



COLD WAR COUNTERFEIT SPIES

TALES OF ESPIONAGE;
GENUINE OR BOGUS?

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and those of an academic in Oklahoma who fantasised a career as a U.S. Navy SEAL.

The list of those suspected of having invented a role for themselves in the clandestine confrontation which spread into Laos and Cambodia is remarkable, and includes Lennox Gordon Cramer (*Slow Dance on the Killing Ground*); Frank Dux (*The Secret Man: An American Warrior's Uncensored Story*); Warner Smith (*Covert Warrior*) and Scott Barnes (*BOHICA*). Even a British author, Tom Abraham, who wrote *The Cage*, an account of his capture by the Vietcong while serving in the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division during the Tet offensive, has prompted some criticism. Abraham claimed to have escaped from his harrowing captivity, and then to have been returned to his unit to complete his tour of tour duty before returning to the U.S. as an instructor. However, according to the U.S. Army, all escapees were repatriated immediately for lengthy debriefing, and apparently there is no official record of his capture or his subsequent escape. Not dissimilar questions were also raised about another soldier, Frank Dux, who also claimed to have undergone some unusual experiences in Vietnam.

Frank Dux enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1975, when he was aged eighteen, and volunteered for a Special Operations Group which was assigned to Laos, where he participated in Operation *Sanction*. He was one of the few to be able to survive a trek back into Thailand, and during the remainder of his military career was decorated with the Navy Cross, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy Marine Corps medal, one purple heart, and the most coveted U.S. Medal of Honor. The latter was awarded in conditions of secrecy, following a clandestine mission, so remains unrecorded in any official documents.

Certainly Frank Dux is a living legend, and part of his life, as an international martial arts champion, has been used by scriptwriters as a basis of *Bloodsport*, an 1998 action thriller starring the Belgian movie actor Jean-Claude van Damme. However, it is Dux's autobiography, *The Secret Man*, which has attracted most controversy, for in it he described his background, and revealed his role in a series of deniable covert operations.

According to Dux, espionage had been in his blood for generations. His grandfather Alfred, later to be imprisoned by the Nazis, had been a spy, in 'the Austrian intelligence corps', and had fought with the Turks at Gallipoli, crossing into 'no-man's land separating Turkish and Anzac forces numerous times, impersonating a British lieutenant and daringly mingling with his enemies.'¹ He wounded General Birdwood, shot General Bridges, and killed his British aide-de-camp, Lieutenant B.W.

Onslow. His father Alfred had been smuggled from his home in Deutschkreutz to Palestine as a child, and at the age of fourteen was an accomplished car thief, and the driver of a bus to transport illegal Jewish immigrants at night. He 'stole police vehicles, mostly jeeps, for the Haganah and Mossad, the secret intelligence of the illegal Jewish defense forces.'²

In 1939 Alfred Dux joined the Jewish Brigade and the British used him 'as an instructor in the art of precision driving' although, due to his past, 'he limited his direct participation in intelligence work'. In 1942 'he was nearly apprehended in North Africa as a part of a group attempting to enlist the IRA in efforts to smuggle arms and munitions into Palestine.' Two years later Alfred was 'back in Austria as a clandestine member of the Avengers, a group composed of the Jewish Brigade operating paramilitary fashion and wreaking vengeance upon those who had destroyed their homes and families'. In 1945 Alfred was back in Palestine, 'smuggling the Jews out of internment camps on Crete and delivering them to' Tel Aviv. According to Dux, 'the British stepped up their efforts to disarm Jewish settlers and began rearming the Jordanians in hopes of a Jewish slaughter and an excuse for a British return'. During the 1947 War of Independence, 'Alfred and his Haganah comrades' 'convinced many Jordanians they possessed an atomic bomb' and later distinguished himself further by volunteering to drive medical supplies to Jerusalem.³

Dux's knowledge that he is 'the third known generation involved in espionage' sustained him through his childhood, which was spent in Canada when his family moved from Toronto to California in 1963, when he was aged seven. There he encountered an elderly gifted martial arts teacher, Takizo Tanaka, who also had a background in intelligence. In 1933 Tanaka had moved to England where his relative, Kunshinige Tanaka 'was head of Japanese intelligence. From that time Takizo began to use multiple aliases, adopting the name Senzo for his activities as a covert operative/strong-arm agent.'⁴

According to Dux's own official military file, he was on active duty from 15 June to his discharge on 23 October 1973, a total of just over four months, without any overseas service. He remained as a reserve private soldier until 1981, and in January 1978 was recommended for psychiatric therapy because of his tendency to exaggerate. His file shows no wounds, apart from a minor strain sustained in a fall while painting a vehicle in a motor pool in San Diego.

Nor does Dux's family history withstand much scrutiny, and certainly his story about his father's background in Palestine is inaccurate, not least because neither the Haganah nor Mossad existed