

BRITISH EMBASSY STOCKHOLM

Coronavirus Update 15/05/2020

A BRITISH SPY IN SWEDEN

During World War II, Stockholm became the Nordic Casablanca - a hotbed of diplomacy, espionage and resistance to the Nazi regime.

Continuing our commemoration of VE Day, we take a moment to remember one of the British undercover agents from this time. Peter Tennant was officially the press attaché at the British Legation - as the Embassy was known then. In reality, Tennant was one of the first Special Operations Executive intelligence officers. His mission: to undermine Nazi propaganda in Sweden.

Tennant helped training Norwegian resistance fighters in Sweden, hiding some of them in his home, orchestrated disinformation campaigns, planned a "stay-behind" movement in case Germany invaded Sweden, and recruited a double agent at the German Legation. One more unorthodox campaign was to smuggle itching powder into the clothes of German officers stationed in Sweden.

Tennant was a popular man-about-town, with pitch perfect command of Swedish - imitating regional accents

was one of his party tricks. His friendship circle read like a who's who of Swedish society: artists such as Karl Gerhard and Stig Järrel, writers Pär Lagerkvist and Eyvind Johnson and aristocratic antifascist Amelie Posse.

Another close friend was legendary Swedish police chief Harry Söderman, nicknamed Revolver Harry and known for his strong resistance to Nazi Germany. Söderman formulated a plan, involving 10,000 British paratroopers, to arrest Adolf Hitler. Winston Churchill was interested in the proposition, but ultimately found the enterprise too risky and turned Söderman down.

Tennant remained interested in Scandinavia throughout his life. In a Swedish newspaper interview in 1990, when he was 80 years old, he said: "Sverige är en livslång kärlek som aldrig rostar. Kärleken håller mig ung. (Sweden is a lifelong love affair that never rusts. Love keeps me young.)"

Men and women like Peter Tennant showed tremendous courage a time of great hardship and uncertainty. We have so much to thank them for.

Photos: Stockholms Stadsmuseum and Helsingfors Museum



Diplomat som lämnar oss



MR AND MRS TENNANT har fullt upp med packningsbestyr inför Parisresan.

TRAVEL ADVICE FOR SWEDEN

There are limited direct flights between Sweden and the UK from 15 - 20 May. There are reduced options to fly to the UK via other countries. The airlines and travel operators are best placed to provide up to date information about schedules and flight arrangements.

If you need consular assistance 24/7 support is available from the British Embassy by telephone.

Please call 0046 (0) 8-671 3000.

Please stay on the line and select the option for '*calling about an emergency involving a British national*' to speak to a member of staff.

Full details of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice can be seen at:

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/sweden> and
<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/sweden/return-to-the-uk>

ENTRY AND BORDERS

Restrictions on entry to Sweden by non-residents, and non-EU citizens and their family members have been extended for at least one more month.

Countries neighbouring Sweden (Denmark, Norway and Finland) also have restrictions.

Those normally living and working in Denmark will still be able to enter the country from Sweden. In addition, those who need to transit through Denmark in order to return to their place of residence will be able to so.

GENERAL CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION

The Swedish Public Health Agency is encouraging people not to travel within Sweden. Upper secondary schools, colleges and universities have suspended normal teaching in favour of distance learning. Public gatherings of more than 50 people are banned. The government encourages remote working. The elderly are

recommended to stay at home, and relatives asked not to visit.

If you are in need of immediate medical advice or assistance in Sweden you can contact Swedish health care services at: www.1177.se/

Or call **1177**

You can call the Swedish national crisis information number at **113 13** to obtain information regarding the coronavirus. This is the crisis management information number, not a medical service, and they will not be able to answer questions regarding symptoms of disease.

You can read guidance for British people travelling and living overseas following the outbreak of novel coronavirus here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

Keep up to date by signing up to email alerts on our Sweden travel advice page: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/sweden/health#coronavirus>

You can read coronavirus information from the Swedish Public Health Agency here:

<https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se/smittskydd-beredskap/utbrott/aktuella-utbrott/covid-19/>

Including information in English:

<https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se/smittskydd-beredskap/utbrott/aktuella-utbrott/covid-19/skydda-dig-och-andra/information-pa-olika-sprak/engelska/>

Krisinformation.se aggregates official Swedish information in other languages, including English, here:

<https://www.krisinformation.se/detta-kan-handa/handelser-och-storningar/20192/myndigheterna-om-det-nya-coronaviruset/andra-sprakother-languages>

You can read coronavirus information from Public Health England here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

You can read travel advice from the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs here (in Swedish):

<https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se/smittskydd-beredskap/utbrott/aktuella-utbrott/covid-19/reserekommendationer-fran-ud/>

VISITS TO THE EMBASSY

Due to coronavirus (COVID-19) and related restrictions, you must have an appointment to visits to the Embassy. If you need urgent consular assistance, call 0046 (0) 8-671 3000.

See the Sweden travel advice at www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/sweden for all information on coronavirus (COVID-19). Consular officers cannot provide any additional information by phone.

If you are attending an appointment, contact us in advance if you:

- have been in contact with someone with coronavirus (COVID-19)

- are feeling unwell with a cough, difficulty breathing or fever

If any of the above applies to you, you must contact us to reschedule your appointment for a later date.

For some of our services, you can book an appointment on our website:

<https://www.contact-embassy.service.gov.uk/?country=sweden&post=British%20Embassy%20Stockholm>

For urgent consular assistance, call us on:

0046 (0)8 671 3000 (phone lines are open 24/7).