



# 5

## Dotty

S.O.E. agents would also need to communicate silently at night. To do this they used signal lamps and Morse Code. Go upstairs to the interactive gallery and find the Morse Code activity. Have a go spelling your name in Morse Code and sending a secret message.

For more ideas of secret things to do at home go to the family page on our website – [iwm.org.uk](http://iwm.org.uk)

**Now go and enjoy the rest of the museum. See what other secret things you can find.**



**Family Trail:  
Finding out about secret  
stuff in *AirSpace***

Answers: 2. The pod underneath the aircraft was used for carrying supplies for the spies to use when they landed. 2. The crew ladder was attached permanently so that spies could get in and out quickly. 3. The Lyssander is painted black so that it was well camouflaged for its night-time sorties. 3. In this hangar you can also see the Swordfish and Lancaster. 4. CAN, DAD, HIDE

## Did you know?

# 1

Aeroplanes have been used in many ways since their invention in 1903.

There are passenger and transport aeroplanes, fighters, bombers, trainers and reconnaissance (spy) planes just for starters. During the Second World War aeroplanes were also used to drop secret agents into France. It had to be secret as France was occupied by German soldiers.

These secret agents worked for an organisation known as the S.O.E. (Special Operations Executive). The S.O.E. spies flew from Britain to work undercover in occupied Europe. They gathered information about the enemy and passed it back to the British government.

## Top secret mission

# 2

Find the Lysander aircraft and stand beneath it or view it from the first floor. The Lysander was used to drop secret agents from the S.O.E. into France.

**What do you think the bomb shaped item under the aircraft was used for? What do you think the ladder on the side was for?**

## Now you see me now you don't

# 3

If you look at the underside of the Lysander you will see that it has been camouflaged. **Judging by the colour, when do you think this aircraft flew its missions so as not to be seen easily, during the day or at night?**

There are other aircraft in this exhibition which also flew at the same time of day as the Lysander. **Can you name two?**

Secret agents would gather information on enemy troop movements and numbers. They would then pass this on to their own army who could then plan to attack where the Germans were weakest.

## Crackers

# 4

Spies would use codes to pass secret messages to each other. If the enemy captured these codes they would not be able to read the message, unless they deciphered the code. Number substitution codes were sometimes used by the S.O.E. during the war. So the 26 letters of the alphabet would be represented by a number.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	etc
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	etc

How good are you at cracking a code?

**What code words are these?**

**3. 1. 14.**

**4. 1. 4**

**8. 9. 4. 5**

When you get home write the alphabet out fully then write your name as a number or send secret messages to someone.

