

THE KING'S MAN: THE FIRST MISSION

THE DEATH OF ARCHDUKE FERDINAND

The film portrays the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand in Sarajevo, which is considered the trigger for World War I. The author of the crime Gavrilo Princip assassinated the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sofia with several shots.

But unlike what appears in the film, his death was part of a terrorist plot by a Bosnian group, in which five people were stationed on the route to kill him. The scene does include part of the truth: like when they throw a grenade at the entourage. In the film it is one of the protagonists who deflects it with his cane, but in the real story the hero was the driver, who managed to dodge it.

The other real aspect that the fiction takes advantage of is that when the attack fails, after the archduke's speech, the entourage unexpectedly heads to a new destination, and it is on that road that, almost by accident, Gavrilo Princip, ran into the procession and fired his gun, killing the archduke and his wife.

RASPUTIN

Nicknamed The Mad Monk, he was a real character who lived at the Russian court (1869-1916). As the film shows, that he had a disproportionate influence on the royal family, especially on the tsarina -although we do not know if the administration of opiates, like the fictional character, was among the real motives- it is true that he saved the son of the tsars, who suffered from hemophilia.

What is surprisingly real is the circumstances of his death. It is true that he died due to a conspiracy of nobles, worried about the powerful influence he exerted in the royal family. Also that on the same night they tried to poison him, and he survived, that they shot him several times, and he survived, and that he finally drowned in a frozen river -a pond in the film-. And the latest investigations suggest that perhaps British secret agents had something to do with his death, just like in The King's Man: the first mission.

KING GEORGE OF ENGLAND, TSAR NICHOLAS II AND KAISER WILLIAM OF AUSTRIA

In the film it is the actor Tom Hollander who plays these three historical figures: King George V of England, Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, and Kaiser Wilhelm. But the choice of the same actor for the three roles is not accidental. In real life, as the film shows, the three were cousins, and grandchildren of Queen Victoria of England. In fact, Tsar Nicholas II of Russia and King George of England were so much alike that in real life they liked to exchange uniforms and play jokes by posing as each other.

ERIK JAN HANUSSEN

This Machiavellian character, of Jewish origin -although he hid it to gain acceptance among the German Nazis- and who became an adviser and seer to high-ranking Nazi officials in the 1930s. "He was a conniving guy with a desire for power and influence who became a real star in Germany in the 1930s because people really believed that he could see the future, that he was a fortune teller and even filled stadiums in Berlin at the time,".