

# Spies Always Live Twice

## NEWS

### "I am the real James Bond"



A wartime spy thought by his family to have inspired James Bond has been given a "007" gravestone after relatives found he had served under Bond author Ian Fleming.



James Charles Bond and his family, 1937

James Charles Bond, from Swansea, "took his secret past to his grave" when he died in 1995.

His grandson Stephen Phillips found out he had served under Fleming in WW2 as a Special Operations Executive (SOE).

Documents found by Mr Phillips showed that former metalworker Mr Bond, who was born in Pontypridd, was a member of the elite SOE working on missions under former Naval commander Fleming before he became an author.

"Grandfather took my cousin Jenny when she was a teenager by the hand one day saying, 'Believe me when I tell you, I am the real James Bond'.

Nothing more was said and no questions were asked," he said. "But we found out that grandad was a spy working behind enemy lines, and in 1942 that Ian Fleming put an elite team of SOEs together for a mission, details of which have not been disclosed."

"It is only right that his military past is listed on his headstone," he said.

"Seeing the headstone standing proud recognising grandad's '007' status and proper birth name has been so important to our family."

Fleming, who died in 1964, has said that James Bond was named after a US ornithologist, saying he wanted a "plain, simple name" for his superspy.

"Real-life James Bond' from Swansea given 007 gravestone," BBC, 2019

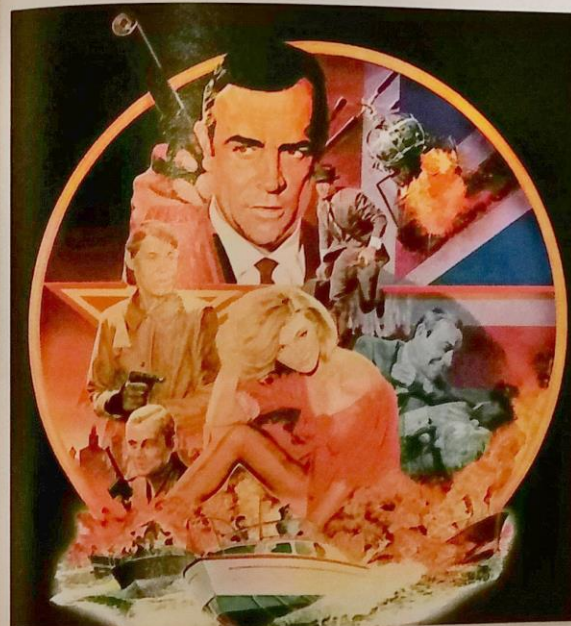
- a gravestone une pierre tombale
- under [sb] sous les ordres de [qqn]
- former [sb/sth] ex/ancien[qqch/qqn]

- a metalworker un métallurgiste
- to disclose divulguer



Ian Fleming (1908-1964)

This English author grew up in a wealthy family before being recruited as a Naval Intelligence Officer during World War II. He drew inspiration from his experience to write *Casino Royale*, his first novel with the MI6 spy James Bond, which was followed by a 12-volume, best-selling series. Known by his code number 007, Bond is gifted with high levels of intelligence, athleticism and charm as well as an amazing sense of humour.



Poster for the 1963 film *From Russia with Love*, starring Sean Connery as James Bond, drawn by James Dietz, 1981

HELP

## VOCAB

91

### Nouns

- a close-up un gros plan
- a five-pointed star une étoile à cinq branches
- the hammer and sickle le marteau et la faucille
- a novelist un(e) romancier(ère)
- a silencer un silencieux (arme)
- the Soviet Union l'Union soviétique

### Adjectives

- classified top secret
- classy élégant(e), chic
- plain simple, banal(e)
- prolific productif(ive)
- seductive séduisant(e)
- tough dur(e)

### Verbs

- to explode [sth] faire exploser [qqch]
- to point [a gun] at [sb/sth] braquer [un pistolet] sur [qqn/qqch]
- to unearth [sth] déterrer, révéler [qqch]

## LET'S brainstorm together!

- 1 Look at the Bond photo on the left and the poster on the right.
  - a Focus on the people in both pictures. Imagine who they are and how they are related.
  - b In the poster, pick out the symbols and objects. What does each element symbolise?
  - c Compare the situation shown in both pictures. Analyse the atmosphere.

### 2 Now, read the text.

- a Pick out the following elements: people • places • time • jobs
- b Focus on the people and explain how they are connected.

### 3 Conclude.

Use all the information to explain the gap between the portraits of fictional spies and real ones. What does it reveal about our perception of spies? Discuss with the class.

How do real spies live in our imagination?