

ANNOUNCEMENT
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Obituaries

Sherman Kent, retired from CIA

FROM COMBINED DISPATCHES

Sherman Kent, 82, a former Central Intelligence Agency official and one of the early members of its forerunner, the Office of Strategic Services, died Tuesday at his home in Washington. He had suffered from a form of Parkinson's disease.

Mr. Kent was a history professor at Yale University, where he received his undergraduate and doctorate degrees, before helping to found the OSS in 1941.

He headed the Europe and Africa division, and later was acting director of research and intelligence for the State Department.

He returned to Yale after World War II, and a newspaper account at the time said he had chided President Harry S. Truman that government security was so lax that he intended to turn his Yale students loose to discover "95 percent of the nation's secrets" through periodicals and daily newspapers.

In 1950, he joined the CIA at the request of its then-director Walter Beedle Smith. He became chairman of the agency's Board of National Estimates, which provided intelligence judgments about capabilities of foreign countries.

Mr. Kent's service in that post covered the period that included the

war in Korea, the end of French rule in Indochina, the Cuban missile crisis, and the early U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.

Upon his retirement in 1967, Mr. Kent was awarded the Career Civil Service Award and the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Service, with a citation stating that he had "a unique role in improving contributions of intelligence to our national security."

Mr. Kent wrote a number of books, including "Strategic Intelligence for American World Policy" in 1949, and "Writing History" in 1967.

He wrote children's books after retiring, including "A Boy and a Pig, But Mostly Horses," in 1974.

Mr. Kent was born in Chicago and grew up in Marin County, Calif., in the town of Kentfield, named for his grandfather, a Chicago meat-packer millionaire. His father, William Kent, was a former congressman and early conservationist. His mother, Elizabeth Thacher Kent, was an early suffragette who was arrested in a Washington protest in 1912.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Gregory Kent of Washington; a daughter, Serafina Kent Bathrick of New York; a son, Sherman Tecumseh Kent of Oklahoma City; and seven grandsons.