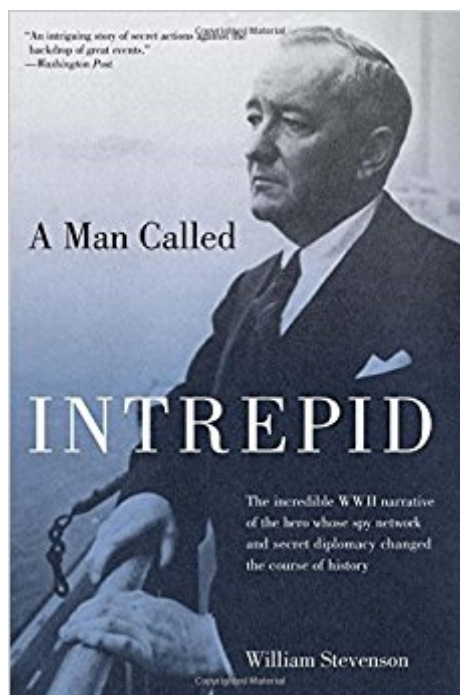




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Man Called Intrepid: The Incredible WWII Narrative Of The Hero Whose Spy Network And Secret Diplomacy Changed The Course Of History



Synopsis

A classic about real-life WWII espionage, as conducted by its modern master * A Man Called Intrepid is the classic true story of Sir William Stephenson (codenamed Intrepid) and the spy network he founded that would ultimately stall the Nazi war machine and help win World War II. Ian Fleming, bestselling author of the James Bond novels, once remarked, "James Bond is a highly romanticized version of a true spy. The real thing is William Stephenson." Illustrated with thirty-two pages of black-and-white photographs, this book describes the infamous "Camp X" spy training center in Ontario, Canada; the breaking of the Ultra Code used by Enigma; and countless tales of assassinations, clandestine activities, guerrilla armies, resistance support, and suicide missions. This modern classic, which reads like fiction, was a national bestseller when first published in 1976.

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Customer Reviews

"James Bond is a highly romanticized version of a true spy. The real thing is William Stephenson." Ian Fleming, bestselling author of the James Bond novels

A classic about real-life WWII espionage, as conducted by its modern master "James Bond is a highly romanticized version of a true spy. The real thing is William Stephenson." Ian Fleming, bestselling author of the James Bond novels "A splendid book. Rich in information. . . . profound in its implications." San Francisco Chronicle "As long as Americans value courage and freedom there will be a special place in

our hearts, our minds, and our history books for the *Man Called Intrepid*.'

Man Called Intrepid is the true story of Sir William Stephenson (code-named Intrepid) and the spy network he founded that would ultimately stall the Nazi war machine and help win World War II. Illustrated with thirty-two pages of black-and-white photographs, it describes the infamous "Camp X" spy training center in Ontario, Canada; the breaking of the Ultra Code used by Enigma; and countless tales of assassinations, clandestine activities, guerrilla armies, resistance support, and suicide missions. This modern classic, which reads like fiction, was a national bestseller when first published in 1976.

Last page: "Strong armies would have been useless without that deeper commitment to principles. The human race came very close to falling into a dark age. The same spirit still lives. Perhaps it survives only through struggle. It's needed now to recreate an alliance in defense of the main priorities of Western Civilization." (470) Reads like a good novel. Serious but not pedantic. Explains the role of the 'secret' world of spies and assassination. However the primary focus is the role and use of ultra, the intelligence code breakers of England. Not a biography of a man, but a biography of an organization. Point of Departure A Forward by Intrepid A Break in the Silence A Historical Note 1. In Time of peace 2. Fight On 3. Impeachable Offences 4. Cry, "Havoc!" 5. The End of the Beginning Epilogue A View from Another Island Valediction In the forward - "When the history of World War 2 is revised in the light of the secret war, this may be the most striking element: the great engines of destruction did not determine the outcome. The invincibility of free people and the ingenuity of free minds did. I believe this as I believe today that the spirit of human resistance refuses to be crushed by mere technology. . . . Perhaps a day will dawn when tyrants can no longer threaten the Liberty of any people, when the function of all nations, however varied their ideologies, will be to enhance life, not to control it." This written in 1976. Control is still the goal.

Amazing. Intrepid comments: "It has been claimed that human progress depends on challenge, that individuals and nations need to believe in causes and struggle for them. Some theorists have extended this application of instinctual behavior to account for the periodic wholesale slaughter we call "war". . . . What seems poignantly evident to me is that humankind already has awesome enemies to engage - poverty, disease, and ignorance, for example - and in such common cause there is reward and glory for all." Perhaps this assumption he accepts in this heartfelt expression provides a clue. 1) Dividing individuals into "nations" - accepting nationalism as fundamental. 2) "Instinctual behavior" - implying humans are animals. 3) People need a "common cause" - suggesting goals imposed by others. 4) Also, that "glory" for self or group needs to be

provided. These assumptions so deep rooted he can't even imagine that these could cause the problem he hates. Four men play key roles in this story - Stephenson, Donovan, Roosevelt and Churchill. Donovan went to Germany in 1920. "His carefully documented notes on Germany dwelt upon the dangerous mood of self-pity induced by the notion that German leaders had never actually surrendered and were therefore still unbeaten." (20) Churchill understood this. An American poet wrote after WW1: "The most tragic thing about the war was not that it made so many dead men, but that it destroyed the tragedy of death. Not only did the young suffer in the war, but so did every abstraction that would have sustained and given dignity to their suffering." (13) Enigma, the machine the Germans and Japanese used to encode radio transmissions, is highlighted throughout as the key to allied victory. Why? The British broke the code. Much detail on how this was done. When researching Enigma, Baruch recalled Stephenson this way: "He was very serious, frightening even. He could think seven stages ahead of you. It was terrifying to watch. If he was absorbing information, not a muscle in his face moved, nor did his eyes shift around as you would expect from someone reflecting. . . . When he spoke, he cut clean through the matter. Never wasted a word." (39) Fascinating man! Years later he gave this formula for the best agents: "Their response to danger is positive. In modern terms, they belong to the type A personality who has full control of himself although driven by great energy. The good agent starts out as a man who chose action over inaction but who learns to control his impulses and detach himself from a temporary reality in order to resume abstract thought." (195) Many insights into public events. The role of Philby in destroying the ability of the British to work with the Americans after the war. This was not discovered until he went to Russia. The huge cache of gold in the Indies that is the true story behind Ian Fleming's Goldfinger. In fact, numerous references to Fleming and the source of many of his stories. Rommel's African success was caused by breaking the British codes. Rommel read the daily battle plan each morning. Assassination of Heydrich. Explains Stalin's purge of 35,000 of his best officers during the war, due to forged documents created by the Nazis. The role of Greta Garbo and the death of Leslie Howard are mentioned. The rescue of Bohr, etc., etc.. Anyone with curiosity about the underlying causes of public events will enjoy this. The strain and anguish of using secret information is explained. Adds depth to superficial knowledge. Well done. Epilogue of ten pages. Thoughtful analysis of the war work. Author talking to Stephenson: "For the first time in history, we see everywhere the means of conveying information - and everywhere we seem in greater darkness than before. Secrecy seems like a disease -""That might destroy us?""It seems a clear threat to the freedom we have.""More than half the world is under dictatorship," said Stephenson. "Those people do not know what we call 'freedom'. Only sixty generations stretch back from you and me, here, to

the dawn of Western history. Two world wars in this century remind us that 'civilized' Europe is the bat of an eye from the dark ages." (467) What a profound thinker! Are we in the last days of this civilization? Last page: "Strong armies would have been useless without that deeper commitment to principles. The human race came very close to falling into a dark age. The same spirit still lives. Perhaps it survives only through struggle. It's needed now to recreate an alliance in defense of the main priorities of Western Civilization." (470) So true. Nevertheless, which principles are defended makes all the difference. Robespierre, Napoleon, Hitler and Stalin had principles. So did Cromwell, Wilberforce, Lincoln and Mandela. Which principles will survive? Thirty two pages of black and white photographs. Thirteen page index.

I agree with the 5 star reviews that this is an excellent account of a critical part of winning WW2. Stepping down to 4 stars reflects my disappointment that the coverage of Enigma is very incomplete. While the Enigma was a critical part of the effort and mentioned in several places, the people involved in breaking the Enigma are dismissed as a "group of mathematicians". The book goes into considerable detail on parts of the efforts having far less importance.

This book surely is the best resource available for learning the back story behind activities within England, Canada, and the USA in the 1930s and very early 1940s having to do with critical national preparations for the approaching conflict with Nazi Germany and Imperialist Japan. The Canadian William Stephenson began working with Churchill (even while the cowardly appeaser Neville Chamberlain was England's Prime Minister) which achieved critical accomplishments, even though the legality of their actions was questionable. Stephenson and Churchill worked with President Roosevelt which also materially improved the non-Nazi portion of the world's strength and chances for surviving the Nazi onslaught. Again, the actions taken by Roosevelt were of dubious legality but absolutely essential for the survival of a non-Nazi Western Civilization. The isolationist mood of the USA during the 1930s came amazingly close to ending democracy. This book provides astonishing details about how extensive was Nazi infiltration into nominally American corporations like Standard Oil, International Telephone & Telegraph, etc., as well as the US government. Dozens of US congressmen and at least one US senator used their franking privileges to send postage-free literature to American voters that supported Nazi interests. You will be astonished to learn how extensive the Nazi influence was inside the USA before Pearl Harbor. I highly recommend you read this book!!

This is an audio recording of an incredible piece of WW2 history. Somewhere one wonders how many mistakes Hitler committed; certainly in the field of intelligence, Germans were far behind and they lost the war (thank god!). How did Churchill manage all these far flung all encompassing espionage activities. People like Stevenson made it possible.

fascinating stuff! There are things that you just don't think about in covert warfare, and this book is full of the most interesting of them. For example, on a military raid on Nazi territory, one scientist goes along to view the German radar setup installed and to judge how far along the Germans are in radar technology. Along with him go two British soldiers, whose job it is to kill the scientist if it appears he might be captured. That is JUST the sort of thing that you say "of course, they would have to do that", but it just never occurred to you until you read it. A really well written story and very enjoyable- my favorite anecdote I will not spoil by telling you- just look for the story of OSS sending a letter to a Czech Nazi puppet official from an alleged "girlfriend" in South America, said letter detailing her knitting Karl a sweater. This book is so well written that it does not come across as "dated", a major achievement for a book about WW II. It is a paen of praise for William Stephenson, but done so well you end up thinking he heartily and thoroughly deserves it.

A True Spy Novel. Accurate and some things I can recall hearing about when I was about 12 years old. This man was vital to England and America, he lived an extremely stressful life during dangerous times. It is because of people like him that we are free today.

I owe my life's existence and its future freedom to the commitment and sacrifice of the men and women who took an active stand against evil. Their example and personal sacrifice motivates me to do my part in this generation to protect the freedoms of this millinial and ages to come.

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