

= Inspirations for James Bond =

A number of real @-@ life inspirations have been suggested for James Bond , the fictional character created in 1953 by British author , journalist and Naval Intelligence Officer Ian Fleming ; Bond appeared in twelve novels and nine short stories by Fleming , as well as a number of continuation novels and twenty @-@ six films , with seven actors playing the role of Bond .

Although the stories and characters were fictional , a number of elements had a real life background , taken from people whom Fleming knew or events he was aware of . These included the spy 's name , which Fleming took from the American ornithologist James Bond , and the code number ? 007 ? which referred to the breaking of a World War I German diplomatic code . Some aspects of Bond 's character and tastes replicate those of Fleming himself .

= = Origins of the name = =

On the morning of 17 February 1952 Ian Fleming started writing what would become his first book , Casino Royale , at his Goldeneye estate in Jamaica . He typed out 2 @,@ 000 words in the morning , directly from his own experiences and imagination and finished work on the manuscript in just over a month , completing it on 18 March 1952 . Fleming took the name for his character from that of the American ornithologist James Bond , a Caribbean bird expert and author of the definitive field guide Birds of the West Indies ; Fleming , a keen birdwatcher himself , had a copy of Bond 's guide and he later explained to the ornithologist 's wife that " It struck me that this brief , unromantic , Anglo @-@ Saxon and yet very masculine name was just what I needed , and so a second James Bond was born " .

On another occasion Fleming said : " I wanted the simplest , dullest , plainest @-@ sounding name I could find , ' James Bond ' was much better than something more interesting , like ' Peregrine Carruthers ' . Exotic things would happen to and around him , but he would be a neutral figure ? an anonymous , blunt instrument wielded by a government department . " After Fleming met the ornithologist and his wife , he described them as " a charming couple who are amused by the whole joke " . The ornithologist was obliquely referred to in the film Die Another Day with Pierce Brosnan 's Bond picking up a copy of Birds of the West Indies and posing as an ornithologist .

= = Character inspirations = =

During the Second World War Fleming was the personal assistant to the Director of the Naval Intelligence Division , Admiral John Godfrey . He reached the rank of commander ? a rank he subsequently gave to his fictional creation ? and was the planner for special operations unit 30th Assault Unit . Many of Bond 's tastes and traits were Fleming 's own , including sharing the same golf handicap , the taste for scrambled eggs and using the same brand of toiletries . Bond 's tastes are also often taken from Fleming 's , as was his behaviour , with Bond 's love of golf and gambling mirroring his creator 's . Fleming used the experiences of his espionage career and other aspects of his life as inspiration when writing , including using names of school friends , acquaintances , relatives and lovers throughout his books .

Bond 's cigarettes were also the same as Fleming 's , who had been buying his custom @-@ made by Morland since the 1930s ; Fleming added the three gold bands on the filter during the war to mirror his naval Commander 's rank . On average , Bond smokes sixty cigarettes a day , although he cut back to around twenty five a day after his visit to a health farm in Thunderball . Fleming himself smoked up to eighty cigarettes a day . Apart from imbuing Bond with his own tastes , Fleming based his fictional creation on a number of individuals he came across during his time in Intelligence , admitting that Bond " was a compound of all the secret agents and commando types I met during the war " .

= = Literary inspirations = =

Besides real life individuals , James Bond was also inspired by one of Dennis Wheatley 's characters ; the secret agent Gregory Sallust , based on Wheatley 's late friend Gordon Eric Gordon @-@ Tombe .

= = Inspiration for " 007 " = =

The 007 number assigned to James Bond may have been influenced by any number of sources . In the films and novels , the 00 prefix indicates Bond 's discretionary ' licence to kill ' , in executing his duties . Bond 's number ? 007 ? was assigned by Fleming in reference to one of British naval intelligence 's key achievements of World War I : the breaking of the German diplomatic code . One of the German documents cracked and read by the British was the Zimmermann Telegram , which was coded 0075 , and which was one of the factors that led to the US entering the war . Subsequently if material was graded 00 it meant it was highly classified and , as journalist Ben Macintyre has pointed out , " to anyone versed in intelligence history , 007 signified the highest achievement of British military intelligence . "