

## Director's Dossier

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### Foreword: Operation Edom: EYES ONLY Briefing

*The wild beasts of the desert shall also meet with the wild beasts of the island, and the demon shall cry to his fellow; Lilith also shall rest there, and find for herself a place of rest.*

-- Isaiah 34:14, a prophecy concerning Edom

In 1893, a visionary British Naval Intelligence Department spymaster codenamed “Peter Hawkins” launched a plan to recruit the perfect spy: a vampire. British intelligence assets on the Turkish frontier, specifically the army doctor George Stoker and the Orientalist and traveler Ármin Vámbéry, had uncovered evidence of vampires’ existence during the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878, and upon further investigation over the next decade or so developed a trove of cryptic occult materials and obscure scientific papers to make their case. Their research provided NID a possible key to the awakening and control of vampires through the new science of volcanology. The telluric energies that vivify and preserve vampires (who can rest only in their “native soil”) might be occult force or hidden natural law, but the methods were sound enough for a trial run.

#### *Bold Experiments*

Called “Operation Edom,” after the vampire-tinged prophecy in Isaiah, the trial ran promisingly at first. Hawkins made contact with a vampire named Dracula, awakened or energized by the Romanian earthquake of 17 August 1893. A meet was set and made, a safe house and a headquarters in England prepared. Then it all started to go wrong. Dracula imprisoned his minder and double-crossed NID, outsiders – possibly with their own ties to foreign espionage -- became involved, and Hawkins ordered a sanction. Then Hawkins disappeared, and the Edom agents on the ground had to run the operation themselves. They barred Dracula from England, and hunted him down on his home earth, where – during the great eruption and earthquake of 31 August 1894 – they terminated him, with extreme prejudice and two knives.

Or so they thought.

The NID called in George Stoker’s brother Bram to write up the after-action report. Bram Stoker, who had previously touched up George’s public memoir of the Russo-Turkish War for the Foreign Office’s propagandistic purposes, turned in a draft that even in its sensationally novelistic form still revealed far too much sensitive information. The NID redacted his text and had him re-write it, this time not as an after-action report but as disinformation, a fictionalized cover for any rumors that Edom had aroused. His first draft, however, the unredacted *Dracula*, they kept.

### *Desperate Measures*

In 1940, Britain stood alone against an expanding Axis. If Germany could add Romania to its alliance, it would have the oil to continue the war on the Reich's terms – if Britain could keep Romania neutral, then she had a chance. MI6 grasped at straws and reactivated Edom. It was clear from the Stoker report that Dracula was not dead forever; he had not been killed completely. Rather than bring Dracula to England, however, this time the plan was simply to let him out and turn him against the Hitler-allied Antonescu government; if necessary, to back him as Romania's new leader. Edom briefed a Special Operations Executive (SOE) team and dispatched it to Romania to awaken Dracula and bring him into the war. The earthquake of 10 November 1940 killed 1,600 people and brought down buildings from Bucharest to the Black Sea.

That was only the first thing to go wrong. Antonescu formally joined the Axis later that month. Dracula played for time and played the SOE for fools. The fascist Iron Guard, angry at being denied its share of the spoils, mounted its own coup attempt against Antonescu in January, triggered by the shooting of a German Abwehr agent, Luftwaffe Major Helmut Döring. The Wehrmacht moved in with the Romanian Army to crush the rising amid a massive pogrom of Bucharest's Jews. Dracula had vanished, possibly dead again, but Edom had failed.

One of the SOE agents kept a diary of sorts by annotating his mission brief: a copy of Stoker's unredacted *Dracula*. That annotated copy went back into the vaults. Edom did not, not entirely.

### *Hidden Hunts*

The search for the "Fifth Man" had nearly destroyed MI6 in the Sixties; Angleton's mole hunt tore the CIA apart in the early Seventies. In 1977 it was Edom's turn. Romania was where the new moles burrowed in from. Somehow their DIE and Securitate had found a spy network in Britain with almost supernatural access. Leaked intelligence from London turned up in Bucharest; the Securitate rolled up a promising MI6 network in Transylvania; the identity of Oleg Gordievsky, MI6's top man in the KGB, was in danger of exposure. The new head of MI6 ("C"), Sir Maurice Oldfield, needed the leaks plugged and the mole found. The Edom apparatus smelled the wind and promised results, quietly and soon.

Edom needed to find Dracula's "leave-behind" network in London – after all, the analysts realized in retrospect, he had had months to build it back in 1894, and the power to keep it alive long after his seeming demise. Edom went back to the Balkans, ostensibly to secure MI6's remaining assets. On 4 March 1977 another earthquake ripped through Romania. Edom operatives kicked in doors in Whitechapel and dodged questions in Whitehall, trailed spies in Bucharest and traded lies in Bonn. Daylight arrests became a briefly common sight on London's streets, but not of course in its newspapers. And then it ended. Oldfield retired as "C" in February 1978. In July 1978 Ion Mihai Pacepa, the deputy chief of Romania's foreign intelligence section, defected to the Americans. Ceausescu began an increasingly paranoid hunt of his own for subversives and dissidents that would eventually help bring him down.

What had happened? Did Edom find the mole? Was that Dracula's only mole? Was the

whole operation an excuse to awaken Dracula as an anti-Communist asset, or part of a play by Dracula's minion in MI6 to redirect suspicion? Did Dracula and MI6 do another deal? Did the CIA deal itself into the game? A mid-level Edom analyst using the workname "Cushing" studied the problem as best he could. He named his 1940 SOE counterpart "Van Sloan," two cinematic Van Helsing's who had hunted Dracula in two generations. Cushing added his annotations, but few answers, to the Dracula Dossier. Then he put it back in the files. And he set a trigger for someone else to find.

### *Black Assets*

On 4 October 2011 another earthquake rocked Romania, as many had in the past decade. This one triggered Cushing's flag in the MI6 computer system, which checked certain other parameters: MI6 assets lost in Romania, murders in London, chatter in German channels. The conditions added up, and the second part of Cushing's plan went into action: warnings routed through desks in MI6 and GCHQ. Edom stopped most of them, but not all. One analyst without Edom clearance saw the alert, and started digging into the files. What she discovered was the Dracula Dossier – and the newest incarnation of Edom. After the terror attacks of 7/7, someone in MI6 with a long memory realized that they already had the perfect asset for retaliation: a superhuman killer who had spent decades of his life at war with Islam. And Dracula was completely deniable – he was downright fictional!

She began to keep her own record, annotating the Dossier as her predecessors had. She gave herself the workname "Hopkins" as she annotated the bloody fingerprints of Edom – and the trail of corpses left by Dracula. The vampire wasn't just killing al-Qaeda by then, but Edom was still protecting him, perhaps completely penetrated by his network. Or perhaps Edom just hopes to bring him fully into their network, collateral damage forgiven or even budgeted for, all to finally succeed where Hawkins and Harker had failed.

She scanned Stoker's draft and its annotations. She made backups. She was careful. Just not careful enough. She has disappeared. She has sent the Dracula Dossier to you.

Time to open the Dossier – and to close the file on Edom, and on Dracula, forever.

## Table of Contents

Foreword: Operation Edom: EYES ONLY Briefing.....	1
How to Use This Book: Opening the Dossier.....	11
What Is the Dracula Dossier? .....	11
What's In This Book? .....	12
Defaults and Assumptions .....	13
The Default Dracula.....	13
The Default Dossier .....	14
The Default Campaign.....	15
Sample Dracula Conspiracy.....	18
New Investigative Ability: Geology .....	33
Your Dracula Dossier Campaign .....	34
Campaign Modes .....	34
Optional General Ability: Hypnosis .....	40
The 1894 Network .....	41
The Originals .....	41
Jonathan Harker .....	42
Wilhemina Murray Harker.....	42
Abraham Van Helsing.....	43
Lucy Westenra .....	45
Dr. Jack Seward .....	46
Arthur Holmwood.....	47
Quincey Morris .....	48
R. M. Renfield.....	49
Peter Hawkins .....	50
Legacies .....	51
Starting as a Legacy .....	52
Lucy Harker .....	53
J.Q. Harker.....	53
Billie Harker.....	54
Dr. Jacqueline Seward .....	55
Philip Holmwood, Lord Godalming .....	56

Tabitha Holmwood .....	56
Van Helsing .....	57
Thad Morris .....	57
Carmilla Rojas .....	58
People.....	58
Workname Table.....	60
1940 People.....	61
Anti-Communist .....	61
Ex-Nazi .....	62
Former Gehlen Org.....	62
Pensioner.....	62
“Van Sloan” .....	63
1977 People.....	63
Balkans Specialist.....	63
CIA Agent.....	64
“Cushing” .....	66
Defector.....	68
The Hungarian .....	69
Informant.....	70
MI5 Deputy.....	72
Dossier Reference: XX .....	73
Cotford as a Legacy .....	73
Old Seismologist.....	73
Psychic .....	74
Retired KGB Agent.....	76
Retired MI6 Asset Runner .....	77
Retired MI6 Computer Boffin .....	79
Sculptor .....	80
2011 People.....	81
Arms Runner.....	81
Black Site Interrogator.....	83
BND Deep-Cover Agent.....	83
Bucharest Street Cop.....	84
Bureaucrat.....	86

Chief of Station, Bucharest.....	86
Dissident .....	86
Drug Boss.....	87
GCHQ Romania Desk Analyst.....	87
Hildesheim Legacy .....	89
“Mr. Hopkins”.....	90
Human Rights Activist.....	91
Human Trafficker.....	93
Journalist.....	94
Medievalist.....	94
MI5 Agent.....	96
MI6 Lamplighter.....	97
MI6 Romania Desk Analyst.....	99
NATO Liaison .....	99
Petroleum Executive .....	99
Romanian Police Inspector .....	99
Seismologist.....	100
Smuggler .....	100
Smuggler .....	100
SRI Agent-in-Charge .....	101
Tabloid Journalist.....	101
Turkish Agent .....	101
Opposition Forces .....	103
Edom .....	103
The Seward Serum.....	104
The Conspiracy .....	109
Names at Your Fingertips .....	118
British.....	118
German.....	118
Hungarian.....	119
Roma .....	119
Romanian .....	119
Slovak .....	119
Turkish.....	120

Ukrainian.....	120
Nodes .....	120
Novel Nodes.....	121
Archdiocese of Mechelen-Brussels.....	121
Axel Logistics .....	122
Billington & Sons .....	124
Burdett Private Bankers .....	125
Fortified Monastery of St. Peter.....	125
HGD Transport .....	126
Klopstock & Billreuth Bank .....	127
Leutner Mecanica.....	127
Ruvari Sgzany .....	128
Gifts of the Count.....	129
Other Nodes .....	130
Al-Qaeda in Rum .....	130
Heal The Children.....	130
National Institute for Earth Physics .....	131
Romanian Government .....	131
Romanian Mafia.....	133
Station Bucharest .....	135
Locations.....	135
Emotional Modulation .....	136
Britain .....	137
Exeter: Quick and Dirty .....	137
Exeter .....	138
<i>HMS Proserpine</i> .....	139
Other Ports .....	142
Ring.....	143
Whitby.....	144
London .....	145
Albermarle Hotel .....	146
British Library.....	146
Carfax.....	147
Cross Angel Cold Storage.....	147

Hillingham .....	147
Kingstead Cemetery .....	148
Feral Child Vampire .....	149
Korea Club .....	150
London Zoo.....	150
Safe House Network .....	151
Seward’s Asylum .....	153
Romania .....	153
Bistrița (Bistritz) .....	153
“Bright Light” Black Site.....	154
Castle Dracula.....	154
Galati.....	170
Galati: Quick and Dirty.....	171
Scholomance .....	172
Strasba Orphanage .....	172
Tomb of Dracula.....	173
Elsewhere.....	173
Argentina.....	173
Citta della Scienza Museum, Naples .....	175
Dead House, Munich .....	175
Dolingen Tomb, Munich.....	175
Hospital of St. Joseph and Ste. Mary, Budapest.....	175
Old Pinakothek Museum, Munich .....	175
Vanderpool Glass-House, Haarlem .....	176
Van Helsing’s House .....	176
Establishing Shots.....	177
Cemetery .....	178
Dive Bar .....	179
Forest.....	180
Hospital .....	180
Hotel, Tourist.....	181
Hotel, Transient.....	182
River Dockyards .....	183
Safe House .....	184



Strip Club .....	185
Subway Station .....	186
Quick Subway Reference.....	187
Objects .....	188
Aytown's Photographic Studies.....	189
Cameos of Dracula.....	191
Earthquake Device .....	192
Knife Set .....	194
Le Dragon Noir .....	195
Vampiric Magic For Humans .....	196
Portrait of Dracula.....	198
Renfield's Journal .....	200
Sealed Coffin .....	200
Vampire Hunting Kit .....	201
Vanderpool Garlic.....	202
Vial of Blood.....	202
Wax Graphophone Cylinder .....	203
Westenra Brooch.....	203
Scenario Spines.....	204
Players on the Other Side.....	204
Playing in the Fields of Edom.....	204
The Wolf in the Fold.....	204
The All-Edom Campaign.....	205
Playing Legacies .....	205
Sample Legacy Agents .....	205