The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of several spools of silk thread in various colors, including shades of blue, pink, orange, and white. The spools are arranged in a row, and the threads are tightly wound, creating a textured, ribbed appearance. The lighting is soft, highlighting the sheen of the silk.

**The Disappearance of Jim Thompson,
the “Silk King of Thailand”–
A Search and Rescue Analysis**

Presented by

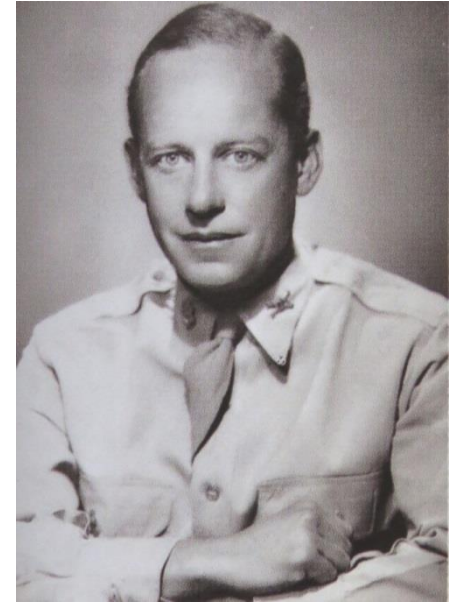
Lew Toulmin, Ph.D., MN '04, F.R.G.S.

Silver Spring, Maryland

January 2016

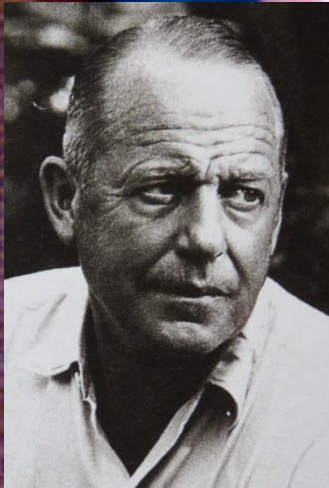
Today we will cover these topics:

- The exotic life of Jim Thompson
- The disappearance and search
- Theories re the disappearance
- Analysis of the search
- Murder of Jim's sister in DE/PA
- Conclusions and implications



Jim Thompson in WW II





The Exotic Life of Jim Thompson

James Harrison Wilson Thompson: b. 1906 in Greenville, Delaware



PRINCETON
UNIVERSITY

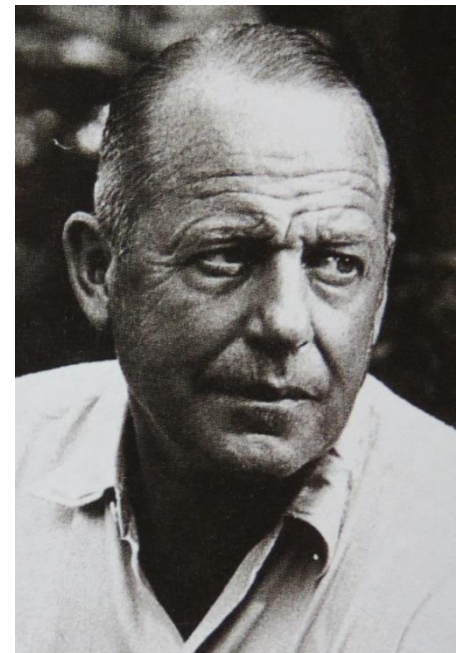
-- 1928, B. Arch.



Penn
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

-- 1929-31, studied design

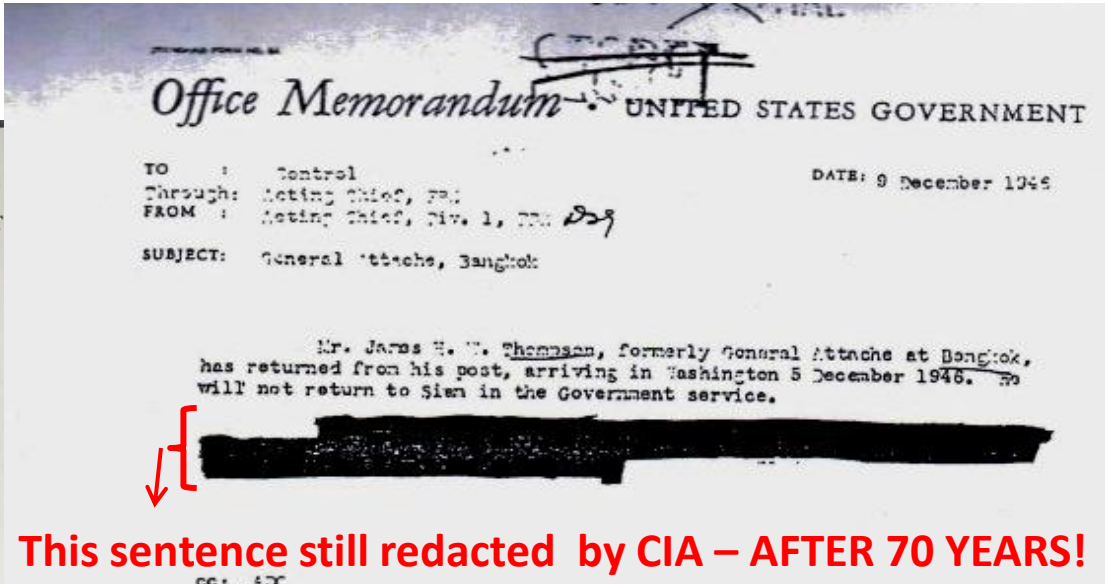
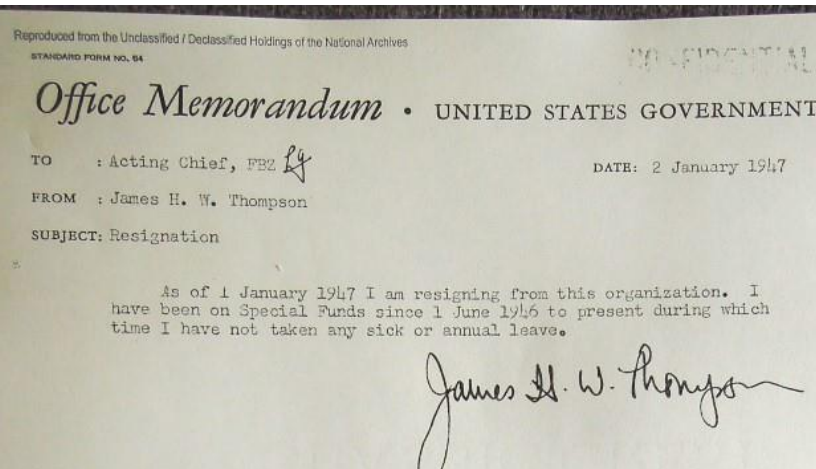
- Architect & designer, 1931-41
- Spoke fluent French
- Gracious, cultured, occasional hot temper
- Piercing blue eyes
- Businessman, wonderful eye for color, sales genius, creative, too trusting of subordinates
- OSS Intelligence officer, rising to CIA "agent of influence"
- No children, divorced early, many affairs
- Art expert and avid Asian art collector



Army private to OSS Lt. Col. during WW II...

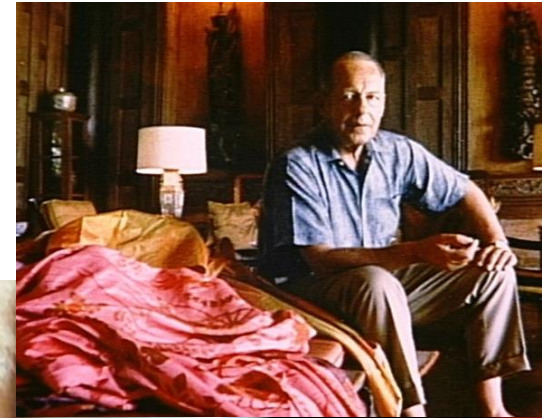
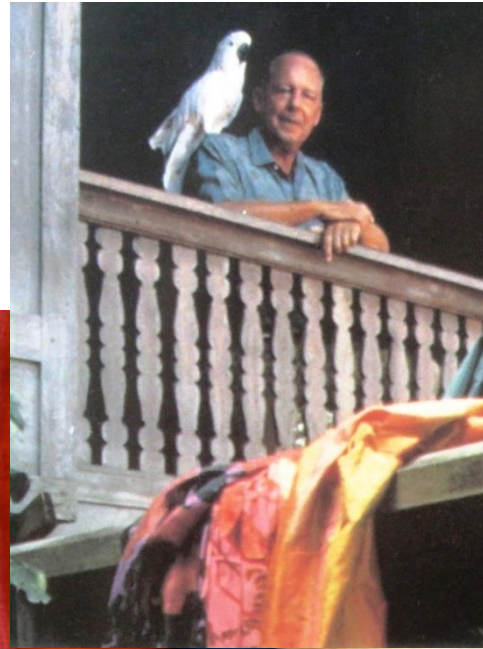
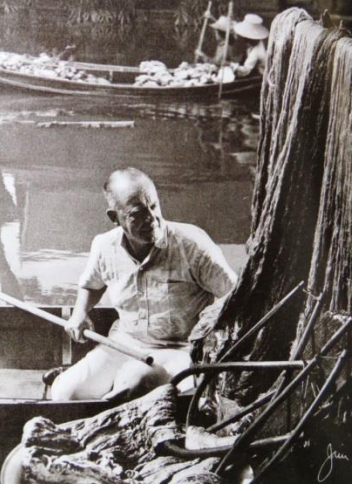


...then resigned – sort of

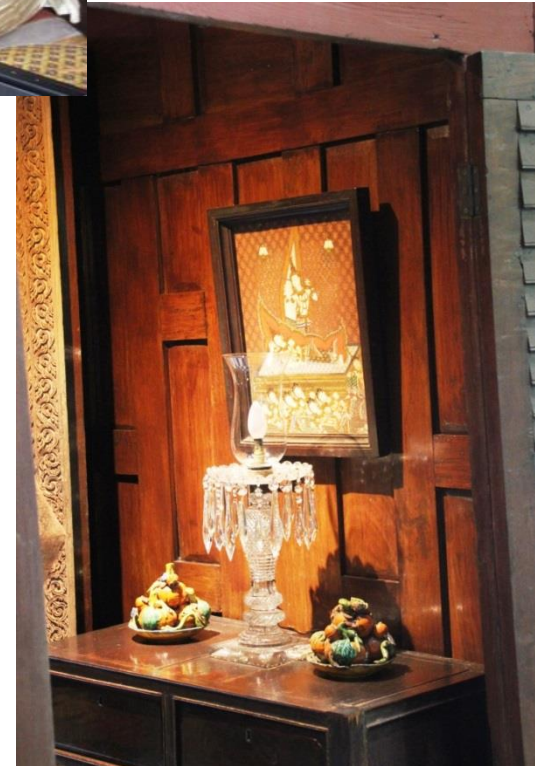
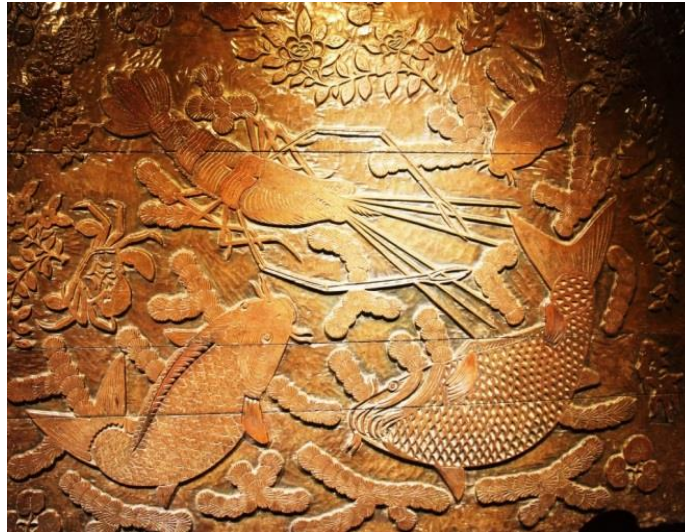


This sentence still redacted by CIA – AFTER 70 YEARS!

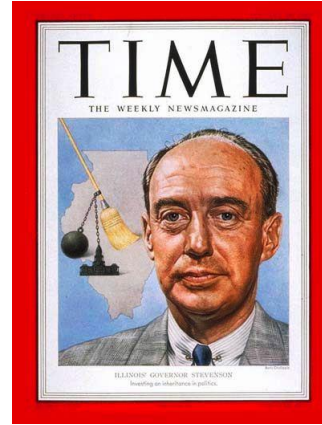
Jim built the Thai silk industry



His house/museum in Bangkok is fabulous



Jim entertained almost every night...

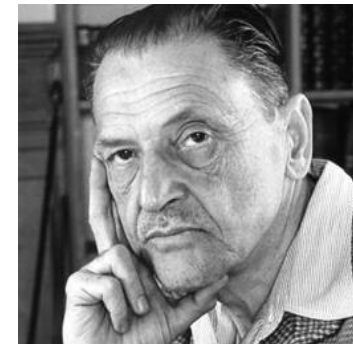
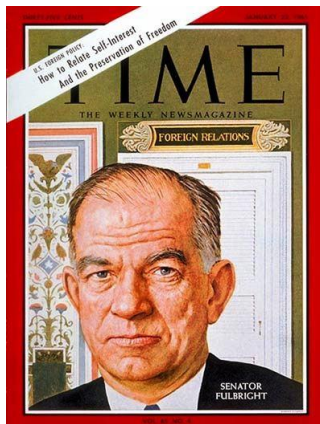


Doris Duke

Barbara Hutton

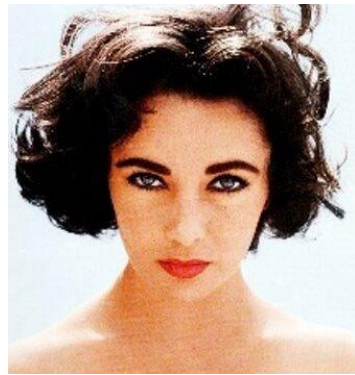


Tenn. Wms.

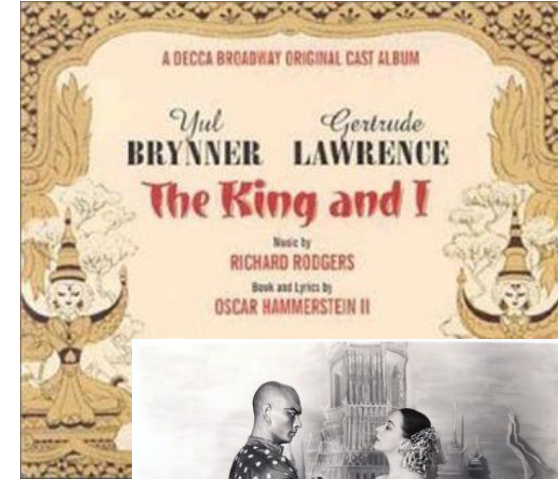


Somerset Maugham (ex-MI5)

...and had clients all over the world



Queen Sirikit
of Thailand with JT



THE THAI SILK COMPANY LTD.

311/6-7 SURIWONGSE ROAD, BANGKOK, THAILAND.

JAMES H.W. THOMPSON, MANAGING DIRECTOR TELEPHONE NO.: 3 2 3 4 1

BANK PAYMENTS: BANK OF AMERICA, BANGKOK

MAIL: P. O. BOX 906 BANGKOK, THAILAND. CABLE: THAISILK BANGKOK

Our ref. 5092

11 August, 1960

Mrs. Thad Partridge
311 Mohawk Street
Mobile, Alabama
U. S. A.

REGISTERED

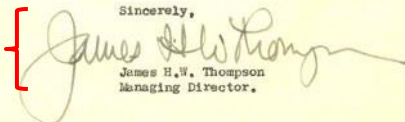
Dear Mrs. Partridge:

Enclosed are our invoice and an insurance certificate for our shipment to you by sea parcel post, by order of Mrs. Harry Toulmin.

Shipment by sea is slow and may take as long as four months, but with any luck your parcel should reach you in two or three, or even less.

We hope you like our products. If there is anything further we can do for you, please let us know.

Sincerely,



James H.W. Thompson
Managing Director.

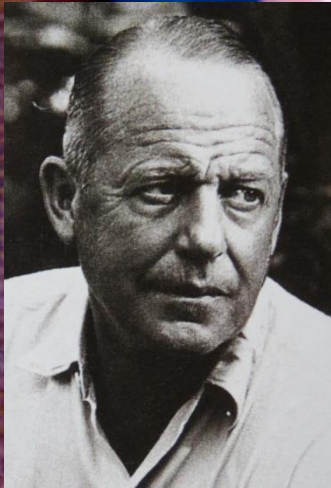
Enclosures:

Invoice No. 1477/60 R. (Original)
Insurance Certificate No. 5037/5427 (Original)
Mail Order Price List.

CUS/aa.



The cast of *Ben-Hur*



The Disappearance and Search

He went for Easter vacation to Tanah Rata, Malaysia



214 curves on the road up



1960s view



Classic "CH"
Cameron
Highlands
Land Rovers



Some tacky
resorts now



Still some terrific views

Jim awoke, went to church and a picnic...



Stayed at the Moonlight Bungalow



Jim's bedroom – you can sleep there too



Last
known
photo

*Jim Thompson at the picnic on Easter Sunday, March 26, 1967,
a few hours before he disappeared.*

...took a short afternoon walk...



The Moonlight Bungalow = the last known point (LKP)



View to W



View to S



View to NW

...and **vanished forever**

A Living Legend Vanishes in the Malaysian Jungle

Some of the earliest memories of James Harrison Wilson Thompson were his visits to his grandfather. For hours James Harrison Wilson could tell tales of places half a world away from Wil-

ried out, and he was ordered to Bangkok to serve as an adviser to the American legation. He arrived only two days after the Japanese had capitulated. By 1946 he had received his

ing it in bulk to the United States. The business grew rapidly. In 1949 he organized the Thai Silk Co. with 33 backers, 30 of them Thais. Thai silk became famous around the world. Last year

was a priceless collection of Burmese, Khmer and Siamese Buddha images dating back to the 12th Century, with red and gold Balinese lions, Ming Dynasty rosewood screens, Thai paintings and

of the highlands Capt was a credible story-writer, lecturer in former insurance fraud the author of the book, of Fantasy, published honored that a korry had he road but this was not

TIO PEOPLE STARTWO, TUESDAY 23 MARCH 2010
New theories emerge about Jim Thompson's disappearance over 40 years ago.

By FOONG THIM LENG

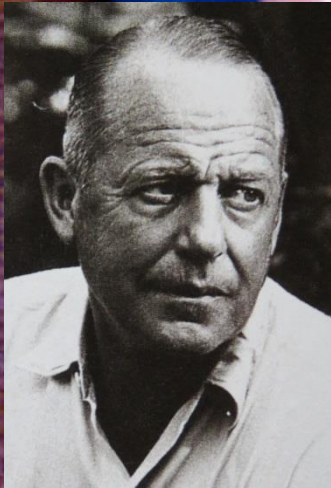
...since Thai Silk King not missing in the Highlands but the hills tales of what could have s on Thompson's disappearances fit for a spy re too ludicrous to re story came out of at Thompson's disapp road accident. sort resident manager e story circulating in s death bed, an elderly is family to ease his d once knocked down man and buried him in anger was that he died ut where the body was



Captain Philip J. Rivers at the verandah of Moonlight Cottage where Jim Thompson was last seen in 1967.

either eaten by a tiger, leopard or a wild boar, gulped down by a python or swallowed by quicksand.

"Others argued that the orang asli had accidentally killed him with a dart from a blow-



Theories re the Disappearance

FBI, US DoS, CIA, Malay & Thai police turned up nothing



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Chicago, Illinois
May 8, 1967

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. 163-553

JAMES HARRISON WILSON THOMPSON

On May 4, 1967, Mr. James Douglas, a member of the law firm Gardner, Carton, Douglas and Chilgren, 33 South Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois, advised that James Harrison Wilson Thompson was his wife's brother.

JAMES HARRISON WILSON THOMPSON

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas went to [redacted] in or near Beverly Hills, California. They had dinner with [redacted] at which time they made arrangements with him to assist in this matter. In Thailand [redacted] advised that Thompson had been taken against his will to Cambodia. [redacted] wanted to go to Cambodia but due to the international situation he was advised not to go to Cambodia.

On Friday before Easter Sunday, March 26, 1967, Thompson arrived at a vacation bungalow in Cameron Highlands of Malaysia, a resort area, accompanied by [redacted] an old friend. [redacted] is an authority concerning art objects and is an art dealer. [redacted] also were in the bungalow. On Easter Sunday about 3:00 PM after the group had had a picnic, Thompson was seen walking away from the bungalow and was last seen on a nearby hill. About 4:00 PM of this date [redacted] started searching for Thompson. About 8:00 PM he was joined by the [redacted]. The search continued to about 2:00 AM with no results. [redacted] an authority concerning this area later lead a search party.

Mr. Douglas explained he had no additional information regarding Thompson's personal life or background which might lead to his whereabouts. He felt that Thompson was highly respected and well liked by those people around him. To his knowledge Thompson had no enemies.

Attached is a copy of an article made available by Mr. Douglas and identified by him as from the New York Times issue of April 29, 1967, captioned "Clues Are Sought On Lost



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EMBASSY
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Bangkok, Thailand

SECRET

The Honorable
William P. Bundy
Assistant Secretary
Department of State



May 8, 1967

Dear Bill:

Although we have been exchanging telegrams at a rapid rate with regard to Jim Thompson, the case has now reached a point where I thought it might be useful to summarize its status as it seems to us here. This might be particularly useful in view of the forthcoming arrival of Mrs. Douglas and Henry Thompson.

The first thing to be said is that as seen from Bangkok there is virtually no prospect of solution. After several weeks of organized search of the jungle by the Malaysian police and after Mr. Noone's careful expedition, there seems to be every reason to accept his judgment that Jim was not lost in the jungle. Of course, no such conclusion can be drawn absolutely and I assume the Malaysian authorities will continue to be alert to any possible clues leading back to the jungle.

The sequel, however, has been to focus everyone's attention on the search for other explanations. This, of course, can lead to all kinds of intriguing speculation but as far as we can tell none of it is founded on anything more solid than romance. This is not to say that Jim was not the victim of some devious political or personal conspiracy, but only that so far there is no evidence of such. Mr. Vander Hurk's effort falls into this general category. I can easily understand the motives of the Douglas' in hiring Vander Hurk for this purpose and I certainly could not say that Vander Hurk's theory is wrong but it is only a theory totally unsupported by evidence. It has, of

DECLASSIFIED

JRS
Bundy hi
JRS
Bundy hi
JRS
Bundy hi
JRS
Bundy hi

Myriad possible suspects...



JT's lover
Irena Yost



UN Amb. Chas.
Yost?



CIA, peeved over Jim's
supposed opposition to VN war?



Fine Arts
Dept.?

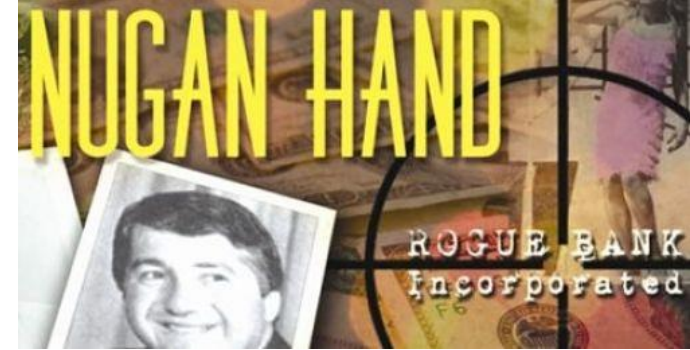


Ex-lover and art
associate
Lisa Lyons?



Communist terrorists?

...in numerous possible **conspiracies**



Link to **corrupt Aussie/CIA bank?**



Business associates of deceased Field Marshall & PM?



Sick ex-wife Pat Thraves = not a suspect

TO : Director, FBI

FROM: Legat, Manila (163-1456) (P)

SUBJECT: JAMES HARRISON WILSON THOMPSON
KIDNAPING - MALAYSIA
FPC

*Page 3, STATE DATE: 4/27/67
DEPT. Info Docs
NOT WARRANT CLASSIFICATION
per LTR DTD 6/16/93
9803RDD/TAP/JS 8/3/93
FOIA# 339,703*

ReMANcab 4/25/67.

*10/8/92 SP5 CI/JS
FOIA# 339,703
Previously processed for FOIA #239,*

[redacted] Ipoh and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, have requested Bureau assistance in connection with the disappearance of the captioned person under circumstances

b7D

Police contacted all criminal and communist gangs in Malaysia and received assurance that none of these groups had any knowledge pertinent to victim's disappearance. To date, no request for ransom has been received. The only activity in the case has been three anonymous letters mailed in Singapore to the police and the U.S. Embassy, Kuala Lumpur, alleging in summary that [redacted] is not telling everything he knows. Interview of [redacted] have been without significant result.

b6
b7C

Malay gangs?

[redacted] have received reports from two sources--a reliable one in Bangkok, and from personnel at the hotel in Cameron Highlands, where the victim is not known to have ever frequented or stayed--that the victim is homosexual.

b7D

Homosexual lover?

["b7d" = redacted by FBI due to confidential informant]

Did Ed Pollitz sight JT in Tahiti in June 1967? Unlikely but possible



Wm. Bundy,
Asst. SecState
for E Asia

June 14

WPB,

Here is the report on Pollitz' sighting of Jim Thompson (or a person he thought to be J T) in Tahiti.

I recommend that we not send it to Bangkok, K L and Singapore at this stage, but I would propose that we send a memo to Bill Colby so that he is aware of it and I think it might be worthwhile passing on to James Doug after Mr. Bundy initials.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 20104

CONFIDENTIAL

TELEGRAM

ACTION: Amembassy KUALA LUMPUR

INFO: Amembassy SINGAPORE
Amembassy BANGKOK

STATE

Subject: Thompson Disappearance

1. On June 12 DeptOff was informed by Edward Pollitz, International Executive Service Corps member assigned Singapore, that he believed he had seen Jim Thompson in Tahiti. Pollitz is responsible American citizen who has done commendable work in IESC. He claims to have known Thompson for number of years and was scheduled to have had dinner and business discussions in Singapore with Thompson few days after his disappearance. Pollitz realizes could have been matter mistaken identity but was most positive that individual he saw was Thompson. Pollitz was so positive that he shouted to individual across hotel lobby from manager's office. Individual did not respond to Pollitz greeting.

2. Claimed sighting took place at Hotel Tahiti in Papeete on May 27. Individual believed to be Thompson was casually dressed in sport shirt and gray slacks. Was accompanied by gray haired Caucasian woman, whose face Pollitz did not see. They both drove away from hotel in black sedan.

3. Pollitz related details this sighting to Bob Pritcher and Forrest Duff, Pan Am employees in Tahiti. Pollitz states he did

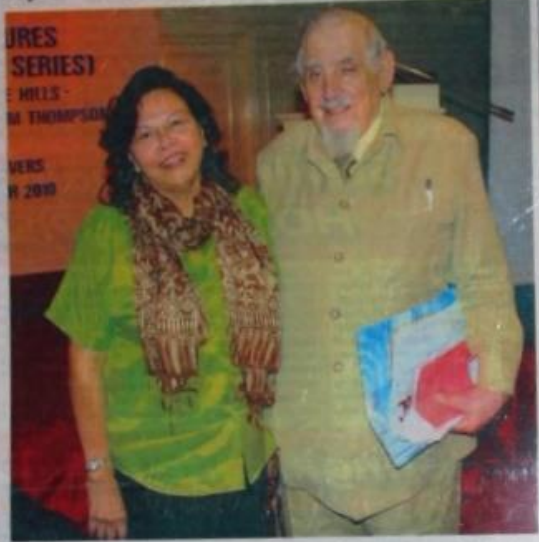
CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 20104

Thompson sighting

Clue lies in the bones

Researcher: DNA may help unravel the mysterious disappearance of 'Thai Silk King'



intriguing case: Captain Rivers with retired ASP Tan Ai Bee, who was involved in the investigations on the case of the missing Jim Thompson, in Ipoh recently.

By FOONG THIM LENG

A RESEARCHER believes that the clue to the mysterious disappearance of 'Thai Silk King' Jim Thompson may be found in bones from a grave in Cameron Highlands.

Captain Philip J. Rivers, a long-time resident in the highlands, said the bone fragments, without the skull, were discovered at the edge of a vegetable plot off the main road in Brinchang by orang asli settlers in 1985.

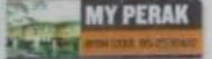
He found out about the discovery of the bones from a district health officer while doing research on Thompson's death in 2007.

Police collected the fragments but no connection was made to Thompson's disappearance in Tanah Rata, as they were found in Brinchang and almost 30 years after his 'death', Rivers said at a talk on 'He Never Left The Hills - The Real Search For Jim Thompson' organised by the Perak Academy in Ipoh on Friday.

Among the audience were retired Asst Supt Tan Ai Bee, who was involved in the investigations on Thompson's case, and Edward Roy De Souza, author of the book *Solved!*.

Thompson was reported missing on March 26, 1967. He was believed to be taking a walk in the jungles of Cameron Highlands then. The American was on a holiday with friends and they were staying at the Moonlight Cottage in Tanah Rata.

Several theories have emerged about his disappearance including political conspiracies



Rivers, who scoured books, articles and police reports from Deputy Supt (Retired) Ihsaid Haidari who was the OCPD then, said he concluded that Thompson never left the highlands and had suffered an accidental death.

"The probability is that his body lay undiscovered in the thick underbrush, hidden in an unmarked grave after a hit-and-run accident. A DNA on the bones might possibly provide a fuller answer," he said.

Asked to comment later, De Souza agreed that there was a probability that Thompson's death was accidental.

"But there is still a need to determine whether the bones found were that of Thompson's," he said.

De Souza's theory was that Thompson had planned his own disappearance as "an honourable manner" to get out of Thailand.

He said Thompson had felt uneasy staying in Thailand because of his poor relationship with the Fine Arts Department (FAD).

Apparently, the FAD's director-general then was not happy with Thompson's collection of artefacts.

De Souza said the press had, on occasions, quoted the director-general as saying that Thompson was one of the leaders involved in

Capt. Philip Rivers contends Jim was hit by a speeding truck, body buried, and bones found much later...



...but no proven relation of the bones to JT, and bones possibly not human

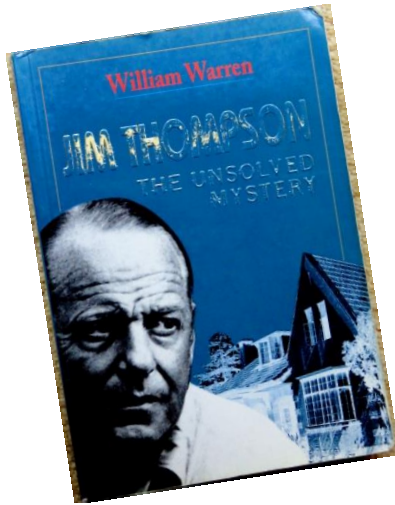
ARE THESE THE BONES?
The Great Thai Silk King Mystery and the Real Search for Jim Thompson
Capt. P. J. Rivers

The Perception and the Reality

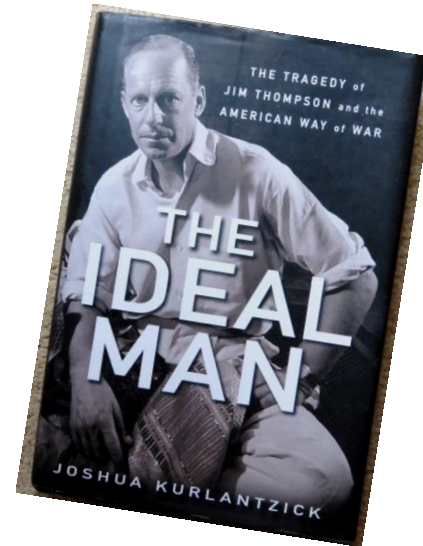
Over four decades ago another Easter legend was created when an American millionaire disappeared without trace in the midst of a mountainous tropical jungle. The man was Jim Thompson, well known as the Thai Silk King, the date was Sunday 26 March 1967, the place the Cameron Highlands in peninsular Malaysia. Evocatively set in a former British colonial hill resort, the mystery continues to capture the imagination into the new century.

Less than a week after his 61st birthday, the American Jim Thompson, accompanied by his...
...the...
...the...

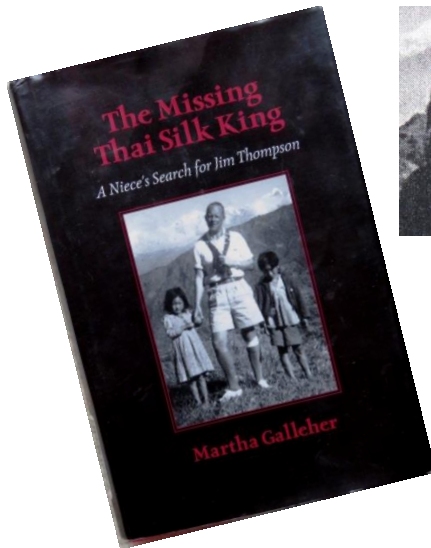
Four books have described Jim's life, the case, and causes...



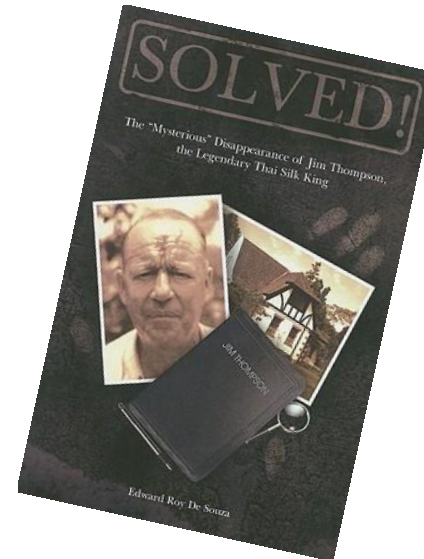
Possible accident, or kidnapping?



Possible murder by business rival?

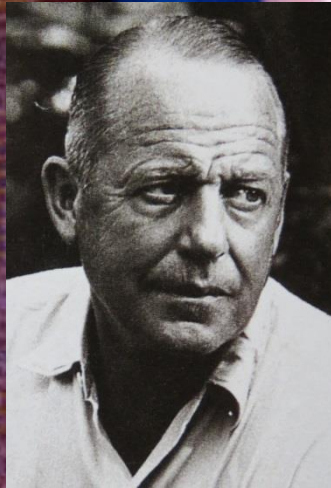


Voluntary departure to help solve VN war?



Left CH to start new life elsewhere, spotted in Tahiti later in 1967

...none have analyzed the search itself



Analysis of the Search

Key new research questions:

- What obstacles did the search encounter?
- What was the quantity and quality of the search?
- What was the probability of success (PoS) of the search?
- What cited causes and witnesses can be eliminated?
- What was JT like as a subject?

Is Jim Thompson Alive And Well in Asia?

By WILLIAM WARREN

AMONG the many visitors who came to a picturesque hill station called the Cameron Highlands in

Thompson case is that even before he disappeared he had become something of a legend in Southeast Asia. He first came to Thailand as a colonel

antiques, which he displayed in his Bangkok residence, a composite of five elegant old Thai houses that became such a tourist attraction that he



I interviewed actual 1967 participants, including:



Cikgo "The Teacher,"
volunteer
searcher



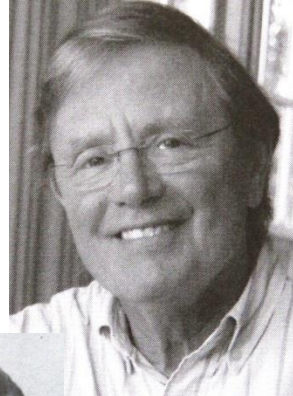
Madi, his house
searched, writing book



Capt. Mohammad, Malay Army
search leader



Taxi driver Ng Kiew Chay,
aka "Jim Thompson,"
searcher, refused interview!



Lt. Denis
Horgan,
US Army
searcher



Perak Aleyak, Boy Scout searcher



Me and Malaysian Police staff

**Missing tycoon:
Few more days of search**

From Page One

panied Mr. Shee, Mr. Chan and a group of aborigines for another search.

About 5.30 p.m. they returned without success.

According to a police source, the medium said he would be going to Ipoh to get advice from a "bigger" medium.

Meanwhile, about 160 men of the Police Field Force from Ipoh, led by ASP Sarain Singh, made a fresh sweep of the jungle area this morning, but without success till late evening.

American schoolchildren, convalescing army personnel from the British military hospital here and others who joined in the search for the first three days, have abandoned their efforts.

Search goes on

Dr. T.G. Ling of Singapore, owner of "Moonlight" bungalow, and a friend of Mr. Thompson, returned to Singapore this afternoon.

Mrs. Ling and Mrs. Connie Mangskau, a Bangkok friend of Mr. Thompson for 22 years and with whom he came to Cameron Highlands, remained behind to care for Mr. Thompson—if he were to be found.

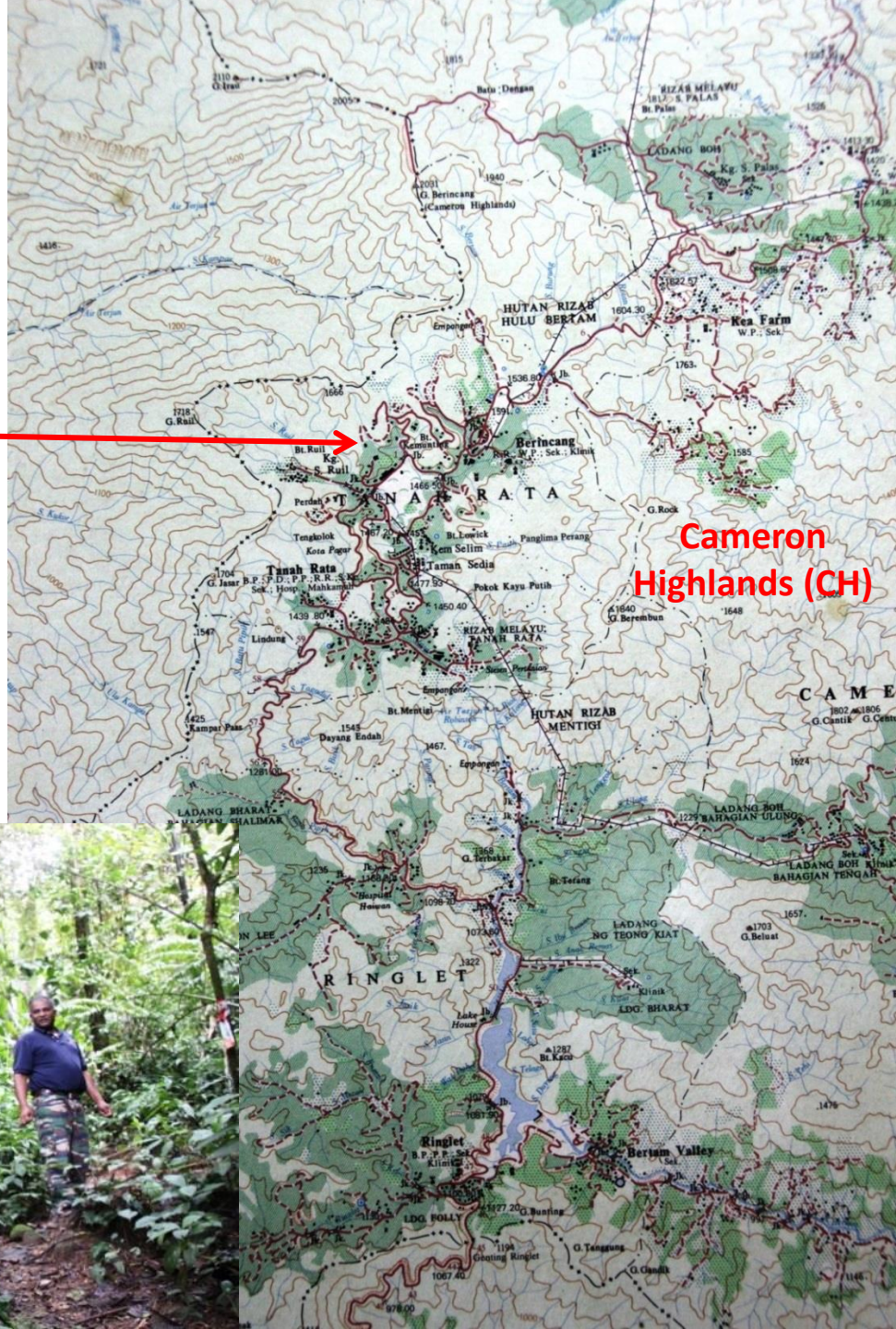
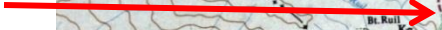
Mr. Robert Bliss of the American Embassy in Kuala Lumpur who has been here since Mr. Thompson was reported missing also returned to Kuala Lumpur this afternoon.

Police Field Force men are expected to continue the search for a few more days at least, if the medium's prediction does not come true.

Can Be...

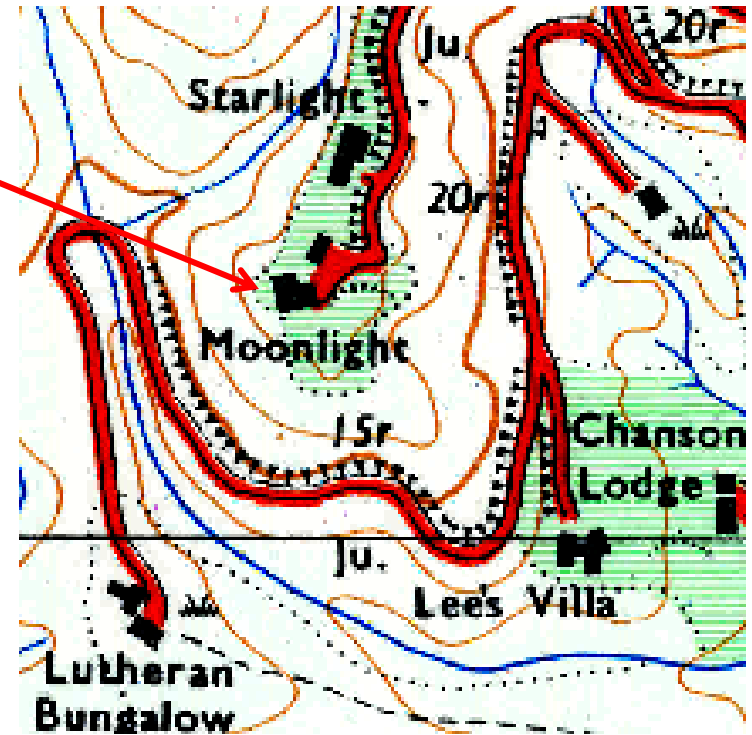
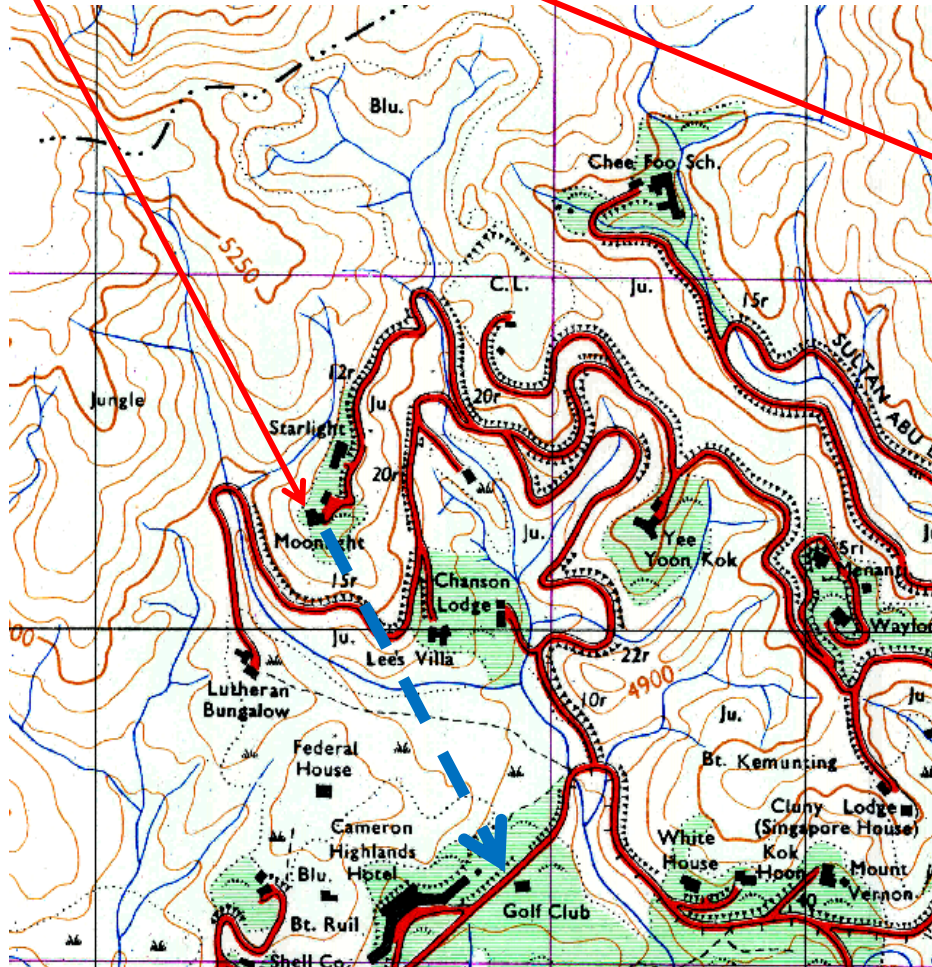
The search terrain is very rugged, high, thick jungle

Moonlight Bungalow, LKP, 5118 ft.



Numerous ravines, streams and drainages;
in which Jim **got lost** the previous day...

Moonlight Bungalow



...and liked it!

Key search locations



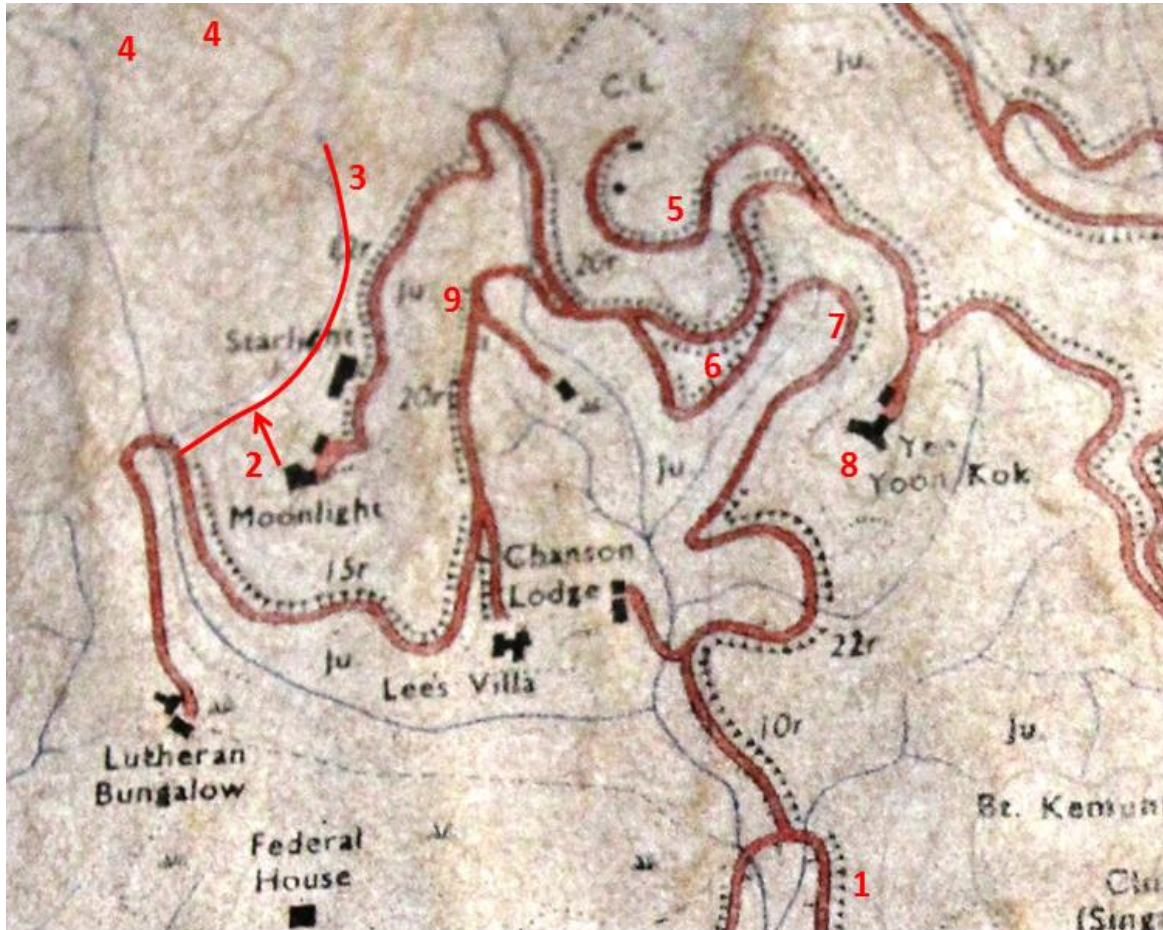
“Kitchen trail” behind MB (#2)



Two-headed ridge to the NW (#4)



Jim got into car here? (#9)



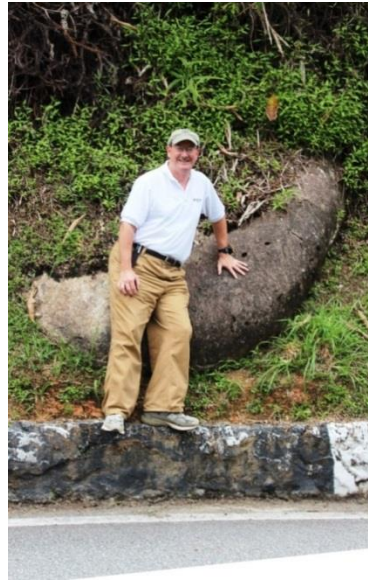
1. main road Tanah Rata to Brinchang;
2. kitchen trail downhill NNW from Moonlight Bungalow;
3. trail running along stream NW of MB, part of which is now called the “JT Mystery Trail”;
4. two-headed ridge NNW of MB;
5. area of “hornet’s nest,” now Strawberry Park Resort;
6. large stone where JT may have rested;
7. location where JT may have been killed by truck;
8. what is now the OMF Bungalow;
9. location where JT may have been picked up by car

SCALE:
Approx. 200 meters:

Witnesses after the LKP = mostly low credibility...



28. This was the paved road down from the Moonlight Cottage with the rock on which Jim was sitting smoking a cigarette when he greeted the Mission girl.



Servant stated saw JT sitting on this stone, smoking (#9)



Witness location at Lutheran Bungalow, 200 yards from MB in distance



Witness viewed "hornet's nest" from 254 yards (location #8 looking across to #5 on map)

A SEARCH IN NEW JUNGLE AREA BEGINS



Cook: I saw millionaire the day he vanished

By P.C. SHIVADAS
TANAH RATA, Wednesday

A COOK in the Lutheran Mission bungalow here looked closely at today's picture in the Straits Times

Fatimah claims saw JT from close up

...using GPS and Google Earth, I impeached two witnesses as too far (200 & 254 yds) to have recognized Jim

Est. 1448 SAR person-days delivered, probably largest search on land in SE Asia

300 Search in Malaysia For Missing American

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, March 28 (AP) — More than 300 policemen, soldiers and trackers with dogs searched the jungles of the Cameron Highlands without success today for James H. W. Thompson, the “silk king” of Thailand.

Jungle Expert Joins Search For American in Malaysia

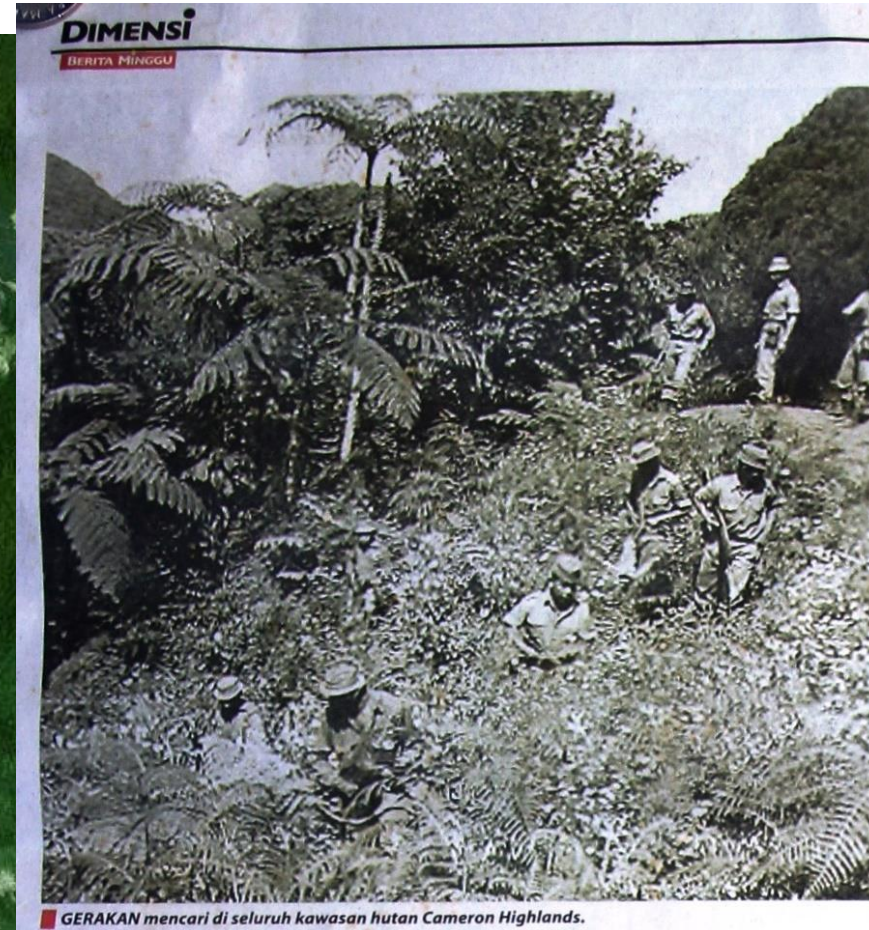
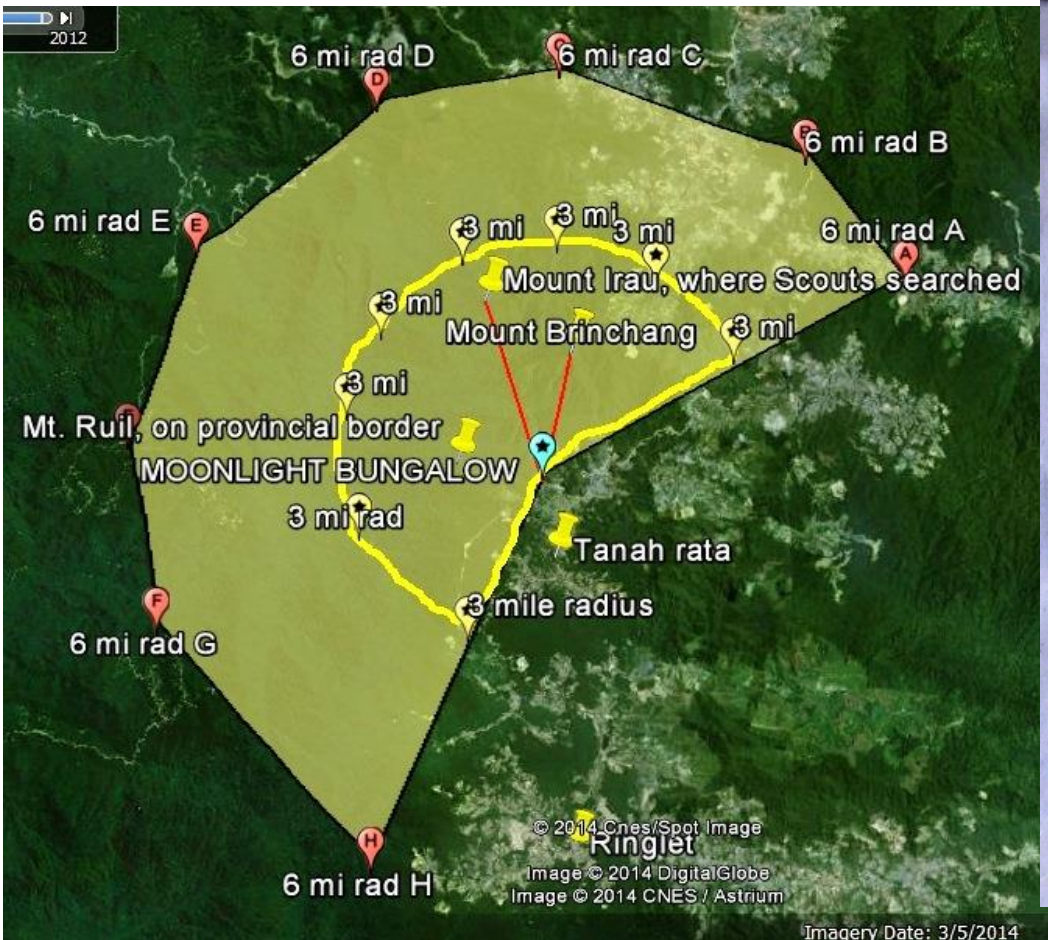
KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, April 22 (Reuters)—A British jungle warfare expert aided by an aborigine medicine man today joined the search for James H. W. Thompson, an American



Type of “bloodhound” used

DATE	SEARCH DAY	HIGHLIGHTS	EST. PERSON DAYS
Sun, 3/26/67	1	Hasty search in evening	8
Mon, 3/27/67	2	Hasty search up to 300	160
Tue, 3/28/67	3	300 searchers, orang asli	300
Wed, 3/29/67	4	Helos, \$10K USD reward	119
Thu, 3/30/67	5	100 searchers + mystics	100
Fri, 3/31/67	6	Gen. Black arrives	105
Sat, 4/1/67	7	Black, Army, PD, mystics	130
Sun, 4/2/67	8	Gen. Black leaves	125
Mon, 4/3/67	9	Assume 100 x 6 hrs ea +	75
Tue, 4/4/67	10	More reward, now \$25K	75
Wed, 4/5/67	11	50 Police searched	57
Thu, 4/6/67+	12+	Rich Noone search 4/23	194
TOTAL			1448

About 17.7+ sq. mi. needed to be searched...



3 mile radius (yellow line) = 17.7 sq mi;
6 mile radius (lt green) = 70 sq mi!

Only known photo of search --
note close spacing and thick growth

...but only about 11 sq. mi. was searched

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Area searched} \\ \text{(sq. mi.)} = \end{array} \quad \frac{\text{Spacing (ft)} \times 11,584 \text{ (hrs.)}}{5280 \text{ (ft)} \times 3.5 \text{ (hrs./mi.)}}$$

11 sq. mi. = reasonable est.,
based on 2/5 of searchers at
120 ft. spacing but at 5.25
hrs/mi; 1/5 at 8 ft. spacing at
7 hrs/mi; and 2/5 of searchers
ineffective

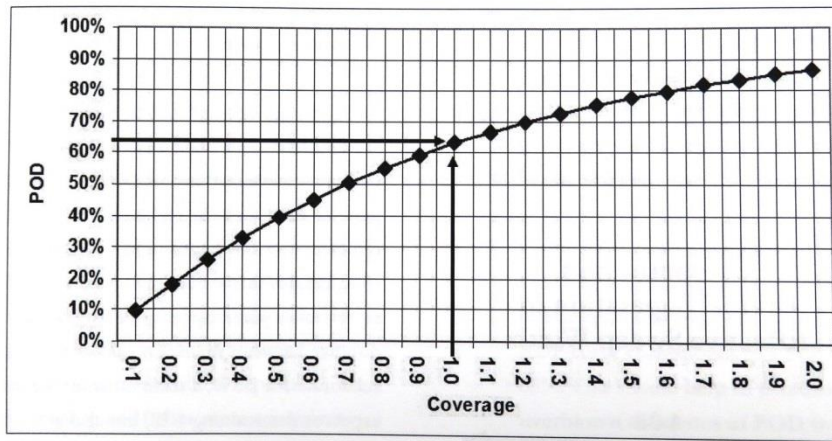


Probability of Detection (PoD) is problematic



NASAR formula: $POD = 1 - e^{-C}$

POD vs. Coverage
The Exponential Detection Function



See the cap, at distance of 6 ft.?

PoD = only 63%, even if entire segment is fully searched once

“Probability of Area” is the probability that the subject is in that search segment



$$\text{Probability of Detection (PoD)} \times \text{Probability of Area (PoA)} = \text{Probability of Success (PoS)}$$

High Est.:

$$0.63 \times 0.75 = 47\%$$

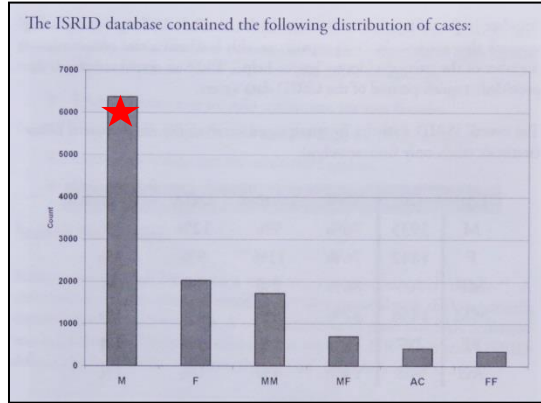
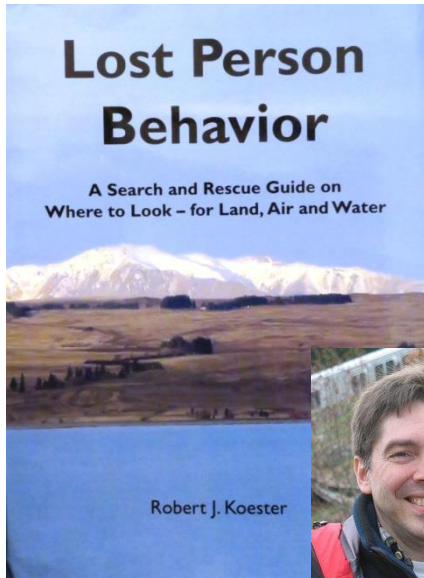
Low Est.:

$$0.55 \times 0.55 = 30\%$$

Thus the chances are good (53-70%) that the remains of Jim Thompson are still in the Cameron Highlands

Note: if Coverage is only 11/17.7 sq mi coverage, = 62%, then PoD = only 47%, and .47 x .55 = only 26% for PoS low estimate

The Int'l SAR Incident Database (ISRID) can provide insights



JT = typical male: lost

The overall ISRID statistics for groups and survivability are presented below (statistics taken only from searches).

Type	(n)	Well	Injured	DOA	No Trace
M	5935	76%	9%	12%	3%
F	1842	76%	11%	9%	3%
MF	705	86%	9%	5%	0%
MM	1456	87%	8%	4%	1%
FF	297	88%	9%	3%	1%
AC	508	94%	4%	1%	1%

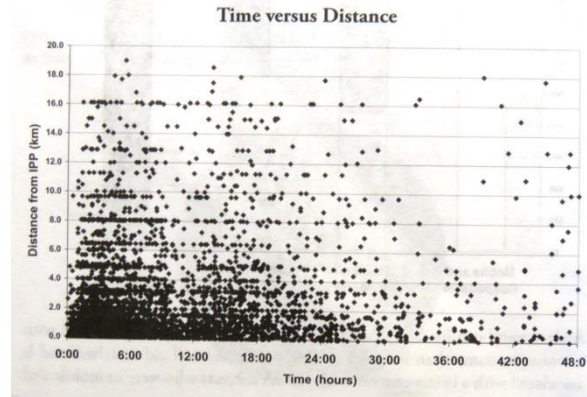
“no trace” = very atypical

	Distance (horizontal) from the IPP (miles)				
	Temperate		Dry		Urban
	Mtn	Flat	Mtn	Flat	
n	568	274	221	58	8
25%	0.7	0.4	1.0	0.8	
50%	1.9	1.1	2.0	1.3	1.6
75%	3.6	2.0	4.0	4.1	
95%	11.3	6.1	11.9	8.1	

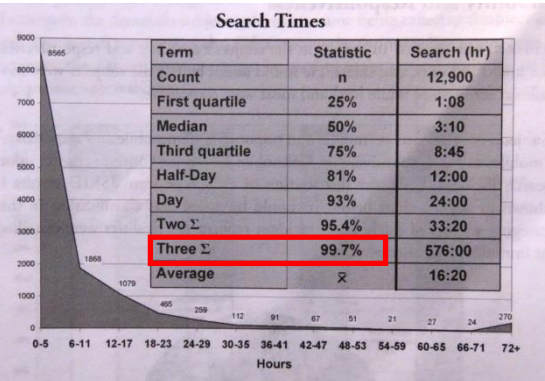
JT = likely within 4 mi of IPP

	Elevation (vertical) Change from the IPP (feet)					
	Temperate			Dry		
%	Uphill	Down	Same	Uphill	Down	Same
25%	182	160	16%	317	500	
50%	480	400		956	975	
75%	> 1175	> 1166		1500	2109	
95%	> 2634	> 2175		3623	5094	

JT could be lower OR higher than the IPP elevation



But length of search is not related to distance from IPP (initial planning point)



The JT search = atypically long

There were many issues with the search

- Low training and experience in SAR
- No searching beyond 200 yards of trails, although JT often hiked off-trail, cross-country
- Apparently no attempt to “block” trails
- One famous mystic, Peter Hurkos, shaped the investigation, and 118 others distracted it
- Likely “scenario lock” on JT leaving the Cameron Highlands, due to 3 dogs not able to pick up scent trail leaving Moonlight Bungalow
- Only 3% of manpower needed was delivered
- Many disparate searchers: Malay, British, US Army, police, Scouts, volunteers, patients, orang asli, mystics, etc.

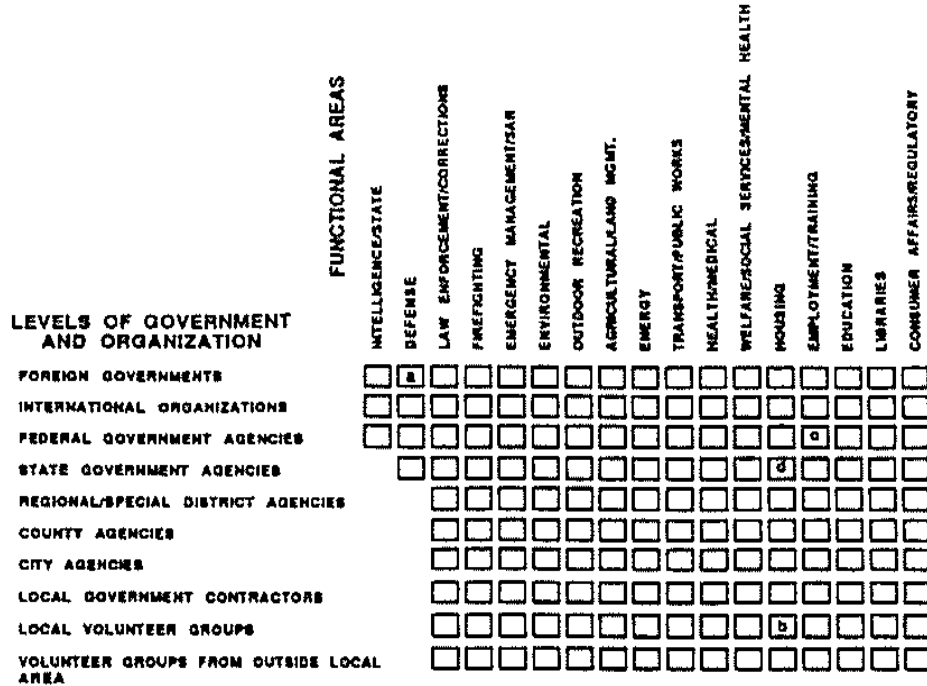


Peter Hurkos,
“Leading Psychic of the Century”

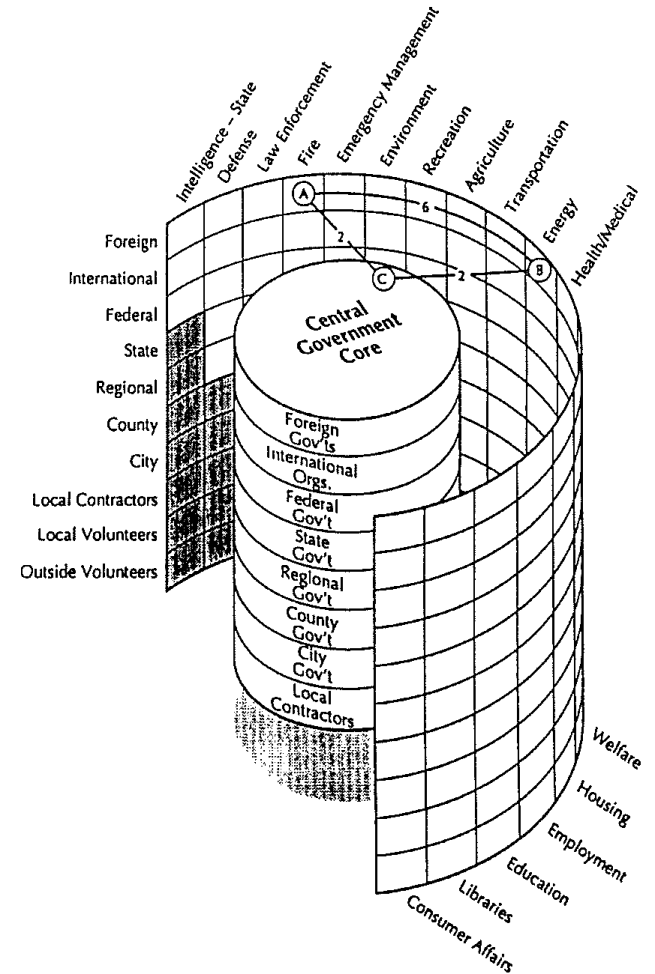


Disparate searchers create major problems...

TWO DIMENSIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL DISTANCE SCALE



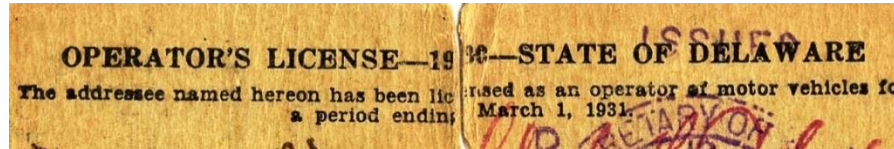
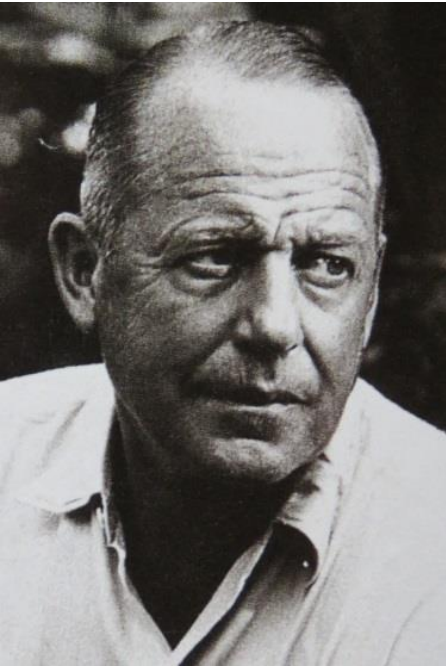
Hypothetical Disaster with Three Responses from One Level



...if the SAR effort is 10x bigger, it is about 150x more likely to have communication problems

From Lew Toulmin et al.,
Int'l Journal of Mass Emergencies,
 Aug. 1989

Jim Thompson as a search subject is quite unusual



- Left wallet, money, meds, passport, cigarettes, driving license behind
- Was “**exhilarated**” to be lost the day before the disappearance
- Made **7 blunders in 2/3 days** re departing BKK, not notifying friends, no gear, etc.
- **Poor health**, not in good shape
- Millionaire, no gambling, alcoholism, drugs
- Some powerful enemies
- Depressed
- Avid **risk taker?** Reckless?
- Trying to recapture youthful adventures?

Many cited causes can be reasonably eliminated...

- “Leopard attack” -- no leopards in the CH
- “Caves,” “quicksand,” “snapping traps” – none
- “Orang asli pit trap” or “orang asli murder” – no such traps reported in search, OA questioned
- “Bore holes” – none
- “Suicide” – no evidence; JT doc says no
- “Murder by main beneficiary of estate” or “ex-wife” – not feasible
- “Tiger attack” -- none since perhaps 1920



...but some should be added

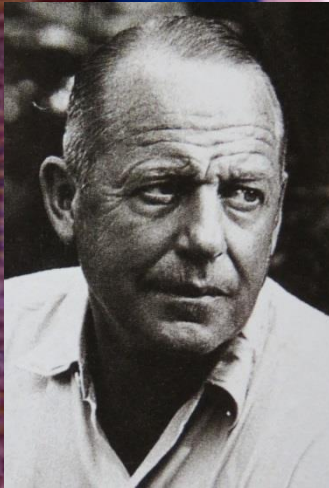
- “Close associates in CH” – possible but unlikely
- “Widow-maker limbs” – possible, feared by SAS



And various possible causes remain

- “Snake bite” -- possible but statistically unlikely
- “Kidnapping by local gangs” or by “Communist terrorists” – possible but not the right M.O., & no note
- “Kidnapping or assassination by CIA or business rivals” – no evidence, unlikely to be done in CH
- “Meeting & departure” – unlikely, no evidence
- “Intentional disappearance” – very unlikely, no money trail
- **“Accident in jungle and body missed in SAR” – possible, moderately likely**
- **“Gall bladder attack” – possible, moderately likely**





Murder of Jim's Sister in PA

Jim's older sister was brutally murdered in PA in August 1967...



SOCIETY MATRON BEATEN TO DEATH

Mrs. Katherine Wood Found in Pennsylvania Home

CENTREVILLE, Del., Aug. 30 (UPI)—Mrs. Katherine Thompson wood, 74 years old, a wealthy society matron and sister of James H. W. Thompson, the missing Thailand silk industrialist, was found beaten to death this morning. Her body was found in her bed at her isolated estate near here, where she lived alone.

The Pennsylvania state police said that Mrs. Wood had been beaten on the head with a heavy weapon while two huge watch dogs she kept for protection were apparently nearby. The weapon was not found immediately.

Investigators could give no motive for the slaying. There were no signs of a robbery, although her son, Harrison Wilson Wood of Paoli, Pa., reported that a diamond necklace worth

4-3 (Rev. 7-21-67)

TELETYPE UNIT

TO: Tolson, DeLoach, Mohr, Bishop, Casper, Callahan, Conrad, Felt, Gale, Rosen, Sullivan, Tavel, Trotter, Tele. Room, Holmes, Gandy

4

DECODED COPY

AIRGRAM CABLEGRAM RADIO TELETYPE

STATE 01

URGENT 8-5-67

TO DIRECTOR (163-18347)

FROM LEGAT MANILA NO. 95

JAMES H. W. THOMPSON, FPC.

CONFIDENTIAL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 11/12/82 BY SP4 SHC/WED/OU

BY CABLE THIS DATE REQUESTS FBI CHECK U.S. PRESS REPORTS THAT MRS. KATHERINE THOMPSON WOOD, SISTER OF VICTIM WHO WAS MURDERED LAST WEEK IN PENNSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA, HAD EXPECTED VICTIM JIM THOMPSON FOR DINNER ON LABOR DAY LAST. [REDACTED] IS ALLEGED TO HAVE MADE THIS STATEMENT. [ALSO, [REDACTED] REQUESTS ANY INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT LINK MRS. WOOD'S MURDER TO VICTIM'S DISAPPEARANCE.]

RECEIVED: 4:39 AM LRC
Felt, PH
JEG, LHM 9/5/67

EX-111

REC-62

Classified by SP4 SHC/WED/OU
Declassify on: OADR 11/18/82

163-18347-15

11 SEP 2 1967

CONFIDENTIAL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

If the contents of the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased, only to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.



SLAYING SCENE TODAY—in the south wing (left) of this home near Centerville Mrs. Katharine Thompson Wood was fatally bludgeoned.

New leads sparse in Wood slaying

Wilmington - Dec 1967

By JERRY SAPIENZA

much more about their probe of the brutal summer crime that shattered the affluent calm of Selborne Drive, a plush residential area near Centerville.

Motives? "Nothing definite," Deiduco says. "Nothing definite." "Nothing significant."

DETECTIVE Sgt. William J. Devin, ranking state police officer on the case says: "We have given up hope. We still have things to work on."

Malaysian police say they don't believe there is a link between Mrs. Wood's death and the mysterious disappearance of her brother, James H. W. Thompson, last March 26 in Malaysia.

"It is felt that the slaying ... has no connection with his disappearance," T. B. M. Krishnan, inspector-general of the Royal Malaysia Police, wrote in response to a news journal query. The possibility link Mrs. Wood's death was part of a plot against her brother was brunched early in the investigation.

Thompson, who was with the Office of Strategic Services in World War II, revived the silk industry in Thailand and was called the "silk king."

As for the status of the Thompson probe, Krishnan said that "since the investigations are incomplete it is felt that any disclosure ... may be prejudicial."

MRS. Wood, 74, a society matron and member of a prominent Wilmington family, lived alone in an enclosed 16-room house set in an island of tall oak trees on her 10-acre estate.

...case still unsolved

Sadly, Katharine's son is a suspect...

...especially since he killed himself four years later



Coroner Gordon R. Eck, D.O. Chief Deputy Coroner Eric Bieber F-ABMDI		COUNTY OF CHESTER OFFICE OF THE CORONER 313 West Market Street, Suite 4102 West Chester, PA 19382 Phone: (610) 344-6165 Fax: (610) 344-6018 "Committed Service and Responsiveness"
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VIEW OF FORM

An inquisition taken at 313 West Market Street, West Chester, PA.

On the of in the year of our Lord before

Gordon R. Eck DO of the County of Chester.

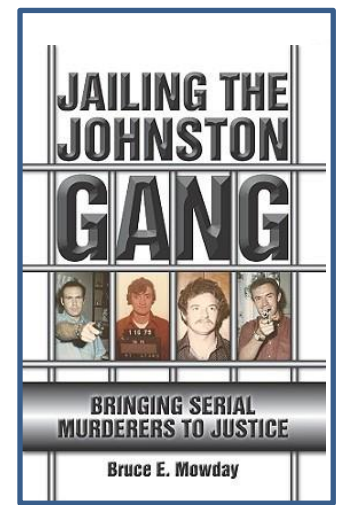
Name: Harrison Wilson Wood
Address: Malvern, PA
Age: 47 Years Sex: Male Race: WHITE
Date of Death: December 25, 1971 (Based on Date Found)
Time of Death: 12:30:00 PM (Based on Time Pronounced)
Place of Death: Residence
Cause of Death: Gunshot Wound Head
Manner of Death: Suicide

In Witness Whereof, the said Coroner set his hand and seal this day, year and place first mentioned.

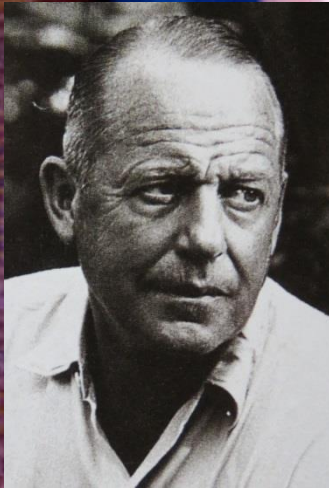
Gordon R. Eck, D.O., S.S.
Gordon R. Eck, D.O.

Other possible but unlikely suspects:

- Maid
- Handyman
- Local lawyer
- Drifter
- Communist terrorists
- Jim Thompson!

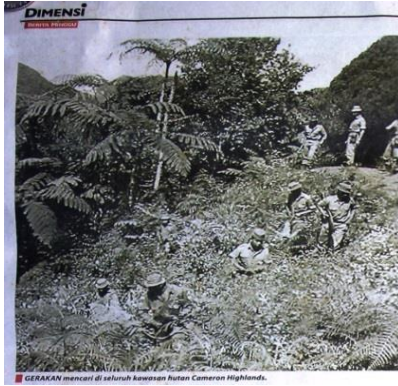


But no proof against anyone



Conclusions and Implications

Conclusions -- and -- implications:



- Search was large but insufficient and flawed
- 53-70%+ chance that JT's remains are in CH
- Conspiracy = possible but less likely
- JT remains might be findable
- Murder in PA likely not connected to JT's disappearance

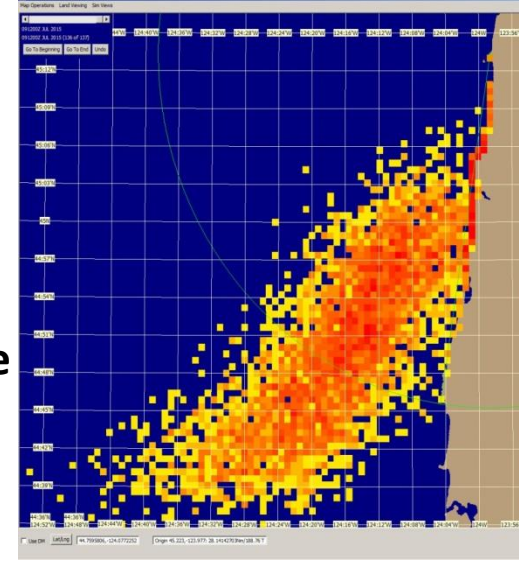


- Search now using scenarios, Mattson voting, probability heat mapping, cadaver dogs and DNA has some chance
- SAR is often not done well, in US and in LDCs, due to under-funding and lack of training
- Understanding of SAR is poor
- Explorers Club needs policy on Flags to search for missing Members

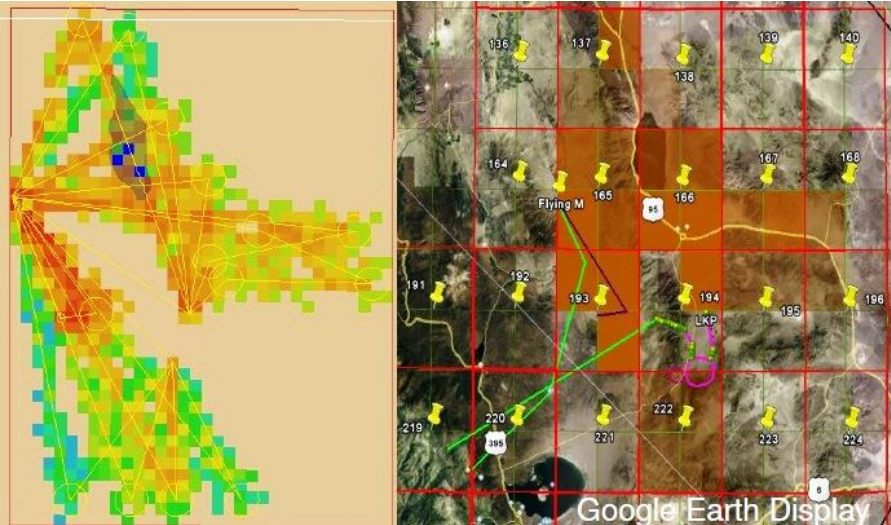


Heavy math will be done after any future scenario analysis and Mattson voting

Heat map of probability of location for missing 2007 aircraft wreckage (N222TB) off Oregon, using SAROPS software (credit: METRON Corp., 2015)

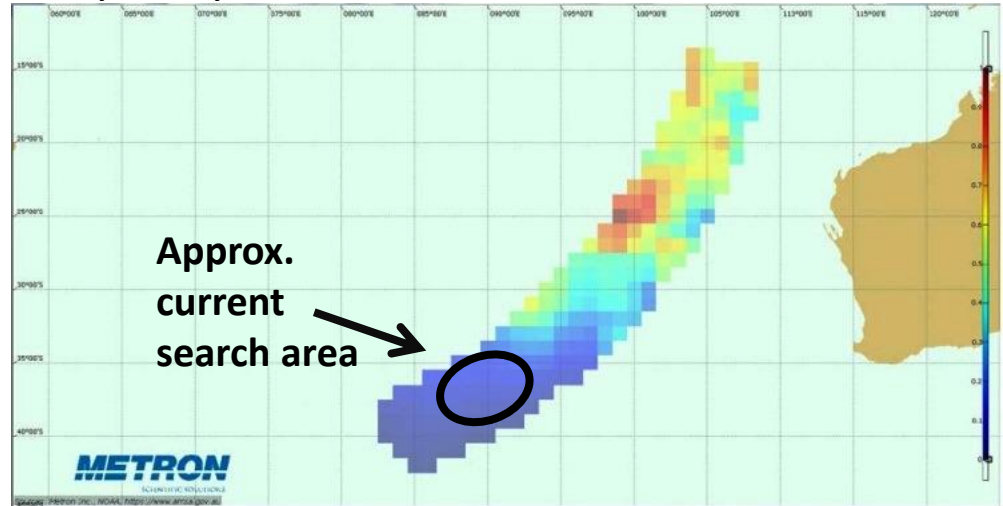


Examples of probability analyses



“Heat map” and GE view of probability of location for Steve Fossett aircraft missing on land in NV/CA

(credit: Colleen Keller & Larry Stone, “Applying Optimal Search Theory to Inland SAR: Steve Fossett Case Study,” May 2009)



Heat map view of probability of location for MH370 aircraft missing in Indian Ocean

(credit: METRON, “Likelihood Function for MH370 Debris,” August 2015; legends added by Toulmin)

For a free copy of this briefing
or a detailed report on the
Thompson case, see:

[www.themosttraveled.com/
new/new_land.html](http://www.themosttraveled.com/new/new_land.html)

or

Google: “Jim Thompson
Toulmin new adventures”

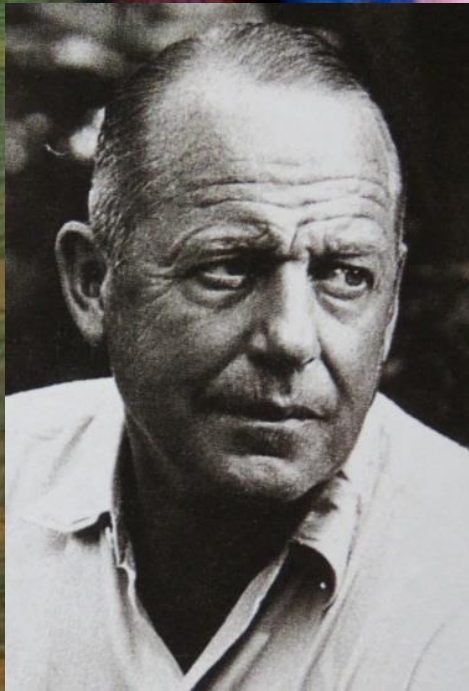


by

Llewellyn M. Toulmin, Ph.D., MN '04, F.R.G.S.



May 2015
Silver Spring, Maryland, USA and
Port Vila, Efate, Republic of Vanuatu



**THANKS!
and
GOOD HUNTING!!!!**