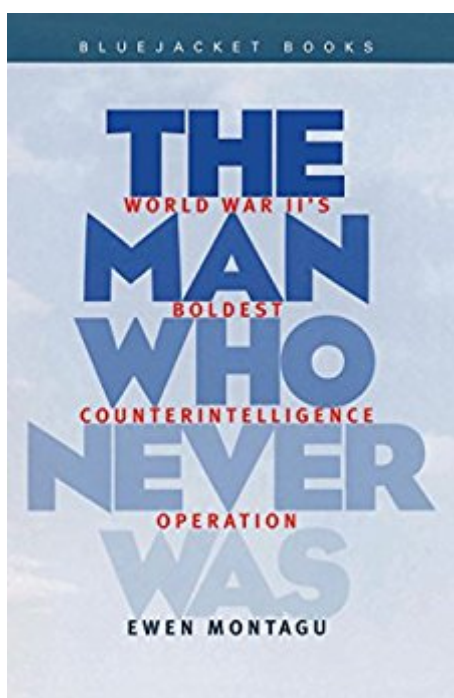


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The Man Who Never Was: World War II's Boldest Counterintelligence Operation (Bluejacket Books)



Synopsis

As plans got under way for the Allied invasion of Sicily in June 1943, British counter-intelligence agent Ewen Montagu masterminded a scheme to mislead the Germans into thinking the next landing would occur in Greece. The innovative plot was so successful that the Germans moved some of their forces away from Sicily, and two weeks into the real invasion still expected an attack in Greece. This extraordinary operation called for a dead body, dressed as a Royal Marine officer and carrying false information about a pending Allied invasion of Greece, to wash up on a Spanish shore near the town of a known Nazi agent. Agent Montagu tells the story as only an insider could, offering fascinating details of the difficulties involved-especially in creating a persona for a man who never was--and of his profession as a spy and the risks involved in mounting such a complex operation. Failure could have had devastating results. Success, however, brought a decided change in the course of the war.

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Customer Reviews

during World War II as the Allies were about to drive the German - Italian forces out of North Africa, they had to consider what their next step would be. That next step was to be an assault on Sicily. Ewen Montagu, a reserve officer on active duty with the British Navy, conceived a brilliant plan to deceive the Axis about Allied intentions. This book tells the story of that plan. Montague obtained the body of a young man who had died from pneumonia. Montague and his team then proceeded to give the body the persona of a Royal Marine named Maj. William Martin. "Martin" was launched from a submarine onto the southern coast of Spain. He had in his briefcase letters from senior British officers that indicated that the Allies would launch two attacks, one against Sardinia and one against Greece. These letters were recovered by the Spanish authorities and turned over to the Germans as Montague expected. The contents of the letters fooled German intelligence, the German high command and Hitler himself. The Germans diverted considerable resources, which might have been used to defend Sicily, to the defense of Sardinia and Greece. It is no exaggeration to say that Maj. Martin saved thousands of Allied lives. In the mid-1950s Hollywood produced a movie by the same name starring Clifton Webb as Montague. The movie stays fairly close to the facts with one major exception. In the movie, the Germans hire an Irish spy to determine if Martin (and thus the contents of his briefcase) was real. In reality the Germans made no such check. The movie is first rate; but the book provides details absent in the movie. For example, the book provides the contents of the papers Martin was carrying as well as translations of pertinent German documents. Both the book and the movie are well worth the reader's (or viewer's) time.

Awesome book!! Highly recommended for all fans of the WWII era! British Intelligence makes a super amazingly brilliant plan to completely fool the Germans! I love the movie too starring Clifton Webb.

This book is the story of the British deception that tricked the Germans into weakening their defense of Sicily on the eve of the British-American invasion of the island. The author was one of the two intelligence agents who concocted the trick. The book was still heavily censored, as it had to be; some of the characters who were unnamed or left out of the narrative completely were still involved in espionage and counterespionage for MI-5 and MI-6 at the time of publication. Still, the book is a fascinating read and tells the story of the greatest ruse de guerre of the Twentieth Century.

I first read this as a teenager and really enjoyed the book. As I acquired my parent's library I re-read

it as an adult and still found it intriguing. Then I stumbled on the old B&W movie of the story and that was fun! Finally it appeared on my kindle suggestions page and I snagged it. Just reread it again and found it so interesting once more.

I am still reading this, normally I read a book in a few days, but this is a slow page turner. Loved the movie, it's streaming on Netflix, Watch it, although I understand some license was taken with the facts but it gives an interesting look at how we outfoxed the Nazi's in this instance!

Good product and prompt delivery.

true story....good read

Intriguing story, even more interesting since it is true and its success had a significant impact on the war.

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