

FBI-cleared hijacker admits being “Cooper” in coded letter

‘Nam superior uses 1950 Army booklet to unmask a 6th note from jumper, now 74

Letter #6

March 28, 1972

The Portland Oregonian Newspaper
Portland, Oregon

Gentlemen:

This letter is too let you know I am not dead but really alive and just back from the Bahamas, so your silly troopers up there can stop looking for me. That is just how dumb this government is. I like your articles about me but you can stop them now. D. B. Cooper is not real.

I had to do something with the experience Uncle taught me, so here I am, a very rich man. Uncle gave too much of it to world idiots and no work for me. I had to do it to relieve myself of frustration. I want out of the system and saw a way through good old Unk. Now you know. I am going around the world and they will never find me because I am smarter than the system's lackey cops and lame duck leaders. Now it is Uncle's turn to weep and pay one of it's own some cash for a change. (And please tell the lackey cops D. B. Cooper is not my real name).

Sincerely, A Rich Man

"I'm LT Robert W. Rackstraw, D.B. Cooper is not my real name." (Decoded)

"I want out of the system and saw a way by hijacking one jet plane." (Decoded)


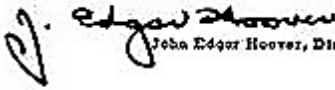
"We have doctrinal validation of the process that (code-cracker) Rick Sherwood used to decipher all six of these messages. In addition, DoD records show Rackstraw learned his coding method at Fort Bragg in a Special Warfare Operations Course in 1968." – Rackstraw's retired commander, LTC Ken Overturf

EMBARGOED 6/28/18 (L.A., CA):

Finding the man behind six taunting D.B. Cooper letters was top priority for 77-year-old FBI Founder J. Edgar Hoover. But it was a private cold case team, decades later, which got the author's confession.

What "excited" Hoover's agents most were the two typed notes.

1971-72 FBI memos, available through an FOIA court order by Investigative Producer Thomas J. Colbert, revealed that the 5th one was openly called "the Cooper letter." Eighteen days after the crime, four newspapers were sent carbon copies of it. The mystery writer crowed, "I left no prints... I wore a toupee... I wore putty make-up" – details only the arriving agents, close passengers (sworn to secrecy) and the dare-devil would know. Stamped as "evidence," the note was locked away for almost five decades.

 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535	
 John Edgar Hoover, Director	
Re:	NORJAK
FBI File No.	164-2111
Lab. No.	D-720411007 LL
Examination requested by:	Portland
Reference:	Letter 4/6/72
Q40	Envelope postmarked "JACKSONVILLE FLA. MAR 28 5 PM 1972" bearing typewritten address "The Portland Oregonian Newspaper Portland, Oregon"
Q41	Accompanying one-page letter dated 3/28/72, beginning "This letter is too..." and ending "A Rich Man"
<u>Result of examination:</u>	
<u>No</u> indented writing was found on Q40 and Q41. <u>No</u> watermarks were found on Q40.	
<u>No</u> connection could be established between Q40, Q41, and the specimens submitted previously in this case.	
<u>No</u> latent prints of value developed Q40 or Q41.	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Highlights of 3-page memo</div>	

When an Oregonian editor forwarded the hijacker's alleged 6th letter in March 1972 (p. 1), Bureau brass again had high hopes. But it was mailed from Jacksonville, FL, the first from the East. Then the lab declared the typewriter used was unlike the 5th – "no connection could be established" with the earlier messages. The five-month postal goose chase ended with the frustrated Hoover's last signature stamp (above).

After a six-month records battle by Washington, D.C., lawyer Mark S. Zaid, a judge ordered the FBI in 2017 to start releasing secret files from the Cooper archive to Colbert's team – ironically, led by former special agents. That's when the 40 volunteer lawmen and women learned something was still hiding in the letters.

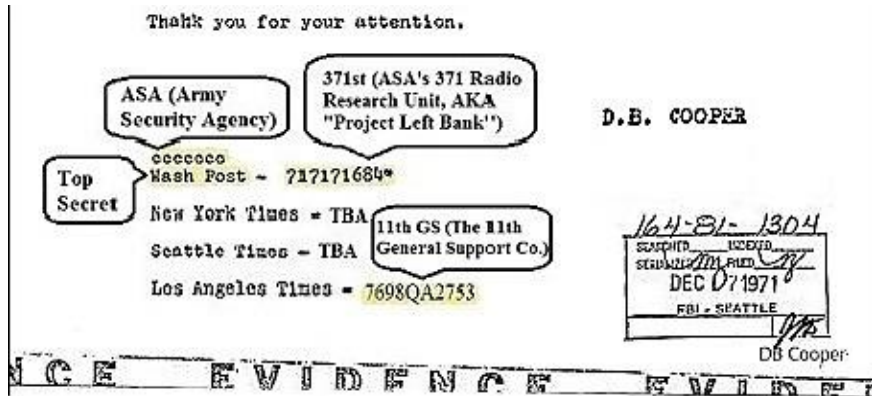
Vietnam veteran Rick Sherwood was a senior codebreaker for the covert Army Security Agency (ASA), a sister program of the NSA. Colbert recruited him because the team's long-suspected Cooper candidate – 74-year-old **Robert W. Rackstraw Sr.** – served in two of Sherwood's classified units. A former Special Forces-trained paratrooper, explosives expert and pilot with an astounding 22 identities, Rackstraw was tracked down twice by the FBI, halfway around the globe. But in 1979, the recaptured fugitive was abruptly "ruled out" by Seattle Division – a decision that led a half-dozen agents to brake rank and go to the media.

One of them, retired SA Tom R. Kinberg, joined Colbert's team in 2012 to continue his Rackstraw hunt.

Last January, ASA analyst Sherwood recognized his 1969 Army "code-speak" in letters #1-5 (#5 below). The whodunit ended with Rackstraw's recently unmasked gloat in note #6. (More on codes and his superior's confirmation are at <https://dbcooper.com/2018/02/press-release-smoking-gun-robert-w-rackstraw-sr/>)

The team's new revelations, along with more than 100 pieces of evidence gathered over seven years, were sadly met by FBI silence. A formal letter from attorney Zaid to Director Christopher J. Wray was answered with a form letter. Colbert got the Bureau's message: "I know the FBI has much bigger problems, and Rackstraw knows it too. As long as he lays low, he's off their radar. But my guys think #6's boast will put new salt in their wounds at Headquarters. If that happens, Hoover's going to crack his first smile."

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Why Rackstraw is Cooper (1 of 5 Facts): His tracked-down Vietnam commander said he was the only soldier in the whole war who served in these 3 unique units (coded at bottom of Letter #5). Two were secret until the 1980s.

NR017 WA PLAIN
 326PM URGENT 12-29-71 MRF
 TO SEATTLE (164-81)
 FROM DIRECTOR (164-2111) 2P

MORJAK.

IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE TYPEWRITING ON THE LETTER SIGNED [Airline Pilot Name] ADDRESSED TO THE AIR LINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION, WASHINGTON, D. C., HAS THE SAME STYLE OF TYPEWRITING AS THAT ON THE [] TYPEWRITTEN LETTERS RECEIVED IN THIS CASE.

THE TYPEWRITING ON THE LETTER SIGNED [Airline Pilot Name] COULD NOT BE ADEQUATELY COMPARED WITH THE [] LETTERS SINCE THE [] LETTERS ARE CARBON COPIES.

FBI "Cooper" Cover-Up (5 of 40 stonewalling examples)

In this court-forwarded lab memo (page 1 of 2) from the office of J. Edgar Hoover, 2017 agents cut out all 5 references to "Cooper" in the typed DBC Letter #5. **Question:** Was it to protect the founding director's legacy, hide the truth, or both?

FYI: Ongoing archive cover-up is happening in WA, D.C, not at Seattle Division. FOIA docs available; more at DBCooper.com. With signed NDA, **copyrighted** code-breaking is obtainable thru experts and Army manual.

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