Text B

Spooky Stories for Halloween

Spooks. The CIA is famous for them. But this Halloween, we decided to explore a different kind of spooky story, tales best told by candle-light or when gathered around a roaring bonfire in the cool of a late autumn eve. Like everyone else, Agency officers love a good ghost story. Often, these unsettling experiences are explained away by fatigue or an over-active imagination. In the spirit of Halloween, we decided to gather a few of these spooky tales and share them with you. All of the stories you are about to read are reported to be true.

"Good Day, Mr. Director"
Early in my career, the elevators in the older section of CIA Headquarters were known to have quirks. Occasionally, the elevator would stop and the doors would open at a floor with no one there, and no one on the elevator had requested that floor. I heard second-hand that the "thing to do" when that happened was to say "Good day, Mr. Director," because it was assumed that the doors opened for the ghost of Allen Dulles.

Late Night Pick-Up Game
Late one night back in 1986 when I was on the Agency Security Protective Force making my security/safety rounds, I heard what sounded like someone bouncing a basketball. As I entered the room, there were no lights on and the dribbling of the basketball stopped. When I finally found the light switch, I spotted a basketball sitting in middle of the floor. Was it a ghost? I don't know, and I can't explain why I did not hear any footsteps or see anyone. I never heard the bouncing basketball again.



Work Never Ends for the Chief
A colleague of mine had to stay at the office late one night to write some cables and get caught up on other work. As she typed on her keyboard, she swore that she could hear typing coming from a typewriter. Curiously, she could only hear these sounds as she typed herself; every time she stopped to listen, the sounds ceased. When she was ready to depart, she decided to check the office one more time. As she passed by a doorway, she caught a glimpse of a man wearing a suit and a fedora, holding the phone to his ear. But when she looked into the office a moment later, she discovered it empty, and moreover, without a phone installed. "Oh, you saw the Chief," was her coworker's unexpected reply the next day. Apparently, more than a few of her coworkers had seen this mysterious figure before.

Library Ghost
Many years ago, a colleague of mine who arranged travel for officers overseas, let's call him Don, told me of his "ghost sighting" in the CIA Library. As he turned a corner, he saw a man bending over a table, looking at a map. It caught him off guard to see someone so late at night. He said that the man turned his head to look at Don, smiled and disappeared. Don said the man had on a pinstriped suit and that he resembled Bill Casey, former Director of the CIA.

Find the words that complete the following sentences. Answer using the words as they appear in the extract below.

1. The CIA chose to …

2. Supernatural encounters are commonly dismissed as consequences of …

3. Greeting was a customary response because employees believed the elevator doors had opened for…

4. The security officer was doing…

5. Although a ball was discovered, the incident was uncertain because he security officer did not…

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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6. The employee remained at work to...

7. Before leaving the building, the employee opted to...

8. The man's telephone conversation became inexplicable when the employee noticed that the office was...

9. The individual who reported a supernatural encounter was responsible for...

10. Don was surprised because he did not expect to see anyone...

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