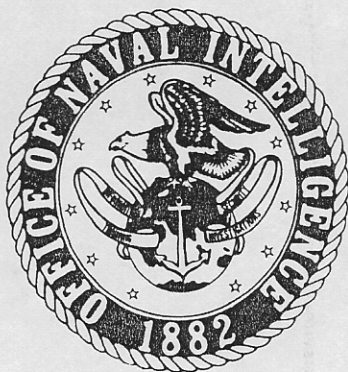


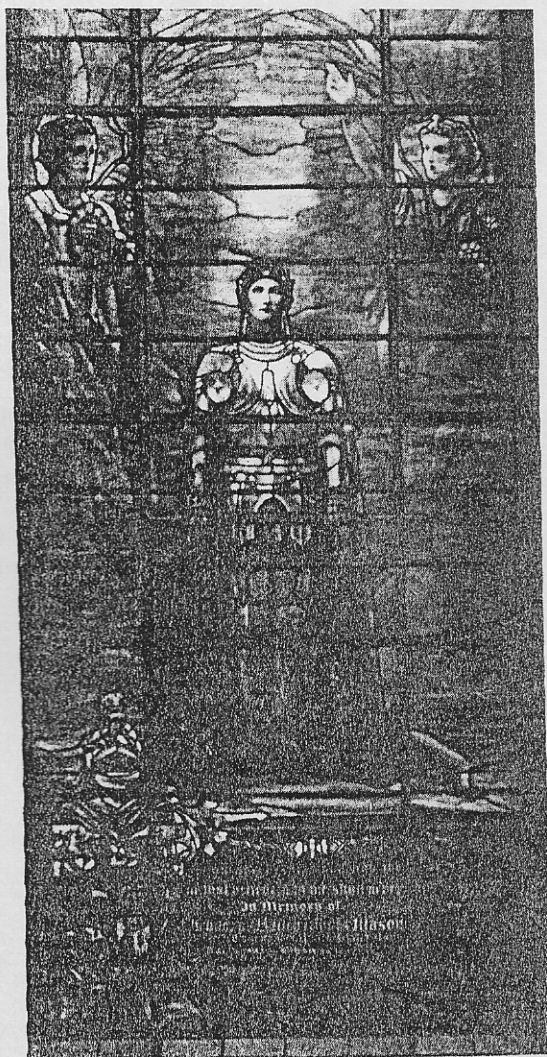
**CONFIDENTIAL**

ONI-2400-001-82  
JANUARY 1982

DECLASSIFIED



# Naval Intelligence Newsletter



## ONI CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

CLASSIFIED BY DNI  
DECLASSIFIED ON 31 JANUARY 1988

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AND 68754

**CONFIDENTIAL**

UNCLASSIFIED

III. FEATURE ARTICLE: ONI CENTENNIAL (U) by CAPT W. H. PACKARD, USN, (RET.)

A. 100th BIRTHDAY - INTRODUCTION ~~BY THE EDITOR~~ (U)

(U) As the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) reaches its 100th birthday, it is an appropriate time to look back on some of the numerous accomplishments of U.S. Naval Intelligence as well as (and in spite of) some of its problems.

(U) Accordingly, we will review some of the interesting aspects of ONI's history in the four issues of the Naval Intelligence Newsletter during this centennial year. This first article will cover briefly the establishment of ONI and then list chronologically some of the subsequent developments found in its history.

(U) Since all intelligence activities within the Navy (prior to the establishment of DIA) came under the purview of ONI, its history must take into consideration all of those activities, i.e., those with the operating forces, the Naval Attaches, District Intelligence Offices/Naval Investigative Service and Intelligence Schools. It also includes those intelligence activities under the administrative control of other Naval shore bases and offices as well as the Navy's support to Joint, Defense and USIB intelligence organizations. As is obvious from the range of its concern, the next three articles on ONI's history will only be able to touch on a few of its more significant accomplishments.

B. ESTABLISHMENT OF ONI (U)

(U) When the Office of Naval Intelligence was established by a General Order dated 23 March 1882, the Navy was in its 17th year of no new construction. It was still using ships and supplies left over from the Civil War. Other countries had observed the innovations of that war in naval construction, propulsion and weapons and were modernizing their navies accordingly. All the U.S. Navy could do was watch.

(U) Even the watching was uncoordinated. Some Navy Bureaus in the 1860s and '70s sent observers to Europe to watch developments, but the information thus gathered was jealously retained within Bureau files. When the Secretary of the Navy tried to assemble proposals for new ships, each Bureau had its own ideas. Congress refused to act on these proposals until the Navy could present plans upon which there was some unanimity.

(U) So, while other navies shifted from wooden to iron

ED

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AND GS 754



UNCLASSIFIED

hulls, from sail to steam propulsion, and from muzzle-loading, smooth bores to breech loading, rifled guns, the U.S. saved money letting others take on the expense of trying out new developments. It was getting to the point where some U.S. naval officers visiting foreign waters in their obsolete ships were embarrassed when meeting up with the modern ships of other navies.

(U) A group of "young Turks" in the U.S. Navy who didn't like what they were seeing, voiced their feelings. The U.S. Naval Institute was established in 1873, and its Proceedings became the mouthpiece of this group. One of the early Secretaries of the Institute was a LT Theodorus B. M. Mason, USN.

(U) In the late 1870s, LT Mason took extended leave-of-absence from the Navy (without pay) and spent it in Europe gathering information on naval developments and progress in naval science. When he returned in 1879, he was well prepared to rejoin those striving to induce the Navy to start rebuilding. He was also convinced that the Navy must establish official observers throughout the world and set up an office under the Secretary to correlate their reports.

(U) In 1881, the Secretary of the Navy, William H. Hunt, had established an Advisory Board made up of Bureau Chiefs to try to devise plans for a new Navy that all could adopt and support. However, the information available to the Board was that which each Bureau saw fit to make available to support its own views. Thus, being shown the weakness of the Board, Secretary Hunt was receptive to the Mason proposal, and he signed the General Order establishing ONI, but he placed it in the Bureau of Navigation rather than within his own office, probably because he knew his tenure in office was about to be terminated. Furthermore, the Chief of BUNAV, Commodore John G. Walker, was a strong advocate of the Intelligence Office.

(U) A change in administration brought in a new Secretary, William E. Chandler, and it was necessary for Mason, among others, to educate him to assure that the General Order would be implemented. Consequently, LT Mason was ordered to the Bureau of Navigation on 15 June 1882 to organize the "Office of Intelligence" and to be the first officer in charge of that office with the title of "Chief Intelligence Officer."

(U) The General Order establishing ONI combined it with the Navy Department Library,, thus providing it with basic files. The guidance for the new office, dated 25 July 1882, and signed by the Secretary of the Navy, was probably based on one of Mason's briefing papers used to sell the concept for the office. Besides

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AND GS 754

UNCLASSIFIED

defining its field of interest, it expressed the desire that its studies should be made available, as appropriate, to the Naval Institute for publication in its Proceedings. As a former Secretary of the Institute, it was obvious to Mason that such a means of dissemination would be beneficial to both ONI and the Institute.

(U) Being established by a Navy Department General Order, ONI had no legislative recognition, received no appropriated funds, and its officers were initially assigned to the Bureau of Navigation for "Special Assignment". LT M. Fisher Wright was so assigned in July 1882 and ENS Templin M. Potts arrived in February 1883. Additionally, LT A. G. Berry was borrowed (on verbal orders) from the Signal Office. These were Mason's first assistants. Secretarial help was also borrowed from other offices.

(U) One of LT Mason's early problems was to induce the various Bureaus to allow access to their files of information on foreign navies. Though the guidance to the new office directed the Bureaus to do so, they apparently ignored it until Secretary Chandler issued a specific order directed to the Bureau Chiefs on 7 October 1882.

(U) The new office was organized along functional lines, rather than geographic, to facilitate the correlation of intelligence information according to the anticipated needs of the Secretary of the Navy and the Navy Bureaus. Mason set up an index and filing system by subjects pertinent to the interests and intelligence requirements of each Bureau customer.

(U) In November 1882, LCDR French E. Chadwick, USN, was designated Naval Attache, London, and thus became ONI's first collector. So, by the end of 1882, ONI was established, a collection and processing system had been initiated, sound guidance issued, and it had enthusiastic leadership. However, its staff was inexperienced and inadequate, it had no funds, and it had plenty of problems to resolve if it was to continue to exist.

#### C. SIGNIFICANT DATES IN THE HISTORY OF ONI (U)

1885: (U) ONI assigned responsibility for War Planning. This responsibility continued until 1915 when the post of CNO was established, and a separate division of OPNAV took on the job.

(U) ONI's collection capabilities were expanded by:

(1) The establishment in November of Naval Attache, Paris, with additional accreditation to Berlin and St. Petersburg;

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AND 68754



UNCLASSIFIED

(2) Contact with merchant ship masters through Hydrographic Branch offices in various U.S. ports.

1898: (U) War was declared on Spain on 25 April. On that same day, the Superintendent of the Coast Signal Service, CAPT John R. Bartlett, USN (Ret.), reported for additional duty as relief for the Chief Intelligence Officer, CDR Richardson Clover, and so relieved him on 1 May.

(U) A Naval War Board was established on 25 April to advise the Secretary of the Navy in regard to strategic policy. It was ONI's primary customer throughout the 5 months of the war.

(U) ONI was also responsible for ciphering and deciphering cable traffic with the Naval Attaches, much of which pertained to the movement of Spanish naval forces, and reports from covert sources.

1899: (U) Congress for the first time appropriated funds (\$9,000) specifically for ONI, permitting it to hire in 1900: 5 clerks, 1 translator, 1 assistant draftsman, and 1 laborer.

1903: (U) Radios were installed aboard ship, making possible, in due course, near-real-time distribution of intelligence to naval operating commands.

1904: (U) LT Newton A. McCully, USN, was assigned as an Assistant Naval Attache to Russia to observe the Russo-Japanese War. (His report was declassified 60 years after it was written, and it was published by the Naval Institute.)

1911: (U) The title of the Head of ONI was changed from "Chief Intelligence Officer" to "Director of Naval Intelligence". This title continued thereafter except from 1945 to 1948 when it was "Chief of Naval Intelligence".

1912: (U) ONI was made responsible for the censorship of articles written for publication by naval officers and by civilian employees of the Navy Department.

1914: (U) First use by the U.S. Navy of airplanes for aerial reconnaissance; seaplanes were carried by USS MISSISSIPPI and BIRMINGHAM off Vera Cruz, Mexico.

(U) Hand held cameras were also used by naval aviators at Vera Cruz, the first use of aerial photo reconnaissance in combat by the U.S. Navy.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AND GS 754

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) With the start of World War I in July, 3 pioneer naval aviators were assigned as Assistant Naval Attaches, one to London, one to Paris and one to Berlin, to observe wartime use of aircraft.

1915: (U) With the establishment of CNO in March, ONI was designated 1 of 9 Divisions of OPNAV.

(U) ONI had 8 officers and 8 civilians at this time and could do little more than plan for improved collection and for adding counterintelligence as a responsibility, if the U.S. entered the conflict.

1916: (U) District Intelligence Officers were assigned to the staffs of each Naval District Commandant. They were called "Aides for Information". ONI became responsible for the protection of the Navy against espionage, sabotage, and subversion.

(U) ONI received its first confidential funds from Congress for collecting information at home as well as abroad. Undercover offices were set up in New York and other industrial cities of the U.S. as part of a War Information Service. The foreign part of the covert collection was the Naval Information Service to be operated from neutral countries.

1917-1918: (U) With the U.S. entry into World War I, ONI expanded so that by November 1918 it was staffed by RADM Roger Wells, Jr., (DNI), 3 other regular officers, 306 Reservists, and 18 civil servants. The accreditation of Naval Attaches increased from 8 to 18 countries.

(U) The first Marine to be assigned as a Naval Attache was LT COL J. C. Breckenridge, accredited to Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

1922: (U) The Navy's first Public Relations Office was established on 21 February, and made part of ONI. It continued until 28 April 1941 when it was shifted to the Office of the Secretary.

1925: (U) The Naval Intelligence Volunteer Service was established as part of the Naval Reserves on 28 February.

1934: (U) Upon establishment of diplomatic relations with the USSR, CAPT David R. Nimmer, USMC, was assigned as Assistant Naval Attache, Moscow, and arrived there on 7 March. No one reported as Naval Attache; so, CAPT Nimmer had the distinction of being the first Naval Attache. His difficulties in obtaining

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AND 68754



UNCLASSIFIED

any useful information from the Soviet Naval Ministry and the restrictions on his contacts and travels led to closing the office on 16 February 1935.

1939: (U) ONI started to expand in anticipation of U.S. involvement in the European war, but it was only permitted to collect and disseminate information, not to interpret its significance. This latter function was exercised by the War Plans Division of OPNAV.

1945: (U) A Joint Army-Navy Air Intelligence Division (JANAID) was approved by JCS on 14 November to continue the wartime ONI and Army Air Force collaboration in the production of air intelligence.

1946: (U) Naval Intelligence School was established at the Naval Receiving Station, Anacostia, the first class convening on 1 July.

1947: (U) The National Security Act initiated the requirement for ONI to contribute to national level intelligence products.

1948: (U) The first board to select regular, unrestricted line officer applicants to be designated SDO (Intelligence) (1630) was convened and ten were selected. Subsequent annual selections were to increase the 1630 community to 30 by 1950.

1956: (U) The Acoustic Intercept Data Analysis Program was initiated by ONI in mid-1956 in the Technical Section. BUSHIPS laboratories in San Diego and Brooklyn initially performed the technical processing of acoustic recordings for ONI. This proved unsatisfactory and ONI set up its own ACINT Analysis Facility in June 1962.

1962: (U) The Navy Photo-Interpretation Center became very much involved in the Cuban Missile Crisis; first in the detection from photos of Soviet shipments of missiles into Cuba in the late summer, and then from low overflight photos in October and November to assure that the Soviet missile bases were being dismantled.

1964: (U) The Defense Attache System was established in December and placed under the supervision of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). The Naval Attaches were made a part of this system.

1967: (U) The Naval Intelligence Command was established on 1 July with the Director of Naval Intelligence also assuming the

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AWD 68754

CONFIDENTIAL

title of "Commander, Naval Intelligence Command".

1968: (U) The Naval Air Intelligence personnel program was combined with the Naval Intelligence personnel program.

1972: (U) The Naval Scientific and Technical Intelligence Center and the Naval Reconnaissance and Technical Support Center were combined on 30 June to form the Naval Intelligence Support Center at Suitland.

1977: (U) On 30 September, the DNI and Commander, Naval Intelligence Command were established as two separate flag officer assignments. The DNI remained as the Senior Intelligence Officer of the Department of the Navy; COMNAVINTCOM was assigned additional duty as Deputy DNI.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR (U)

(U) Captain Packard was, until his retirement in 1965, Deputy Director of the Office of Naval Intelligence. A member of the Naval Academy class of 1935, he served first in the USS TENNESSEE (BB-43) and three years later joined the communications staff of Commander Battleship Division Two. He joined the USS GOFF (DD-247) in 1939, and two years later served in the USS HORNET (CV-8). Subsequently he was assistant operations officer on the staff of Commander South Pacific for two years. The next five years were spent in Washington, D.C., as a coderoom watch officer, in operations planning, and as a section head in the Office of Naval Intelligence. Then came a two-year assignment as assistant naval attache in London. In 1951, he was ordered to the 11th Naval District as district intelligence officer for the First Fleet. He then returned to the Office of Naval Intelligence as a branch head. His last sea duty was as fleet intelligence officer on the staff of Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet. He completed his service in the Office of Naval Intelligence, as a division head for two years before becoming deputy director. Captain Packard is now a consultant and writer on technical subjects, and has written articles for the U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings and for All Hands.

*\* Insert: "Officer. From 1953 to 1955 he was Fleet Intelligence"*

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AND 68754