

An Undercover Guide to the War

SPIES AND TRAITORS OF WORLD WAR II. By Kurt Singer. New York: Prentice-Hall, Inc. 1945. 285 pp. \$2.75.

Reviewed by JOHN ROY CARLSON

I'M usually a slow reader, even of adventure stories, but I finished Kurt Singer's irresistible new book in three sittings at the beach. They were the three most exciting afternoons I've spent since my years with my ex-Christian Front and Bund "pals." For sustained excitement (unbroken for nearly 300 pages) "Spies and Traitors of World War II" would be difficult to beat. And Mr. Singer proves to us that truth (we are told that 95% of the contents are factual) can indeed be more thrilling than fiction.

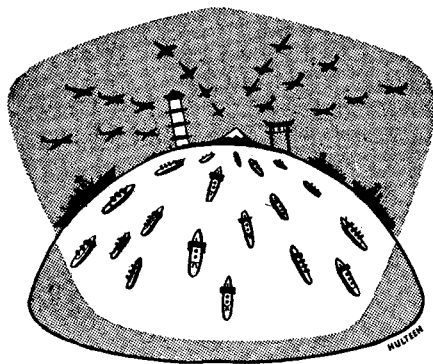
For those who seek only the thrills and chills, the collection of round-the-world spy lore gives one his money's worth. To me this book was more than just a thriller. When I read the story of Greta Kainen, the "beautiful pacifist," I recalled our own Laura Ingalls, and the operations of wily Nazi agents in America who selected respectable native-born Americans to do Hitler's dirty work for them. Greta (whom Singer helped expose) joined the Swedish Peace Society and travelled all over Sweden pleading the blessings of peace. Laura joined the America First Committee and travelled all over the country pleading the blessings of appeasement and defeatism. Greta slipped into Finland when she was discovered. Laura was slipped into prison upon her conviction as an "America First patriot" who had received \$300 monthly from Nazi agent Ulric von Gienanth.

When Irish police got a tip that German parachute-flown agents had visited the home of one of Ireland's most prominent families, they almost discounted the tip. But when they searched the home of Iseult Gonne, wife of the well-known Irish novelist Francis Stuart (whose "Julie" and "In Search of Love" were well received when published here), they found beneath Iseult's lavish frocks a neatly folded tell-tale German parachute. A tool chest disclosed a transmitter, and from a welter of books they selected a black notebook. Iseult confessed. It was the codebook used to report Allied ship movements and troop concentrations. Her husband violently protested his own and his wife's innocence. A few weeks later, however, Francis Stuart obtained sanctuary in Berlin and became a lesser Lord Haw Haw.

I can attest from personal observation that some of the "nicest" people in America served enemy interests: sometimes unwittingly, but more often

out of spite against the Administration, in blind hate, or sheer inability to see beyond their immediate interests.

Kurt Singer has brought together an amazing collection of Nazi espionage from Greenland to Iran to Argentina. His evil genius is Admiral Walter Wilhelm Canaris, chief of the German spy network. Canaris raised havoc with Allied plans in the Near East and Panama waters. His agents were everywhere. I met some of them in America and my impression is that most of them were punks. Despite the genius accredited to him by Singer, Canaris's attempts backfired in the United States,



for a spy-master is only as good as the counter-intelligence's measures against him. Our own J. Edgar Hoover and our chiefs of Army and Navy Intelligence seem to have bested the vengeful Canaris.

A gang of thirty-three Canaris agents were caught and convicted before Pearl Harbor, among whom were some of my best Nazi "friends." Others were rounded up from time to time. Canaris's men tried to get our atomic bomb secrets, but according to an FBI release recently, "these men became 'double agents' collaborating with the FBI, while maintaining contact with Berlin." While his men failed to send back the plans, Canaris landed eight German saboteurs by submarine on our east coast, with instructions to blow up the Oak Ridge laboratories. Their plot was foiled while the sand was still wet on their shoes.

Canaris, however, succeeded in planting a seemingly innocent watchmaker close to Britain's famed Scapa Flow base who, watching his chance, warned agents in Holland that the submarine nets and traps were temporarily lifted. The blowing up of the *Royal Oak* followed.

German agents succeeded monstrously well in serving Jap interests. Singer's chapter on how the entire Kuehn family turned spy, reporting to outlying Jap submarines up to the eve of Pearl Harbor is one of the most fas-

cinating in the book. It was strictly a cash proposition with Kuehn. For \$40,000 he agreed to report to the Japanese vice consul with up-to-the-minute news on the exact size and position of the American fleet in the Pacific. He received \$14,000 down and the balance on delivery of the first Jap bombs on Pearl Harbor. The Japs planned to pick up Kuehn and his family by submarine, and the plans would have worked had not our counter-intelligence belatedly observed Kuehn's signals from a dormer window. He was sentenced to death, but sentence was commuted to life when he promised to tell all. His family, including the beautiful Ruth who ran a beauty parlor, was interned for the duration, which indeed seems a mild sentence for an arch-Judas family.

Canaris received one of the most severe setbacks in the person of youthful Jean Peroux, alias Maurice Mercier, a member of the French resistance. Maurice proved of invaluable help to the Allies by exposing many German secrets in Northern Africa.

I am amazed at the variety which Kurt Singer has been able to compress into 26 chapters. Some of his cases are undoubtedly overstated, but as a whole it reads like an authentic "Who's Who" of the criminal underworld the world over. His writing never lets one down; it breezes through racily, without letup, clear to the end.

The case of Tyler Kent interested me deeply. It is one of the few chapters which provide the average newspaper reader with material which is somewhat familiar. Kent, former confidential decoding expert in our London Embassy, developed a violent hatred for Jewry, and became convinced of the Nazi lies that Jews were drawing America into war. He listened to Blackshirt Oswald Mosley. He met with Capt. H. M. Ramsay, a member of Parliament, and a violent anti-Semite. He travelled with members of the Anglo-German Fellowship, an organization which contained such prominent German sympathizers as Sir Harry Domville, former director of British Naval Intelligence Service, who was later interned. Impressionable, youthful, politically-naïve Tyler Kent apparently considered it "patriotic" and morally just to turn over the contents of some 1500 highly confidential telegrams exchanged between Churchill and Roosevelt to Nazi agent Anna Wolkoff. With our innermost state secrets bared to Berlin, all diplomatic communication ceased until a new "unbreakable" code could be devised. The blackout lasted a month.

Kent's case is typical of many "well-meaning" Americans I met who heiled Hitler and learned to hate Democracy because Democracy along with all

bankers, radio, newspapers, movies, labor, to say nothing of England, Russia, the Administration, and the FBI were all painted by the Nazis as "Jewish controlled."

America had its counterpart to the Anglo-German Fellowship. It was known as the American Fellowship Forum. Lawrence Dennis (under indictment for sedition) spoke for it. Former Congressman Ham Fish wrote for its organ; D. S. Dismukes, Rear Admiral, USN retired; and G. Bailey, Lt. Comdr., USN, published letters in its organ, *Today's Challenge*, which was openly edited by its backers, Nazi agents George Sylvester Viereck and Friedrich E. Auhagen. What fools some of us mortals be!

Kurt Singer's chapters deal mainly with the Nazi network the world over, but the propaganda tactics parallel those used in America. The uniformity is appalling to all except those who today are still being victimized by a modified "Made in America" form of Nazi propaganda. Germany is defeated and Hitler, in all likelihood is dead, but Hitlerism in the form of racism, hate, dissension, and minority-baiting is resurgent in the Americas—from the Argentine to Canada.

"Espionage does not operate intermittently," writes Mr. Singer. "It is a long drawn-out business and it is always planned during peacetime—many, many years in advance." In his final chapters he bares plans of the inner core of the German military to continue activity. Admiral Canaris's secret instructions for the new Nazi underground are bared. "It does not matter whether Admiral Canaris himself survives; what matters is that he has assured the survival of his work. Thousands of his subordinates already have their orders . . . the organization is strong enough to create its own leaders."

We know that Canaris's agents in America are treading water. I am informed that the paymasters have plenty of money but little is being given out now for actual espionage. Rather, enemy agents are now directing their energies to the continuation of Nazi psychological warfare: to whispering campaigns, to defeatism, to disrupting inter-Allied unity, to encouraging black market operations. They are striving to embroil us in the type of pre-Hitler chaos which led to the rise of the Brownshirts.

Kurt Singer's book is a warning to America that the enemy intends to be active and to strike when the opportunity is ripe. More than a warning, Singer exposes many of their methods (which may be again used) in eminently readable and thrilling prose.

John Roy Carlson is the author of "Under Cover."

An Atomic Parable

IRWIN EDMAN

AFTER working for two years, a group of philosophers, theologians, economists, and experts on international relations had, it was rumored, developed an idea which if released, would be so shocking and revolutionary that it would destroy in a blinding flash all the established notions current in the world, all the conventional clichés of goodness, justice, and truth, not to add those of property and individual obligation. The rumor had been current quite a long time, but the secret was well kept. Certainly it occurred to nobody what the idea was. Every once in a while a well-known professor of philosophy would disappear from the university and would be sent Heaven knows where. One prominent clergy-

of instantaneous conversion had been worked out along with the idea itself.

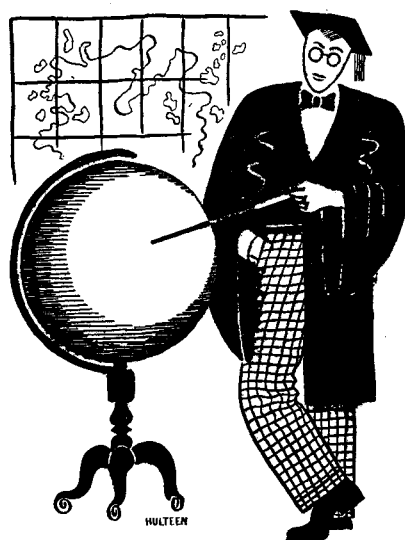
The idea was simple enough. It was that we are all members of one another, that we are all mutually dependent, and that the universal principle of action should be love. If this idea could be, as it seemed clear, impossible in an instant upon our enemies—the country was still at war—it would be wonderful. It would shorten the war. It would save incalculable lives. But after the war—that, everyone admitted, was the real problem.

The idea of universal love and mutual understanding, put at the disposal of unscrupulous men and sinister powers, might do incalculable damage. Whole nations might be demoralized. The will to destroy might be sapped. Armies would be abolished, arms would be dropped, armaments would be neglected or dismantled. The chaos at once ensuing in the established order of class distinctions, national rivalries, cliques, and hatreds could not be estimated.

It was generally admitted that, carefully controlled, the idea might be of incalculable service to mankind. But the same notion might develop in other places. It was well known that similar researches had been going on elsewhere, and the same disintegrating formula might be lighted on.

It was hopefully suggested that just as counter weapons had been developed in the past, so some counter-idea might be used to oppose this new and cosmically upsetting one. There were even hints that some older notions, scepticism, cynicism, and despair, marshalled in such sufficient numbers, might block this new menace to established ways. But everyone could see clearly that no such powerful moral insight as this had been really launched upon the world in past history. It had, of course, been mentioned by the Hebrew prophets and by Jesus. But in earlier times the all important technique of instantaneous propaganda had not been invented.

It was generally agreed that this was our last chance. Either we could use this idea of universal love properly, for the happiness of mankind, or like other great powerful inventions, it might destroy us. For it was clear that if one nation learned to spread this powerful notion of universal love and mutual dependence and insight that nation would morally dominate the globe. The idea itself, if it were released and really used, would prove irresistible.



man wrote his wife regularly from a spot she finally figured out to be Sun Valley, Idaho, which she had hitherto identified with skiing. It turned out that she had guessed correctly, and it came out later that that an unprecedented number of books had been transported to the mountain resort, and that at one time or another practically every noted or alleged thinker in the country had been brought there, and nothing came out.

The idea was finally released to the world. It was a notion so powerful, so detonating and destructive to the whole structure of established prejudices, that it sent a shiver through the conservative and perhaps not less so through the orthodox radicals. Once the thought became really current, who knew what might come of it? If the idea were once allowed to spread, whole armies might be decimated or at least abolished by it. And it was already well-known that a technique