be tapped in this way.

For a full tap, a Home Office warrant is still required, but the metering facilities of System X provide a breakdown of all calls into and from a particular number with time and duration, and this is available to the Security Service without a warrant of any kind. In fact, this same minimal information is readily available to anyone with contacts in British Telecom. Intercept Warrants for phone taps are normally authorised with only a few paragraphs of justification by the Permanent Secretary to the Home Secretary and run for six months. In his absence, any Secretary of State can sign. A single warrant can cover a large number of phone lines. Otherwise, and civil servant of under-secretary rank or above can sign off a two-day warrant. In 1998, 400 such warrants were signed covering over 4000 phone lines, but in actuality about 18000 such taps are in place many on a permanent basis.

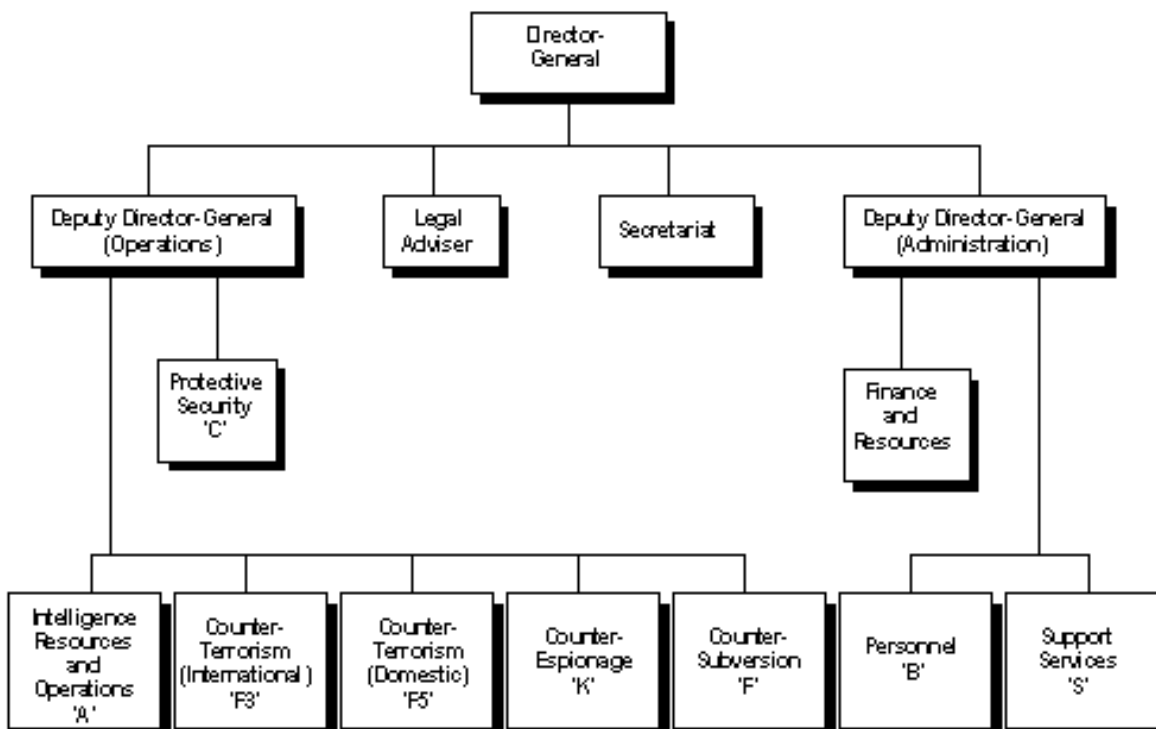
Intercept Warrants **can** be requested by bodies other than the Security Service, most commonly the Police; however, as a private company, BlackEagle are not able to request warrants without the approval of a High Court Judge, and to justify that, they need a client who is willing to stand up in an open court, and compelling (criminal) evidence to back the request for a warrant. It's difficult, and designed to allow the state all the aces, not the individual...

Mail Interception is the task of a special section of the Post Office Investigation Division based in London at Union House in St Martin's-le-Grand. All mail to and from an intercept is brought here to be opened, photocopied, and then resealed. A steam kettle is still the best method for opening sealed packages and envelopes, although in this day and age of synthetic adhesives, the use of solvents is coming more and more to the forefront. The group prides itself on its ability to reseat mail so that the intercept will never be noted, and will not open anything that they cannot reseal. For these special cases, a number of methods are available that will allow some letters to be read inside the envelope, though these techniques cannot always be used. It is worth noting that the use of cello tape to seal an envelope makes it unopenable without the intercept being detected, although the use of sprays and special photography may allow the contents to be scanned without opening the packaging.

The Special Electronics Section, housed in Grosvenor Road and only recently moved to Millbank, is partly responsible for designing electronic eavesdropping devices or bugs. They work in conjunction with the police who have their own laboratories at Grove Park in Camberwell, while a joint MI5/police research centre exists at Sandridge, near St Albans.

The Registry of personal and operational files has been computerised since 1971, and has undergone several upgrades in processing power and data storage since. The system runs on twin ICL 3980's running VME and a 'Free Text Retrieval' (FTR) system called 'Poldiene', standing for "**POL**ice, **D**efence, **I**ntelligence **EN**quiry **E**quipment". It also provides one-way access to the MoD-multi network, and to the larger Government Data Network (GDN) which links the Home Office, Customs and Excise, Inland Revenue, Health, Social Security and Police National Computer networks. A further link to Special Branch gives the Security Service access to the systems for Immigration, Drugs Intelligence and the Fraud Squad computers.

The Structure of the Security Service



'A' Branch - 'Administration'.

- A1 – Technical Operations.
- A1a – Housebreaking, planting bugs, stealing or photographing of documents.
- A1b – Controlled leaking of information.
- A1c – Provision of safe houses.
- A1d - Locksmiths and carpenters.
- A1e - Design of bugs and electronic equipment.
- A2 - Technical Support.
- A2a - Transcripts from bugs and taps.
- A2b - Photographic service, laboratory work and liaison with GCHQ.
- A3 - Liaison with Special Branches.
- A4 - The Watchers. Surveillance service for trailing suspects. (Based at Euston Towers building.)
- A5 - Scientific Research and Development.

'B' Branch - Personnel.

- B1 - Recruitment, Vetting and Security of MI5.
- B2 - Personnel management and welfare.
- B3 - Management services, personal and physical security of MI5 offices and buildings.
- B4 - Finance.

'C' Branch - Protective Security.

- C1 - Security for the Royal Family and Government.
- C2 - Vetting and Security for government contractors.
- C3 - Vetting of government department staff, police and armed forces.
- C4 - Counter-Sabotage.

'F' Branch - Counter-Subversion.

- F1 - Communist Party of Great Britain.
- F2 - Trade Unions and Secret Intelligence Service Reports.
- F2n - Trade Unions.
- F2r – The media, education, Members of Parliament.
- F3 – International terrorism.
- F5 – Irish terrorism.
- FX – Long-term infiltration of agents and informers.
- F4 – Trade Unions and CPGB.
- F6 – Trotskyist and radical organisations.
- F7 – Investigation of radical left and right wing groups.

'K' Branch - Counter-Espionage.

- KX
 - K1 – Government departments.
 - K2 – Soviet Intelligence Service.
 - K3 – Soviet agent recruitment.
- KY
 - K4 – Order of Battle, Soviet diplomats and nationals surveillance.
 - K5 – Soviet bloc and Chinese agent recruitment.
 - K6 – Hostile intelligence services, Warsaw Pact.
 - K7 – Counter-Espionage within UK services.
 - K8 – Non-Soviet diplomats and nationals surveillance.

'S' Branch - Support Services.

- S1 – Joint Computer Bureau (linked to the Secret Intelligence Service).
- S2 – Registry (including the Computerised files). Personnel files. (Based at Curzon Street.)
- S3 – Training.
- S4 – Supplies and travel.

The Secret Intelligence Service (formerly known as 'MI6')

Until recently, with the introduction of a special Act of Parliament called the Intelligence Services Act, the Secret Intelligence Service did not officially exist in times of peace: a fiction that has caused embarrassment to governments in the past. Based at Vauxhall Cross opposite the Tate Gallery having recently moved there from Century House in Westminster Bridge Road, this highly secret organisation answers not to the government but to the monarchy. Weekly reports are sent directly from MI6 to the palace where the so-called Golden Trio (the Queen's Private Secretary, the Cabinet Secretary and the principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister) act as the Queen's advisors on this material. Those reports which concern the Royal Family themselves bypass even the Golden Trio and are passed directly to the Queen. Traditionally, all reports passed between the CSS of MI6 and the Queen's Private Secretary are in green ink.



BE/BE and the Secret Intelligence Service...

BlackEagle agents operating in the UK are unlikely to have any reason for direct contact with SIS, except perhaps as clients.

Most SIS operations are overseas, as the Security Service is responsible for intelligence activities in Britain (although The Firm does run agents in Northern Ireland).

Normally the DP4 division which is responsible for UK-based activities handles operations using its own assets, but sometimes they do use freelancers for intelligence gathering.

Also called the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS), MI6 is referred to as 'The Firm' internally, and (ironically) as 'The Friends' by the Foreign Office. A few of their more spectacular failures have been very public fiascos, suggesting that they are amateurish and incompetent, but this is a carefully cultivated impression. MI6 is actually a highly efficient intelligence gathering organisation supported by some of the best analysts in the business.

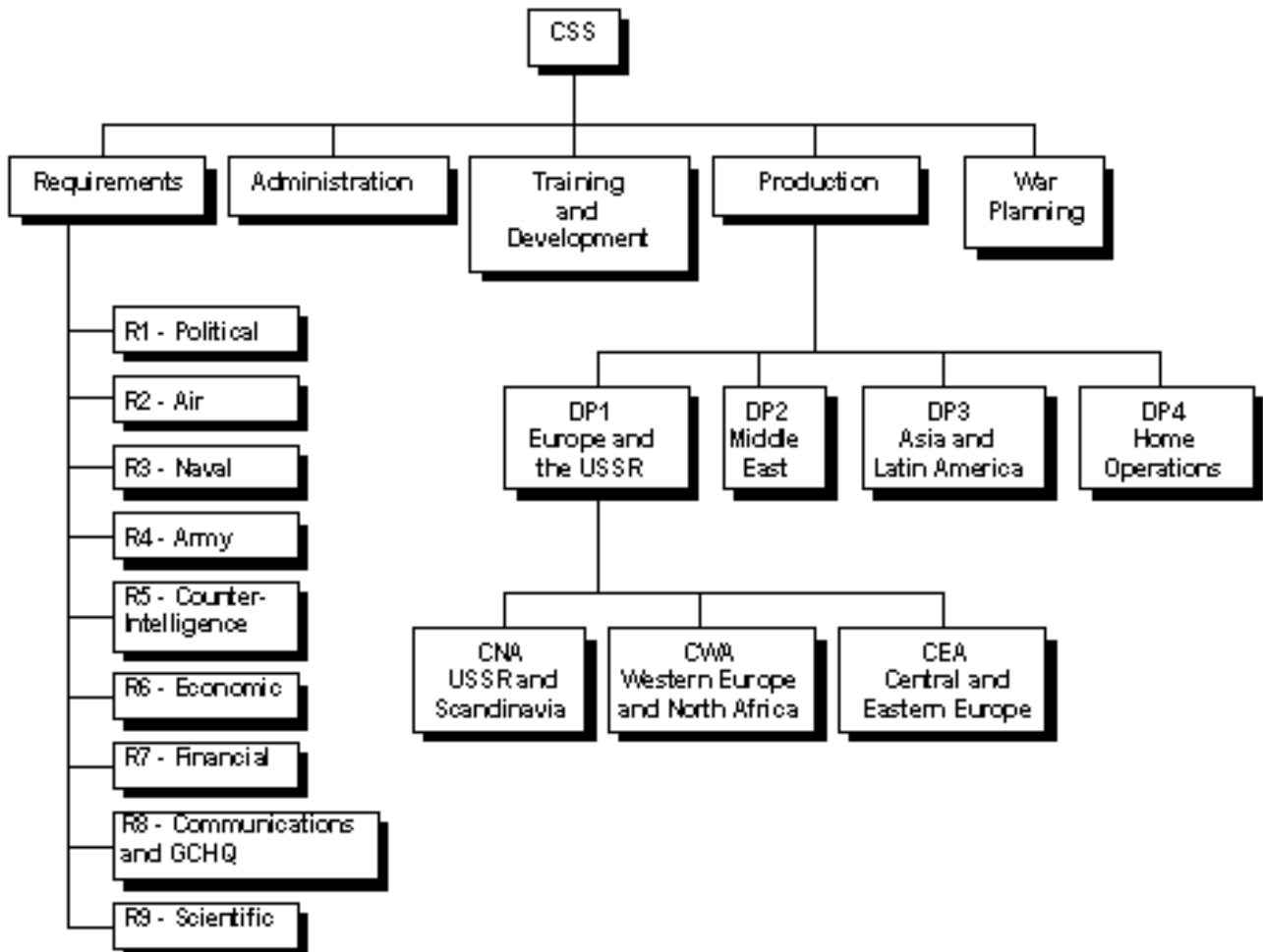
The head of the SIS is referred to as the Chief of the Secret Service (CSS), or 'C'. Since the current 'C' is due to retire in November 1999, there is also a bitter power struggle going on behind the scenes, to determine who heads up the SIS into the new millennium...

SIS employs about 3000 personnel world-wide and also uses freelancers for certain activities. An excellent, true account of a freelancer working for SIS is depicted in "Break-In" by Bill Graham. While very class conscious, many of the staff coming from a public school and Oxbridge background, a surprising number of field officers (about 40%) are women.

They function primarily as an intelligence gathering body, and while SIS employs a number of analysts, most of the data is analysed by the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC).

Since the Second World War, MI6 has had strong ties with both the CIA and NSA in America. The US Embassy in Grosvenor Square houses a Special US Liaison Office for the purpose of information sharing. In an informal agreement with the NSA, the MI6-run Government Communication Headquarters (GCHQ) monitors radio traffic in Europe, Africa and the Middle East, passing the raw data to the NSA. 'The Firm' also works closely with the MoD's Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS).

The Structure of MI6

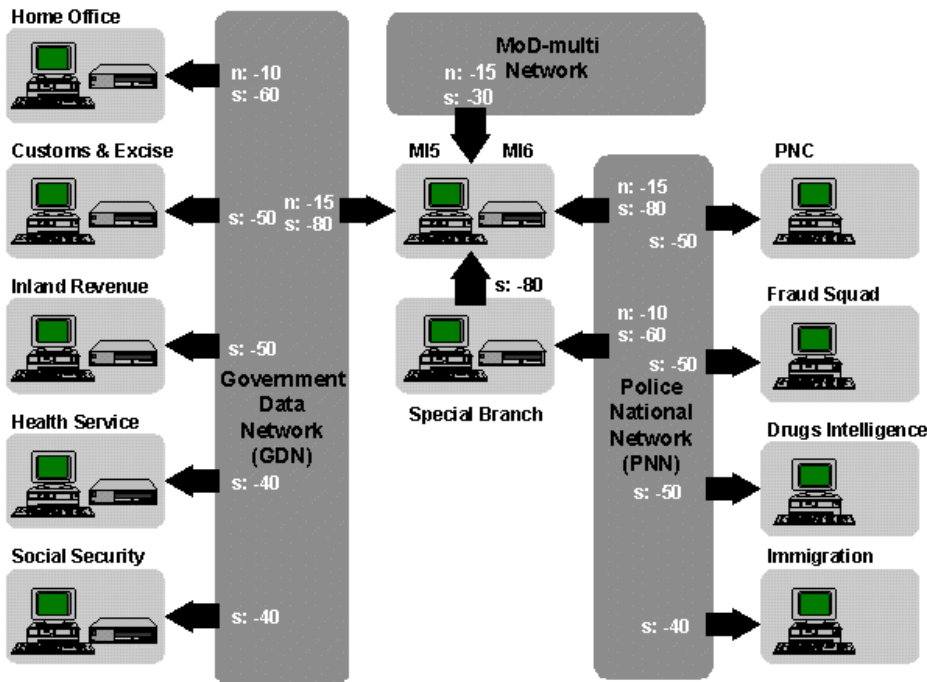


CSS ('C')

- Foreign Office Adviser
- Vice-Chief
- Deputy-Chief
- Director of Administration
- Director of Training and Development
- Director of War Planning
- Director of Requirements
- R1 - Political
- R2 - Aviation
- R3 - Naval and Maritime
- R4 - Army
- R5 - Counter-Intelligence
- R6 - Economic
- R7 - Financial
- R8 - Communications and GCHQ
- R9 - Scientific
- Director of Production

- Controller Northern Area (CNA) - Soviet Union and Scandinavia
- Controller Western Area (CWA) - France, Spain, North Africa
- Controller Eastern Area (CEA) - Germany, Austria, Switzerland
- DP2 - Controller Middle East
- DP3 - Controller Far East
- DP4 - Home Operations

Intelligence Services Computer Network



From the diagram, you can see that the Intelligence Services are hooked into pretty much every official computer network in the country. From this, they can access every piece of official information that exists on government computers, on any person, group, company, or organisation, that they chose to investigate. This list, however, is not exhaustive. Other computer systems exist - such as the Banking Central Clearing System (BCS), which has its own dedicated terminals in both the SIS HQ, as well as the Security Service HQ, to name but one computer

system. They also have access to a host of foreign allied systems, which they regularly access for information held abroad...

Accountability to Government

In theory, the security and intelligence services report to Parliament, in the form of the Intelligence and Security Committee, which provides a form of 'overwatch' function for the SIS, SS, and GCHQ (Government Communications Head Quarters, the British version of the United States NSA). This committee exists to provide Parliament with the knowledge that everything that the intelligence and security services get up to, is properly scrutinised, and that nothing is done that could potentially embarrass the Government of the day... not, of course, that a similar committee in the US Senate has done anything like that for the government of the USA...

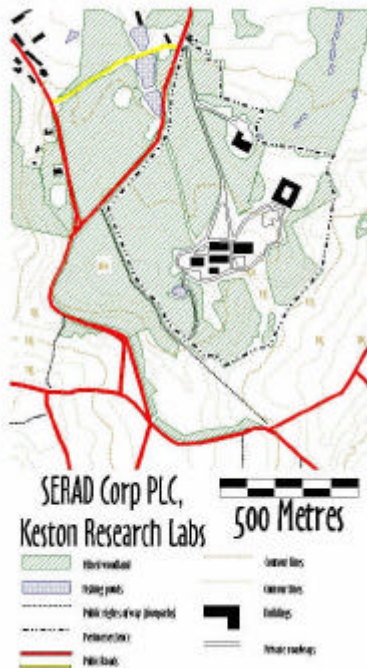
Businesses in the London of Millennium's End...

SERAD PLC...

SERAD PLC is a pharmaceuticals company, in the mould of Glaxo-Wellcome, although not nearly as big.



Currently based in Keston, outside Bromley in south east London, Serad formed about fifteen years ago, occupying a small pharmaceuticals factory in south west London near the Paddington rail station and depot. Initially, the business catered for the production of small-scale, high profit, drugs that couldn't be produced abroad, due to their very short shelf-life; such drugs would have perished - even in refrigeration - and become useless in the process of shipping them to the end-user in the UK. Once enough capital had been built up from the proceeds of the sale of these drugs, the directors invested in the research side of the business, whilst keeping the drugs manufacturing capabilities, and, next door to the factory, built up the chemical R&D side.



Within five years, Serad had outgrown the new premises, and, with it's high turnover, bought the lease to the Keston site - at a knock-down price - and established their corporate headquarters and R&D facility there.

The image to the left is a map of SERAD's Keston headquarters.

SERAD occupy what used to be Seismological PLC's old headquarters, before they were bought - and closed to move to new offices - by Marconi, PLC.

Since taking up residence, they've used a policy of purchasing supplies, be it food stuffs, office materials, or even fuels, locally, in support of the local economy. It's gone down well with local residents and the council (the London Borough of Bromley) very well indeed, despite there being rumours in the environmental lobbies about their experimentation on animals, and genetic engineering research.

Market

SERAD engage in research and development of pharmaceuticals for some market leading brands throughout Europe, who, for one reason or another, are not in a position to do the actual R&D themselves. Naturally, their client list is held in the strictest confidence.

Additionally, SERAD do 'pure' pharmo-bio-chemical research, aimed at producing cures for various forms of Cancer, AIDS/HIV, tropical diseases, and other viruses. They have a licence from the Departments of health and Environment to operate this R&D, and possess a series of labs, within a multiple-layer containment system, conforming to the Centre for Infectious Disease Control's five level protocols. Their security systems are state of the art, and they additionally have an in-house armed guard force. Security is therefore not, at this time, a problem.

Company resources

SERAD have an average annual turnover of between € 3 and € 5 million. The average cost of maintaining their facilities, staffing, and ancillary services, complete with the in-house security force, comes to about € 2 million.

Real Scoop

SERAD aren't just into medical R&D. They also produce designer drugs for the man controlling the south-east London crime scene, Michael Heron.

The reason that they're doing this, is that Heron 'fronted up' a considerable portion of their start-up costs, and afterward, used it as a blackmail bargaining chip...

If Heron is ever displaced as the head of the South East London Crime Syndicate, the chances are damned good that SERAD will quietly approach a certain person working in the Department of Health, and organise an effective cover-up...

Encounters with BlackEagle/BlackEagle...

Where BlackEagle/BlackEagle might encounter this company is in the investigation side of things. In the time that SERAD has been operating, they have managed to foil four attempts at industrial espionage, and there is a feeling in the corporate management that, maybe in the next few years, someone might just crack their security, and manage to steal some research and/or material from the Keston site.

Author note: SERAD is actually a play on words. It actually stands for "Somebody Else's Research And Development"!

Mason-Stanley



Formed on 1995 by Derek Mason and William Stanley, Mason-Stanley now, in the four years since its' establishment, have become London's foremost prestige Architects, having initially won the contract to design the new wing for Birmingham's Arndale Centre, which was destroyed by an IRA bomb a few years before.

Since then, they have designed the new London Stock Exchange (following the outgrowth of the last centre), many office blocks, including the octagon Tower in the West End ("Octower", where BlackEagle/BlackEagle London's previous office was), BlackEagle House (where BlackEagle/BlackEagle's new combined facility is now located), and about a dozen large and major architectural projects besides.

Market

Mason-Stanley cater for a wide range of clients, from property developers (their main clients), to major corporations seeking a new corporate headquarters building design. Their market share, while not as large as some architectural partnerships, has its' base in the London area, and they were judged by the RIBA (Royal Institute of Building Architects) of possessing a financial share of about 10 percent in 1998.

Company resources

Staffed by twenty architects, support staff, and boasting a building that they designed (and built) in Knightsbridge, their turnover is in the order of € 10 million per annum.

Real Scoop

For once, there are no skeletons in a closet; Mason-Stanley are exactly what they appear - a top-flight, award-winning firm of architects.

The only thing that could possibly be described as being interesting, is that their Chairman, Derek Mason, owns a majority share in a London building company that specialises in designer projects - and that they seem to get the lions' share of Mason-Stanley's work....

Peres International...

The owners, David and Solomon Greenberg, a pair of Israeli brothers, living in the Camberwell district of London, run Peres International Trading from a warehouse on the South Bank. Peres international is one of a small handful of arms dealers in the capital. Run for about twenty years, and based originally from a retail gun shop in London's East End, before the outlawing of most privately-owned firearms in the UK, Peres International now run a registered arms supply business, exporting their wares to many different countries.



Market

Peres international markets weapons to countries around the globe, mainly targeting large security organisations, mercenary organisations (there **are** merc companies about, you just need to know who to contact...), and third-world military and para-military organisations. The corporate turnover in 1998 was 16.7 Million.

Company resources

Peres international has a main warehouse in London, on the south bank. They also run supplementary warehouses in Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Johannesburg, New York, and Sydney. Their annual Turnover in 1999 was recorded at €23.6 million.

Mostly, they ship firearms and ammunition, of the military variety, but occasionally, they ship artillery pieces, armoured vehicles, and explosive munitions. Their warehouses are awash with weapons and ammunition of all shapes and sizes, so, consequently, they have an in-house security force, which is armed under the 'Private Contracts Firearms (Licensing and Permits) Act 1998' (this was not always so, of course...). Thus far, and in keeping with the nature of their business, hardly anyone in the UK knows of their existence, not even the Printing company in the industrial unit next to their warehouse...

Real Scoop...

Peres has contacts in a number of countries across the world who will put their name to End User Certificates, giving overseas sales a degree of legitimacy. Thus, if an individual or other body wishes to obtain weapons that they otherwise wouldn't be able to get, all they need do, is contact Peres, and arrange the End User Certificate to be signed by a willing middleman... for a small consideration, of course...

While most of their merchandise is bought and sold outside of Britain, they aren't above selling small arms locally, and most criminal organisations in the UK have dealt with the brothers at one time or another, especially as they can get specific weapons, for specific jobs, with no questions asked (as long as they get paid, of course...).

CMI Systems, Plc (Formerly Commilint Plc)...

CMI SYSTEMS PLC

The advent of intelligence agencies using satellite photography to perform reconnaissance of sensitive military installations (and other sites) belonging to foreign powers is well known.

What is slightly less well known is that commercial concerns have now begun to offer similar - and, sometimes, superior imagery (as it's known in the trade), for sale, for very modest fees.

SPOT, in France, were the first company to offer such a service, relying on surveying companies, agricultural specialists, and academic customers for their trade, mainly due to the less than militarily useful resolution of the images. This was in the 1980's.

Market

For a modest fee (less than € 1,000), a customer could obtain, from CMI Systems, a single monochrome (black and white) image of wherever the customer wanted across the globe. For a slightly less modest fee (from € 5000), CMI Systems can even provide a very accurate assessment, in the manner of an intelligence report, on the image in question, for the client...

Companies tapped this vital resource, using the imagery to toughen up their physical security at their high-security installations. Security companies, acting for their clients, used the imagery in the same manner. And some groups, mostly mercenaries, used the imagery to plan industrial espionage and sabotage strikes on behalf of their clients, who wanted their competition to become.. hobbled... in some manner or other.

Now, in early 2000, it's just launched it's second series of satellites, which combines not only everything they've learned about remote overhead imaging, but a new global communications system, which incorporates a proprietary real-time encryption software package, called 'X-Bit'.

Reports about CMI Systems have also recently emerged in the technology and investment press; With the much anticipated release of their new encryption software, CMI Systems are rumoured to be talking with Goldman Sachs about an IPO (Initial Public Offering) in late 2000. This would be designed to coincide with the creation of the new pan-European 'NASDAQ-Europe' securities market. Regarded as one of the hottest properties on the block investors are sure to be lining up when the shares are offered later this year. Its future looks assured... As long as Governmental powers keep their hands off it...

You see, while the governments in the western hemisphere tend to encourage this kind of entrepreneurial endeavours, they tends to view the technology used by CMI Systems as their own particular monopoly. And jealously guard it. What's got up their collective noses, is that CMI Systems used readily available, 'off-the-shelf' technology, to put their satellites into orbit. They placed them into polar orbits. Added relay transceivers to them, so that the earth station in London, had constant communications links with the satellites, and figured out - on their own - how to maximise their photographic coverage of the world's surfaces and seas.

Given, say, twelve hours, they can provide an orbital surveillance photo of ANYWHERE on the globe, provided (a) it's in daylight, and (b) there's no clouds in the way. Rather good for a new company in the intelligence market. Even newspapers are using the service available to produce in-depth reports on breaking stories around the globe. And such exposure to the mass market hasn't been missed by CMI Systems. Their turnover tripled in 1999, when the London Times used one of their satellite photographs to show a series of terrorist training camps in Lebanon, used by MANY different terrorist groups. Information that had been unavailable to the press in the past, due to the nature of the camps, and their occupants, who tended to shoot 'nosy' journalists first, and ask questions later. Naturally, some of the resident terrorist groups at these camps were rather pissed off with CMI Systems, and tried to bomb the CMI Systems offices with a car bomb. The Metropolitan Police in London found it, and defused it.

Since then, there's been a permanent armed security presence in and around the office building, which has not, it has to be said, endeared CMI Systems to the government of Britain. For the moment, though, CMI Systems are in business, serving their clients with first-rate satellite imagery.

Company Resources

CMI Systems have a staffing of about three hundred, including a security section, which is permanently armed, of fifty. About one hundred of these staff are imagery analysts, normally ex-military people, the rest are mostly technical folks, specialising in rocketry, communications, imaging systems and cameras, and so on.

Financially, the company stocks and shares are worth, in late 1999, roughly € 14 million. The company can gain their hands on five times that amount if needed, but the repayments would probably be crippling. In normal day-to-day operations, Commilint can get their hands on about five million, which is nothing to sniff at.

They're currently building replacements for their existing satellites, which have an expected service life of about three years. In mid-2000 AD, they plan to launch six of them, to replace the three currently in orbit. This will include a new sensor suite on the additional three satellites, which is suspected to be a high resolution Synthetic Aperture Radar Imaging system.

Real Scoop

CMI Systems is currently owned by ten men, all former professional intelligence operatives and handlers, from the UK, USA, France, Germany, and Russia. There are two of each nation on the board. The MD is Arthur Haverling-Sykes, formerly of GCHQ, a communications and imagery expert.

The rumours of CMI Systems going IPO are based on fact: While the company can get access to enough funds to replace their current assets in orbit, it would leave then perilously short of real funds should some unforeseen problem occur. Therefore, and with reluctance, they've decided to go fully public, and offer shares in their company. The **are** talking with Goldman Sachs, who have been retained by the board to manage their entrance into the soon-to-be NASDAQ-Europe market, and are entering a period of build-up to IPO with a series of well-timed strategic press releases, the first of which will deal with BlackEagle/BlackEagle's acceptance of their new Global mobile Phone communications system.

CMI Systems don't just do imagery and communications, however, and the following is never likely to get into the public domain - it's a very closely-held secret: They're also into industrial counter-espionage - and these days, it's just as dangerous a business as the Cold War was, thus giving the staff in the company a buzz, which they thought that they'd lost at the end of the Cold War.

The Company OrBat actually stretches to about five hundred, if you include the Covert Operations Division, called 'Fish' (the DIC (COD), or Director In Charge, Covert Operations Division, has a strange sense of humour). Fish's staffing includes former intel agents and operatives from around the cold war globe, all now working together for a common cause - a fat paycheque. And they're damned good at their job.

In the run-up to their IPO, the company has changed their structure to hide DIC(COD)'s actual purpose. They've changed it's name to the 'Commercial Operations Department', but with the same covert purpose, and moved the previous director of Public services to the new department, as the titular head of it, with the head of Fish as his notional deputy...

The UK Government has used them on occasion, to check on UK companies abroad, to make sure that they're not up to anything that could embarrass the Government; this is why, with all the high tech material the company possesses, and their client base, the UK Government has not shut down CMI Systems. The relationship is just too cosy to ignore.

Media in the London of Millennium's End...

As with all things, there are choices. With the media, you have three. Printed media (Newspapers and other periodicals), Radio, and Television.

The Print...

Mainline newspapers...

Newspapers are the main line of printed media. Most of the national newspapers are run from offices in central London, and a brief glance at news racks will show which they are. However, there are several types of newspapers in the UK: National Dailies, which fall in two categories, and Local Dailies. London has, in the mornings, National Dailies only, and in the evenings, no nationals, just a few local evening papers. Chief amongst these is the London Evening Standard, which is much akin to the New York Times, in terms of stature in the UK.

The next area of printed media is the periodical. These are either weeklies or monthlies, such as Time, The Economist, and Punch (a satirical magazine at best). These focus on specific areas, such as world issues, national issues, and the social stakes...

The new kid on the block in printed media is the Internet. The **London News Daily**¹ is a round-up of all the major news stories from around the world, taken from all manner of sources, both foreign and domestic. The free copy is supplied via e-mail at 0900 each day, and contains much less information than the paying subscription version, issued at 0400 each day. It has a matching web site, and paying subscription members can also make use of its' extensive archive research facilities, rather than wading through libraries of material; It's ushering in a new era of news information, as, traditionally, the 'morgue', or archives, of a newspaper have been for the use of that newspaper's journalists only. LND makes it's Morgue available to all of it's paying clients - at no extra cost!

Local Daily Newspapers...

While having a history of being in the right place at the right time, the better local, or more accurately, regional newspapers, like the popular South London Press, keep their readership, even in these technological times, by focussing on purely local issues (unless national or international issues affect the area). They've kept a loyal following due primarily to this, aggressive pricing, and advertisement revenue. By and large, they do a good job. However, there's another kind of local newspaper, the 'freebie' as they're coming to be called, that is not as good (at all).

The 'freebies'...

Published in the main, on a weekly basis, and sponsored by commercial advertising, the freebies tend to have fourth-rate journalists, fifth hand news, and frequently, not much to report at all, so much so, that a growing number of homes refuse to accept these rags from even making it through their doorway letter-boxes!

The Fringe (or extreme) rags...

Being a democracy, the UK has its share of extreme views, and the newspaper industry is no different. Existing for their own niche markets, the fringe papers tend to 'preach to the choir'; a typical example is the neo-Marxist/Trotskyist 'Socialist Worker'. Existing on the ultra left of the political spectrum, this... paper... (some have frequently called it much worse, too) tends to attack the established order in the UK for everything it's got, just short of criminal court action for subversion, that is. At its peak, it appeared to have a circulation in the hundreds of thousands UK-wide (with, of course, the Soviet Union avidly egging it on).

These days, hell, they're probably lucky to get a few thousand to read the rubbish it prints - and that's Europe wide!

Television...

Television in London comes in two main flavours: The five so-called digital and five analogue 'terrestrial' channels, and a host of about seventy differing cable/satellite channels.

Access to television is simple. Buy your TV set, your TV licence, and you're all fixed up. Now find your power outlet...

TV Licensing

The UK is different from the USA, in that the use of a television requires a licence, by law (The Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949). The licence fees then go to fund the BBC, which is a non-commercial national TV station, that runs two analogue and four digital channels (see listings below).

It doesn't matter if you only watch videos, DVD-Ram disks, or movie channels. The Licence **must** be purchased. The licence, available from any post office, currently costing about € 100 per year. Failure to buy a licence normally leads to a hefty fine from the courts, as the failure to buy one (if you own a TV) is a Criminal Offence, and there are regular 'detector van' sweeps of major metropolitan areas that can - and do - detect the various emissions from a TV's screen, and can pinpoint those to about a metre... if the address that the emissions come from is registered as having a licence, fine: They leave you alone. If not, expect a knock at the door...

The three (different) TV systems...

Analogue

The original system, used since the infancy of television, is 'analogue'. This is still used in the UK, and will be, until it is finally phased out, which is due to happen in about 2005.

Digital

'Digital' television is the new kid on the block as far as terrestrial television is concerned. Using the same radio channels as terrestrial TV, a sub-channel carries the digital program channel information for each station in question that runs a digital service. Each station can run as many digital channels as it can afford to - the limit per channel is about twenty.

Cable/Satellite...

In the days of terrestrial-only television, a new contender came into the equation: Satellite television. Using analogue technology, for those who could afford it (and could get the planning permission to erect a receiver dish on the outside wall of their home), more channels of television became available. Now, many years on, the satellite TV companies (there are two main contenders in the UK) use digital technology, and have increased their capacity to about seventy channels in total.

Within the last eight to ten years, however, the newest kid on the block is Cable television. Often combining the television supply service with their own telephone network, they have made the capacity of satellite television affordable to a great many people, and allowed the others who could not, for one reason or another use the satellite technology, the ability to watch even more (similar and generally tacky) content. Generally, the cable content mirrors the satellite content, and adds the terrestrial television content as well.

The cost...

There is a price for all of this, though. While the main-line channels (BBC1, BBC 2, ITV, Channel 4, and Channel 5) are generally free to watch (you don't have pay-per-view, for instance), the supplementary digital channels on terrestrial TV **have** become, with the exception of the majority of the BBC's offerings, either subscription or pay-per-view. Likewise, the satellite and cable services are subscription only services - you pay to get a certain number of channels, normally through a set plan option, and, for the premium channels, use pay-per-view. Truly, American business methodologies have arrived on our shores - which just goes to show: Money talks!

Television Stations in London...

There are far to many cable/satellite channels to list here, so only the main terrestrial and digital TV stations in the capital are listed.

The analogue stations...

- **BBC 1** - Mainstream programming. National station.
- **BBC 2** - Caters more to minority interest programming. National station.
- **Carlton** - Commercial station. Caters for mainline television programming. At weekends (Fri 17:30 through to Mon 04:25, the channel is handed over to **London Weekend Television** (LWT), a commercial station. Mainline commercial television programming. No known plans for digital channels at this time. Local stations.
- **Channel 5** - Commercial station. Carries a wide range of programming, aimed at the mainstream audience. Tends to show more US-produced shows than the others. Planning to introduce its own digital subscription channel in 2004. National Station.

The Digital channels...

Digital 'channels' include the analogue 'channels', plus:

'Mainline' digital programming...

- **BBC Choice** - Digital free channel - carries reruns and special interest programming.
- **BBC Learning** - Digital free channel - Educational programming.
- **BBC News 24** - Digital free channel - News and current affairs.
- **UK Gold** - Classic and 'cult' re-runs.
- **UK Style** - Fashion.
- **UK Horizons** - mostly general interest natural world and educational programming.
- **UK Play** - Plays adapted for television.
- **Sky One** - General programming.
- **The Cartoon Network** - Children's cartoons. Limited airtime.
- **Carlton Kids** - Children's cartoons. Limited airtime.
- **Carlton World** - Focussing on London current affairs and news.
- **Carlton Select** - Subscription mainline entertainment programming.
- **Carlton Food Network** - Cuisine programming.
- **First ONdigital** - Mainline programming, with an emphasis on current events and news.
- **Granada Plus** - Subscription mainline programming.
- **Granada Men and Motor** - Automotive programming.
- **Granada Breeze** - mostly general interest natural world and educational programming.
- **Shop!** - Shopping channel.
- **SciFi** - General and cult science-fiction programming, including re-runs, cult series, and premiering new series.

Digital Movie channels...

- **BBC Premiere Films** - Subscription channel - carries new films.
- **Carlton Cinema** - Subscription channel - Carries nothing but films.
- **FilmFour** - Subscription channel - Carries nothing but films.
- **Sky Premier** - Subscription channel - Carries nothing but films.
- **Sky Movie Max** - Subscription channel - Carries nothing but films.

Digital Sports channels...

- **Eurosport** - Sport.
- **Sky Sports 1** - Sport.
- **Sky Sports 2** - Sport.
- **Sky Sports 3** - Sport.

Radio...

Unlike television, you do **not** need a licence to listen to the radio in the UK - probably because it'd be so difficult to enforce!.

There are two types of radio station in the UK; commercial, and those run by the BBC, which is funded by both television licence money (!) and direct funding from central government.

Commercial radio in London is on both FM and AM. The list below details them. The most popular seem to be Capital, Virgin, Classic FM, and Kiss FM.

The BBC run their five national stations, plus many local stations, which are listed below. "Radio 1" through Radio 4" have FM slots; "Radio 5 Live" is a sports and current affairs station, and only broadcasts on AM. The UK also has a commercial talk radio station, appropriately enough called "Talk Radio" (looks like their ideas guys had a bad day when it came to naming the station!).

British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) radio stations...

FM stations...

- 88.0 - 90.2 MHz - **BBC Radio 2** - Easy listening and older pop music (National station).
- 90.2 - 92.4 MHz - **BBC Radio 3** - Mixture of special interest/hobby programming, music (aimed at older audiences), and current affairs (National station).
- 92.4 - 94.6 MHz - **BBC Radio 4** - Mixture of special interest/hobby programming, classical music, and current affairs. Carries the World Service programming after between about 01:00 and 05:30 hours (National station).
- 94.9 MHz - **GLR (Greater London Radio)** - News and current affairs, regular traffic reports. BBC local radio station.
- 95.8 MHz - **Capital FM** - chart music, rock, pop, soul, etc.
- 97.3 MHz **News Direct** - 24-hour news and current affairs; headlines every twenty minutes, up to the minute road and travel problem reports, and so on. Available only in the London Area, news slanted to the capital, but with global reporting as well.
- 97.6 - 99.8 MHz - **BBC Radio 1** - Popular Music programming (National station).
- 100 MHz - **Kiss FM** - Mostly Soul music programming.
- 100-102 MHz - **Classic FM** - Classical Music programming (National station).
- 102.2 MHz - **Jazz FM** - Jazz music programming
- 105.8 MHz - **Virgin FM** - chart music, rock, pop, soul, etc.
- 106.2 MHz - **Heart FM** - Popular music programming.

MW AM stations...

While there are many different AM stations in London, and this list is far from a complete listing, the stations listed here are a good cross section of the more popular stations.

- 252 kHz - **Atlantic 252** - National commercial station
- 909 kHz - **BBC Radio 5 live** - National station - sports and current affairs
- 1053 kHz, 1089 kHz - **Talk Radio** - National commercial talk radio station.
- 1197 kHz, 1215 kHz, 1233 kHz, and 1260 kHz - **Virgin** - as for Virgin FM.
- 1548 kHz - **Capital Gold** - Commercial station. Popular music generally more than ten years old.
- 1035 kHz - **Country** - Commercial station. Country and western music.
- 1152 kHz - **LBC** - Commercial news, and current affairs talk, station.
- 963 kHz and 972 kHz - **Liberty** - Commercial station. Popular music programming.

LW AM stations...

There are very few Long Wave stations operating in London. Most run from outside London, and, while they're mostly national stations, their reception is not normally that good, unless you're in the right location, so they're not listed here.

NOTES:

¹ London News Daily is an invention of the author, and is © Roger Stenning, 1998-2000. If you want to use it as the title of your newspaper/info mailings, or whatever, please contact me!

Organisations and Gangs in the London of Millennium's End...

Organisations operating 'behind the scenes'

London and the UK still has groups of people and organisations that seem to be able to operate the wheels of the system without being seen.

The Church, for instance, while having a large Public face, is able to influence both local and central Government in certain ways, but normally does so in the full glare of the press.

The organisations depicted below always operate behind the scenes, and never appear in the press or in public: They are totally unaccountable, and almost unknown save to a handful of knowledgeable people who tend to 'keep their heads down', in order to remain alive.

These people are the conspiracy theorists, and may at some point employ the services of BlackEagle. It is rare, but possible, that at some point in their employment with BlackEagle/BlackEagle, operatives working in London will come into contact with these organisations.

The Disciples

There are events going on in Britain as a whole, that don't EVER make the papers in quite the manner that they occur. Some of these happenings are down to a group of highly-placed individuals, who form a shadowy behind-the-scenes organisation, known to its initiates as... **"The Disciples"**.

The Disciples are a Star Chamber, an inner cabal of senior civil servants, high ranking military officers, members of the judiciary and security services, even the church, who wield enormous influence in government.

But the Disciples aren't just lobbyists, each with their own individual agendas. They are the inner circle of a small, secret society that believes in the pre-eminence of the British Empire as a world power.

Formed just after the close of the Second World War, and using the ideas behind the Abwehr, Gestapo, NKVD (fore runner of the KGB), and other so-called secret organisations as their basic blueprint, they grew from a council of ten members, to an octopus-like organisation, with fingers in many different pies.

Organisation

Their inner circle now numbers eight, with an advisory council of twenty. Their covert operations section is highly informal, and comprises five full-time personnel, with the resources of the whole of the establishment to back them up, should it be needed. Normally, they operate using 'cut-outs', or so-called 'deniable resources', so as to minimise their profile, and reduce the chances of detection.

Maximum deniability...

Like rats, the Disciples exist in the shadows, and they prefer it that way. They are quite prepared to kill in order to ensure that their secrecy remains. And it wouldn't be the first time that they've worked to prevent their discovery.

The Journalist, Steven Waldorf, shot by 'twitchy-fingered' police officers in the mid 1970s, was so close to uncovering the identities of the advisory council, that drastic action had to be taken. The report of mistaken identity was a smoke-screen. Waldorf was about to 'go public'.

Following his shooting, while he was recovering in Hospital, a burglary was reported in his Chelsea flat. Police investigating the burglary reported that the place was a tip, but no valuables had been taken, only files that were marked 'organisation', according to the empty ring-binders that were left on the floor.

The entire operation had been the first operation for a new covert operative of The Disciples, Steve Edwards...

Goals

The goal of the Disciples is the restoration of a Britain even greater than it was at the peak of its imperial might under Queen Victoria.

To achieve this, they manipulate all shades of the political spectrum, playing them off against each other, using this smokescreen to cover placing their own appointees into positions of influence and power.

For the conspiracy theorists among you, what you've always believed *is* true. The Illuminati do exist. The Disciples are the power behind the throne, the puppet-masters, the true rulers of Britain.

The Disciples Vs. BlackEagle/BlackEagle...

BlackEagle/BlackEagle operatives *may* encounter the fringes of this powerful organisation in some of the investigations and tactical operations, but, as with all such organisations, The Disciples are very good at covering up their very existence. They've had over fifty years to practice it.

Should, however, a cell — or even a single operative — come close to uncovering even one member of The Disciples, the organisation will undoubtedly know about it, and take very severe steps to prevent their being brought 'into the daylight', as it were.

Ultimate Measures...?

Such steps *could* include a lethal response, should the Disciples feel it necessary...

Criminal organisations and gangs

The days of the infamous East End gangs that ran most of the illegal activities in the fifties and sixties are gone, but their legacy remains. Most crime in the Capital is unregulated, as it involves relatively small amounts of money or property. However, for the large jobs, in which banks or jewellers are targeted, the areas involved tend to be 'owned' by one gang or person.

In practice, this means that for any given medium to large scale theft or robbery crime, the perpetrators will pay a form of 'tribute' to the owner of that area. For example, it is known by the Metropolitan Police Flying Squad, but unprovable in a court, that in the case of the Knightsbridge safe-deposit robbery in the mid-eighties, the man who owned the area received a hefty one million pounds tribute after the event.

Currently, it is known that all areas of London are 'owned' by seven gangs or people, who keep themselves remarkably clean in terms of criminal activities, and are thus, as yet, untouchable. In Met slang, they are known as 'The Untouchables'.

However, The Untouchables have control over the activities of 'home-grown villains', or British criminals only. The Italian Mafia, Russian Mafiya, Chinese Tongs (Triads), Japanese Yakuza, and Jamaican Yardies all control their own nationals and their descendants, and the crimes in London (and, to a certain extent, the rest of the UK as well) that they commit.

The sections below relate to only a small selection of these gangs and individuals.

"The Untouchables"

BlackEagle/BlackEagle Logistics and Procurement Branch, Data Support Section
Result of Criminal Organisations and Gangs Database Search: **The Untouchables**
Gang Activities Report:

Name: The Untouchables **CR #0002105**
Source: Metropolitan Police (London, UK)
Type: Narcotics, technology crime, extortion, kidnapping, bribery, blackmail, robbery, theft, fraud, murder, assault
Scope: The Untouchables run the major Anglo crime in London.
Affiliations: Every major Anglo controlling organisation throughout the UK. Known to have relatively cordial relations with the US Mafia, Ukrainian Mafiya, and the Cosa Nostra in Italy. Known to have strained relations with the Triads in the UK and China.
Enemies: Yardies
Allies: Every major Anglo controlling organisation throughout the UK. [Met]
Some European Mob organisations [INTERPOL]
Tags/Colours: None used. They seem to feel it childish. However, the upper levels of the Untouchables seem to favour expensive suits most of the time.
Membership: Very limited, male and female, 25 to death. Life membership unless forcibly 'retired'.
Operating Since: Well before the start of the 20th Century. Original date not known.
Structure: Five London 'firms'. North, East, South, West, Central. Each firm headed by a 'Governor' or 'Guv'. The five Governors meet regularly - about once per week - to talk about the 'business'. Each Governor runs his area how he sees fit, in consultation with the others. If out of area firms wish to work in London, their operations are first approved by the Governors, who take a percentage of the proceeds if the operation is in their own areas.
Known Leaders: *North:* Jack Spruance. *East:* Paul Baker. *South:* Michael Heron. *West:* Alf Richards. *Central:* Joseph Smith.
Territory: All London, in five areas.
Base of Ops: Unknown.
Resources: Vehicles, weapons, ready cash, mobile phones, drugs, information.
Weapons: Knives, machetes, all manner of firearms, pyrotechnics (including firebombs and explosives). Favour shotguns and handguns in the main [Met].
Finances: Thought to be able to obtain over € 4,000,000 at less than two hours notice at any time of the day or night.
Known Criminal Activities: Assault (both ABH and GBH), Murder, illegal possession and intent to supply class 'a' and 'b' narcotics, Going equipped for stealing, theft, armed robbery, Criminal damage, Possession, use, and intent to use illegal firearms. [Met]
Suspected Criminal Activities: Numerous narcotics charges; numerous assault and attempted assault, including Murder and attempted murder; other public order offences; Money laundering; Witness intimidation. [Met]
Additional Commentary: Currently, it is known that all areas of London are 'owned' by five gangs or people, who keep themselves remarkably clean in terms of criminal activities, and are thus, as yet, untouchable. In Met slang, they are known as 'The Untouchables'. [Met]

However, The Untouchables have control over the activities of 'home-grown villains', or British criminals only. The Italian Mafia, Russian Mafiya, Chinese Tongs (Triads), Japanese Yakuza, and Jamaican Yardies all control their own nationals and their descendants, and the crimes in London (and, to a certain extent, the rest of the UK as well) that they commit. [Met]

End Search
Last update: 3 June 1999

Background

Originating in Victorian times, the 'Firms' first appeared when groups of criminals realised that by organising, they would prosper greatly. They then grew by amalgamation, often forcibly.

Since World War Two, however, the dozen or so firms amalgamated into the current five firms.

Organisation

The Metropolitan Police have accurate information, as far as it goes. However, what they don't know, is that once a year, at Christmas, the firms have a party, normally at a central London Hotel, which is by invitation only, where they elect (before the festivities begin), the overall 'chairman' for the London Firms, whose job is to make sure that no operation steps on other firms' feet. Outside London, the same thing happens, along county and city lines.

Every three months, the chairmen of the areas will then meet (the meeting place rotates, for fairness, surprisingly enough. The last meeting, in October 1998, was in Birmingham), and organise the overall strategies of their operations for the next quarter. There are rumours of this in the Metropolitan Police, but nothing is known for certain.

Each firm has a 'second', who is the Governor's deputy. Below him, are various minor bosses, who run their respective firms' operations. Generally speaking, each firm can field about three hundred men within an hour's notice, should the need arise, all armed as required.

Goals

They've achieved most of them already, since they run the majority of criminal operations in the London area.

However, should someone run an operation in their area, and it is not sanctioned by the Governor of that area beforehand, then the perpetrator of the operation, and all the members of the team executing the job, will find that their lives will become extremely uncomfortable (to say the least) in very short order. The Firms have a very low tolerance of outsiders working in their areas, which, naturally, has caused friction with the newer foreign-originating gangs in London...

Internationally, the European mobs have come to realise that the Yardies, and far eastern organisations, could pose a serious threat to their dominance of crime in mainland Europe as well. Since the beginning on 1999, the Sicilian Mafia has been making peace overtures to many of the 'home grown' organisations, including The Untouchables and the UK Firms in general. The idea is to have a conference, including everyone in the 'home grown European' groups, to discuss the problem of non-European infiltration, and the devise methods and procedures to counter it.

The language is very civil, and business-like, but, underneath, it looks like there's a war looming, and that's bad for business...

Encounters with BlackEagle/BlackEagle operatives

Generally speaking, B/E operatives will make contact with the firms often, and, since they are generally not there to catch the members of the Firms, will be left alone. However, the Firms operate a very tight system of honour, where their word is their bond: If one of them says that they owe you, then it's a bond that is very real, and can be "cashed in" with little or no notice. The opposite applies, of course, so it's always wise for B/E operatives to be very cautious when giving their word to Firm members. Breaking your word, in the Firms, is normally a capital offence...

"Yardies"

BlackEagle/BlackEagle Logistics and Procurement Branch, Data Support Section
Result of Criminal Organisations and Gangs Database Search: **Snake Posse Yardies**

Gang Activities Report:

Name: Snake Posse Yardies **CR #0002659**
Source: Metropolitan Police (London, UK), Jamaican Police Force
Type: Narcotics, prostitution, extortion, kidnapping, bribery, blackmail, murder, assault
Scope: The Snake Posse restricts its activities to the inner city areas of London, primarily targeting other blacks for it's 'business'.
Affiliations: None known
Enemies: Most - if not all - of the London syndicate, the Mafia, Mafiya, Triads, and just about everyone else.
Allies: Unknown - if any
Tags/Colours: Voodoo charms are prevalent, mostly in the form of tattoos on the upper torso, most especially the left chest area over the heart. Medicine pouches are also widely seen. Dreadlock hairstyles are the most frequent, but this is not a given.
Membership: 14-??, Male, but with occasional females. The leader is thought to be male.
Operating Since: First reported in Kingston, Jamaica, 1975. First reported in London, 1983.
Structure: Organised into a 'Posse'. The term appears to be used inside the USA, too, according to the NYPD. The Posse is apparently headed by a Voodoo 'Shaman'. The Leader has three Lieutenants, and about 150 'soldiers'.
Known Leaders: None known
Territory: All over London, in the inner city area
Base of Ops: Unknown.
Resources: Vehicles, weapons, ready cash, mobile phones, drugs.
Weapons: Knives, machetes, all manner of firearms, pyrotechnics (including firebombs and explosives) [Met].
Finances: Thought to be able to obtain over € 1,000,000 at less than four hours notice at any time of the day or night.
Known Criminal Activities: Assault and battery, Murder, illegal possession and intent to supply class 'a' and 'b' narcotics, Living off immoral earnings (Prostitution), Possession, use, and intent to use illegal firearms. [Met]
Suspected Criminal Activities: The murder of Jimmy "Legs" Denner, numerous narcotics charges, numerous assault, attempted assault, and other public order offences. [Met]
Additional Commentary: Yardies tend to be heavily involved in Jamaican Voodoo, which they believe gives them strength and mystical powers over their opponents. Much of the violence that they employ derives from their Voodoo beliefs, and they are known to utilise Voodoo ceremonies to torture, maim, and murder more high-profile opponents. Recent (1998) attacks on their opponents have lent credence to this information, with the 'sacrificial' murder of Jimmy "Legs" Denner. [Met]

Following the recent drug turf wars in north and central London, the activities of the Yardies has been rather more low-profile than it was, but the activities still go on. The Metropolitan Police have graded the Yardies as a Clear Danger to Public Order and Safety, and, when executing warrants for Search and/or arrest, **always** enter these operations tactically, with armed support from SO 19 (the tactical Firearms branch).

End Search
Last update: 14 May 1998

Background

Yardie is the name given to a form of organised crime operated by a minority of Jamaicans living in Britain. The name Yardie originates from the slang term used by Jamaicans from the ghettos of Kingston, Jamaica — the 'Yard'. In the United States of America, 'Posse' is the term given to these gangs.

The appearance of Yardies in the UK

Early in the 1980s, London's Metropolitan Police found that there was a new supplier of illegal narcotics (specifically Crack Cocaine and Cannabis) operating in the London area. It soon became apparent that this gang was not shy of using violence to achieve its ends, due to the sudden increase in drug-related serious assaults and murders.

The new gang's willingness to use guns to further their aims was soon made apparent. The murder of a Police Officer in Brixton, who was answering what was thought at the time to be a domestic violence call, soon turned out to be a confrontation between rival drug dealers, which the Police Officer just walked into without warning. Ten seconds later, the unfortunate Constable was lying on the ground, fatally shot. The Public outcry was justifiable huge, and the murder hunt equally intensive. The offender was soon caught, tried, and sentenced.

He turned out to be a Yardie.

Following this, the Organised Crimes branch of the Metropolitan Police opened new files on the Yardies, gathering as much intelligence on their illegal operations as possible. It turned up much, much more than they could possibly have imagined.

In addition to their narcotics operations, the Yardies also run strings of prostitutes, of any racial or ethnic background that they can employ, gambling, protection, and extortion.

Organisation

The Yardies are organised along typical Gang methodologies, with different groups running their organisations. Like the Mafia 'family' structure, Yardies have a charismatic leader, who, in the case of the Yardies, is normally the most violent and dangerous member of the gang.

It has been shown that about 80% of the time (comparative study in the USA about the Posses) the Leader is also the Voodoo Shaman (ritualistic leader), and believed by the rest of the gang to be endowed with almost invulnerable mystical powers, which allow him (no known case of a female leader) to avoid situations that would harm him — even point blank assassination attempts.

Whether this is true or not remains to be proven, but as yet, no leader has been arrested by the police, as gang members have produced a singular unwillingness to testify against fellow Yardie members, having taken a similar vow of silence to the Mafia's vow of 'omerta' (Silence).

As to the Snake Posse's leader, the Metropolitan Police have it wrong: The leader is Martha Taylor, a truly massive (read "fat") woman of 45, who is, as is normal with the Yardies, a Shaman, or Voodoo priestess. She has control over the Snake Posse through their beliefs in her Voodoo 'powers'.

Jimmy "Legs" Denner

Jimmy "Legs" Denner was a drug dealer, in charge of a gang operating in Brixton prior to the arrival in the UK of the Yardies.

Shortly after the Yardies arrived, a meeting was arranged between Denner and the 'Snake' faction of the Yardies. Denner attempted to use the meeting to rid himself of the competition, and eight Yardies were shot out of hand. Denner had fired the opening shots of a drugs war in Brixton.

The 'Snake' Yardies responded with typical violence. They first killed every member of Denner's gang, and their families and closest friends, but kidnapped Denner off Brixton High Road (the main shopping street in Brixton), and took him to an unknown location, where they performed a Voodoo ceremony on him, resulting in his heart being cut from his living body.

Denner was then unceremoniously dumped - without his heart - at the location where he enacted all his own street drug deals. The message was delivered. Cross the Yardies, and the same would happen to you.

Goals

It's pretty clear from the violence and actions of the Yardies that their aim is the total and unconditional control of organised crime in London.

Encounters with BlackEagle/BlackEagle operatives

The Yardies respect strength above all, and any BE/BE operation that expects to meet Yardies, either individually or in groups, should be equipped with the appropriate amounts of firepower, and the willingness to use such if necessary.

Yardies do NOT like having outsiders prying into their affairs, and any caught doing so are likely to find themselves face-to-face (or rather, blade-to-chest) with a Voodoo Ceremony, whether it's intended to kill the snooper, or 'turn him into a zombie'...

"The Young Bamboo"

BlackEagle/BlackEagle Logistics and Procurement Branch, Data Support Section
Result of Criminal Organisations and Gangs Database Search: Young Bamboo

Gang Activities Report:

Name:	Young Bamboo	CR #0002659
Source:	Metropolitan Police (London, UK), Hong Kong Police Department	
Type:	Extortion, racketeering, prostitution, kidnapping, bribery and blackmail	
Scope:	Operations appear to be restricted to Chinese ethnic minority and environs ("Chinatowns"). Otherwise known as 'Tongs' and 'Triads'. Many different groups come under this banner. Try a search on: Triad, Tong.	
Affiliations:	None known	
Enemies:	The Bamboo Union Triad.	
Allies:	Unknown	
Tags/Colours:	Extensive tattooing of oriental designs (such as dragons, tigers and snakes) on back, shoulders and arms. Soldiers typically wear denim jeans and black leather jackets.	
Membership:	40-60. All immigrant Chinese, exclusively male	
Operating Since:	First reported in Hong Kong, 1989. Subsequently vanished from the colony and reappeared in London, 1996.	
Structure:	Structured in a pyramid hierarchy according to the principles of Chinese numerology (hence the nickname 'Triad'), consisting of a boss (the High Dragon) and three under-bosses (Dragons). Directly reporting to each of these is a fighter (or Red Pole), negotiator and a recruiter. Beneath them lie the 'rank and file', or soldiers.	
Known Leaders:	Cheung Yiu-Chung - High Dragon; Ng Wai-Sun (a.k.a. Billy Ng) - Senior Red Pole, Lai Kwok-Lee (a.k.a. Kenneth Lai) - Senior Recruiter.	
Territory:	Chinatown	
Base of Ops:	Bamboo Garden restaurant	
Resources:	Vehicles, weapons, ready cash, mobile phones.	
Weapons:	Mainly knives, cleavers, nunchaks. The Young Bamboo have access to smallarms and even semi-automatics and will use these when a show of force is necessary, but they prefer traditional weapons.	
Finances:	It is believed that the Young Bamboo actually owns a number of restaurants and video shops in the Chinatown district, giving them a legitimate income. Members are known to have access to sums of up to €400,000 in cash at short notice.	
Known Criminal Activities:	Assault and battery, disturbing the peace. [HKPD]	
Suspected Criminal Activities:	The murders of 18 members of rival Triads. Racketeering, prostitution, gambling and extortion. [HKPD and Met] Several kidnappings of the families of wealthy Chinese for ransom. [Met]	
Additional Commentary:	It would appear that the organisation deliberately steers clear of drugs or serious crimes in order to keep a low profile. [Met] A splinter group of disaffected members sprouted from the Bamboo Union Triad operating in the MongKok district of Hong Kong, the Young Bamboo first came to the attention of the HKPD in 1989 when they were involved in a struggle for territory with their parent Tong.	

End Search

Last update: 5 December 1998

Background

The Young Bamboo first appeared in Hong Kong in 1989 following the massacre of student demonstrators by the Chinese government in Beijing's Tian'anmen Square just a few days before. A number of members from the Bamboo Union Triad, prompted by fears of what would happen to them in 1997 when the Chinese took control of the colony and the lack of action on the part of their leaders, led them to take matters into their own hands. These members, about thirty strong, did the unthinkable: they seceded from their parent Tong and formed their own Triad, The Young Bamboo.

With no territory of their own, and a price put on their heads by the Bamboo Union, the Young Bamboo survived through the dynamism of their leaders. Kenneth Lai, the senior Recruiter, opened an escape route from the PRC (Peoples' Republic of China) to Hong Kong for students and deserters from the People's Liberation Army (PLA) trying to escape the wrath of Beijing. This swelled their ranks from 30 to 80 in a matter of weeks giving them the strength they needed to stand up against the Bamboo Union. Aiding the Tian'anmen demonstrators also gave them support among the people of MongKok and a number of the other Triads. They were then able to snatch territory from the Bamboo Union, although the skirmishes continued for nearly a year.

The initial goal of The Young Bamboo was to transfer from Hong Kong to Britain before the handover of the colony to the PRC in 1997. This they achieved, though delaying the move till 1996 giving them the opportunity to milk as much wealth from the colony as they could before transferring their members and assets to Britain. The Tong funds were used to buy into legitimate businesses in the UK in advance of the main move, giving them a strong base of operations. They hold almost exclusive control over London's Chinatown.

Organisation

The Young Bamboo is organised in a tradition Triad pyramid hierarchy. However, only one leg of the pyramid is known to the Metropolitan Police. The Tong is much larger and its reach far greater than they realise. In this regard, the BlackEagle/BlackEagle Gangs database is highly inaccurate. The Young Bamboo has over 400 members, although only 160 operate in London's Chinatown. A further 80 members operate in Manchester, 80 more in Birmingham, and 60 in Newcastle, with smaller presence's in Southampton and Leeds.

While the database indicates no known alliances with other gangs or criminal organisations, The Young Bamboo are closely tied with the Green Dragon Triad (still operating in Hong Kong) who supported them during their struggle against the Bamboo Union, and with other associated Tongs in the United States. Their stance on the Tian'anmen persecutions gained them a lot of respect.

Goals

Now that it is well established in London's Chinatown, The Young Bamboo wants to extend its hold over every major centre of Chinese population in Britain. Within the Chinese community they are secure: they can vanish into the crowds, and no-one will report their activities to the police.

The Young Bamboo is only interested in the Chinatown districts of major cities and has a deliberate policy of not dealing in drugs. This is partly to avoid drawing the unwanted attention of law enforcement agencies and partly to avoid conflict with the Yardies, the Russian Mafiya and other criminal organisations. Their philosophy of "we'll respect your territories if you respect ours" might appear naïve, but they do have the strength of arms and the will to back it up.

Encounters with BlackEagle/BlackEagle operatives

BlackEagle operatives will rarely encounter the Triad outside Chinatown. Should their paths cross, it is well to remember that the Chinese have a strict system of protocols and etiquette for such meetings. They will respect those who appreciate their heritage, though they will not feel obliged to refrain from violence or to assist (if BlackEagle are seeking their help).

If the Triad wants to warn someone off, they will do so with a lot of flashy martial arts knife-play (without causing actual harm) to demonstrate their skills, or perhaps a beating. Failure to heed warnings will result in an attempt to kill the relevant parties, traditionally in a violent and gory fashion with swords, cleavers or axes. Only if it is necessary will they resort to the use of firearms; but if forced to do so, they will ensure that they have as much firepower as is necessary.

BlackEagle London...

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Overview...

Dateline: 1st April, 2001

London's BlackEagle offices are co-located with one of the two main Logistics and Procurement (L&P) branch facilities; the other L&P main facility is at the company headquarters, in Atlanta, in the USA.

When BE/BE originally came to the UK, they set up shop in a suite of offices on Westferry Road, near the current location, in April of 1996. Following the opening of the office, business boomed (if you'll pardon the expression), and it became necessary to look for new premises, as the number of cells operating there was fast outstripping the available space. A search was conducted by London's Logistics and Procurement branch, and the Octower Building was selected, just off Oxford Street, near Marble Arch, on the south-east corner of North Row and Park Street, in the heart of London's West End (it was a fairly short list).

In mid 1997, the business expanded into mainland Europe, requiring that a regional headquarters be established. Originally, this was to have been in London, and work started on building a combined facility in the Docklands Enterprise Zone (thus gaining not only UK Government grants for locating there, but also a couple of European Union grants for establishing a corporate facility in the EU).

However, since no plans ever survive contact with the enemy, subsequent decisions were made to establish the regional HQ in a place with lower taxes than the UK, and Rome was selected. During this time however, the L&P part of the combined facility had been completed, and was operational. The second phase of construction was to have added the Regional HQ and London offices on top of the L&P facility, but, as the HQ had changed venue, this was halted. Since, though, the L&P warehouse and support facility was by then operational, it was judged that moving it would be too costly, incorporating, as it would, the re-payment of the grant from the UK Government (some €750,000, which would become due if the facility closed for any reason barring insolvency in the first three years of operations).

Then, in mid 1999, the number of cells was again increased, partly due to the increase in domestic UK work, but mostly due to out-of area assignments. Accommodating these extra cells when they were 'at home', so to speak, became a veritable nightmare, so approval was sought, and granted, to resurrect the plans to build the London Offices into the L&P facility. This would have several benefits. Security would be simplified, with only one (purpose built) facility to secure; extra room for expansion in the future could be built in, and the supply lines would be simplified.

The new location is well sited for London and European operations, with motorway links to the rest of the country less than a mile away, in the form of the A104(M), the A13, A1, and other main routes, along with ample rail links, and an airport (London City) not three kilometres away to the east, for the out-of-area assignments.

Mason-Stanley, who designed the Octower building, were commissioned in the latter part of mid 1997 to design, and oversee construction of, the L&P support and warehousing facility. This commission was extended in early 2000, to oversee and supervise the design and construction of the add-on extension for the London Operations branch Offices, pending the move from the Octower Building.

The new office allows each of London's nine cells to have their own space, with a desk and seat for nearly every operative in the cell — a luxury, compared to the majority of B/E offices. Since the London office completed it's move, the office atmosphere has changed — all say for the better, since the previous office was really getting cramped.

Business-wise, while the Miami Office of B/E is the busiest, London isn't too far behind, with a 1999 workload of something approaching 139 different assignments, of which 56 were for three of our busiest clients. Character-wise, the London office is a lot more conventional, by B/E standards, than other American offices, mainly as the UK has (a) a completely different social outlook than the USA, and (b) some of the most stringent firearms laws on Earth. Never the less, operatives pastimes still seem pretty far out, compared to other walks of life in the UK, since most of the operatives spend their off-time in all manner of on-the-edge pastimes, such as Climbing, skiing, mountaineering, paintball and airsoft 'tag' games, and all manner of other active hobbies, including shooting, although that pastime has to happen mostly in mainland Europe, due to the stringent firearms legislation in the UK.

Mason-Stanley...

Mason-Stanley have designed many buildings and complexes in London since their formation in late 1995, and have won awards for — amongst others — the new London Stock Exchange (their first major commission, following the outgrowth of the last centre), and the new Arndale shopping centre in Birmingham (which followed the previous Arndale centre's demolition, after the second IRA bombing of it in early 1998).

Overview of the BlackEagle/BlackEagle combined facility in London...

In the text below, all locations are prefixed by a letter. 'B' for Basement, 'G' for ground floor (US: First Floor!), and 'F' for first floor (US: second floor!).

The London combined L&P and Operations office facility is unusual, in that it has been purpose-built to meet the needs of a security and investigations company, dealing in commercially and personally sensitive matters. As such, it's an imposing facility, designed with just about every physical and electronic security feature available on the open market built in.

Firstly, it's built on the south-east corner of Heron Quay, surrounded on two sides by West India Docks, thus limiting any potential land-based attack to the west and north perimeters. Secondly, the approach road (Carter Place, named after one of the BE/BE operatives killed in a WIJ ambush in London in 1999) passes through one of the most heavily CCTV camera covered areas of central London. Finally, the physical properties of the entire facility have been constructed with high security in mind.

The first area to be seen is fence (G1) and main gate to the facility, with a reinforced concrete and bullet-resistant glass gate house (G1a) separating the entrance and exit lanes. Between each sliding gate is a pair of full-height turnstile gates; all access and egress from the grounds is governed by the guard (from the L&P Security contingent) in either the gate house, or the control room (G14).

The gate itself is a sliding, motorised system, with the added security of a rocker-style vehicle barricade behind it (G1b), covering both lanes of approach. Normally in the raised position, it automatically depresses to allow passage of vehicles, when the gate is operated from either the control booth in the building, or from the Gate House. If someone tries to 'crash' the gate, it stays in the 'up' position, prohibiting access.

Also, to provide additional protection from vehicle-based attacks on the facility, the walls that the perimeter fence (G1) are built on are raised about a half metre from the ground, and are a metre wide, which will stop most vehicles from attempting to breach the fences.

Employees can park their cars in the secure car park (G8) within the facility walls, by means of a smart card and Personal Identification Number combination access post, at the entrance to the secure car park (G7).

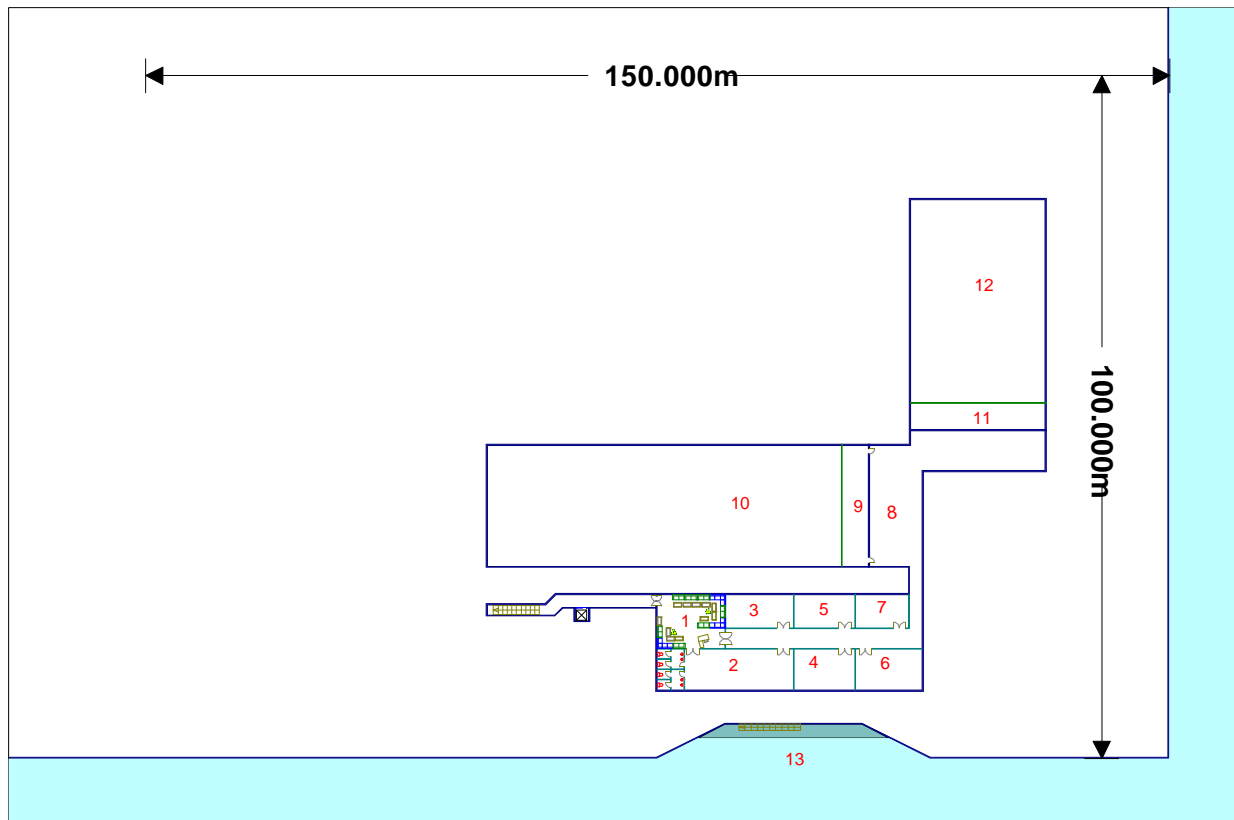
The building itself looks rather imposing; built primarily from pre-fabricated concrete, with virtually every (sensible) physical and electronic security feature incorporated, it looks like a purpose-built secure military Command and Control facility. There are only two windows facing out, both on the ground floor, from the reception (G18) and security control room (G14); these windows are triple-glazed armoured glass (to AV22 each pane), and one-way mirrored, to prevent anyone looking into the building. Similarly, the windows facing into first floor atrium (F16), on both floors, are double glazed, again, with one-way mirrored finishes. In addition, all external windows are vacuum sealed, and fitted with 'window buzzers', which are designed to defeat the capabilities of so-called laser microphones. Access to the warehouse is controlled by a massive pair of roller sliding doors (G9), which lead from the truck turning area, through the loading dock, to the warehouse itself, controlled from both the security control room (G14).

To top off the imposing appearance of the building, all the outwards-facing walls slope inwards to the top of the building at around 15 degrees from the vertical, and are painted in a pleasant brick red anti-vandal paint, which not only prevents graffiti, but has the added advantage of defeating most methods of climbing the walls, as well.

Finally, to add a first defence element to the entire facility, the entire compound is ringed by a single cyclone-wire fence, topped with Pilkington Sabre-tape (which contains a fibre-optic strand, linked to an alarm sensor net, localising breaks to within five metre areas). In addition, the grass inside the fence, to a distance of five metres, conceals a capacitance net about a centimetre below the level of the grass, designed to detect if anything larger than a cat passes over it, again, localised to an alarm system that pin-points intruders to a five-metre point.

The facility in detail...

The Basement...



Entering the basement area from the main reception (G11) by the stairs, leads along a short corridor, past the facility's only lift, and into the first room, the Ranges reception and lounge (B1). This area is a well fitted reception-cum-lounge area, with several large capacity arrangements of sofas and coffee tables. There are several firearms safety warning and instructions posters in frames dotted about this room, on the walls, most of them in colour. A single desk, blocking the way to the rest of the ranges complex, is manned by a member of Cell Nine, until all the expected course members of a given firearms training course intake have arrived.

Adjoining the reception area are the toilets and canteen area (B2). This is a self service affair, served from free vending machines. The canteen is home to five vending machines, which issue snacks and drinks free of charge (the charge is absorbed by the firearms training course fees). An industrial quality microwave cooker is also fitted in the canteen area.

Between the ranges and the first two rooms are the five lecture/instruction rooms, with ample seating for courses of people up to twenty in number each.

Finally, the ranges area. The first part of the ranges you see is the ranges lobby and issue area (B8). This area is similar to a stable's 'tack room', in that course members without their own (or issued) pistol belts and assorted accessories (such as holsters, ammunition pouches, and so on), are not at a disadvantage during the conduct of drill and live firing exercises. Following onto this area are the two ranges, the fifty metre range and firing point (B9 & B10), and the twenty-five metre range and firing point (B11 & B12).

Outside the basement, and completely separate from it, is the small boat jetty (B13), where an outside staircase (made of wood from old railway sleepers, funnily enough) leads to a security gate on the ground floor of the outside grounds to the facility (G5).

Ground Floor...

The main gate comprises two pairs of motorised sliding steel gates, separated by two roadway lanes, and a pair of pavements, divided by a reinforced concrete and bullet-resistant glass gate house (G1a). Between each sliding gate is a pair of full-height turnstile gates; all access and egress from the grounds is governed by the guard (from the L&P Security contingent) in either the gate house, or the control room (G14).

The two semi-secure (i.e., they're inside the compound fence) car parks, for visitors (G3) and clients (G4), and the combination sterile area / truck turning area / helicopter landing pad (G2) are accessible from the main gate. Trucks arriving are required to reverse into the loading dock (9), through the Sterile Area (G2).

To prevent someone from seeing the general patrol intervals for the roving patrols conducted by the in-house security teams, a path (G6) follows the perimeter of the grounds, about eight metres inside the fence. It prevents outsiders from telling the rough interval between patrols, by preventing imprints in the grass between the fence and the walls, which is always a good indicator, especially when it's wet (it frequently is, in the UK!).

Visitors to the facility have to gain access via the reception area (G18). Entering the reception lobby is a matter of, in the case of clients, pushing the closed-circuit intercom button by the main entrance, and waiting to be buzzed inside. The lobby is covered by a CCTV camera that links to both the receptionist's desk, where there is a monitor, and the secure video recorder in the vault. The doors to the lobby are the usual sliding-format frosted glass doors emblazoned with the B/E logo in black, but which form an airlock; one set of doors can be open at one time, outer, or inner, never both at the same time. Visitors are also subject to a covert weapons check, courtesy of a combination metal detector and explosives sniffer. If either detects traces of suspect materials, it automatically initiates a mild x-ray camera, much like the ones you see at airports, sending the picture to a monitor in Security Control (G14). Should this happen, a pair of L&P security staff will unobtrusively show themselves in reception very shortly thereafter.



For B/E employees, as is fitting for the high-tech environment of London, a palm scanner with audio confirmation is fitted to the frame of the doors dividing non-employee areas from the more secure employee areas; you put your palm on the blue glass panel, and say your name. If you're authorised for unescorted access, the doors will unlock for you, if not, they stay locked, and, very shortly thereafter, a member of the facilities' permanent security staff will arrive, and find out what the problem is. All the locks to employee-only areas in the office operate in this manner, failing safe to the locked state if the power fails, with manual key overrides for that event (held in the security offices). However, since the office is occupied 24 hours a day, all year, power failures are not really a problem unless you are working on the computer system, and in any case, that system has an uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) in case of power outages.

Behind the reception area are the facility's permanent security staff rooms. There are six guards on duty at all times, with three shifts which change at 0700 (Early turn), 1500 (Mid turn), and 2300 (Late turn) hours, respectively. They are equipped with grey and black coloured BlackEagle/BlackEagle security uniforms, consisting a pair of smart polished black shoes, black pressed (permacrease) trousers, a white shirt, and mid-grey jacket. Equipment-wise, they carry an ASP Extendible metal baton, handcuffs, personal first aid kits, class 2+ covert tactical armour vests, 10mm Smith and Wesson Sigma pistols in pancake hip holsters, and MP5/10A5 sub machine guns (held in the weapons racks in the ready room). They are required, by the company, to re-qualify for firearms usage at company expense every month.

The Control room and supervisor's office (G14), bunk room (G15), combination ready room and mess room (G16). The control room also holds all the alarm monitor panels, repeater screens for the CCTV cameras, and the fire alarms, as well as the duty rosta for the security staff, which includes their shift patterns for the next month, contact details, and next of kin contact details.

The ready room holds the main video screens for the computerised access control system, CCTV monitors, security and fire alarm reporting panels, and filing cabinets for the various reports that the security staff are required to enter each shift. The senior L&P administrative officer is required to 'sign off' these reports on a daily basis. Also, the ready room backs onto the secure lobby, which leads (via a pair of security doors) to the reception, and to the L&P and Operations areas.

The ready room also opens, via a bullet-resistant 'speaker window', into the secure lobby, which leads to the main employee staircase to the first floor. There is also an exit to the warehouse floor, and access via this area to the facility's only lift (US: Elevator), which is secured by the expected palm/voice verification system. The lift, however, has a twist. As the basement is a 'non-secure' area, it is assumed that someone will, eventually, manage to breach security, and get into it when they oughtn't have done. So there's an extra palm/voice terminal **inside** the lift, too. Before the lift will accept a floor request, you have to gain access, using the palm/voice terminal. Two wrong or incorrect responses will trigger a CS gas grenade charge in the ceiling of the lift (Bursting CS. Not good.), and the lift will hold position until L&P Security personnel get there, to find out what the problem is...

The main hub of activities on the ground floor is the L&P warehouse and office spaces.

Once an order has been processed from either a supplier or a cell or office requesting supplies, the staff in Stock Control & Order Processing (G13), and Accounts (G12) pass the order to Receiving and dispatch (G11), who direct the warehouse staff (all four of them, who work themselves into the ground, most times!).

With the exception of the security staff who allow access to the facility, the two staff in receiving and dispatch are the people that first greet truck drivers arriving at the L&P loading dock (G9), where they check that the driver has the correct documentation, and direct the warehouse staff to either unload or load (as required) the truck in question.

The warehouse is segregated into stock areas. The area leading to the armoury (G21), arsenal (G22), and valuable equipment store (G23) is fenced off by a floor to ceiling chain link fence, which contains the Clean Area (G24), which is alarmed. A 'contraband box' is bolted to the wall next to the gate.

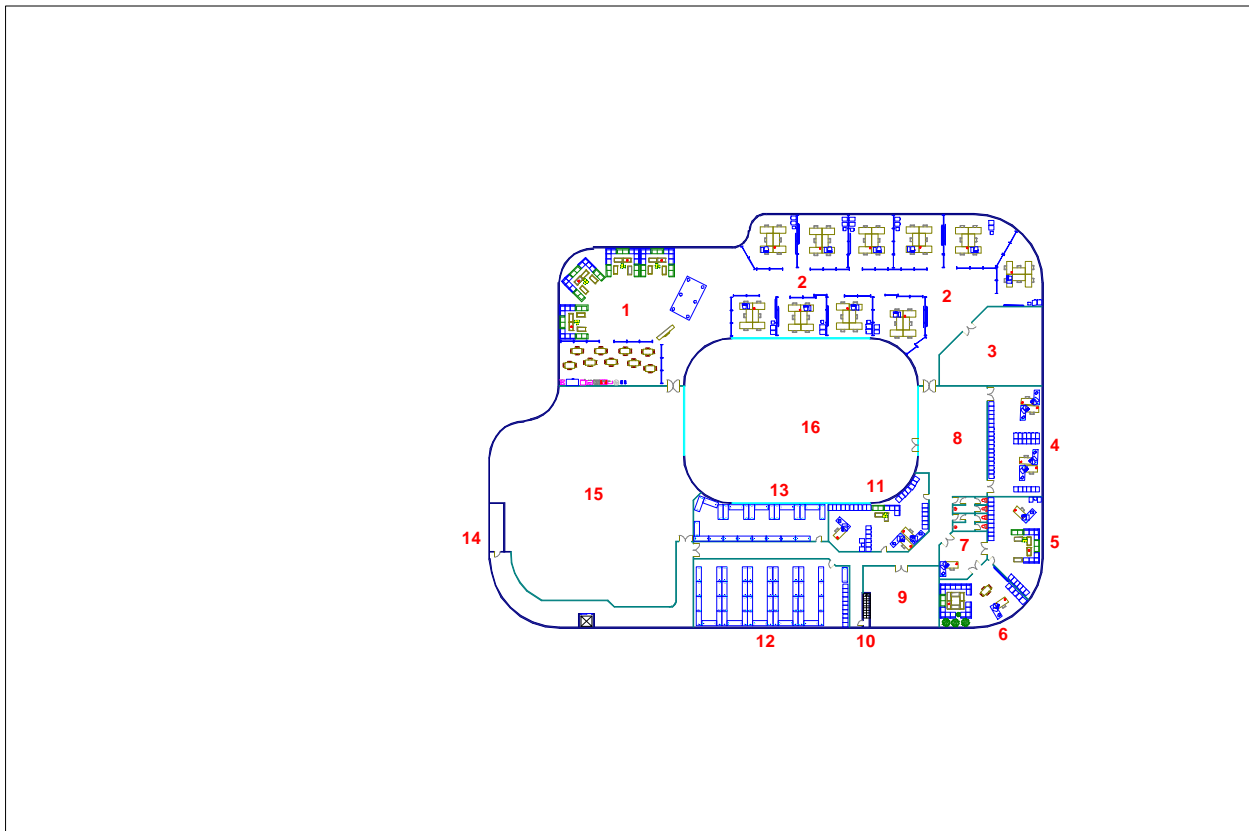
In the general stock areas, there are several areas; Receipt and dispatch (G10), Computer and comms storage zone (G30), Specialist environmental stores (G31), Clothing (G29), Leatherworks (G28), Rations stores (G27), Miscellaneous hardware (G26), and Administrative consumables stores (G25).

The facility doesn't just have a safe room, though. In order to afford protection to all facility staff, it was decided to build a safe area (G32) into the design. Accessed from the first floor by stairs in the Admin lounge on the first floor (G32a and F8), and through the rear areas of the warehouse, the safe area incorporates an armoury (G33), arsenal (G35), Armourer's workshop (G36), Washing and drying utilities room (G37), Self-service canteen (with free vending machines, and British military GP ration packs in case of power failure) (G39), Male lockers, showers and toilets (G38), Female lockers, showers and toilets (G40), the Operations vault (G43), the Evidence locker (G41), Male bunk room (G34), Female Bunk Room (G32). The toilet facilities in the safe area are used a lot; this is primarily as it was simpler (and cheaper) to just install the one set of facilities within the employees only areas on the ground floor, rather than two separate sets. A little inconvenient (sic) at times, it has been the subject of more than one 'snotty-gram' to Stephen Patterson, the manager of the L&P facility...

Finally, in the southern grounds of the facility, is the outside staircase and security gate (another 'airlock' system) (G5), leading to the small boat jetty.

First floor of Heron Quay BE/BE L&P / Ops facility

Access to the first floor is by means of two stair wells, and a lift. One stairwell leads from just outside the safe area (F10 and G32a), the other from the secure lobby (F14 and G17). The lift, in the corridor that leads from the front stairs (F14), and leads to all floors.



The first floor of BlackEagle House belongs, in the main, to Operations. It includes the Operatives day room-cum-lounge (F1), the ten cell office spaces (one is for visiting cells or immediate future expansion) (F2), the Senior Cell Leader's (SCL) office (F6), the shared SCL and Legal Counsel's Secretary (F7), the Legal Councillor's office (F5), and the Ops Admin office, with it's four staff (F4), and the Admin lounge (F8). The toilets, used by all occupants of this floor, lead off the Admin lounge. In addition, there are two rooms, listed as vacant, but which are being put to some current use. One (F9) is used as a weights and fitness bay, the other is informally known as the 'Trophy Room' (F3). This room is decorated by various souvenirs from past operations. A Uniform here, a Helmet with a jagged 7.62x39mm hole in it there (as a warning to others to keep one's head down when everything goes pear-shaped), a bunch of 10"x8" blown up photos on the wall, newspaper cuttings, and so on. It's become something of an office tradition, that at the end of every operation, the items collected along the way will be voted on. The most interesting item collected will then be 'mounted' in the Trophy Room.

The final area of the Ops Wing is the 'Play Room' (F15). This large unfinished room is filled with an array of old fashion display dummies, office dividers, and other crud, moved at random on a daily basis by the on-call cells, as a 'killing house', using readily available soft-air guns (toys, to you and me) that do not require any form of licencing in the UK. The idea is to finally produce a killing house set up that completely beats all other cells in the office at the time. Thus far, it's not even come close, more's the pity!

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On the L&P wing of the first floor are the forensic and technical analysis and support labs (F11, F12, and F13). Run by Stephen Patterson, this is an invaluable resource to BlackEagle in European and Far Eastern theatres of operations, thus it's fitting that it be in one of the most secure facilities that BlackEagle has at its disposal. On average processing over five highly specialised and technically demanding analyses per day (including weekends), the lab has made it's presence felt over the last few years of operation, helping to solve three murders, an IPR theft, two anti-drugs operations, and many other equally important cases. It's not for nothing the London Cells tend to call it the Magicians Chambers, given the almost miraculous feats that Patterson pulls out of it every day.

Rounding out the first floor, there's an open air atrium in the centre of the first floor, complete with its' own little garden space, run by Catherine Grant (see below), which is lovingly tended every working day (and God help any person messing up her flowers!), running over the offices and warehouse spaces below it's flooring. It's not uncommon to find operatives running up a tan, when they're at a loose end in the summer months...

Office complement...

The London office caters for nine cells, with space for the office staff who provide the administrative back up for them, as in the Miami office.

Formerly allocated resources for six cells, the London Office now has an establishment of nine operations cells, bringing it just one cell behind that of Miami (10 cells), and ahead of Rome (8 cells).

Currently, there are thirty-five support staff, not including the Senior Cell Leader, John Blake, at BE/BE London. These are divided into six staff for the operations offices on the First floor, the remainder forming the L&P facility staff, from administrative, and security, to warehousemen requirements.

Due to the restrictions imposed by the Firearms Acts, amended following the two mass murders in Scotland (Dunblane) and England (Hungerford), BlackEagle/BlackEagle (UK) applied for a Section Five Firearms Dealers Certificate from the Home Office. At the same time, in order to handle the explosives that operations sometimes require, a Black Powder and Explosives Licence was sought from the Home Office. One rather detailed and exhaustive examination later, both documents were issued to BlackEagle/BlackEagle (UK). Surprisingly, the person named as the 'Responsible Person' for matters dealing in this was the head of L&P at the London facility, Stephen Patterson (see below for character notes).

The dealers certificate means that L&P can legally act as a reseller for weaponry that any BE/BE operative might need (within reason, of course).

Of the nine operations cells, cell nine is not mission-capable cell, as it's the dedicated Firearms Training unit of the London office, so as to comply with the provisions of the 'Private Contracts Firearms (Licensing and Permits) Act, 1998' (see "Guns and the UK in Millennium's End..."). This leaves eight cells available for work in the UK theatre of operations; As such, all cells (except cell nine) rotate to on-call status once a week, if possible. This means, in practice, that seven cells are normally involved in active operations, and the eighth cell works as additional security for the office, as 'on-call' cell for that week.

Principle Personalities...

John Blake - Senior Cell Leader

John Blake is the Senior Cell Leader at BlackEagle London responsible for the smooth running of the station as well as the nine cells that operate from there. He has been with BlackEagle now for five years, and assumed his current role just over a year ago having worked as an operative from the London office since it was opened, taking part in over thirty-five assignments during that time.

Born and raised in Sheffield, he chose to join the army when he was sixteen rather than continue his education or live on the dole. Young John Blake had the kind of physique to impress any recruitment officer, and a keen mind to go with it. The army put both mind and body to good use.

He rose quickly through the non-commissioned ranks: seeing service in Kenya, Cyprus, Belize, two tours of duty in Northern Ireland, and in the Gulf states. When in the UK, he attended night school to finish his education, and was then sponsored by the army for an Open University degree in Arabic.

His commission came in time for the Falklands War and Captain Blake led a team monitoring airfields on the Argentine mainland, then landing on the main island ahead of the invasion force to ensure that the landing sites were feasible.

Leaving the army in 1993, he took a position ostensibly with the Foreign Office but actually reporting back to MI6 DP2 division. Posted first to Cairo as cultural attach, where he established a small network despite the problems involved in persuading Muslims to report on activities in the Islamic states, and expressed concerns about the security at the embassy. After eighteen months in Cairo, he was transferred to Amman in Jordan.

He was among the first BlackEagle operatives working from the London office when it was established in 1996, resigning his Foreign Office commission in order to move into the 'private sector'. Part of his decision was prompted by the failure of the Foreign Office to act on his earlier comments about security, after the World Islamic Jihad attack on the Cairo Embassy.

A large part of his service was in the Islamic states and Blake speaks fluent Arabic as well as his native English. Like many ex-servicemen, he is fastidious in his appearance: always dressing smartly, clean shaven and with his hair cut short. He expects punctuality, discipline and results from the cells under him, but appreciates initiative and understands that breaking the rules is sometimes necessary. Nor does he expect everyone to adhere to his own personal rules on appearance.

Blake lives in St Mary's Marshes where he can enjoy bird watching. He plays cricket and football for local leagues when not working, and drives a renovated E-type Jaguar (although he finds a motorbike more convenient for London driving). Two evenings a week, he teaches women's self defence; and when he takes leave, he indulges in his other main hobby of climbing mountains. He lives alone, although office rumour suggests that he and the office Legal Aide, Michelle Levadieu, are 'an item'.

Stephen Patterson - Manager, Logistics & Procurement (London)

Whether they need specialised equipment, identification of DNA samples, or just access to computer systems, operatives in the London offices can count on the services of Stephen Patterson. Among the first recruits as BlackEagle expanded its operations into Europe, Patterson was responsible for setting up the Forensic labs at the London office when it was envisaged that London would be the centre for all European operations.

Stephen Patterson was born in Brixton in 1962, and ran with the gangs for a time before serving a stretch in jail for car theft. Inside, he took advantage of the educational facilities available to complete his schooling, gaining A-Levels in Mathematics, Physics, Electronics and German. On his release from prison, he did a degree in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering at Loughborough University.

Graduating with first class honours, he applied to join the Metropolitan police force but wasn't accepted because of his criminal record. Recognising that the former street kid was reformed, however, and reluctant to lose his talents, they suggested instead that he join Polydyne Technical Services Ltd. Polydyne had a contract to run an independent forensic laboratory, regularly used by the Met. In the ten years that he worked for Polydyne, he also completed a Masters degree in Forensics, and went on to serve as an occasional lecturer at Hendon Police College.

When BlackEagle decided to open the London office, they headhunted Patterson offering him almost complete autonomy and a substantial budget to establish the forensic lab in the new office. Knowing BlackEagle's reputation for only hiring the best, it was an offer he couldn't refuse. He has repaid that trust with a laboratory that rivals even the FBI facilities in Quantico. With the change in policy that switched the centre of European operations to Rome, lack of personnel is a problem. Despite this, his industry contacts typically allow him to bring in specialists at twenty-four hours notice.

Patterson's duties in the London office include work that goes beyond his own skills. He is not a pathologist; and while he is more than competent at a computer keyboard, he is not a hacker. However, over the years since the L&P facility was established, he has built up a network of freelance agents and contacts capable of providing these services at short notice. From police pathologists to ghetto kids with PCs, he knows people who can acquire or fix almost anything.

He has undergone the basic BlackEagle training; and though he has never worked in the field, he understands the needs of the cells for which he provides services. Of all the staff at the London office, Patterson probably puts in the most hours. Not only does he handle the forensics lab, he also maintains the computer systems and manages logistics and most of the office administration, which really helps the rest of the L&P staff do the day-to-day admin, as he tends to handle the 'difficult stuff'...

Following the commissioning of the L&P facility at Heron Quay, Stephen was promoted to the position of Manager of the facility; while he certainly liked the pay scale, he found that the work load was more challenging, and found that having the ability to specify what type of labs would be at the facility much to his liking; the equipment in the labs outstrips the Atlanta L&P facility by a long way in terms of quality and functionality - truly, London's L&P facility is the envy of Atlanta (something which he's rather proud of!).

Patterson lives now on the outskirts of the Brixton area, outside the permanent Police cordon, not far from where he was born. In his few off hours, he tries to make a difference in his community; teaching night school classes, running a youth club and speaking in schools. He also plays a mean Tenor Sax. He is unmarried, but lives with his steady girlfriend, Nellarine, and her two daughters, Natalie and Stephanie. Nellarine works as a paediatric nurse, with unsociable hours herself, so she rarely complains when Patterson works late.

Michelle Levadieu - Legal Aide

If operatives need legal assistance, whether for negotiating a contract or providing support when an assignment goes 'pear-shaped', they turn to Michelle Levadieu, the office legal aide. Smoothing the paperwork involved in accrediting operatives into the 'Approved Firearms User' lists with the Home Office (even if the applicant is a former criminal offender), liaising with local police forces, and negotiating with a client's legal department are just a few of her duties.

Although born in the Hague, Michelle Levadieu (née Delatois) is a French national. Both her parents worked for the European Court of Justice, and she herself chose to follow a career in the law. The Delatois family were extremely wealthy, and Michelle was educated at the best schools available.

She returned to France in 1988 to study at the Sorbonne, specialising in European Law. There she met and married Antoine Levadieu, a young crime journalist with Le Figaro. Their marriage lasted for just seven years until Antoine was killed in a car bomb attack. At the time, he had been researching a story on the influence wielded over European parliamentarians by organised crime syndicates.

Her first contact with BlackEagle and with John Blake, later to become Senior Cell leader at the London office, was as a client. After Antoine's death, she followed up on his leads and was able to establish a case against several members of the European parliament. During the ensuing trial, her own life was threatened, and the Belgian police, already stretched to the limit with their own problems, brought in BlackEagle for close protection of her and other witnesses. John Blake was the cell leader assigned to the case. A bomb attack on the court building left two BlackEagle operatives and several bystanders dead. Michelle herself suffered a shattered hip in the blast. She might not have survived at all if Blake hadn't shielded her with his own body. He escaped relatively unscathed thanks to his body armour; she still walks with a limp.

Following the trial, she was offered the position of legal aide in the BlackEagle London office after Roberto Visone, the original legal advisor there, was transferred to the new Rome office. Michelle is a woman very confident in her own talents, and who generally finds a way of getting whatever she wants. She had already decided that she wanted that position, and readily accepted BlackEagle's offer.

Michelle is an accredited barrister in Great Britain, France and the European court. She is also something of a linguist, fluent in English, Dutch, German and Italian as well as her native French. Though not a field agent, she has undergone BlackEagle basic training and occasionally helps in surveillance operations. She also assists in Patterson's photographic darkroom.

Outside the office, Michelle is an accomplished violinist, playing regularly in a string quartet, a keen amateur photographer, and a devotee of art and the ballet. She has a luxurious flat in Knightsbridge (a VERY expensive part of central London, just the other side of the West End from the office), with a spectacular view across Hyde Park, but seems to spend more time over at St Mary's Marshes. Office rumour suggests that she and John Blake are living together.

Other personalities in the London Combined Office

Catherine Grant - SCL & Legal Counsel's Personal Assistant

Catherine Grant (aka. Ms Memory) was a senior editor for the Observer newspaper until September 1998 when she resigned over a government gagging order. Journalists at the paper had uncovered a serious conspiracy involving a number of the privatised national industries (rail, electricity and power) which artificially inflated their stock prices. Just as they were ready to publish, the story was blocked by a government D-Notice.

Catherine chose instead to write an editorial, 'A D-Notice Too Far' which described the situation and broke sufficient details of the story without going against the legal letter of the ban. Subsequently, a number of European journals that could not be gagged by the British government revealed the full story. The editorial also included her resignation (broken to the public before the newspaper management).

Rather than move to another newspaper, though many both in Britain and Europe would have taken her on, she was now disillusioned with the journalistic profession as a whole, due to the lack of support her bosses had afforded her, so she accepted an offer from John Blake to come and work for BlackEagle as his personal assistant.

Catherine doesn't have a photographic memory, but her knowledge of news stories over the past decade is encyclopaedic. It has become something of a challenge in the BlackEagle office to try and catch her out, quoting obscure headlines and seeing if she can remember the details of the story. No-one has yet managed to beat her, and she can often provide additional facts that were never actually revealed by the papers. She also maintains contact with many of her old journalist acquaintances and occasionally offers them titbits about BlackEagle activities (though she never reveals anything that is confidential) and in exchange still has access to many newspaper archives and even current stories before they reach the public.

While officially Blake's PA, her services are constantly in demand from the cells based at the London office needing to research old news stories.

In addition to managing John Blake's professional life, Catherine is also responsible for keeping Michelle Levadieu's appointment calendar up to speed, thus ensuring that the two most important persons (organisationally speaking) never have to rush for as much as a cup of coffee, most days.

Alfred ("Alf") Kelson - Deputy Senior Cell Leader (Cell Leader, Cell Three)

Alfred ("Alf") Kelson was born in Lewisham, south London, a rough area in the seventies, as he grew up. When Alf was twelve, his father, a Black Taxi driver (a 'Hackney Carriage'), was killed in an accident by a drunk driver, who crossed a red traffic light at seventy miles per hour. His father was killed instantly, as the Ford Cortina smashed through the driver's side of his taxi. From that moment on, all Alf wanted to do was be a policeman, and catch the bastard that killed his dad.

Even with the realisation that he'd never knowingly catch the man when he left school, he still persevered to his goal of becoming a policeman, and went to Birmingham's Aston University, to study Police Sciences.

Four years later, his graduation day turned from a celebration to a nightmare. A rainy day, coupled with a joy-riding teenager and a police pursuit, ended with a crash, when the joy riders appeared out of nowhere, ploughing into Alf, and breaking both his legs in over ten places each.

It was a miracle he was able to walk again, following the multiple operations on his legs, and the intrusive and painful physio-therapy he endured, but even then, he couldn't run worth a damn after two years following the accident. The police regretted that they couldn't take on a man who couldn't run, and that was that. No career in the police.

So, to try to make a living, he cast about, and eventually spotted the BlackEagle/BlackEagle recruitment adverts.

Rising rapidly in experience, Alf is a natural authority figure in the London office, and is John Blake's designated Deputy Senior Cell Leader.

When not on an operation, he's often found in the 'crew room' (F1) playing snooker, and is normally the first person other operatives speak to, when they have a problem they want to bounce off someone. His tact, confidentiality, and insight, often lead him to be called the Agony Uncle of London!

Henry West - Warehouse Manager

Henry West is the warehouse manager for the L&P facility. As such, it's his responsibility if things go wrong down there. A former manager for the high street chemist's retail chain 'Boots', Henry saw an advert for a warehouse manager for a new secure facility, and, being bored with his position as Boots, applied. Surprisingly (he got a rather nasty reference from his boss, who didn't much like him), he got the job, having impressed Steven Patterson at interview.

Most days, Henry works from the Stock Control office on the ground floor (G13), however, as soon as a delivery or dispatch truck arrives, he's on the warehouse floor, supervising his three warehousemen and one warehousewoman, in either loading or unloading the truck in record time, and with near military precision.

The warehouse wouldn't be as efficient as it is, without him, and, on his odd days off (and at weekends, when he's home with his wife and kids), the warehouse certainly seems a somewhat slower place!

Martin Scott - L&P Senior Security Supervisor

Martin Scott has worked for BlackEagle in the UK, ever since they moved the L&P facility to London. Finally assembling a team of eighteen staff, he was instrumental in ensuring that the design of the facility was as airtight as possible, on the external grounds physical security aspect of things.

A life-long member of the security industry in the UK, he jumped at the chance to work for BE/BE, seeing it as a massive jump in responsibilities (and earnings). He wasn't disappointed. He's now in his fourth year with BlackEagle, and has no plans to move on.

His three teams (including the two supervisors under his command) are all quite happy working for him. They, too, pull in about double the industry standard in the UK (traditionally not a very well paid career in the UK), and, while more than happy with their comfortable lives, carry out their duties with alarming attention to detail.

Even John Blake has fallen foul of the crew - he once forgot his smart-card pass for the garage. Three hours later, Martin finally let him go, having filled in about eight reports (including Police Report Pro Forms) for the loss of the card, the issue of a new one, the cancellation of the old one, and about half a dozen other reports. Reportedly, Blake complained to Stephen Patterson about this, and was told "Well, John, you aren't likely to forget it again, are you?!"

Needless to say, Patterson commented on this to Scott, who, rather than apologising, stated that he was still filling in the last of the formal reports on the incident, and that Blake was lucky that he'd been kind, and spared him the rest of the forms - which had to be hand carried to the nearby Police Station within five hours of the incident, by law!

By unanimous verdict, further comments on security's high-handedness were stopped that day...

Eddie Leung - Cell Leader, Cell Two

Eddie Leung was a graduate detective with the Hong Kong Police for just two years before he grew tired of the corruption he found all around him. An idealistic young man, too often he saw cases being covered up by pressures from above, or other officers turning a blind eye to crimes in exchange for the contents of unmarked packages.

Dissatisfied with this state of affairs, he resigned from the force and went private as one of Hong Kong's very few PIs. He advertised himself as a detective who would take on any case that the police ignored or where they found nothing. This didn't make him any too popular with his former colleagues, although he did maintain enough friendships on the force to be of value to him. Even in this role, he was forever fighting the establishment; but he did manage to score a number of spectacular successes, particularly against the protection rackets that thrived in the city.

Those same successes also made him unpopular with the triads that ran the rackets, and a marked man. Following a number of attempts on his life, Eddie decided enough was enough. With the newly changed UK immigration laws for Hong Kong passport-holders, and the threat to the city from its restoration to the Peoples Republic of China in 1997, he moved to London.

In the UK, he tried running a similar business as a Private Detective, but in many ways the Chinese community in Britain was different to Hong Kong. There wasn't the same degree of police corruption that had created his client base in the colony, and he was also competing against established detective agencies in the UK.

He also found himself competing with BlackEagle in a case involving the kidnapped daughter of a Chinese businessman. Eddie was retained to find the girl by the man's wife, not realising that her husband had employed BlackEagle to rescue her from the Young Bamboo Triad, who was demanding ransom for her safe return. The cell soon realised that another party was searching for the girl, and were very surprised when Eddie managed to locate her before they did. While the cell got itself embroiled in a shootout with the Triad soldiers, Eddie managed to spirit the girl away and return her to her parents. The operatives never did get the balance of their fee.

Soon after that, Eddie joined BlackEagle himself, and, in his first year, impressed his colleagues so much that, when their existing cell leader retired, was voted unanimously as the cell leader - despite only being a Vet-1 operative!

Greg Vaccares - Cell five "Wild Card"

The 'Golden Boy' of the London office: Greg Vaccares is one of the more senior members in terms of service. In some people, the fact that he has never been considered as a cell leader might have led to a grudge, but Greg knows that he wouldn't have been an appropriate choice for the role. In fact he's glad that he doesn't have to take the responsibility.

If there's a sport that involves danger, excitement and water or wind (preferably all at the same time) then Greg will actively pursue it. He has even been known to fly to Paris in the middle of an operation (getting up before dawn, no less) for a sponsored bungee jump from the top of the Eiffel Tower. For the past two years he has been a participant in the annual Beaujolais Nouveau race, parachuting into Trafalgar Square the first year, to the consternation (and extreme annoyance) of the Metropolitan Police.

Solitary sports hold little interest to Greg. He isn't the type to go and climb mountains on his own, despite the thrills of doing so without equipment: he needs an audience (preferably all females) for his stunts.

Greg served as a pilot with the Flying Doctor service in his native Australia, and then worked a lifeguard on Bondi Beach before an exchange with a Californian lifeguard brought him to the United States.

Here he was introduced by chance to BlackEagle/BlackEagle. While out practising alone (one of the few times he prefers not to have an audience) for a sailboarding competition, he witnessed a cell launching a covert intelligence gathering mission against a corporate headquarters on a cliff top. Seeing a group of black-clad jet-skiers coming ashore and scaling the cliff-face, he was intrigued and came onto the beach after them, inadvertently tripping an alarm system.

From the perspective of Gillian Tailor, the cell leader concerned (Cell Leader for cell two, Sydney office), the mission was a total failure. Not only were corporate security alerted to their presence and a civilian wounded in the exchange of gunfire, but she also took a bullet trying to get him out. Her later romance with Greg lasted barely a month, but his liaison with BlackEagle was to last longer.

With BlackEagle, Greg found a channel for his energies: work where he was actually paid to do what he liked doing best; and where he was ferried around the world, frequently to sites with great mountains or waves.

When the London office first opened in 1996, Greg was seconded there to cover for the lack of European operatives with flying experience. It was cold and wet, the surf wasn't as good, and the mountains weren't nearly as conveniently close as the Rockies; but the girls loved his accent and the wine was better than in California, so the secondment became permanent.

In fact, as he gets older (he is past 25 now), Greg seems to be settling down in life. Sponsored by BlackEagle, he took a degree in Physical Education at Loughborough University (actually finishing the course); and office gossip suggests that the next stage of his ageing will be having the same girlfriend for longer than a week.

Greg's out-of-hours pastimes mirror his exploits within BlackEagle: acts of daring and adventure. The biggest difference is that he can find a more appreciative audience away from his fellow operatives, who frequently get caught in the backlash. He does raise a lot of money for charities with his activities, although Michelle Levadieu despairs every time she's called to bail him out of jail. He also plays guitar (badly).

Networking in London...

The GenNet, described in the main Millennium's End rules, and in the 1999 Datasource, is not generally available in Europe unless you've got a GenNet account that you access to the US via a global satellite link. To compensate for this, the Internet, a (believe it or not) Swiss invention, has been thoroughly improved year by year, to provide a service that not only mimics the GenNet, but which in some ways improves on it (such as in speed of e-mail delivery, if only in minutes shaved off delivery times).

Such upgrades, by way of the introduction of high-speed fibre-optic gateways and 'sprintlinks' in virtually every city, has turned the European Internet into a vast sprawl of sites, institutions, and educational tools, none more so than in London, with over 300 such gateways, nodes, and buffer links - more than any other European city.

This has provided London with an unparalleled set of high-speed and high-capacity communications links - more than anywhere outside the US, and certainly the best in Europe; Truly, the 'information superhighway' is now a tool of the British professional and amateur alike. All UK companies and government branches and agencies worth their salt now have a presence, whether it's a link providing e-mail and other communication links, or just to advertise their presence and services to the electronic world.

In any event, here, on the internet, is where links to other 'on-line' sites, can be found. Search engines the world over dedicate masses of gigabytes of storage for whole reams of these users and sites, and B/E operatives can access these sites, at least to the secure gateways, to discover more on the companies and organisations that they encounter.

There are three main kinds of internet site, Open, Gated, and Closed sites, which equate to their GenNet equivalents in the "Millennium's End v2.0" Rules book, and the "Millennium's End GM's Companion".

Open Sites

Open sites are the electronic advertising hoardings of the 90's, often hold merchandising areas, where customers can mail-order the merchandise on order, by supplying a valid credit card or D-Card number. These sites are those that anyone can enter, and find out whatever is 'on' that site (like a personal homepage, detailing a user's interests and hobbies, to a major corporations PR site, full of positive-spin material about that corporation). The popular London Daily News, London's electronic round up of the day's news, is one such site.

Gen Net verses the European Internet...

Unlike the GenNet, where charges can be transferred to the user's account number, the Internet uses so many service providers, based all across the globe - including the USA, even with it's GenNet system - that a global account system just is not practical (even if the GenNet has this problem licked). So the only way to ensure the accurate charging of users is to ensure the use of credit or debit cards, using such credit networks as Visa, MasterCard, AMEX, and so on.. These are used in conjunction with a secure mode of card number transmission, on an internationally-agreed system, known as CARD-IT, which uses a very secure encryption system (currently 256kb) for the transmission of card numbers and account details.

Password Security...

'Smart' Displaying Pass Cards are a new spin on an old problem - password security. Over the last five to ten years, hackers have become adept at crashing into so-called secure computer systems, so a method of protecting these systems is to continually change passwords, either by changing them every time they are used, or changing them every few seconds, minutes, or whatever. Aside from the technological problem of keeping all the smart cards synchronised, the problem of programming them to all display the same information, based on user access, has been difficult, but worth it. However, the user still has to ensure the security of the smart card, so the security of passwords is still partially physical for the time being...

Gated Sites

Many companies operate Internet Accounts that operate via their office computer networks. The access points to the Internet are known as gated sites, and provide password-controlled gateways from the rest of the Internet into that organisation, for instance, to personnel, financial, and other confidential sections of said organisation. These normally contain information that is available to that organisations employees, but not the general public.

If there is information available to the general public, this will normally be held in an Open Site, run 'on top' of the Gated Site. A typical method is to use the open site as the master address, and run the gated access off the first page of the site on an unlisted address, to ensure a level of security.

Multi-layered password access is the norm, and in many of London's institutions and organisations, these passwords change each time they are used, requiring dedicated 'smart displaying pass cards' to be carried by company employees, who check the read-out on the cards each time they need to access the network they access, to get the current password.

Closed Sites

The last category, a closed site, is an 'unlisted site', in that the address of it is not advertised or notified to people outside the organisation(s) that access it - and the list of people that know the address are generally kept very short - a 'need-to-know' basis is the norm. A typical site belongs to the Metropolitan Police Service.

The Metropolitan Police site includes access - highly protected - to the Police National Computer, a database of all known criminal intelligence, vehicle data from the Cardiff based Driver Vehicle Licence Agency, and much more besides, such as personnel records, etc.

Another such site belongs to the Bank Of England (a prime division of the HM Treasury), which includes the Banking Central Clearing System (BCS) for the entire UK banking system, and is one of the most protected and secure computing site connected to the internet (There are rumours about the security of this site that give hackers grey hair and nightmares...!). Typically, any unauthorised access to this site is noticed within SECONDS of the access, traced, and Special Branch tasked to locate and arrest the unauthorised person or persons accessing the site...

"MetNet"...

Not surprisingly, for a Police force, almost as soon as the network came on line, one nick-name for it came to the fore: 'MetNet', due to the title page that comes up "Metropolitan Police Service IT Network". In addition to the network name, a demand for a User ID number and Password appears, with a warning that unauthorised access is a violation of the UK Official Secrets Act, and that all calls will be traced, if from a non-Metropolitan Police telephone.

They mean it, too.

Places of Interest...

Restaurants...

London is full of all manner of Restaurants, large, small, and mid-sized. Most are accessible to the general public, as long as you're smartly dressed, but some are exceptionally exclusive, with membership lists: These are, of course, the Gentlemen's Clubs, and are covered in another section of this e-book.

Of the myriad eateries in London, the following stand out from the crowd...

The Ristorante Capri

Home of Southern Italy's finest cuisine, and newly opened in October of 1998, on a boat moored alongside Canary Wharf, has already been rated five-star by food critics; it attracts a fairly exclusive and glamorous clientele, an image that the owners are trying to nurture.

Doormen, two of them, dressed in dinner suits with bow ties, are actually situated on the dock side, guarding the companionway leading to the boat itself, and prevent unbooked access to the restaurant. A further accessway leads from the water side of the restaurant, and is guarded by yet another doorman. All doormen are in radio contact with the maitre'd inside the restaurant, in case of trouble either inside or outside.

Celebrities are welcome, as are high-flying executives, powerful officials, and other persons with equally opulent bank accounts...

The many paparazzi who congregate at such locations however, now do not go there, unless invited by the management. It seems that in the first three months of the restaurants operations, a few paparazzi found that dock water does nasty things to cameras... and clothing... they got the hint.

Clubs...

London has many different night clubs, all catering for differing tastes and budgets. Some are good, some are bad. Some are high-class joints, and a small number are real dives.

'The Apple'

'**The Apple**' is a high-class place where the high-flying people with money go, to dance - and drink - the night away. As with most high-class night spots in central London, The Apple is **very** discreet. And **very** expensive. A shot of, for example, whiskey, costs €10, which is about five times the cost in comparison with a pub.

The Apple has - unusually for central London - an underground car park. Guests either enter through the main entrance - if they want to be seen - or, in the case of guests wishing a level of anonymity - through the use of the courtesy limousine and the car park. It's not a members only club, but to make use of the limo, guests have to be a paid-up member - which costs €5,000 per annum.

Prices are high, and the security efficient, and, as usual, discreet. If a guest makes a nuisance of him or her self, the guest is put into a pre-paid taxi or minicab - whichever the guest nominates - and is sent home to sleep it off... whatever 'it' is...

'The Vanguard Club'

'The Vanguard Club' (named after the legendary 'Village Vanguard' in New York) specialises in Jazz and Blues music, and is located in the London district of Poplar. Despite being housed in what was once a machining shop, and looking as though it hasn't been decorated since the lathes were moved out, it is invariably filled to capacity. With live acts every night of the week, it also promotes local bands and has been the venue for a number of live recordings. The club has a 'no drugs' rule, and this is strictly enforced.

The Vanguard is run by Frank Morris and his brother Alex. Alex is a Catholic priest, currently on sabbatical after working for several years in Liverpool, while Frank is one of the East End's crime bosses (one of the "untouchables"). The clientele is mixed: local kids rub shoulders with sloanes; university lecturers discuss the relative merits of Nina Simone and Ella Fitzgerald with stockbrokers; while police chiefs swap stories with criminals.

In the dim light and noise of the club, dozens of deals are made every night. In the shadows, teams of crooks plan their next big heist, while across the room police informants whisper secrets to their controllers. If BlackEagle operatives ever need a rendezvous with contacts in the London underworld, then the Vanguard is an excellent venue; and as an added bonus, Stephen Patterson (the office L&P officer) occasionally plays here with his band.

Living in the London of Millennium's End...

BlackEagle/BlackEagle operatives, like the normal administrative employees, are paid well for their work; it's a recognised factor that attracts new employees and operatives alike. As such, they find it easy to find places to live, work, and play.

London is a vibrant city, even accounting for the tense atmosphere following the riots and crime of the last decade. Most areas in central London and the outer suburbs are relatively unchanged, and life has progressed as it has in most developed countries. Operatives living in London find that there is ample scope for relaxation, entertainment, and leisure pursuits of most forms, from sport, eating out, gambling (although rigorously controlled), and almost everything else that they could think of.

Where to live, THAT is the question, Horatio... (With apologies to William Shakespeare)

Since London is a city with vast suburbs, most employees commute to and from the office; Most come from the outer boroughs of London, with Harrow, Bromley, and Woolwich being the most popular, although Stephen Patterson, London's L&P manager, seems to like the seedy areas, and lives on the outskirts of the Brixton Exclusion zone, and Michelle Levadiou, London's Legal Aide lives in Central London, about two miles from the office, in Knightsbridge.

Since operatives normally have to be able to get to the office with great speed, most choose to live in the Centre of London. Pimlico, Chelsea, Kensington, and the Regent's Park area were popular until the office moved back to Heron Quays, in the London Docklands, now, it's as likely to be Greenwich, Shoreditch, the Isle of Dogs, as the west end. Mind you, cell Five's perennial adrenaline junkie, Greg Vaccares, lives about twenty miles outside London, in Westerham, near Biggin Hill, in north-west Kent. Living on a small farm, he has ample room for the Helicopter that he owns and flies (for recreation), which he uses to get to the office whenever there is a 'shout', as he calls the "Get to the office FAST!" calls.

Property prices in central London are HUGE. In early 1999, with property prices beginning to recover from the blight of the previous five years, the price of a reasonably-sized one-bedroom apartment (they're called 'flats' in the UK) was averaging about € 230,000 in the Chelsea area, and more than even that in Mayfair, which is where the office is located. Thus, most operatives tend to rent, until such time as they can find a decently priced home of their own. Renting is still expensive, however.

To simplify things, L&P organised a property letting agency to rent the London Office twenty flats, both one and two-bedroom, in and around the central London area. In this way, the operatives benefit, as a company-guaranteed rental reduces the cost of the rent, which, while still high, is a considerable discount from the operative concerned organising their own rental accommodation. The letting agency is trusted, and has a very secure filing system, since B/E operatives like to be secure in the knowledge that they are going to be relatively anonymous in their own homes. It HAS to have - it's many clients include stars of stage and screen, as well as politicians!

Those choosing to use this facility find that the rental payments come out of their pay cheques at the end of every contract. It's a fair, and reasonable arrangement, and B/E London covers the cost of times when contracts are insufficient to meet the rental bills, on a repayment basis, just in case. So far, this has not happened, as B/E is very much in demand for investigations, background checks, operations, and sundry other jobs.

The Cost Of Living...

London is, whilst not as expensive as, say, France, Denmark, or Italy, to live in, considerably more expensive to live in than most of the cities in the USA.

For a start, Income tax, deducted at source for Operatives, takes a whopping 25%-45% of their income. Next, there's National Insurance, which, thankfully, is included in the Income Tax deductions.

Then, there's the Utility bills, such as 'phone, gas, water, and electricity. These are billed quarterly, and, since it's cheaper to manage it, most operatives use the 'Direct Debit' method, which is a form of budget account, paid each month to the various companies concerned, thus allowing the operatives to know just what they should have in the bank at any given time.

Flat maintenance, which is in addition to rental costs, are deducted at source if using company-sponsored flats.

All in all, the average operative, living in a company-sponsored flat, will lose about 50%-60% of his or her share of any given contract, in bills of one form or another.

Just to add the icing to the cake, there's more. Petrol (Gas, to any Americans reading this!) and Diesel average out at about € 2 per LITRE, and all goods sold, with the exception of domestic fuel bills, food, books, magazines, and newspapers, have a 17.5% Value Added Tax added to their cost.

To give a simple example of this, say an operative goes to the pub. He or she can expect a pint of Bitter or Lager to cost anywhere between € 3 and € 5, and spirits costing about 50% more, with prices increasing dramatically the nearer you get the centre of the West End.

It ain't cheap, living in London, but that's where the action tends to be!

Guns and the UK in Millenium's End...

Unlike the United States of America, which has the 2nd amendment to guarantee each citizen's access to firearms, the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and the Channel Islands) has no **right** of possession of firearms for its' citizens.

Instead, following the events of Hungerford (England) and Dunblane (Scotland), in which legally held firearms were used by licensed firearms holders to kill several dozen innocents, the UK had a set of laws (collectively, the 'Firearms Acts'), designed to limit the private possession of firearms to those members of society without felony criminal records or a history of mental illness. These laws also prohibited outright the private possession of handguns, Semi-automatic rifles, and other select fire weapons, collectively known as 'Section 5 firearms' (the section of the Firearms Act 1997 that banned their public ownership).

Until recently in the UK of 1999, the only Section 5 firearms in legal use were those in the Armed Forces, and the Police services. That the laws were touted as preventing the unlawful use of guns in crime, seemed to have been ignored by a great many criminals, who still found ways of getting handguns, in a wide variety of methods, from straight-forward 'street deals', to importing them in dubs and drabs (and a fair amount of luck) under the noses of UK Customs authorities.

However, in mid 1998, following a massive 250% rise in armed crime against 'Cash in Transit' security companies (both against their delivery trucks and depots), and high-risk professions such as couriers of documents and precious metals and stones, as well as certain high-risk buildings guarded by private security companies, a Parliamentary private member's bill was introduced in the House of Commons by the former Home Secretary, Giles Beeching, MP, which would permit 'approved' companies to train private security companies employees in firearms and the relevant legislation, and for such security company's' employees to arm it's trained employees during the course of their work, using firearms.

The act, called the '**Private Contracts Firearms (Licensing and Permits) Act 1998**', established a register of four approved companies, who would train and oversee the regulation of private security companies who dealt in the high-risk security trade.

The four companies nominated were:

- **Securitech (UK) Ltd**, a US-based multinational close protection and security company;
- **Risk Management Ltd**; a British agency, specialising in international Close Protection,
- **Securicor PLC**, a national security and courier company, and,
- **BlackEagle/BlackEagle Security and Investigation Corporation**, an American firm of private investigation, security, and Close Protection.

All four companies are regarded as 'market leaders' in their fields. Since the qualified armed guards would be hired by private companies and individuals, it was deemed that private companies should train them, rather than having the financial burden for training them fall to the UK authorities (especially in the light of the policy of 'outsourcing' resources in central government).

These companies would themselves be entered onto the register, for the purpose of keeping track of the weapons used by such companies, the employees trained to use firearms, and lastly to show that the government was careful in issuing such permits.

Security Officers nominated by their employers to carry firearms during their duty hours would have to be thoroughly checked by the Police, who would have the absolute right to deny the training, and thus the licensing, to any person, without disclosing the reason.

Assuming the background check was satisfactory, the firearms and appropriate legislation training of the employee would be taken on by one of the four 'approved' companies, at their establishments across England and Wales (the rest of the UK was not covered by the Act, and Scotland received the 'Private Security Contracts Firearms (Licensing and Permits) (Scotland) Act 1998'). Assuming the training was successful, the employee of the company would then be issued a Licence by the Home Office, in effect a 'Loaded Carry Permit', allowing the employee to carry a specified firearm during the course of his or her duties, for the express purpose of self defence of the person or property he or she was employed to protect.

A condition of the Licence required each security officer to carry a 'white card' detailing when he or she could, and could not, open fire. At the beginning of the guard's duty shift, the supervisor would have to check that each officer had not only the 'white card' and understood it, but that the firearm was the correct one, and that the ammunition was in the right calibre, and quantity.

The paperwork for the Act to work was a veritable nightmare, and took at least three months per subject nominated. Nevertheless, the public perception was balanced. Some said it was a good thing, others said it was the thin end of the wedge to arming the Police permanently.

What wasn't noticed was that the failure rate in the courses was twice that of the police training centres - Private security companies were liable under the Act for any person they (corporately) shot, and thus could be sued VERY easily for personal injury.

So how does BlackEagle fit in?

BlackEagle is one of the four approved training companies.

The operation is run from the London Office, and London Cell Nine is responsible for the training. So far, thirty-eight courses have been run, and one hundred and seventy-four security officers passed. Two hundred and thirty-seven have failed the course, which is run to a Home Office syllabus. A consultant psychologist is used to initially weed out the undesirable candidates from the course, and the members of Cell Eight are all ex-military or Police firearms training personnel, who know what to look for in arming people, so weed out the rest of the (a) undesirable gun nuts and (b) others less able to cope with the responsibility of being armed.

Operationally arming B/E operatives...

In terms of arming BlackEagle operatives on missions, the Senior Cell Leader is responsible for deciding if an operation is dangerous enough to warrant arming the cell undertaking the job. If he deems it necessary to Arm the cell, then he must sign a form saying so, and validate it each day of the operation. Accountability at work, as the saying goes.

In addition, the standby team at the London office is armed at all times, since the office is deemed to be a 'high-risk' establishment. The firearms locker is in the usual place (the vault), and contains a selection of handguns and select fire military rifles/SMGs. All weapons are accessible by the Senior Cell Leader or his appointed deputy only, and are linked to a 'central station' alarm, which notifies the Metropolitan Police if opened without authority... the consequences of that are rather plain...

The Memorandum for the Firearms Courses...

When the 'Private Contracts Firearms (Licensing and Permits) Act 1998' became law, the Home Office sent out draft syllabuses to companies that expressed an interest in running the courses.

BlackEagle/BlackEagle was one such company.

Shortly thereafter, much correspondence passed back and forth between the head office in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, Rome, and the London Office.

The internal memorandum reproduced below shows the content that the UK Home Office insisted upon for the Basic Armed Guard courses...

BlackEagle/BlackEagle Security and Investigation Corporation (UK) London Office

CONFIDENTIAL INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

FROM: John Blake
Senior Cell Leader, London Office
Int'l Ext. 1108

TO: Clifton BlackEagle
President, BE/BE, Atlanta HQ.

CC: Bruce Linnel,
European Theatre Head, Rome Office.

DATE: 1st November 1998

Re: UK Home Office – firearms accreditation courses

TEXT:

Clifton,

In reference to your note asking for details of the course content that the home Office require of us, should we undertake to undertake these courses, here are the proposed course plans.

WEEK ONE

DAY ONE

1. Introduction to the course staff, facilities, and residential quarters for students.

LUNCH

2. Split students into course syndicates, along corporate lines, if possible.

3. Brief students on basic first aid and safety procedures while on-school.
4. PT, dispersal

DINNER

DAY TWO

1. Basic introduction to handguns, including basic range safety methodologies.

LUNCH

2. Issue of course handguns (NO AMMUNITION).
3. Stripping and re-assembly of issue handgun.
4. Store issue handguns, PT, dispersal.

DINNER

DAY THREE

1. Revision on content of days one and two.
2. Basic range practice to stage one of supplied H.O. Syllabus (AMMUNITION ISSUED)
3. Clean and store issue handguns, store unused ammunition.

LUNCH

4. Repeat point three above.
5. Clean and store issue handguns, store unused ammunition, PT, dispersal.

DINNER

DAY FOUR

REPEAT OF DAY THREE, WITH EMPHASIS ON POORER QUALITY STUDENTS.

DAY FIVE

1. EXAMS # 1 (Oral/Demonstrative) and 2 (Written) – (First Aid)
2. EXAMS # 3 (Oral) and 4 (Written) – (Range procedures)

END WEEK ONE

Weeks two through four then follow a similar pattern, with the subjects covered as follows:

- Firearms Law as it applies to the 'Private Contracts Firearms (Licensing and Permits) Act 1998'.
- The Law as it applies to both the 'Private Contracts Firearms (Licensing and Permits) Act 1998' and the 'Offences Against The Person Act 1861 (as amended)'.
- 'Arrestable Offences' and the operatives' Powers of Arrest through s.2(2) and s.2(3) of the 'Criminal Law Act 1967'.
- Judges Rules, a.k.a. The Caution, and it's implications and responsibilities for the arresting operative.
- Rules Of Engagement (The "White Card") and the implications of opening fire.
- Advanced First Aid.
- Advanced range practices up to stage three of the H.O. Syllabus.

At the end of each stage of the course, oral and written exams, as well as demonstrative skill tests, where applicable, will be given. According to the H.O. syllabus, a 90% pass rate is expected of all students in every subject.

I intend, with your approval, to begin a recruiting drive aimed at former/serving serviceman and women, and former/serving civilian Police Officers, with the hope of collecting together a twelve-person cadre of instructors, to run the courses. This cadre will form London Cell Six, and, as per the conditions of the 'Private Contracts Firearms (Licensing and Permits) Act 1998', will be exclusively tasked for instructional duties.

I notice that the Act makes certain waivers for the courses possible, providing that acceptable certifications can be provided. I've not had an opportunity to examine what the Home Office will or will not accept, but the feeling that Michelle Levadieu has, is that it's intended for the British Armed Forces, Police, and allied services and police, to minimise their certifications process times. I'll let you know more on this when I find out – I'm due to meet the Under Secretary of State on Wednesday morning next week.

Please let me know what you think of the above.

John Blake

John Blake.

WARNING:

This communication contains information which is confidential and may also be privileged. It is for the exclusive use of the addressee. If you are not the addressee please note that any distribution, copying or use of this communication or the information in it is prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us by reply.

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UK 1999 Datasource...

The Miami Sourcebook and the Millennium's End 1999 Datasource give a clear picture of the state of the world, the USA, and Miami, in 1999. In this section of the London Sourcebook, we hope to give you a cogent picture of the UK in general in 1999 (based on a long running campaign that recently ended), month by month. Some items will be duplicated from the Millennium's End 1999 Datasource, published by Chameleon Eclectic, but this is unavoidable, given the nature of the following. It will, however, give you some items to add 'flavour' to your adventures...

Events in the UK

JANUARY

Jan 1. The UK Citizenship Act, a 'Bill of Rights', becomes law. The Act sets out all the rights set out in the European Bill of Human Rights, but adds that to enjoy such rights, one must be prepared to prove one's right to these rights, by showing a valid UK or European Identity Card, if required by officials, such as the Police. The outcry from it's going through Parliament is nothing compared to the row the liberal Human Rights organisations put up, and neither show much sign of abating for the foreseeable future.

Jan 21. A new row in the newspapers about the IRA training their terrorists in the Sudan hits the front pages. Parliament, and the Armed Forces, face calls for action in all tabloid editorials. Broadsheets don't miss the fun, but tone their comments down a bit — mainly to accommodate their readership.

Jan 25. The left-wing newspaper Socialist Worker prompts a security scare in Whitehall, as it publishes photographs of RAF jets being prepared for combat. The MoD states, when confronted with the revelations about the preparations and the IRA bases in Sudan, that the Jets are being prepared for a major NATO exercise, nothing more, nothing less.

Jan 30. The IRA puts out a statement from their Republic of Ireland sources, that they HAVE got bases in Sudan, but not where the newspapers state, and only for rest and recuperation, not training. They also state that the publicity has required that they withdraw from Sudan, as they fear that the British Government will attack the 'innocent government of Sudan'.

Jan 30. The Sudanese government denies co-operating with the IRA, or any other freedom fighter organisations, and warns the UK against military action, claiming that it could lead to hostilities.

Events in London

JANUARY

Jan 5. The Millennium Tower, sited in Greenwich, is growing near to completion, but a dispute with trades unions over working hours threatens the projected completion date from September 1999 to well into the middle of the year 2000. The Government steps in, desperate to save the flagship of its Millennium Celebrations, and imposes an agreement on both parties. The press comments range from congratulations to cries of abuse of power, but the deed is done — at a cost to the taxpayer of 2 million Ecu. The Treasury is conspicuously silent about the whole affair.

Jan 15. The capital is hit by another bomb, this time in a van in the heart of the West End. Twenty are injured, and two killed — both teenage schoolgirls.

The IRA claims responsibility, saying that it was aiming for a police patrol, not children.

The press savages the IRA, calling them cynical killers, and worse. In Parliament, claims by right-wing Conservatives that the Labour government is being 'soft' on terrorists are rebuked. 'Wait and see' is all that the Prime Minister will say.

Jan 31. Sporadic reports from Sudan indicate that aircraft and troops from the UK, Italy, and Germany, attacked, overran, and destroyed eighteen sites of suspected terrorist activity with, it is claimed, no loss of Sudanese civilians.

Ninety-eight terrorists are reported killed. No word is given about terrorist survivors.

FEBRUARY

Feb 1. Repercussions from the tri-partite attack on the Sudanese terror camps on Jan 31 by British, German, and Italian forces (see the 1999 *Datasource*) are forthcoming from Libya, The Russian Federation, and China. The Omani's and most other European states welcome the action.

Feb 15. Following the assassination of James Cavendish, the Minister for Northern Ireland, and Lady Justice Karen Althorp, the IRA deny all knowledge of the murders. heated discussions in the Doile and Parliament result in Stop and Search being re-introduced in the Province.

MARCH

Mar 25. NASA in the USA stage the new Scramjet flight. Rumours still persist in the UK press that the engine used to propel the craft is the product of industrial espionage by Pratt & Whitney, of the Rolls Royce HOTOL Engine, which is still a classified UK Military project.

The Defence Secretary refuses to confirm or deny the allegations in open session in Parliament, fuelling yet more rumours.

FEBRUARY

Feb 7. Four police officers are murdered by Chinese drug gangs — The Triads — after they discover a scam to smuggle in drugs in celebratory fireworks for the Chinese new year. The scam, now discovered, is apparently abandoned, especially as HM Customs and Excise are alerted.

The killings came too late for the Triads to save their shipments. A manhunt for the murderers is launched, but as usual, a wall of silence in Chinatown is met. The murderers are never caught.

Feb 14. James Cavendish, the Minister for Northern Ireland, and Lady Justice Karen Althorp, are murdered in a rocket propelled grenade attack in the Docklands area of Central London. Sinn Fein deny all knowledge of the murders, which are later claimed to be the responsibility of a new terrorist splinter group, the "Sons of Erin". Heated discussions in the Irish and British Parliaments result in Stop and Search being re-introduced in the Province.

MARCH

Mar 25. Questions in the Houses of Parliament cause concern that the Ministry of Defence has been 'caught napping' in relation to the NASA Scramjet mess.

The Minister for Defence strenuously denies the allegation, but the press uncovers that Special Branch has been called in to raid several London addresses in the search for the spy.

Not surprisingly, the papers that publish this are prosecuted under the Official Secrets Act, when they refuse to name their sources.

APRIL

Apr 1. Following San Francisco's subway train techno-terrorist attack, Manchester's Metrolink train system is hit by (apparently) the same bunch of techno-terrorists, who set every signal to green.

Eight trains collide head-on at points crossings, at speeds up to eighty miles per hour, and fifty people are killed: Birmingham's hospitals, hit by the financial cuts of the previous government, find it difficult to cope, but manage... just.

One doctor comments "If this had happened a year ago, we would've lost 'em all".

MAY

May 12. At the same time the IRA detonate the Brussels Bomb, they initiate eight more devices on the UK Mainland, causing many casualties, but no deaths.

May 21. After five well publicised police blunders in catching the IRA terrorists responsible for the eight bombs of May 12, the Prime Minister pushes through his most controversial piece of legislation yet. The Security Service (Amendment) Act gives agents of the Security Service the power of arrest, and separates Special Branch from the police, amalgamating it to the Security Service. The Police scream in anger, but there's nothing that they can do.

Although the Security Service are pleased by the new Act, the Civil Liberties groups aren't, and protest, with marches up and down the country, proclaiming a Police State exists. The Security Service leave them alone, and the Police clean up the messes.

In all, five police officers are killed across the country, and twenty 'civilians'.

APRIL

April 17. An outbreak of the flesh-eating disease - *Necrotising Faciitis* - that kills people in days - if not hours - is encountered in Guys Hospital. The hospital is closed to all new patients for a month, until the outbreak is stopped. The London Evening Standard leads the cry for more funds for the National Health Service, to combat such outbreaks of disease in places where people are meant (supposedly) to become healthy — not to be killed off like flies. Eighteen people die in the outbreak.

MAY

May 10. Following a successful mission undertaken for Special Branch, B/E operatives from London Cell 2 are thrust into the limelight by a leak from within the client organisation. The Press have a field day, even trying to get news cameras into the new Octower offices.

May 12. An IRA bomb in Kings Cross railway station causes thirty seven serious injuries through shrapnel and flying glass. No deaths are reported.

May 15. The first blunder by police in the search for the Kings Cross Bombers is released, when officers of the Anti-Terrorist branch get their operational timings messed up, and hit the terrorists' hide out a day after they fled the scene. It is revealed that the place was under surveillance for a month before hand. Other reports of a similar nature come to light across the country.

May 28. A Civil Liberties march in Central London is apparently hijacked by militant extremists, bent on a riot, who instigate things by hurling rocks and molotov cocktail fire-bombs at Police that escort the up until then peaceful march. One policeman and two police women are burnt to death when their patrol car explodes, after one such bomb detonates the fuel tank of the car. Riot Police storm the march indiscriminately, putting down whoever gets in their way.

In the circumstances, the press response is restrained, and well judged. Five officers will eventually be prosecuted for Manslaughter. All will be acquitted by the Jury at Crown Court.

JUNE

Jun 15. A band of very media-conscious Eco-protestors demonstrating about the construction of a new motorway linking Sheffield to the M1, occupy the main construction site eight miles from the outskirts of Sheffield. - this time with the added crowd puller of a home-built fuel-air-explosive device, which they claim, will be detonated the moment anyone tries to remove then from the site. A stand-off develops between the protestors and the Police.

Jun 17. The Police surrender authority of the scene to the Army's elite counter-terrorist unit, the Special Air Service. Remarkably, only one shot is fired, and even more remarkably, no-one is injured or killed. Eighty-three arrests are made.

In a news briefing held four hours after the situation is resolved, Army bomb-disposal experts show the home-made bomb to the press. The bomb could, it is claimed, have levelled the one-acre site, and created a crater some ten feet deep, and eighty feet across. No mention is made as to how the device was neutralised, but suspicion falls on the one shot that was heard. mention is made in the media about a highly-skilled SAS sniper. All questions on the matter are declined with the usual "I cannot confirm or deny" style statements.

Jun 21. Welsh Nationalist extremists link-up with Scottish Nationalist extremists in eco-terrorism — threatening to 'destroy' the Millennium Tower in Greenwich, their demand is for Parliament to grant complete and unconditional Welsh and Scottish independence (not just 'home rule', as granted by earlier Acts of Parliament) within a year.

JULY

AUGUST

Aug 20. The IRA announce a fresh campaign against 'military targets' in mainland UK. Security sources approached by the media claim that never in the terrorists' history, have they had so many 'Active Service Units' on English soil.

JUNE

Jun 8. An AIDS research company is car-bombed by a sect of fundamentalist (not to mention somewhat Racist) Christians, who claim that AIDS is a weapon of God on the Godless immoralists like homosexuals, Jews, and Blacks.... the institute, in Camden, is later demolished due to safety worries over the now weakened structure of the building. Eighty people are temporarily out of work off due to this.

JULY

Jul 18. A Letter bomb is intercepted by Post Office workers at the Mount Pleasant sorting office in the West End, on its way to the Indian Embassy. While the sender is not known, it is thought to be the work of either Cashmiri, Hindu, or Sikh extremists.

AUGUST

August 10. Millwall Football Club, after an almost miraculous recovery in its fortunes, makes it to the UEFA cup final. But their opponents turn out to be Bayern Munich, and Germany — and indeed the rest of UEFA refuse to host the match, fearing crowd trouble. Millwall host it, and no fans are permitted.

Aug 22. In answer to the Prime Minister's statement in the House of Commons the previous day, a 2000 kilogram bomb is detonated on the outskirts of Manchester Airport, destroying the end of a runway, and vital radio-direction equipment. The airport is closed for a week, until extensive repairs are completed.

They gather anyway, and the area of Waterloo — where the Bayern Munich fans come into London off the Eurostar train, is turned into an urban warfare-like zone. Riot police move in, and for 13 hours chaos reins.

Aug 21. In a packed House of Commons 'Prime Minister's Question Time', the Prime Minister is bombarded by questions relating to the new declaration by the IRA.

He states that the Security Services are on full alert, and that while there were some in the services that might believe that the IRA is stronger than ever, that the Police and security services would apprehend all those bent on using "the bomb and the gun" instead of the Ballot Box.

SEPTEMBER

Sep 5. An attack by the IRA (a drive-by shooting) on a Royal Air Force recruiting office in Blackpool leaves three dead. One RAF Officer, and two civilians, both school children.

The outcry for swift action against the terrorists, as well as across-the-board political party condemnation of the attack, is carried by every newspaper and television media operator in the UK.

SEPTEMBER

Sep 1. In the run up to the new millennium, The Mayor of London announces a competition for a member of the public to open the Millennium Tower in Greenwich.

The competition, open to all residents of London, priced at one Ecu per ticket, will be drawn on Christmas Eve.

The press laughs at the competition, claiming that the price will assist the builders to add lighting to the Dome.

OCTOBER

Oct 3. A media circus, baying for blood, rose, following the acquittal at the Central Criminal Court in London, of a bodyguard accused of actual bodily harm.

George Sanders, an employee of Securitech (UK) Ltd. whose in-house legal team defended him in court, was the close protection officer assigned to a genetic scientist, who was living under the threat of death following a campaign of fear and intimidation by Animal Rights extremists; the Police had refused to assign any Police protection, claiming the threat was 'minimal'.

Sanders, a bodyguard licensed to carry guns on duty under the new 'Private Contracts Firearms (Licensing and Permits) Act 1998', also carried a collapsing metal baton — called an Asp — as well as his issued 10mm pistol.

OCTOBER

Oct 4. The Sanders case at the Old Bailey results in a rise in Close Protection courses and operations at BlackEagle London.

Operatives are borrowed from the Brussels office at very short notice to cope with the influx of contracts and courses.

Not all the contracts require armed operatives, which is just as well — the paperwork required to arm a BlackEagle operative in the UK takes over three months to process!

While acting as the scientist's bodyguard in North England, a man attacked the scientist. Finding that the attacker of his principle was armed only with a baseball bat, Sanders used his Asp, and broke three of the attacker's bones. The police later arrested Sanders, charged him, and took him to a magistrates' court, which referred the case to the Central Criminal Court (The 'Old Bailey').

At court, it emerged that Sanders had at first attempted to take the bat from the attacker, before being attacked himself, whereupon he used the Asp to stop the attack on both his principle and himself. The prosecution had argued that while Sanders was licensed to carry the gun on duty, he wasn't licensed to carry the Asp. The judge, Martin Owens, Q.C., ordered a verdict of Not Guilty entered, stating that it was better that the bodyguard used his head and injure the attacker, rather than kill him — as he was enabled to under the Act — and thus keep his gun in it's holster. While he did not approve of the Act, and did not completely approve of Sanders acts, he did find that it was better that Sanders not kill the attacker, and thus found in his favour.

It also emerged in court that the attacker was a well known anti-blood-sports extremist, and had conviction for, amongst other things, Grievous Bodily Harm, common assault, theft, and stalking. He was jailed in an earlier trial for the attack on the scientist.

Following Sanders' trial, the Crown prosecution team released a statement, which stated that while the prosecution was disappointed with the result, it would not be taking any further actions against Sanders.

The media has had a field day with this, as have the anti-guns lobbies, and the pro-guns lobbies. Arguments on both sides have dominated the national news for several days.

Independent experts in the Close Protection field, quoted in national newspapers and the television news media, have stated that this landmark case, a precedent in legal terms — means that bodyguards can now carry pretty much what they like, with no fear of conviction in similar circumstances, much to the delight of the industry, of course. Even so, banned equipment, like CS sprays, still remain weapons for the use of the police and military.

NOVEMBER

Nov 9. The annual remembrance Parades are marred by another terrorist attack in Portsmouth. A bomb, callously planted within the crowd of the parade route, detonates, killing eight, and injuring scores more. A Loyalist organisation, the 'Official Ulster Volunteer Force', claims responsibility, this time, not the IRA.

DECEMBER

Dec 18. Celebrations to mark the millennium start early in most parts of the country, as businesses close for their Christmas break early, to prepare.

A party mood pervades the population of the UK.

Dec 31. As the nation parties hard, and the media reviews 1999 — and the rest of the century, for that matter —in detail in the run-up to the new year, many are left wondering if the new year — and the new century — will result in a better time for the human race....

NOVEMBER

Nov 6. The annual fireworks display in commemoration of the Guy Fawkes plot to blow up Parliament result in a larger bang than expected at the Crystal Palace show, in south east London, organised by the local Council. Anti-war protesters mine the massive pyre, which blows up. No-one is injured, but panic ensues, and the hospitals in the area are swamped with cases of panic-induced injuries, including four heart attacks, eight car accidents, and numerous cuts, bruises, and broken bones. The police arrest the culprits a week later.

DECEMBER

Dec 20. Warnings about the infamous 'Millennium Bug' that could crash hundreds of computer systems come the turn of the century are again sounded — and again, for the most part, ignored, following remedial action by just about every large business in the previous two years. In any event, the action to be taken is limited by the fact that most have already closed for Christmas and the New Year celebrations. Even Central Government seems to have packed up early!

Dec 24. The Mayor of London officiates at the draw to open the Millennium Dome/Tower (located in Greenwich); an eight year-old girl wins, and the media —for once — respect her privacy, after the press conference that afternoon.

The authors would like to take this opportunity to thank [Neil de Carteret](#) for his idea about the licensing of firearms and bodyguards in Millennium's End, voiced on the Millennium's End mailing list, and reproduced (with workable amendments!) in this e-book.

Street Maps of London...

Most - if not all - maps of the UK, including street maps, are largely based on the Ordnance Survey maps, which are Crown Copyright.

Until very recently, this has caused massive problems in adding map imagery to this site. H.M. Ordnance Survey (at <http://www.ordsvy.gov.uk/>) have just added a damned useful - and free - service, called the Get-A-Map service (at <http://www.ordsvy.gov.uk/getamap/index.html>).

Some of the maps you've seen in this sourcebook have been based, with the very kind permission of H. M. Ordnance Survey, on their Get-a-map service, and for this, I am very grateful. Well done, folks!

I've included another link here, for street map-level imagery. The link takes you to UK Streetmaps, a site that supplies images from the Bartholomew map company, via Harper Collins publishing. It's not only got London street maps, though - it's got most of the UK on it's databases! For Central London, follow this link (<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/streetmap.dll?grid2map?X=530250&Y=180750&arrow=n&zoom=10>), which will give you an image of slightly less than one megabyte (!), which I'd suggest you save; from there, you can chose which street to view, and go to this link (<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/>), to request the image you want.

If you have any problems using these links, let me know immediately! Note that you DO need to know a few things before looking for a map. Either the UK National Grid (two letters and six digits, called the Landranger Grid), the street name, or the street maps place name (as logged on their database). Either way, enjoy the ride!

British Rail in London...

Thus far, I've not been able to find maps of an acceptable quality to place here, or to link to. When this changes, I'll fix that. However, you'll find that the site above, UK Streetmaps (<http://www.streetmap.co.uk/>), has locations of the British Rail stations on the maps it provides, although rather cluttered in places. Not, then, a complete loss!

The London Underground...

London is served by an very extensive underground railway system, collectively called the **London Underground**. Since most details on this system are copyright London Transport, all I can do at this time is provide a link (<http://www.londontransport.co.uk/home.html>) to their site, where you can download the map(s) to the system, and discover more about it.

NOTE that the Jubilee Line extension project will only just have been opened by mid-1999 (in this particular universe, anyhow!).

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Recommended reading

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