

OPERATION DAMOCLES

"...BY DECEPTION, YOU WILL MAKE WAR."

SO WHAT MEDIA
presents



**Impossible alliances, intrigue, scandals, murder, betrayal...
Mossad is willing to do anything to defend Israel.**

HISTORY
Docuseries
3 x 48'

SYNOPSIS

A 3x48 minute series to tell the storylines of an incredible and gripping Mossad spy operation. In the early 1960s, on one side Egypt hires former Nazi scientists to destroy Israel and on the other side Mossad asks for help from one of the most emblematic figures of Nazism: Otto Skorzeny, Hitler's loyalist; these are the impossible alliances that make Operation Damocles unique and unprecedented.]

SUBJECT

This is an authentic spy story that changed the balance of the world. In the early 1960s; a deadly danger looms over Tel Aviv. Long-range missiles are aimed at Israel. Inside them are nuclear waste and bacteriological vials. They are weapons of mass destruction capable of polluting the earth, and the aquifers, infecting the inhabitants and generating an authentic genocide, another after the Nazi one.

Who created these deadly weapons? And how will Israel defend its survival?

From these questions and above all from this terrible threat, comes Operation Damocles, one of the most secret and daring espionage operations carried out by the Israeli secret service: the Mossad.

Former Nazi scientists hired to build the missiles, Israeli spies, parcel bombs, murders, car chases in the quiet countryside between Switzerland and Germany, a Mossad secret agent betrayed by fear, political scandals, and in the background a man with a large scar on his face: Otto Skorzeny, Hitler's loyalist, the man who was in charge of impossible commando operations.

The Mossad has no qualms about enlisting him with the precise task of hunting down the Nazis who are developing the missiles... a Nazi against other Nazis. In this documentary series, we will see the missiles parading through the streets of Cairo, greeted by a jubilant crowd, and Nasser, the Egyptian rais, enjoying his triumph as he plans the annihilation of Israel.

We will see the concern of the Israeli authorities, particularly Ben Gurion and Golda Meir; and the determination of Isser Harel, the head of Mossad, who will unleash a two-pronged crackdown to stamp out this deadly danger.

Finally, we will see a spy, nicknamed 'The Champagne Spy', and only at the last minute of the series will we find out who he works for.]



NARRATIVE STYLE

The narrative style with which we tell Operation Damocles is dynamic and suspenseful, as befits a spy story. Missiles aimed at Israel, a buried hatred burning again against the Jews.

What will be left of Israel when the missiles hit that land?

A new genocide is about to take place.

What will Mossad do to prevent this?

The series is based on historical characters with incredible lives; like Otto Skorzeny, an SS man, a favorite of Hitler who manages to escape the Nuremberg trials and rebuild a comfortable life in Spain.

A man who unexpectedly decides to collaborate with his former enemies, the Jews, in exchange for immunity and to protect himself for good from the same Mossad that had put him on the list of former Nazis to be killed.

Isser Harel, the head of the Mossad, was a man of wrathful character who saw with his own eyes the extermination of the Jews and swore revenge.

Wolfgang Lotz, a legendary spy, the Champagne Spy, from whose gripping story successful films and books were made.

Finally, historical figures; such as Ben Gurion, Golda Meir, Shimon Peres, and the Egyptian rais Nasser; are characters who marked the history of the 20th century.

We will talk about acts of espionage, but also about geopolitics and history because we will tell of the very fragile power relations between Israel and the Arab world and of the pragmatic link between the newly founded Jewish state and West Germany.

Everything we will tell sounds like fiction from a Le Carrè novel, but in this case, we are dealing with a true story, an operation that in its secrecy saved the world from a new Holocaust.



DIRECTOR'S VIEW

I - RE-ENACTMENT

It is used to stage sequences that are not documented by original historical footage. Through the sets, costumes, and different actors, the atmosphere of the time of Operation Damocles will be recreated. Picasso Film will be the producer for So What Media and has already produced several TV series dedicated to espionage:

Spycraft - NETFLIX

Terrorism Close Calls - NETFLIX

The Plot to Kill the Pope - NETFLIX

Traitors - CURIOSITY STREAM

Picasso Film has an enviable and acquired expertise in recreating spy scenes in a precise, detailed, and unequivocal manner:



2 - INTERVIEWS

We have exclusive guests, namely the relatives of the protagonists of Operation Damocles. The grandsons of Ben Gurion and Nasser and the son of the Champagne Spy, Wolfgang Lotz. Through this unique vantage point we will delve into the most unknown details of this Mossad operation. We have experts who will tell us the facts and the historical context; with some of them we will analyse the geopolitical situation of the 1960s; in particular the Israel-Egypt-West Germany relationship. We will have an in-depth look at the Mossad and the importance of Operation Damocles from the Israeli point of view, focusing on the figure of its director, Isser Harel. We will interview former Mossad spies who will explain to the viewer the figures of Otto Skorzeny and the spy Wolfgang Lotz; they will tell us about the training of the spies, their psychology, motivation, the point of view of German scientists, intrigues, compromises and risks. We will interview authors and journalists who have written this story, arguing the truth in books, press conferences and podcasts. And finally we will interview a ballistics expert who will explain how Nasser's missiles were built and their actual destructive capacity. To engage the audience with the topic and bring the past to life, we will use two different interview styles

1. Immersive style: We will follow our experts on site, immersing the viewer in the sites of Operation Damocles. Our experts will not speak in front of the camera like presenters, but will interact with it, accompanying us in the narrative; as they speak in the lobby of the Swiss hotel where two Mossad agents were arrested, as they drive along the streets of Germany where Mossad attempted on the life of a German scientist, as they walk through the Austrian cemetery where Otto Skorzeny is buried. We go to Cairo where Factory 333 was built, Nasser's missile site, and finally to Tel Aviv, in front of the government offices where Operation Damocles was planned.

2. Talking Heads: They will be used sparingly and where necessary. They will be overlaid with images, CGI and VFX relevant to their contributions.

DIRECTOR'S VIEW

3 - MONTAGE

We will provide rapid transitions consisting of modern images of the places where the events took place, to anchor our story in the present as well. We will use different filming techniques, such as stock footage, drone shots, day and night shots, time-lapses, and b-roll.



KEY ACCESS - FOOTAGE - SOURCES

Finding sources on this subject is certainly not easy; however, thanks to meticulous and lengthy investigations in archives and libraries and conversations with authors and experts, we are now able to recount the complex details of Operation Damocles in this documentary series.

Archival materials are the cornerstone of each episode, providing atmosphere and information.

We have declassified documents, police reports, and court papers.

We will use the international news archive of the period (German, Israeli and Egyptian); historical archives (AP, BBC, Bundesarchiv, Israel State Archive, National Archives of Egypt) that will allow us to contextualize the time, place, and protagonists of Operation Damocles.

Archival investigations will also be used to tell the story of the Israeli secret service, the Mossad, Otto Skorzeny, and the great historical personalities involved in Operation Damocles, such as Ben Gurion, Golda Meir, Shimon Peres, and Nasser.



4 - CGI

Using 3D graphics, we will reconstruct the places where our story took place, such as Factory 333 in Egypt and the development laboratories in Germany, and finally the deadly Egyptian missiles. We will show the launch site of the missiles and how they were assembled, and we will reproduce an explosion to simulate the damage these deadly machines of Nasser could have generated in Israel.

We will reproduce animated and accurate maps that will help us navigate the complex international web of countries and cities involved.

We will use many archival black and white photographs that will be subjected to the process of colorization and also supported by graphic effects such as the incredible and realistic parallax effect.



DIRECTOR - Max Serio



" Documentaries are no longer just for The History Channel. The production of video documentaries has evolved and is a different game these days. A good documentary will not simply "inform", but will instruct, inspire, call to action and yes... sometimes even sell."

As a director specifies in crime, history, wildlife topics. Skilled creator; researcher; producer; team builder and developer. Currently responsible for producing content for www.picassofilm.net and in the last 13 years have created and produced over 200 hours of broadcast content distributed and transmitted in over 54 countries by the most important and prestigious broadcasters of the world. Known for his documentary films and series Inside criminal Mind, The plot to kill the Pope, Empire Games, (Netflix), Secret Vatican Files, M.A.D. world (Discovery), Fatal Forecast (RMC and BBC), Hitler's Gold (History Channel) and others.



OUR GUESTS



Tahia Abdel Nasser
Granddaughter of the Egyptian President Nasser.

Egyptian Professor of English Literature at the American University in Cairo. Author of the book: 'Nasser My Husband. Tahia will tell us the story of her family and in particular the private life and unpublished details of the Egyptian rai Nasser and his prominent role in the Arab world and the



Alon Ben-Gurion
Israeli-American, grandson of Israel's founder and Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion.

Manager and expert on Israeli history and politics. Alon will tell us about his grandfather's life, political activities, and Ben Gurion's reaction to the Egyptian missile threat.



Oded Gur-Arie
Son of the 'Champagne Spy', Wolfgang Lotz.

He was only 12 years old when his father revealed to him that he was a Mossad spy and made him swear to keep silent. An Israeli-American, he is a university professor at Adrian College in Michigan. Oded will tell us memoirs and unpublished details and provide us with never-before-shown documents and photographs tracing his father's story.



Ronen Bergman

Israeli political and military analyst for Yedioth Ahronoth, Israel's leading daily newspaper. Bergman has written for The New York Times, Wall Street, Foreign Affairs, and Newsweek in the US, and for The Times, The Guardian, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, and Siiddeutsche Zeitung in Europe.



Mishka Ben-David

Former Israeli Mossad agent. For 12 years, he participated in covert operations in Europe and the Middle East. He was an undercover agent for numerous clandestine operations. Thanks to him, we will delve into topics related to Mossad, recruitment techniques, and the creation of spy networks.



Beatrice Heuser

British historian and political scientist. Chair of International Relations at the University of Glasgow. She has worked at the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London. She was director of the research section of the Military History Office of the German Armed Forces in Potsdam.



Dan Raviv

American Washington correspondent for CBS News since 1997. He has conducted hours of radio coverage of major US historical events. He contributes to the Israeli daily Haaretz and has investigated Otto Skorzeny's role in Operation Damocle



Yossi Melman

He is one of Israel's leading journalists and commentators. An expert on military security and intelligence. For 27 years, he was a writer and columnist for the Israeli daily Haaretz. Author of several books on foreign policy, strategic issues, terrorism, and intelligence.



Roger Howard

British journalist and historian specializing in the geopolitical analysis of the Middle East. His articles have appeared in leading British newspapers. Author of the book Operation Damocles.



Wolfgang G. Schwanitz

German-American historian of the Middle East. He is a specialist in comparative studies of modern international relations between the United States, the Middle East, and Europe. Schwanitz is known for his research on Arab-Jewish-German relations and the history of German relations with the Middle East.



Michelle Lynde

American NASA aerospace engineer who conducts aerodynamic and ballistic analyses, wind tunnel experiments, and flight tests. She will explain in detail the design and assembly phases of Nasser's missiles.

Episode I - The former Nazi scientists have a new job



- July 1962
A military parade parades through the streets of Cairo; the crowd enthusiastically welcomes the passage of two missiles; Gamal Abdel Nasser, the Egyptian president, revels in the jubilation and declares that these missiles can reach military targets south of Beirut, and south of the Lebanese capital lies the arch-enemy of the Arab world: Israel.
- The words of the Egyptian rais triggered panic in the Israeli authorities and a disturbing question.
How did Egypt equip itself with ballistic missiles, whose technology at the time was only known to the US and the Soviet Union?
- Only Mossad, the Israeli secret service, can answer this question.
Isser Harel, the Mossad director, discovers the truth and, alarmed, reports it to Israeli Prime Minister Ben Gurion. The Egyptian missiles were built by German scientists; former Nazis who had worked with Von Braun on the development of the V1 and V2. After the war, these men had remained in Germany, often with underpaid electrical engineering jobs, and wanted revenge.
- Egypt intended to produce hundreds of missiles, equipping them with warheads with nuclear waste and bacteriological vials, weapons capable of triggering another genocide. The missile assembly site is located near Cairo, while the technology is produced in Germany by laboratories and factories working undercover for the Egyptians.
- Ben Gurion and Golda Meir cannot compromise the fragile diplomatic relations that had just been established with West Germany, so they entrust Mossad with the task of acting clandestinely to eradicate the Egyptian danger; Operation Damocles is born.
- Israeli agents infiltrate Egypt and begin searching for Nasser's German accomplices; in particular, they flag an extremely suspicious man, his name Wolfgang Lotz and who is a former Nazi officer who has excellent contacts with the Egyptian authorities.
- But time is running out and Mossad decides to bring in a man who years earlier had helped Nasser modernize the Egyptian army; a man who knows the Egyptian military hierarchy and can gather information quickly.
His name is Otto Skorzeny, a Hitler loyalist, a man who was on the list of Nazi criminals of Simon Wiesenthal, the notorious Nazi hunter.
- Skorzeny wants to participate, but does not ask for money, but for immunity and the rehabilitation of his person in Israel; the Mossad accepts and from this moment on former SS Skorzeny becomes a Nazi hunter.

Episode 2 - Greetings from the Mossad



- Skorzeny's enlistment is not an isolated case; Mossad's manual for protecting Israel and the Jewish people has no set rules or limits. Indeed, since 1948 Mossad agents have been recruiting former Nazis to guarantee Israel's security.

- 1962 - Skorzeny proves extremely useful in finding information for the Mossad; the former SS man flies to Egypt and compiles a detailed list of German scientists and their addresses. The Mossad immediately springs into action.

- In the middle of the night, the scientists receive threatening phone calls to persuade them to leave Egypt; but that is not enough. On 27 November 1962, a letter is delivered to engineer Wolfgang Pilz, one of those in charge of the rocket project; the secretary opens the letter and an explosion disfigures it forever, rendering her deaf and blind. The next day, an explosive package kills five Egyptian employees. A climate of genuine terror begins to spread among the German scientists in Cairo.

- Mossad does not only operate in Egypt but also intervenes on European soil.

Skorzeny also provided a list of companies in Europe that manufactured and shipped ballistic components to Egypt. Among them was the Munich-based INTRA of Professor Heinz Krug, a leading figure in the missile program. Krug was scared because he knew that Israel could only be behind the threatening phone calls and attacks. It was reasonable for Krug to think that sooner or later the Mossad would hit him.

- That is why he asked for the help of a Nazi hero, considered the best by Hitler: Otto Skorzeny. Krug contacts Skorzeny in the hope of creating a strategy to keep the scientists safe; the professor cannot know that Skorzeny works for Mossad.

- Skorzeny agrees to meet Krug; after that meeting, Professor Krug disappears forever. Skorzeny probably killed the professor and a team of Israeli agents disposed of the body with acid.

- The leader of this Mossad team that helped Skorzeny was Yitzhak Shamir, the future Prime Minister of Israel. For other experts, Krug was picked up by these Mossad agents, taken to Israel, executed and his body thrown into the sea or the Negev desert.

- Operation Damocles continued.

- In February 1963, another scientist, Hans Kleinwachter, escaped an ambush in Switzerland. In April, two Mossad agents in Basel threaten project director Paul Goerke with death but are arrested by the Swiss authorities.

- The trial unveils Operation Damocles to the world and a diplomatic earthquake ensues for Israel, putting its fragile, fledgling relations with West Germany at serious risk.

Ep. 3 - Circumcision



- Israel and West Germany had recently ratified a trade agreement for the purchase and sale of arms and Israel badly needed them to deal with hostile Arab countries. Ben Gurion could not afford to lose this order and decided to end Operation Damocles.
- In return, the German government favors the discreet return home of the scientists who had emigrated to Egypt, with prestigious positions in universities and research institutes. The scientists who do not accept the German government's invitation will be dismissed shortly afterward by Nasser, for failing to achieve their goals.
- Skorzeny goes back to Spain to write his autobiography, which will also be published in Israel.
- The Mossad director, Isser Harel, is forced to resign, officially because he disagreed with Ben Gurion's choice; but unofficially because he had made all the wrong predictions about the real danger of the Egyptian missile plan; it seems incredible, but it is so.
- The new Mossad chief, Meir Amit, discovered that almost all the German scientists engaged by Egypt did not have the sufficient technical knowledge to develop such an important project and that the missiles produced were already obsolete.
- The entire Operation Damocles had been a miscalculation by Isser Harel, who was afraid of a new genocide.
- The final twist in Operation Damocles concerns a spy, dubbed The Champagne Spy. During the whole phase of the operation, Mossad agents in Egypt had reported a suspicious German numerous times. Former Nazi officer Wolfgang Lotz, but no order had ever come from Tel Aviv to take action against this German. Why?
- In 1965, in the suburbs of Cairo, Egyptian police discovered a clandestine trade in hydrocarbons. The smugglers were communicating via short-wave radio and during a search, they knocked on the door of Lotz's home. The officers only want information about the neighborhood, but find Lotz in a panic. The man, at the sight of the police, takes refuge in the bathroom and tries to destroy a radio transmitter. Caught in the act Lotz is immediately arrested.
- The officers think they have finally located the leader of the smugglers, but this is not the case. In front of the judge, Lotz confesses to being an Israeli spy; yes, a spy... no one knew this, not even his Mossad colleagues.
- Wolfgang Lotz, this German with blond hair, an austere face, and married to a Christian woman was never a former Nazi officer. He was a Jew with a peculiarity that made him virtually unrecognizable: he was uncircumcised. It was he who had sent the parcel bombs against German scientists.
- He was the armed wing of Operation Damocles in Egypt, he was the one who sowed fear and death among Nasser's German scientists.

OPERATION DAMOCLES

"...BY DECEPTION, YOU WILL MAKE WAR."

Written by: Paolo Nigro & Max Serio

Directed by: Max Serio

Produced by: **PICASSO**film[®]

Executive production by: **SO WHAT MEDIA**

ladislav@sowhatmedia.tv / +420 605 229 223

max@sowhatmedia.tv / +420 725 708 798