

SECRETIVE TUDORS

The 15th and 16th centuries were times of great insecurity across the world. In Tudor England, spies were kept busy foiling plots against the King or Queen. No one was safe from prying eyes – it became impossible to know who you could trust.

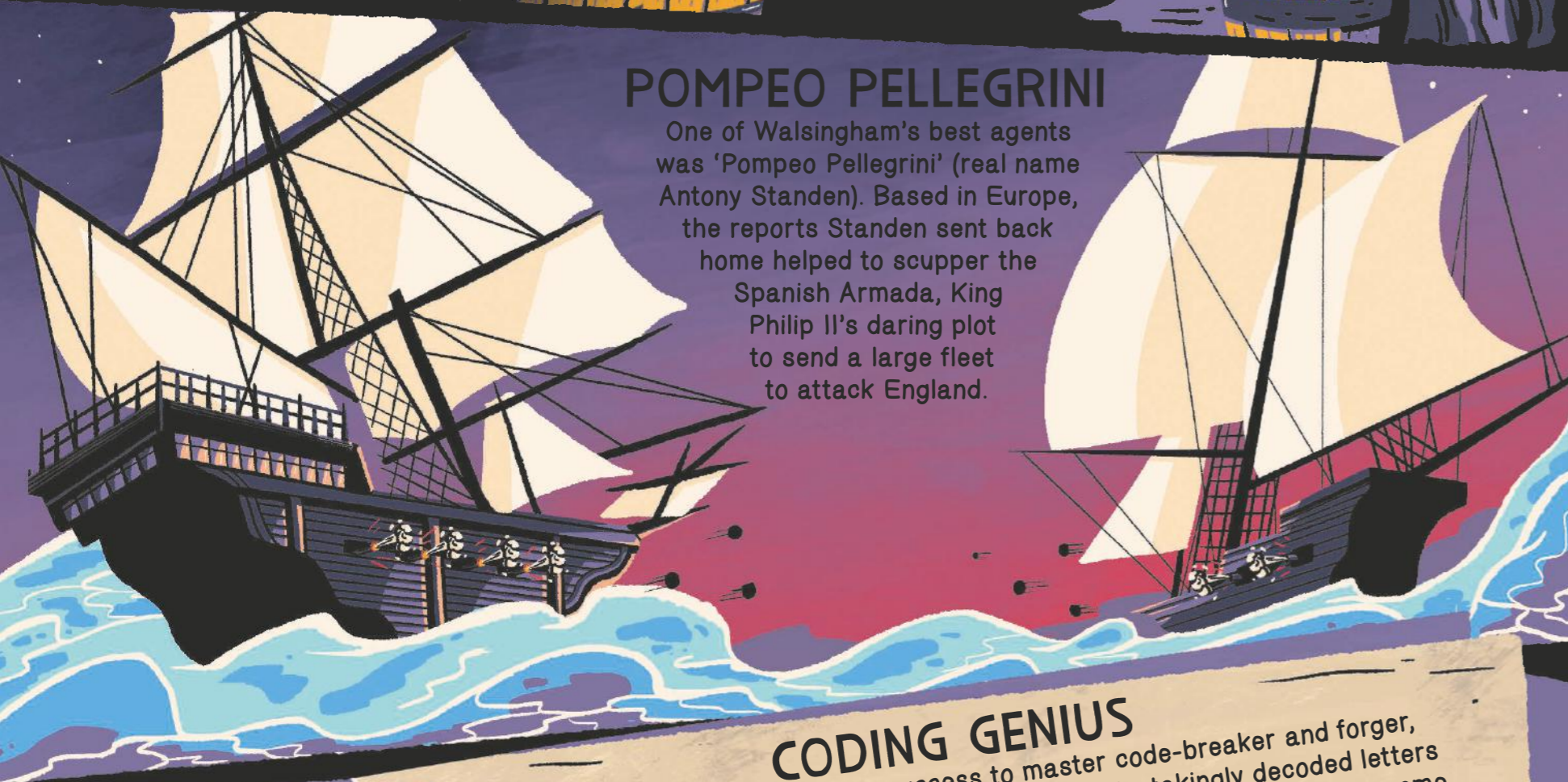
SPYMASTER GENERAL

Spymaster supremo, Sir Francis Walsingham had agents everywhere. In 1586, he foiled a plot against Queen Elizabeth I by supporters of her rival, Mary Queen of Scots. Mary's secret letters were smuggled in and out of her house in beer barrels. By intercepting these barrels and forging their own letters, Walsingham's spies were able to discover who the plotters were.



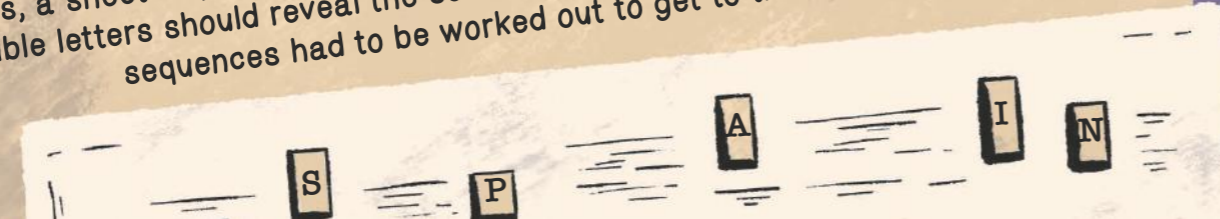
POMPEO PELLEGRINI

One of Walsingham's best agents was 'Pompeo Pellegrini' (real name Antony Standen). Based in Europe, the reports Standen sent back home helped to scupper the Spanish Armada, King Philip II's daring plot to send a large fleet to attack England.



CODING GENIUS

Walsingham owed much of his success to master code-breaker and forger, Thomas Phelippes. A brilliant linguist, Phelippes painstakingly decoded letters from people plotting against the queen. It was extremely tricky work. For some codes, a sheet of paper punched with holes was placed over a message. The visible letters should reveal the secret message, but thousands of possible sequences had to be worked out to get to this stage.



TERRIBLE TIMES

Ivan the Terrible, who became tsar of Russia in 1547, lived in constant fear of his life. To hunt down his enemies, he hired a truly terrifying band of spies. Dressed in black, they rode jet-black horses with real dogs' heads attached to the saddles, supposedly for sniffing traitors out.



Ivan himself had a silver replica of a dog's head with a jaw that opened and closed in time with his horse's hooves.

AZTEC ESPIONAGE

Aztec spies were nicknamed 'mice' because they scurried about secretly. The mice disguised themselves as merchants and travelled long distances gathering intelligence for the emperor. It was a high-risk job. Back home, spies were treated as superstars and rewarded with warrior status and costly gifts, such as gold lip-plugs.



When the Spanish, led by Hernán Cortés, conquered the Aztecs in 1521, they were helped by a local woman known as La Malinche. Officially, she worked as their interpreter. Unofficially, she was a spy.

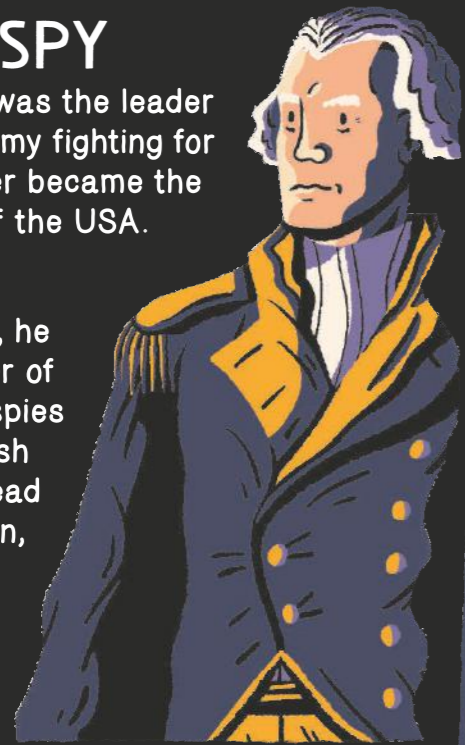
AMERICAN SPIES

Spies operated on both sides in the American Revolution (1775-83) and the American Civil War (1861-65). Undertaking missions behind enemy lines was fraught with danger, and spies ran the risk of being executed if they were caught.

SUPER SPY

George Washington was the leader of the Continental Army fighting for the colonies. He later became the first president of the USA.

A brilliant soldier, he was also a master of espionage, using spies to uncover British secrets and spread false information, or fake news.



TEA TIME

Henry de Berniere was a British spy who disguised himself as an American. His cover was nearly blown several times, including when he ordered a nice cup of tea!

INVISIBLE INK

American doctor James Jay invented a type of invisible ink for writing to his brother, a close ally of Washington. Without giving away his recipe, James sent some of the ink to Washington for his spies. Messages disappeared as soon as the ink was put on white paper, then reappeared once a different chemical was rubbed on.

Several kinds of invisible inks were used by both sides during the war. One type was activated with heat and others by various chemicals. The invisible message was usually written between the lines of another letter, which would appear to be totally innocent. Upon receipt, the reader would either heat the letter over a flame or put it into a chemical bath to reveal the hidden message.



AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

The American Civil War was fought between the northern and southern states of America. The North had made slavery illegal and now wanted to abolish it altogether. The South, meanwhile, demanded that slavery continue. The war was won in 1865 by the North.



The South's greatest spy was Benjamin Franklin Stringfellow, with a \$10,000 bounty on his head. He daringly set himself up as a dentist in enemy territory and extracted information from his patients as he was treating them.

WANTED



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN STRINGFELLOW
\$10,000

SPY FACT

The first aerial surveillance vehicle was launched in 1861 by balloonist Thaddeus Lowe. His hot-air balloon had an attached telegraph cable and a spy glass (telescope).

BELLE BOYD

Belle Boyd began spying for the South when she was just 17 years old. At one point, she operated out of her uncle's hotel, eavesdropping on guests' conversations while hiding in a cupboard. Arrested many times, she somehow managed to avoid prison. Later, she moved to England and became an actress.

