

## Secret Agents in the New Forest

Britain trained up real life secret agents in the New Forest in World War Two. They were part of the defence strategy.

Being a secret agent was very dangerous and could be captured by Britain's enemies when out on missions. They practised being captured and interrogated in case they were caught. The spies also learnt to blend in in other surroundings so that when they went to Europe, they would not be detected.

Some secret agents were trained in specific areas, such as bombs, information gathering or sabotage.

In the New Forest, these special agents were trained at Beaulieu and learnt how to use secret weapons to help them on their missions to find out more about their enemies.

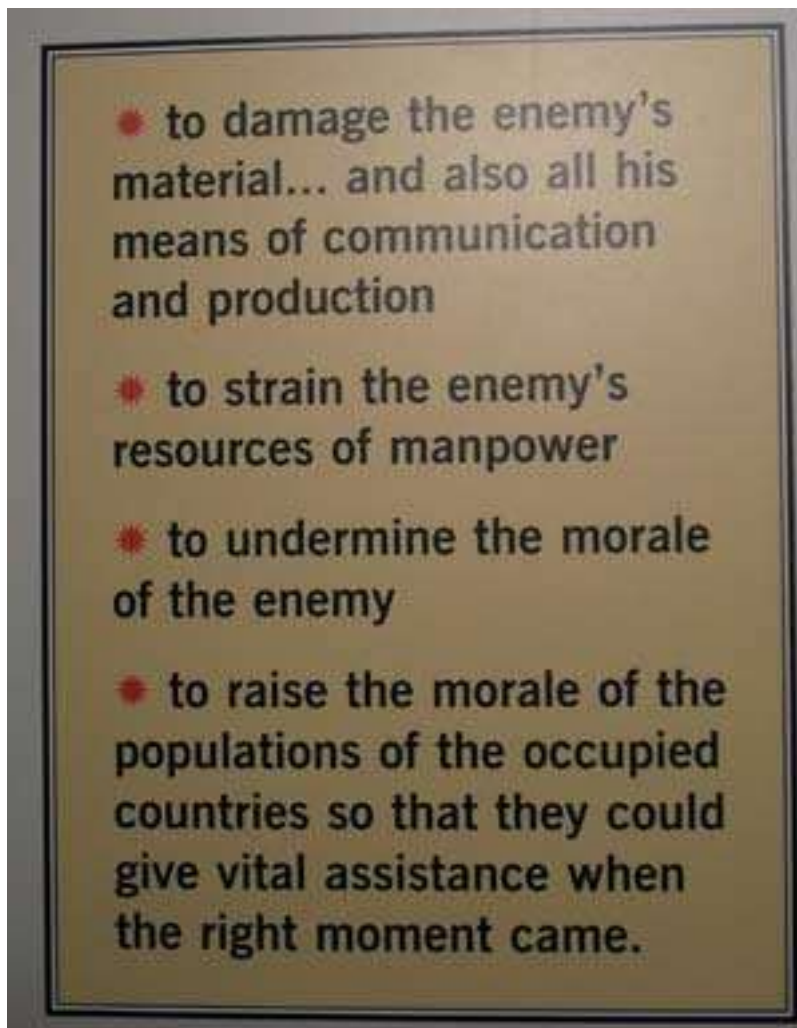
Some of them went spying on motor torpedo boats on the Beaulieu River.

There were almost 3,000 spies trained at the Beaulieu Estate in all sorts of things, such as outdoor training, sabotage skills and how to use weapons. One of the teachers was a professional robber!

The remoteness of the Forest made it an ideal training ground for the agents. Even people who lived in the New Forest didn't know this was happening!

Some of the most famous spies trained in the New Forest led missions to destroy German water plants and their attempts to develop huge bombs.

When the secret agents went to do their jobs in Europe, about 40% of them were captured.



These were some of the aims of the secret agents...what do you think they might mean?



This shows how secret agents hid useful items in ordinary objects, like dominoes!



The Special Operations Executive was based at Beaulieu.



Here is a photo of some of the spies in a training class.



Secret agents in World War Two would hide their own radios in suitcases to listen in on their enemies.