

The Kursk Submarine Rescue Mission

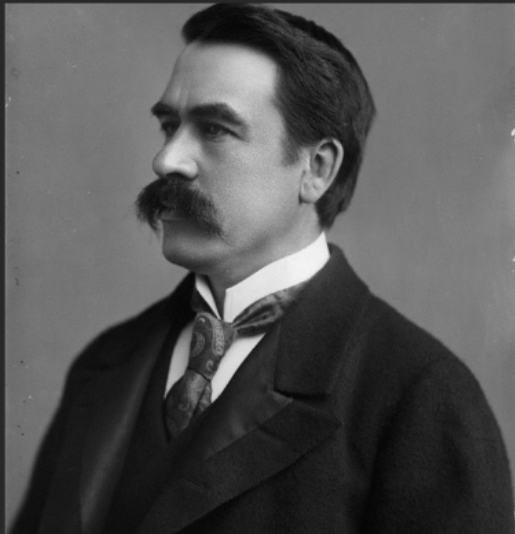
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Operation Mincemeat Thecasesolutions.com



Phony ID card for "William Martin"

FOOLED THE NAZIS WITH A CORPSE.

THE DEAD BRIT HAD A SUSPICIOUS-LOOKING ATTACHÉ CASE CHAINED TO HIS WRIST, AND THIS SOON CAUGHT THE ATTENTION OF THE GERMANS, WHO COLLUDED WITH PRO-NAZI ELEMENTS IN THE SPANISH MILITARY TO SURREPTITIOUSLY GAIN ACCESS TO ITS CONTENTS. INSIDE THEY FOUND A SHOCKING LETTER TO A BRITISH OFFICER IN TUNISIA OUTLINING A SECRET ALLIED SCHEME TO STAGE AN INVASION OF SARDINIA AND GREECE IN THE COMING WEEKS.

THE DEAD MAN'S DOCUMENTS WOULD HAVE BEEN A MAJOR INTELLIGENCE COUP FOR THE NAZIS, IF NOT FOR ONE SMALL ISSUE: THEY WERE ALL FAKES. AS PART OF A PLAN DUBBED "OPERATION MINCEMEAT," BRITISH SPYMASTERS HAD DRESSED THE BODY OF A DECEASED TRAMP IN THE GUISE OF A FICTITIOUS ALLIED COURIER NAMED WILLIAM MARTIN. AFTER THE CORPSE'S BRIEFCASE WAS STUFFED WITH PHONY MILITARY PLANS, A ROYAL NAVY SUBMARINE SECRETLY DEPOSITED THE BODY OFF SPAIN IN THE HOPE THAT IT MIGHT HOODWINK THE NAZIS. THE RESULT WAS THE PERFECT CON: NOT ONLY DID THE GERMANS INTERCEPT WHAT THEY BELIEVED TO BE CRUCIAL INFORMATION ABOUT WHERE THE ALLIES WOULD ATTACK THE MEDITERRANEAN, THEY WERE CONVINCED THEY HAD DONE SO WITHOUT TIPPING OFF THE BRITISH. DUPED BY OPERATION MINCEMEAT'S BOGUS INTELLIGENCE, HITLER DIVERTED TANK DIVISIONS AND OTHER PERSONNEL TO GREECE, ONLY TO BE CAUGHT OFF GUARD IN JULY 1943, WHEN THE ALLIES INSTEAD INVADED SICILY AND ITALY WITH SOME 160,000 TROOPS.

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Benito Mussolini and Otto Skorzeny shortly after Mussolini's rescue

THE MISSION CAME IN THE WAKE OF THE ALLIED INVASION OF ITALY, WHICH HAD RESULTED IN THE FASCIST DICTATOR BEING EXPELLED FROM OFFICE AND ARRESTED BY THE KING OF ITALY. CONCERNED THAT MUSSOLINI WAS CRUCIAL TO KEEPING ITALY IN THE WAR, ADOLF HITLER ORDERED WAFFEN SS OFFICER OTTO SKORZENY TO FREE "IL DUCE" BEFORE HE COULD BE HANDED OVER TO THE ALLIES AS PART OF A PEACE DEAL. AFTER SEVERAL FALSE STARTS AND DEAD ENDS, SKORZENY AND HIS TEAM TRACKED MUSSOLINI TO THE HOTEL CAMPO IMPERATORE, A SKI RESORT SITUATED ON A REMOTE MOUNTAINTOP IN THE APENNINE RANGE.

WITH NO EASY WAY TO REACH THE RESORT FROM THE GROUND, SKORZENY OPTED FOR A RISKY AERIAL ATTACK. ON SEPTEMBER 12, 1943, HE AND A TEAM OF COMMANDOS MADE A SILENT DESCENT ON THE MOUNTAIN IN TWELVE GLIDERS AND STORMED THE HOTEL, EASILY OVERWHELMING THE BEWILDERED ITALIAN GUARDS. AFTER DESTROYING THE POST'S RADIO EQUIPMENT, THE COMMANDOS LOCATED A MUCH-RELIEVED MUSSOLINI, WHO SUPPOSEDLY EXCLAIMED, "I KNEW MY FRIEND ADOLF HITLER WOULD NOT LEAVE ME IN THE LURCH!" DESPERATE TO MAKE HIS GETAWAY BEFORE REINFORCEMENTS COULD ARRIVE, SKORZENY CONVINCED ONE OF HIS SUPPORT AIRCRAFT TO MAKE A PRECARIOUS LANDING ON THE RUGGED MOUNTAINTOP AND THEN PERSONALLY ESCORTED MUSSOLINI TO SAFETY IN AUSTRIA. THE DICTATOR WENT ON TO SPEND SEVERAL MONTHS AS A PUPPET LEADER IN NORTHERN ITALY BEFORE PARTISAN FORCES FINALLY CAPTURED AND KILLED HIM IN APRIL 1945.

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Operation Gunnerside

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The Norsk Hydro Vemork plant

AT THE TIME, THE NAZI-CONTROLLED SITE WAS THE WORLD'S ONLY SIGNIFICANT PRODUCER OF HEAVY WATER-A SUBSTANCE CRUCIAL TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ATOMIC WEAPONS. THE PLANT HAD ALREADY ALLOWED THE GERMANS TO MAKE PROGRESS IN THEIR ATOMIC RESEARCH, AND WINSTON CHURCHILL AND THE ALLIES WERE DESPERATE TO DENY THE NAZIS ANY CHANCE AT DEVELOPING AN ATOM BOMB.

ON THE NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 27, THE NORWEGIAN COMMANDOS SKIED TO THE NORSK HYDRO SITE, DESCENDED A GORGE, FORDED AN ICY STREAM AND MADE A PERILOUS CLIMB TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF VEMORK. AFTER BYPASSING GERMAN SENTRIES AND MINEFIELDS, THE MEN ENTERED THE PLANT THROUGH A CABLE DUCT AND PLANTED EXPLOSIVE CHARGES ON THE HEAVY WATER CHAMBERS. AS THE CREW MADE THEIR GETAWAY, THE BOMBS DETONATED AND SUCCESSFULLY DESTROYED THE FACILITY. OPERATION GUNNERSIDE ONLY CRIPPLED GERMAN HEAVY WATER PRODUCTION FOR SOME SIX MONTHS, BUT IT WASN'T THE LAST NORWEGIAN ACT OF SABOTAGE AGAINST GERMAN ATOMIC RESEARCH. IN FEBRUARY 1944, RESISTANCE AGENTS USED EXPLOSIVES TO SINK A BOAT AS IT TRIED TO FERRY A LARGE SUPPLY OF HEAVY WATER TO GERMANY.

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*Otto Skorzeny in his jail cell,
1948.*

AS PART OF "OPERATION GREIF," SKORZENY DISGUISED A SMALL COLLECTION OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING GERMANS IN CAPTURED AMERICAN UNIFORMS, PROVIDED THEM WITH FORGED U.S. ARMY DOCUMENTS AND SENT THEM ON AN UNDERCOVER MISSION BEHIND ENEMY LINES. IN A MATTER OF DAYS, THE SHAM SOLDIERS HAD SUCCESSFULLY DIRECTED TANK AND CONVOY TRAFFIC DOWN THE WRONG ROADS, DESTROYED AMMUNITION DUMPS, SWITCHED ROAD SIGNS AND DESTROYED TELEPHONE LINES—ALL RIGHT UNDER THE ALLIES' NOSES.

WHILE SKORZENY'S COMMANDOS FAILED TO ACHIEVE ANY SIGNIFICANT MILITARY OBJECTIVES, THEIR HIJINKS WERE SUCCESSFUL IN INCITING CONFUSION AND PANIC WITHIN THE AMERICAN RANKS. AS WORD OF THE PHONY TROOPS SPREAD, AMERICAN SOLDIERS SET UP CHECKPOINTS ALONG MAJOR ROADS AND BEGAN QUIZZING THEIR FELLOW G.I.S ON BASEBALL AND POP CULTURE IN THE HOPE OF OUTING THE IMPOSTORS. THE SECURITY STOPS ONLY HEIGHTENED THE CHAOS. MANY ALLIED TROOPS WERE BRIEFLY ARRESTED OR DETAINED, AND OPERATIONS BRIEFLY GROUND TO A HALT. WHEN A FEW OF THE GERMANS WERE CAPTURED IN THE DRAGNET, THEY KEPT UP THE RUSE BY CLAIMING A COMMANDO TEAM WAS EN ROUTE TO PARIS TO MURDER GENERAL DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER. AS A RESULT, THE ALLIED COMMANDER WAS BRIEFLY KEPT UNDER HOUSE ARREST TO PROTECT HIM FROM WOULD-BE ASSASSINS. SKORZENY'S REMAINING COMMANDOS FINALLY WITHDREW FROM BEHIND ENEMY LINES IN LATE DECEMBER AFTER THE NAZI OFFENSIVE STALLED, BUT THE ALLIES' WOULD CONTINUE THEIR FRANTIC SEARCH FOR GERMAN IMPOSTORS FOR SEVERAL MORE MONTHS.

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World War II Spies

ALONG WITH ITS MASSIVE FIELD CAMPAIGNS, WORLD WAR II ALSO PLAYED HOST TO AN UNDERGROUND BRAND OF WARFARE THAT INCLUDED ESPIONAGE, SABOTAGE, DISINFORMATION AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS BEHIND ENEMY LINES. THESE GLOAK-AND-DAGGER TACTICS RESULTED IN SOME OF THE MOST INGENUOUS AND UNCONVENTIONAL MISSIONS OF THE WAR, AND PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN THE OUTCOME OF SEVERAL MAJOR BATTLES. FROM THE SPY THAT NEVER WAS TO A BAND OF NAZI IMPOSTORS, LEARN THE STORIES BEHIND FIVE OF THE BOLDEST AND MOST BIZARRE SPECIAL OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT DURING WORLD WAR II.

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COVERT OPERATIONS PLAYED A CENTRAL ROLE IN THE TACTICS OF WINNERS AND LOSERS IN WORLD WAR II. ESPIONAGE AND SABOTAGE OPERATIONS DOMINATE THE NARRATIVES OF THE WAR ON EVERY FRONT IN EVERY THEATER OF OPERATIONS. FROM CODE-BREAKING IN ULTRA AND MAGIC TO COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE IN OPERATION DOUBLE-CROSS, FROM DECEPTION AT NORMANDY AND KURSK TO GUERRILLA WARFARE IN THE ENEMY'S REAR AREAS IN EUROPE, AFRICA, AND ASIA, COVERT OPERATIONS BECAME A VITAL PART OF THAT WAR WITHIN THE WAR. DRAWING FROM FILM AND FICTION, SUPPLEMENTED BY A WIDE VARIETY OF PUBLISHED AND UNPUBLISHED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY READINGS, WE WILL INVESTIGATE SEVERAL CASE STUDIES OF COVERT OPERATIONS IN WORLD WAR II. EMPHASIS IS ON INTERDISCIPLINARY PROJECTS AND PRESENTATIONS CONDUCTED ON YOUR OWN OR IN TEAMS. THERE ARE NO PREREQUISITES.

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Operation Fortitude South

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Dummy Allied tank

TO HELP SELL THE CON, THE ALLIES CREATED A FICTITIOUS INVASION FORCE KNOWN AS THE "FIRST U.S. ARMY GROUP" AND FED THE GERMANS PHONY INTELLIGENCE SUGGESTING THE PHANTOM ARMY WOULD LEAD A CHARGE ON THE PAS DE CALAIS. OPERATIVES USED INFLATABLE TANKS, WOODEN AIRPLANES AND DUMMY FUEL DEPOTS TO TRICK RECONNAISSANCE PILOTS INTO BELIEVING THAT THE FIRST U.S. ARMY GROUP WAS ASSEMBLED IN KENT, ENGLAND—THE MOST LIKELY STAGING GROUND FOR AN ATTACK ON THE PAS DE CALAIS. TO TOP IT ALL OFF, THEY EVEN PLACED THE MUCH-FEARED GENERAL GEORGE PATTON IN CHARGE OF THE FAKE ARMY TO LEND IT AN ADDITIONAL AIR OF AUTHENTICITY.

OPERATION FORTITUDE SOUTH CONTINUED EVEN AFTER THE ALLIES LAUNCHED THEIR INVASION OF NORMANDY ON JUNE 6, 1944. AIRCRAFT FOCUSED MANY OF THEIR BOMBING RUNS ON THE PAS DE CALAIS INSTEAD OF NORMANDY, AND DOUBLE AGENTS WORKED TO CONVINCING THE GERMANS THAT THE D-DAY INVASION WAS MERELY A FEINT DESIGNED TO SCREEN A SECOND, LARGER OFFENSIVE FROM THE SOUTH. THE SWARM OF CONTRADICTORY REPORTS, BLUFFS AND MISDIRECTS ULTIMATELY HAD THEIR INTENDED EFFECT. WHEN THE ALLIES STORMED THE BEACHES AT NORMANDY, THE GERMANS HAD A LARGE CONCENTRATION OF TROOPS LANGUISHING AT THE PAS DE CALAIS, WAITING FOR AN ASSAULT THAT NEVER CAME.

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ONE CRITICAL ASPECT OF THE COVERT WAR WAS CODES AND CIPHERS, AND THE GROUPS ON ALL SIDES WHO WORKED TO BREAK THEM. COMMUNICATIONS IS CRITICAL IN MODERN WARFARE. SO IS THE ABILITY TO KEEP THOSE COMMUNICATIONS SECURE, SO THAT YOUR SIDE CAN READ THEM AND THE OTHER SIDE CAN'T. THE CORRELATION IS STRIKING: IN BATTLE AFTER BATTLE, THE SIDE THAT KEPT ITS PLANS AND COMMUNICATIONS MORE SECURE WON. THE BEST-KNOWN EXAMPLE OF THIS IS THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY, BUT THERE ARE MANY OTHER EXAMPLES AS WELL.

THESE BOOKS DISCUSS COVERT OPERATIONS OF ALL KINDS, FROM OPERATIONS IN ENEMY TERRITORY TO COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS AIMED AT DEFENDING AGAINST ENEMY OPERATIONS.

THESE BOOKS LOOKS AT THE OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF INTELLIGENCE AND COVERT OPERATIONS: HOW THEY WERE USED ON THE BATTLEFIELD TO HELP DEFEAT THE ENEMY AND CHANGE THE COURSE OF THE WAR. SOME BATTLES LITERALLY COULD NOT HAVE BEEN WON WITHOUT ACCURATE INTELLIGENCE; OTHERS WOULD HAVE BEEN FAR LONGER AND MORE COSTLY.

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