

1991

## Reflections on Intelligence

James O'Brasky

R. V. Jones

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review>

---

### Recommended Citation

O'Brasky, James and Jones, R. V. (1991) "Reflections on Intelligence," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 44 : No. 4 , Article 17.  
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol44/iss4/17>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Naval War College Review by an authorized editor of U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu](mailto:repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu).

inefficient use of resources. Regardless, this book poses many troubling issues well worth debating.

*The Training of Officers* is short, to the point, and well worth reading. It should cause more than a little discomfort among those associated with the nation's military colleges.

---

JAN VAN TOL  
Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy  
USS *Gallant*

---

Jones, R.V. *Reflections on Intelligence*.

London: William Heinemann, Ltd., 1989. 383pp. \$45

In 1939, R.V. Jones was the principal scientist, (indeed the *only* scientist) in the Air section of MI-6, Great Britain's foreign intelligence service. He was twenty-eight years old.

His first book *The Wizard War*, published in 1978, was an account of the Oslo Report, the search for German radar, the ECM battle in the strategic bombing campaigns, and the search for countermeasures to the V-1 and V-2 weapons. It sparkles as literature.

*Reflections on Intelligence* is a commentary on *The Wizard War*. Professor Jones leads the reader through the postwar corridors of power.

The first section contains eight essays that deal with the relationships between intelligence and ethics, secrecy, security, deception, and command. In addition, Jones discusses both science of World War I and the general subject of the scientific method as applied to defense. The second section contains postscripts on

the "most secret war" that tell of the men and women whose determination and dedication helped to win World War II (alias the wizard war).

Part three is an assessment of the impact of the Oslo Report as wartime scientific intelligence. The Report came into British hands in 1939, and uncovered the German secret weapons research program: homing torpedoes, proximity fuzes, jet aircraft, ballistic and anti-shiping guided missiles. The Oslo Report's role in World War II scientific intelligence was profound: it told the British what to look for and how to look.

The "Reflections" section is a fine commentary on the author as a human being. Jones repeatedly protected the identity of his sources (some of them authentic heroes) until either they gave him permission to disclose their identities or they had died. This scrupulously ethical behavior says much about Professor Jones, and makes reading his book a nice experience.

---

JAMES O'BRASKY  
Naval Surface Warfare Center  
Dahlgren, Virginia

---

Hagan, Kenneth J. *This People's Navy*.  
New York: The Free Press, 1991.  
434pp. \$27.95

Theodore Roosevelt wrote: "There are two kinds of historians: one, the delver, the bricklayer, the man who laboriously gathers together bare facts; and the other, the builder, the architect, who out of these facts