

Hugh Montgomery: Extraordinary Windsor Locks Citizen **by Mel Montemerlo**

Hugh Montgomery was born on Nov. 29, 1923. He graduated from the Windsor Locks public grammar school in June 1937. Hugh went to high school at the Loomis academy in Windsor, Connecticut. He took the train back and forth from Windsor Locks to Windsor during high school. During the hurricane of 1938, he was walking home from the Loomis School along the railroad tracks, and the water was growing deeper. He was able to make it home.

After graduating from Loomis, he went to Harvard University for one semester. In July 1943, he was drafted. He became a member of the 82nd Airborne Division. On D-Day he parachuted into Normandy.



Hugh Montgomery, about 1945

Montgomery was wounded while serving as a paratrooper in World War II and joined the Office of Strategic Services's counter-intelligence branch, known as X-2. He was often called upon to go behind German lines to find and bring out Germans who could provide valuable information.

In April 1945, he was on a mission with five other OSS operatives to find a nuclear physicist in eastern Germany, when they happened upon a place which had a terrible smell. They had arrived at the Buchenwald concentration camp. When they arrived, the survivors had just taken over. Montgomery's team saw a group of German guards who were trying to surrender. One of the inmates asked Montgomery to leave the guards to them. Montgomery replied: "They're yours." Montgomery broke OSS secrecy protocol, and radioed to an Army contact about what was happening. Later he said that the experience at Buchenwald had given him nightmares.

During his OSS operations in WWII, he was on a covert mission in Austria, when the German Army moved into that area. A young woman hid him in a barrel. A German officer checked the barrel by tapping it with his swagger stick, but did not open the barrel. Hugh later married Annamarie Janek, the Viennese girl who hid him in the barrel

After the war, Hugh Montgomery returned to finish his education at Harvard. He earned a B.A. in 1947, an M.A. in 1948, and a Ph.D. in 1952. Hugh won a Woodrow Wilson Scholarship from Princeton University for a year's study in South America. His wife joined him in that year abroad.

After returning to Harvard to earn his Ph.D., he joined the newly formed CIA, where he led spying operations against the Soviets in Rome, Paris, Vienna, Athens and Moscow. He went to Berlin where he worked on a secret tunnel designed to tap Soviet communications.

In the early 1960s, he was the Deputy Station Chief In Moscow. He was the "handler" of Soviet informant Col. Oleg Vladimirovich Penkovsky, who provided information that helped President Kennedy diffuse the Cuba Missile Crisis.

In 1962, the Russian government accused Hugh Montgomery and six others with espionage with regard to Col. Penkovsky. All got out of the country before the situation got worse.

Montgomery temporarily left the CIA in 1981 when President Ronald Reagan nominated him as Director of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the United States Department of State. At the request of the President, he served first in the State Department, and then as Deputy Ambassador to the U.N. He returned to the CIA in 1985 where he stayed until his retirement in 2014. In 2014, CIA director John Brennan, awarded him the Distinguished Career Intelligence Medal, and called him "one of the greatest American heroes of our time." See the photo of Hugh and his wife, Annemarie with President Bush in the mid-1980s.



Hugh & Annemarie Montgomery with President Bush

Hugh Montgomery's service to the CIA spanned the years from 1953 to 2014. That is an incredible 62 years. He retired at the age of 91. Leon Panetta said: "I'd call him one of the founding fathers of the CIA," . Hugh Montgomery's life and career is nothing short of astounding. Below is a photo of him at about the time of his retirement in 2014.



Hugh Montgomery, about 2014