The contacts he made enabled the author to navigate and gain access to classified intelligence services archives. Since working directly as a foreign affairs and defence specialist, Andrew Cook has worked as a professional historian in colleges and universities. He lives in Bedfordshire. It took many years to research and a large number of people were involved in the project from inception to completion.

In the pursuit of source material, I am much indebted to ministers and former ministers for whom I have previously worked, for their advice concerning access to UK records. Also to Eurotech Ltd for their sterling work in translating the masses of source material from Russian, German and French into English. There are equally a number of individuals I would like to thank for their help, but cannot name for reasons of protocol.

However, they are already aware of my gratitude and have been thanked in person. Last, but certainly not least, my thanks Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly to my editor Joanna Lincoln and to my publisher Jonathan Reeve for his support, enthusiasm and advice throughout.

Since then, the first edition has been reprinted in this country and translated into several foreign editions. When the idea of writing a revised and updated second edition was suggested by my publisher Jonathan Reeve, I saw it as an ideal opportunity to follow up several further lines of enquiry that were still outstanding at the time of submitting the manuscript for the first edition.

Another mystery concerning his involvement in a crime that forced him to flee from France to England in is also solved thanks to new research in France by Michel Ameuw. Scale, the intelligence officer who recruited Reilly to the Secret Intelligence Service better known today as MI6 is These previously unpublished accounts not only provide a glimpse of their personal relationships with Reilly but give a unique insight into the secret life he was living in Russia during the spring and summer of Taken together, these and other new sources, many of which are published in this book for the first time, make a unique contribution to this definitive work of reference on the life of the Ace of Spies, Sidney Reilly.

Little did he know the phenomenon he was about to create when he sat down behind his typewriter on the morning of 15 January to start the first chapter of Casino Royale. In reality, Fraser-Smith provided the intelligence services with a range of fascinating and ingenious gadgets such as compasses hidden inside golf balls and shoelaces that concealed saw blades. He also exercised a Bond-like fascination for women, his many love affairs standing comparison with the amorous adventures of Unlike James Bond, though, Sidney Reilly was by no stretch of the imagination a conventionally handsome man.

His appeal lay more in the elusive qualities of charm and charisma. He was, however, equally capable of being cold. Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly menacing. Like Corleone, the equally calculating Reilly had a powerful hold over women — or, at least, a particular kind of woman — which he never failed to exploit. But who was Sidney Reilly and what were the forces that drove him? To lovers, friends and enemies alike, Reilly remained a mystery.

In spite of the many books that have been written about him, often themselves making contrary claims, major questions still remain unanswered about his true identity, place of birth and the precise facts surrounding his disappearance and death. During his life Reilly laid an almost impenetrable fog of mystery and deception around his origins as he adopted and shed one identity after another.

Those who entered this ruthlessly compartmentalised life knew only what Reilly himself had told them. Over a century of falsehood and fantasy, both deliberate and intentional, has obscured the real Sidney Reilly.

To piece together an accurate picture of his extraordinary life it has been necessary to shed all preconceptions and to return to square one, starting from scratch in gathering together as many primary sources as possible.

The ability to draw on many classified, restricted and hitherto unpublished sources in Britain, Canada, Germany, Japan, Poland, Ukraine and the United States has helped this task immeasurably. Their help in particular has provided many of the missing pieces in the jigsaw of his life, and revealed for the first time how he was propelled at the age of twenty-five into the life of an international adventurer.

Of Newhaven there is little to say, except that in rough weather the traveller from England is very glad to leave it behind. These rather unflattering words were written by the travel writer E. Lucas in However, it is often in unremarkable places such as this that some of the most remarkable things happen.

Incorporated into the design of Newhaven Harbour Station, the imposing three-storey stucco building was luxuriously furnished with thirty bedrooms and was everything the discerning Victorian traveller could possibly want or expect.

It was here, at the quayside platform on the afternoon of Friday 11 March that a sixty-three-year-old invalid was helped down from the train into his wheelchair. Accompanied by his nurse, Anna Gibson, the Reverend Hugh Thomas proceed to the reception desk to announce his arrival.

He and the nurse had booked two rooms up to and including Monday 14 March, when his twenty-four-year-old wife, Margaret, was due to arrive from London. The three would then take the Despite the trappings of her social status, Margaret may well have felt that a part of her life was somehow empty. It was almost certainly her need for attention and affection that ultimately led her to respond to the overtures of Sigmund Rosenblum, of the Ozone Preparations Company.

Indeed, it was at the Manor House, in the summer of that Thomas introduced Rosenblum to Margaret. Although a passport was not as necessary as it is today for foreign travel, to enter Russia, Hugh and Margaret Thomas would most certainly have required one.

British passport records show, however, that the Thomases never at any time applied for, or were ever granted, passports for Russia. Whose idea this Egyptian holiday was we do not know. Shortly before their departure, Margaret arranged an appointment for Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly husband and herself to visit a local solicitor.
The Will itself declared the following: I direct that my funeral and testamentary expenses and debts be paid. I give devise and bequeath to my said wife for her own absolute use and benefit all my real estate and the residue of my personal estate and all the property over which I have any power to dispose of and whereas in the event of issue being born to me aforesaid and I give devise and bequeath the same to my wife accordinally for her own absolute use and benefit. Arriving at Newhaven Harbour Station during the late afternoon, their trunks were put into storage and the hand luggage taken to their adjoining rooms.

No one had knowledge of the true story of Sidney Reilly, and to tell the full story of the Carew case, with its many twists and turns, would require a book in its own right. By methodically searching the Clerkenwell census returns for two-year-old girls by the name of Anna, we find only one such candidate — Anna Gibson. As this Anna Gibson was not born in London, let alone Clerkenwell, we must either assume an error or omission in the records or that, for whatever reason, Anna misled the family about her name, age or place of birth.

According to Thomas family records, Miss Anna Gibson was a twenty-eight-year-old born in Clerkenwell, London, who joined the household in March. This would mean that her date of birth would have been somewhere between March and April. However, it is unlikely that Anna Gibson could have plotted the demise of Hugh Thomas without the assistance and complicity of Margaret Thomas.

If nature had allowed the event to take its course, would the child have become entitled to certain real estate and personal estate? Would the police have harboured any suspicions about the purpose of his visits and his relationship with Margaret Thomas? Would the police have carried out any checks on the accuracy of Dr. T. Andrew's medical records? Would the police have carried out any checks on the accuracy of Dr. T. Andrew's medical records?

Luke, daughter of William and Elizabeth Luke. In Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly, on 22 October, Walter Carew died of arsenic poisoning, and his wife was arrested amid a storm of publicity. Was this perhaps a reference to her involvement in the death of her first husband?
The planning and execution of the Thomas murder had all the hallmarks of the skillful cunning, deceit and daring that, if ever there was such a thing as a perfect murder, this is surely a prime candidate. The marriage brought not only the wealth he desired but provided the pretext for the fulfillment of his second major ambition, to discard Sigmund Rosenblum and assume the identity that was to bring him such notoriety: that of Sidney Reilly.

This new and plausible identity was, as we shall see later, Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly key to achieving his desire to return to the land of his birth. He was, at different times, the son of: an Irish sea captain; an Irish clergyman; or a Russian aristocrat.

**Sidney Reilly: The Ace Of Spies**

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He and the nurse had booked two rooms up to and including Monday 14 March, when his twenty-four-year-old wife, Margaret, was due to arrive from London. The three would then take the Despite the trappings of her social status, Margaret may well have felt that a part of her life was somehow empty. It was almost certainly her need for attention and affection that ultimately led her to respond to the overtures of Sigmund Rosenblum, of the Ozone Preparations Company.

Hugh Thomas and Sigmund Rosenblum first met in Thomas, a sufferer from Bright's Disease, a chronic inflammation of the kidneys, was one of many who succumbed to the siren voice of the patent medicines popular at the time, peddled by companies such as Ozone Preparations Company as offering miracle cures.

These companies' claims were greater than those of conventional medicine, who only prescribed bed rest, a low protein diet, massive doses of Jalap, and blood letting — the attraction of patent medicines to sufferers such as Thomas was obvious.

Indeed, it was at Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly Manor House, in the summer of that Thomas introduced Rosenblum to Margaret. It has been claimed that the Thomases first met Sigmund Rosenblum in Russia, during a tour of Europe they undertook in It has been claimed, too, that Margaret's relationship with Rosenblum developed as he accompanied them Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly hotel to hotel on a melodramatic journey back to England.

The facts, however, tell a very different story. Although a passport was not as necessary as it is today for foreign travel, to enter Russia, Hugh and Margaret Thomas would most certainly have required one. British passport records show, however, that the Thomases never at any time applied for, or were ever granted, passports for Russia.

Furthermore, Thomas household records make no reference to any foreign trips or holidays undertaken in although in December of that year, plans were made for a holiday in Egypt the following March. Whose idea this Egyptian holiday was we do not know. Whether these plans were made with a straightforward holiday in mind or something a good deal more sinister is very much dependent upon one's interpretation of the evidence.

What we do know, however, is that the planning, arrangements and bookings were made by Margaret, as Thomas Cook records show. Shortly before their departure, Margaret arranged an appointment for her husband and herself to visit a local solicitor. The Will itself declared the following. I direct that my funeral and testamentary expenses and debts be paid. I give devise and bequeath to my said wife for her own absolute use and benefit all my real estate and the residue of my personal estate Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly all the property over which I have any power of disposition and whereas in the event of issue being born to me of my said wife Margaret such issue will under the Will of my late uncle, Hugh Thomas of Trevor Anglesey aforesaid become entitled to certain real estate and personal estate.

Now I hereby declare that the gift devise and bequest to my said wife here in before contained shall include all real and personal estate which I may have power to dispose of as heir at law or next of kin of any such issue as aforesaid and I give devise and bequeath the same to my wife accordingly for her own absolute use and benefit. Arriving at Newhaven Harbour Station during the late afternoon, their trunks were put into storage and the hand luggage taken to their adjoining rooms.

Little did Hugh Thomas know, as he retired to bed early, that he had less than twelve hours left to live. Saturday 12 March was a cold and wet day and the Reverend Thomas and his nurse were confined to the hotel.

He retired to bed shortly Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly It was early the following morning that John Simmons knocked on the door of the Reverend Thomas's room; being an invalid, he had ordered breakfast to be served in his room. Getting no reply to his knocking, Simmons used his key to open the door.

Inside the room was dark and seemingly all was normal. Having seen a good number of slumbering guests in the three years he had worked at the hotel, Simmons' instinct quickly told him that something was not as it should be. He therefore rushed from the room to alert the hotel manager,
Alfred Lewis. It took a further half-hour before Lewis telephoned the Newhaven police to report that the Reverend Hugh Thomas had been found dead in bed.

This was probably because his first reaction was to summon the Reverend's nurse and a doctor, who by chance was also staying at the hotel, having arrived late the previous evening. Andrew examined the body of Hugh Thomas and spent some time talking with Anna Gibson, the nurse, before advising Lewis that the death was the result of heart failure.

Hugh Thomas's body was taken to a Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly of Rest, and it may well have surprised the undertaker that, on her arrival the next day, Margaret voiced her intention to have her husband taken back to his place of birth in Anglesey for burial, rather than to London. What might have surprised him even more was the speed at which Mrs Thomas wanted the arrangements made. Eight to ten days was not an unusual period of time from death to burial in yet Margaret wanted a funeral on Wednesday 16 March, which gave the undertaker a mere day and a half to carry out the Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly rituals, make a coffin and convey the body to its final resting place in Llansadwrn Church Yard.

Not surprisingly, Hugh Thomas's death caught the attention of the local press, much to the concern of Alfred Lewis, the hotel manager, who no doubt resented the unwelcome attention such a story brought to his hotel. It is interesting to note that one journalist referred in his account Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly the fact that a 'young medical man having been able to certify the cause of death, it was not deemed necessary to hold an inquest'. If Henry Lloyd Carter, Hugh Thomas's solicitor and co-executor of the Will, had any doubts arising from the fact that the Reverend had expired within nine days of writing the Will, or indeed the fact that he was buried within three days of his sudden death, he did not say so publicly, and possibly did not even consider the issue of motive. The police would therefore have wanted to establish a more precise cause of death. They would have wanted to interview the Reverend Thomas's own doctor about his general state of health, and most certainly Dr Andrew.

It would have been at this point that what began as a routine enquiry would have turned into something more serious, for they would quickly have discovered that no Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly person as Dr T. Andrew MRCS actually existed. The Royal College of Surgeons, with whom Andrew claimed membership, would have confirmed that no one of that name was a member. The police would then have wanted to interview the Reverend's own doctor about his general state of health, and most certainly Dr Andrew.

The General Medical Council would have consulted its register, which listed all doctors authorised to practice medicine in Great Britain. Andrew MRCS would have been found there either. Andrew on the register. They would have found that this sixty-one-year-old doctor from Doune in Perthshire had not crossed the border into England during the entire thirty-six years that he had been practising medicine. Besides which, it would have been very obvious that this elderly Scotsman could not possibly have been the 'young medical man' referred to by the Sussex Express or the man recalled by Louisa Lewis, the daughter of the hotel manager.

In light of this disturbing development, the police would have proceeded to interview Margaret Thomas, Anna Gibson, other members of the below-stairs household, and friends and acquaintances of the Thomases.

They would also have taken steps to have the body of Hugh Thomas exhumed to confirm the cause of death. From what is known of Margaret's personality, she would probably have held up well under the pressure of questioning. It is likely, however, that others interviewed would have mentioned a Mr Rosenblum and the fact that he was a regular visitor to the Thomases, both at Upper Westbourne Terrace and at the Manor, Kingsbury.

Would the police have harboured any suspicions about the purpose of his visits and his relationship with Margaret Thomas? Would the fact that Sigmund Rosenblum was a consultant chemist, and a Fellow of the Institute of Chemistry and the Chemical Society, with easy access to drugs, further fuel their suspicions?

Would the police have made a connection between the 'young medical man' and the young chemist? The police may well have stumbled on the fact that the twenty-five-year-old Rosenblum had been in the country for a little over two years and was 'known' to Scotland Yard's Special Branch. Of course, no such investigation ever took place, much to Sigmund Rosenblum's very great fortune. However, looking at all the available evidence, what can we conclude was the likely chain of events over the weekend of Hugh Thomas's death?

Assuming that Thomas's death was not a convenient and timely coincidence, we must consider the issues of motive, method, and opportunity. For Sigmund Rosenblum, Hugh Thomas was an inconvenient obstacle who stood between him and the achievement of two major ambitions. With Thomas's death, Margaret would not only become a widow but a very rich widow, and by marrying Margaret, Rosenblum would achieve at least one ambition and effectively gain control of her new fortune.

Rosenblum's second ambition, the achievement of a new identity, would also benefit from this marriage. A further motivational clue in terms of the timing of Thomas's death is possibly concealed within his Will. Fourteen innocuous words raise a scenario never before suggested — 'in the event of issue being born to me of my said wife Margaret'. Was this merely wishful thinking on the part of a sixty-three-year-old man with Bright's Disease, or were his words motivated by the fact that Margaret was already pregnant?
According to London lawyers Kingsford, Stacey, Blackwell, who studied the contents of the Will, this passage is very significant as, 'it is not a standard clause or a clause that would have been included in error, as it refers to his issue receiving a share of the estate of his uncle which is quite specific'. If Margaret was pregnant, it is more likely to be by Rosenblum than Hugh Thomas. If nature had been allowed to take its course, the child may well have betrayed its paternity.

After all, as Gordon BrookShepherd pointed out in his book Iron Maze, Reilly himself was someone whose Jewish heritage was, 'written in capital letters on his face'. Had the child's parentage been equally obvious, Margaret would surely have been divorced and cut off without a penny, hardly a scenario that she or Rosenblum would have welcomed.

If Margaret had found herself pregnant in late the forthcoming holiday might well Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly presented the perfect cover for Thomas's death.

Furthermore, it is unlikely that Rosenblum could have plotted the demise of Hugh Thomas without the assistance and connivance of Margaret. Margaret was by this time very much under Rosenblum's spell and very much in love with him, as evidenced by anecdotal accounts from, among others, British diplomat HM Vice-Consul Durrell Wilson see Chapter Five.

Assuming that Thomas had been suffering from Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly Disease for some eight years, Rosenblum may well have decided to use the symptoms of the disease as a convenient cover for slow and progressive arsenic poisoning, the results of which would appear very similar to those of Bright's Disease.

Both progressive arsenic poisoning and Bright's Disease would have resulted in a swelling of the limbs, especially the legs, caused by fluid retention; a loss of appetite; and blood in the urine. The poison could have been administered progressively through the patent medicine he was supplying to Hugh Thomas.

Equally, Margaret could also have administered it on Rosenblum's instructions through food and drink. If we assume that Rosenblum was at the hotel in the guise of Dr T. Andrew, he would not have wanted to risk being seen by or in the vicinity of Hugh Thomas, or risk direct involvement in administering the fatal dose. With Rosenblum keeping a low profile and Margaret sixty miles away in London, we must take a closer look at Anna Gibson who, after all, was best placed in terms of opportunity, being Thomas's Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly and occupying the neighbouring room.

According to Thomas family Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly, Miss Anna Gibson was a twenty-eight-year-old born in Clerkenwell, London, who joined the household in March. This would mean that her date of birth would have been somewhere between March and April. An exhaustive search of birth records for an Anna Gibson during that period reveal only one person of that name, who was born in Blofield in Norfolk.

As this Anna Gibson was not born in London, let alone Clerkenwell, we must either assume an error or omission in the records or that, for whatever reason, Anna missed the family about her name, age or place of birth.

The nearest national census to Anna's year of birth was

**Reilly, Ace of Spies - Wikipedia**

**Empire of Japan** [2]. Reilly disappeared in Soviet Russia in the mids, and British diplomat and journalist R. Bruce Lockhart publicised their operation to overthrow the Bolshevik regime.

The memoirs retold by Reilly, Lockhart, and other conspirators to sabotage the Bolshevik revolution while still in its infancy. The world press made Reilly into a household name within five years of his execution by Soviet agents inlauding him as a peerless spy and recounting his many espionage adventures. Newspapers dubbed him "the greatest spy in history" and "the Scarlet Pimpernel of Red Russia". The true details about Reilly's origin, identity, and exploits have eluded researchers and intelligence agencies for more than a century.

Reilly himself told several versions of his background to confuse and Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly investigators. His father was a doctor and shipping agent, according to this dossier, while his mother came from an impoverished noble family. His father was known locally as George rather than Gregory, hence Sigmund's patronymic Georgievich.

According to reports of the tsarist political police the OkhranaRosenblum was arrested in for political activities and for being a courier for a revolutionary group known as the Friends of Enlightenment. He escaped judicial punishment, and he later was friends with Okhrana agents such as Alexander Nikolayev Grammatikov, [29] and these details might indicate that he was a police informant even at this young age. After Reilly's release, his father told him that his mother was dead and that his biological father was her Jewish doctor Mikhail A.

Fothergill rewarded his bravery with 1, pounds, a British passport, and passage to Britain, where Pedro became Sidney Rosenblum. However, the record of evidence contradicts this tale of Brazil. One anarchist's throat was cut, the other was named Constant Della Cassa, who died from knife wounds in Fontainebleau Hospital three days later. A dramatic event occurred on a train between Paris and Fontainebleau. On opening the door of one of the coaches, the railway staff discovered an unfortunate passenger lying unconscious in the middle of a pool of blood.

His throat had been cut and his body bore the marks of numerous knife wounds. Terrified at the sight, the station staff hastened to inform the special investigator who started preliminary enquiries and sent the wounded man Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly the hospital in Fontainebleau. Police learned that the physical description of one assailant matched Rosenblum's, but he was already en route to Britain.

His accomplice Voitek later told British intelligence officers about this incident and other dealings with Rosenblum. The couple developed a rapport
and began a sexual liaison, [35] and he told her about his past in Russia. After the affair concluded, they continued to correspond.

He later returns to Europe and becomes involved with Italian anarchists and other revolutionaries. For decades, certain biographers had dismissed the Reilly-Boole liaison as unsubstantiated. Reilly continued to go by the name Rosenblum, living at the Albert Mansions, an apartment block in Rosetta Street, Waterloo, London in early Melville later oversaw a special section of the British Secret Service Bureau founded in Thomas introduced Rosenblum to his wife at his manor house, and they began having an affair.

On 4 March Thomas altered his will and appointed Margaret as an executrix; he was found dead in his room on 12 March; just a week after the new will was made. Andrew, whose physical description matched that of Rosenblum, appeared to certify Thomas's death as Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly hours after his death. The Metropolitan Police did not investigate Dr. Andrew, nor did they investigate the nurse whom Margaret had hired, who was previously linked to the arsenic poisoning of a former employer.

The marriage not only brought the wealth which Rosenblum desired but provided a pretext to discard his identity of Sigmund Rosenblum; with Melville's assistance, he crafted a new identity: "Sidney George Reilly". This new identity was key to achieving his desire to return to the Russian Empire and voyage to the Far East. As tensions between Russia and Japan were escalating towards war, Motojiro had at his disposal a budget of one million yen provided by the Japanese Ministry of War to obtain information on the movements of Russian troops and naval developments.

Petersburg Reilly allegedly reconnoitred the Caucasus for its oil deposits and compiled a resource prospectus as part of "The Great Game". He reported his findings to the British Government which paid him for the assignment. By purchasing and reselling enormous amounts of foodstuffs, raw materials, medicine, and coal, they made a small fortune as war profiteers. Reilly would have an even greater success in January when he and Chinese engineer acquaintance Ho Liang Shung allegedly stole the Port Arthur harbour defence plans for the Japanese Navy.

However, the stolen plans did not help the Japanese much. Despite ideal conditions for a surprise attack, their combat results were relatively poor. Although more than 31, Russians ultimately perished defending Port Arthur, Japanese losses were much higher, and these losses nearly undermined their war effort.

During the brief time Reilly spent in Paris he renewed his close acquaintance with William Melville [d] whom Reilly had last seen just prior to his departure from London. In the Board of the Admiralty projected that petroleum would coal as the primary source of fuel for the Royal Navy.

Cook speculates that it was Reilly's intelligence chief, William Melville, a British intelligence officer, Henry Curtis Bennett, who undertook the D'Arcy assignment. Petersburg Russia. The plane's engine was alleged to have used a new type of magneto that was far ahead of other designs.

Reilly and a British SIS agent posing as one of the exhibition pilots diverted the attention of spectators while they removed the magneto from the wreck and substituted another. In the German Kaiser Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly expanding the war machine of Imperial Germany, Reilly would have even greater success in January when he and a British intelligence officer, Henry Curtis Bennett, undertook the assignment. Petersburg Russia. The plane's engine was alleged to have used a new type of magneto that was far ahead of other designs.

Reilly set about using them to locate the plans. In when the German Kaiser Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly expanding the war machine of Imperial Germany, Reilly had scoured knowledge regarding the types of weapons being forged inside Germany's war plants. At the behest of British intelligence, Reilly was sent to obtain the plans for the weapons.

Having prepared his cover identity by learning to weld at a Sheffield engineering firm, [66] Reilly obtained a low-level position as a welder at the Krupp Gun Works plant in Essen. Soon he joined the plant fire brigade and persuaded its foreman that a set of plant schematics were needed to indicate the position of fire extinguishers and hydrants. These schematics were soon lodged in the foreman's office for members of the fire brigade to consult, and Reilly set about using them to locate the plans.

In the early morning hours, Reilly picked the lock of the office where the plans were kept and was discovered by the foreman whom he then strangled before completing the theft. From Essen, Reilly took a train to a safe house in Dortmund.

Tearing the plans into four pieces, he mailed each separately so that if one were lost, the other three would still reveal the essence of the plans. In April, Reilly returned to St. Petersburg where he assumed the role of a wealthy businessman and helped to form the Wings Aviation Club. He resumed his friendship with Alexander Grammatikov who was an Okhrana agent and a fellow member of the club. Spence, claims that during this assignment Reilly learned "le systeme" from Zaharoff—the strategy of playing all sides against each other to maximise financial profit.

Historian Christopher Andrew notes that "Reilly spent most of the first two and a half years of the war in the United States". Spence states that Reilly lived in New York City for at least a year, — 15, where he engaged in arranging munitions sales to the Imperial German Army and its enemy the Imperial Russian Army.

Faced with unexpected financial hardship, Reilly sought to resume his paid intelligence work for the British government while in New York City. This is confirmed by papers of Norman Thwaites, MI1c. Head of Station in New York, [78] which contain evidence that Reilly approached Thwaites seeking espionage-related work in — Thwaites was sufficiently impressed with Reilly's intelligence work in New York that he wrote a letter of recommendation to Mansfield Cumminghead of MI1c.

It was also Thwaites who recommended that Reilly first visit Toronto to obtain a military commission which is why Reilly enlisted in the Royal Canadian Flying Corps.

Thus Reilly arrived on Russian soil Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly Murmansk prior to 5 April. In behind-the-scenes helpers such as
Sidney Reilly, the erstwhile Russian double agent who was operating Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly Britain's behalf, were involved in the formulation and execution of various attempts to snatch both Russia and the [Romanov family] from the Bolsheviks.

The attempt to assassinate Vladimir Lenin and to depose the Bolshevik government is considered by biographers to be Reilly's most daring exploit. In January, the youthful Lockhart—a mere junior member of the British Foreign Office—had been personally handpicked by British Prime Minister David Lloyd George to undertake a sensitive diplomatic mission to Soviet Russia.

He began to agitate in diplomatic cables for an immediate full-scale Allied military intervention in Russia. Lockhart and Reilly supported these factions with SIS funds. Constantine, a Turkish merchant who was actually Reilly. As Berzin's Latvian Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly deemed the Praetorian Guard of the Bolsheviks and entrusted with the security of both Lenin and the Kremlin the Allied plotters believed their participation in the pending coup to be vital.

With the Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly of the Latvian Rifleman, the Allied agents hoped to "seize both Lenin and Trotsky at a meeting to take place in the first week of September".

Reilly arranged a meeting between Lockhart and the Latvians at the British mission in Moscow. Reilly purportedly expended "over a million rubles" to bribe the Red Army troops guarding the Kremlin. As Lockhart's diplomatic status hindered his open engagement in clandestine activities, he chose to supervise such activities from afar and to delegate the actual direction of the coup to Reilly.

I had not a very high opinion of his intelligence. His knowledge covered many subjects, from politics to art, but it was superficial. On the other hand, his courage and indifference to danger were superb.

In Lockhart's estimation, Reilly was a limitless "man cast in the Napoleonic mold" and, if their counter-revolutionary coup had succeeded, "the prospect of playing a lone hand [using Berzin's Latvian Riflemen] may have inspired him with a Napoleonic design" to become the head of any new government. While Allied agents militated against the Soviet regime in Petrograd and Moscow, persistent rumors swirled of an impending Allied military intervention in Russia which would overthrow the Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly Soviet government in favor of a new regime willing to rejoin the ongoing war against the Central Powers.

Its professed objective was to prevent the German Empire from obtaining Allied military supplies stored in the region. In retaliation for this incursion, the Bolsheviks raided the British mission on 5 August, disrupting a meeting Reilly had arranged between the anti-Bolshevik Latvians, UDMF officials, and Lockhart. Hill later described Reilly as "a dark, well-groomed, very foreign-looking man" who had "an amazing grasp of the actualities of the situation" and was "a man of action".

Poole's American Consulate in Moscow. Coupled with the planned military uprising in Moscow, they believed a chronic food shortage would trigger popular unrest and further undermine the Soviet authorities. After donning a long overcoat, he fled into the city streets where he was apprehended by Red Guards after a violent shootout.

On the same day, Fanya Kaplan—a former anarchist who was now a member of the Socialist Revolutionary Party—shot and wounded Lenin as he departed the Michelson arms factory. When Lenin turned towards her, she fired three shots with a Browning pistol.

Although it is unknown Ace of Spies: The True Story of Sidney Reilly Kaplan either was part of the Ambassadors' Plot or was even responsible for the assassination attempt on Lenin, [g] the murder of Uritsky and the failed assassination of Lenin were used by Dzerzhinsky's Cheka to implicate any malcontents and foreigners in a grand conspiracy that warranted a full-scale reprisal campaign: the "Red Terror".

Using lists supplied by undercover agents, the Cheka proceeded to clear out the "nests of conspirators" in the foreign embassies and, in doing so, they arrested key figures vital to the impending coup. According to press reports, he made a valiant last stand on the first floor of the consulate armed only with a revolver.