

the enormous amount of junk history around, Guy sees it as his personal mission to wage war on ignorance and misconceptions about the past. His website is www.guywalters.com.



It's not news that Simon Wiesenthal worked for Mossad

By [Guy Walters World](#) Last updated: September 2nd, 2010

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Mossad agent Simon Wiesenthal walking in a Jewish cemetery in Eisenstadt, Austria, that had been vandalized by right-wing extremists. Photo: EPA

There has been a lot of [news](#) today about the revelation made by Tom Segev in his new [biography](#) of Simon Wiesenthal that the Nazi hunter worked as a Mossad agent in Austria in the 1940s and 1950s.

As I'm reviewing Dr Segev's book for the *Sunday Telegraph*, I shall refrain from commenting at length, but I thought, in the interests of accuracy, that I should draw the attention of readers to the claims made in a book called [Hunting Evil](#) published last year. (Full disclosure: I wrote the book.)

If you look at page 223 of the paperback edition, you will find this passage:

On 16 January 1950, the CIC in Upper Austria learned that Wiesenthal, who it described as the

'recognised leader of the Jewish DP's in Upper Austria' and the 'chief Austrian Agent of the Israeli Intelligence Bureau', had recruited Wilhelm Höttl.

And on page 395:

Another Eichmann hunter who felt equally frustrated at the beginning of 1960 was Simon Wiesenthal. On 11 January, Wiesenthal was visited in his office in Linz by two Mossad operatives, who wished to know how an Austrian investigation into Eichmann was proceeding. Wiesenthal's relationship with the Mossad is unclear, but it is extremely likely that he was an agent for the organization throughout the 1950s. The CIC report of 16 January 1950 that had revealed Wiesenthal having recruited Höttl as a source had also mentioned that Wiesenthal was 'chief Austrian Agent of the Israeli Intelligence Bureau'.

Those anywhere near the US National Archives in Maryland can see the CIC report in the Wilhelm Höttl Name file, RG 263, Stack 230, Row C, Compartment 64, Shelf 04, Boxes 23, 24, 25. The specific document in question is shown below.

I'm delighted that Dr Segev has added lots of new information to the story of Simon Wiesenthal, but I'm afraid that this particular scoop is not really his. Dr Segev told me he had read my book, so I'm surprised he hasn't noticed this choice morsel in its pages.

I'm also mystified by the reaction of Dr Efraim Zuroff of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, who told the *Jewish Chronicle* that the claim [had come as a real shock](#), and that he thought he 'knew just about everything there was to know about him'. Dr Zuroff is another person [who claims to have read my book](#), so I wonder why Dr Segev's 'revelation' is such big news. Dr Zuroff called my book 'ridiculous', so it seems strange that he doesn't apply the same description to the book written by Dr Segev. My suspicion is that the likes of Drs Zuroff and Segev find the conclusions of my book unpalatable, and they have chosen to ignore it. In a way, I'm flattered!

Anyway, there are plenty of questions I'd like to put to Dr Segev about his biography, and it looks as though I may get the chance to do so on the Today programme on either Monday or Tuesday next week. Stay tuned...

UPDATE 03/09/10: I've just heard that Dr Segev does not wish to go on air with me next week. That's a shame.

COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS
430th DET. U.S.F.A.

Land Upper Austria Sub Detachment
APO 174
U.S. Army

16 January 1950
Linz Field Office (S2)
KK:JKA:ced
SOI: 417152

SUBJECT: HOETTL, Wilhelm - WIESENTHAL, Simon

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

Following information was received from informant 5991. Evaluation; Source 'C' (fairly reliable); Information '2' (probably true).

Simon WIESENTHAL, resident of the U.S. Zone of Austria, (Linz), since 1945 and recognized leader of the Jewish Dr's in Upper Austria (Chairman of the Jewish Central Committee) is chief Austrian Agent of the Israeli Intelligence Bureau. He has recruited the services of Wilhelm HOETTL (since his dismissal from U.S. services in September 1949) and the latter has furnished at least one lengthy (100 page) report to date, of which Source is aware. The report deals with the whereabouts and present activities in Austria of former prominent NSDAP members, all details known to HOETTL on the VDU and the SPIDER organization. Source evaluated the content material of the report as grossly exaggerated.

Source also stated HOETTL is well along in his negotiations to open a book dealer's agency in Linz. Source was not aware of the origin of HOETTL's financial backing in this venture.

AGENT'S NOTES:

Information is evaluated at '2' because similar data has been circulating in Jewish circles in Linz for the past several weeks, though always of the rumor category, and one field office has submitted a verbal report, gleaned from another source (Source 6357-Usually 'C') confirming above information.

Regraded _____
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