

# Hitler Secret Commandos Operations Of The K Verband

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## The Winter Fortress

The incredible untold story of WWII's greatest secret fighting force, as told by our great modern master of wartime intrigue Britain's Special Air Service—or SAS—was

the brainchild of David Stirling, a young, gadabout aristocrat whose aimlessness in early life belied a remarkable strategic mind. Where most of his colleagues looked at a battlefield map of World War II's African theater and saw a protracted struggle with Rommel's desert forces, Stirling saw an opportunity: given a small number of elite, well-trained men, he could parachute behind enemy lines and sabotage their airplanes and war material. Paired with his constitutional opposite, the disciplined martinet Jock Lewes, Stirling assembled a revolutionary fighting force that would upend not just the balance of the war, but the nature of combat itself. He faced no little resistance from those who found his tactics ungentlemanly or beyond the pale, but in the SAS's remarkable exploits facing the Nazis in the Africa and then on the Continent can be found the seeds of nearly all special forces units that would follow. Bringing his keen eye for psychological detail to a riveting wartime narrative, Ben Macintyre uses his unprecedented access to SAS archives to shine a light inside a legendary unit long shrouded in secrecy. The result is not just a tremendous war story, but a fascinating group portrait of men of whom history and country asked the most.

### **My Commando Operations**

On December 16, 1944, the vanguard of three German armies, totaling half a million men, attacked U.S. forces in the Ardennes region of Belgium and Luxembourg, achieving what had been considered impossible -- total surprise. In

the most abysmal failure of battlefield intelligence in the history of the U.S. Army, 600,000 American soldiers found themselves facing Hitler's last desperate effort of the war. The brutal confrontation that ensued became known as the Battle of the Bulge, the greatest battle ever fought by the U.S. Army -- a triumph of American ingenuity and dedication over an egregious failure in strategic intelligence. *A Time for Trumpets* is the definitive account of this dramatic victory, told by one of America's most respected military historians, who was also an eyewitness: MacDonald commanded a rifle company in the Battle of the Bulge. His account of this unique battle is exhaustively researched, honestly recounted, and movingly authentic in its depiction of hand-to-hand combat. Mingling firsthand experience with the insights of a distinguished historian, MacDonald places this profound human drama unforgettably on the landscape of history.

### **Hitler's Raid to Save Mussolini**

"The S.D. unmaskes the adversaries of National Socialist ideas and thus orients the activity of the police . The S.D. will be a police of the mind, the instrument for measuring and controlling thought." Thus was the Secret Service of the S.S. described by its founder Heinrich Himmler, and no sooner had Hitler come to power than the S.D., under Himmler's lieutenant Reinhard Heydrich, who had eliminated his rivals by poisoning them in Hitler's mind, set to work "controlling thought." In this book, journalist André Brissaud recounts the achievements of

Heydrich's Secret Service up to 1940: the capture in 1934 of Sosnowski, the Polish spy with the glamorous helpmates, in a tragicomic climax to his farewell party in his Berlin flat, where the waiters turned out to be disguised S.S. men; an anti-Hitler plot invented in order to liquidate Röhm and the entire Brownshirt leadership--and anyone else on the S.S. expendable list; a reactionary plot which led Stalin to make a murderous clean sweep of his officer corps; the broad comedy of the Gleiwitz incident, when S.S. men dressed as Poles raided a German border radio station. Based on all available written and spoken evidence, including a long private interview with Walter Schellenberg, S.S. counterespionage chief.--Adapted from book jacket.

### **Hitler's Secret Commandos**

Otto Skorzeny, Germany's top commando in the Second World War, is one of the most famous men in the history of special forces. His extraordinary wartime career was one of high risk and adventure and here he tells the full story. Skorzeny quickly proved his worth in Yugoslavia and then Russia. In 1942 he was awarded the Iron Cross, and in April 1943 he was promoted to captain and named "Chief of Germany's Special Troops, Existing or to be Created in the Future." When Mussolini was imprisoned in Italy in 1943, it was Skorzeny who successfully led the daring glider rescue, winning the Knight's Cross and promotion as a result. Skorzeny's talents were brought into play again when he was sent to Budapest to stop the

Hungarian regent Admiral Horthy from signing a peace with Stalin in 1944. Now dubbed “the most dangerous man in Europe” by the Allies he was awarded the German Cross in Gold. A few months later he took a critical role in the Ardennes offensive with a controversial plan to raise a brigade disguised as Americans with captured Sherman tanks. His captured colleagues spread a false rumor that he was planning to assassinate Eisenhower, who was consequently confined to his headquarters under guard for protection. Skyhorse Publishing, as well as our Arcade imprint, are proud to publish a broad range of books for readers interested in history--books about World War II, the Third Reich, Hitler and his henchmen, the JFK assassination, conspiracies, the American Civil War, the American Revolution, gladiators, Vikings, ancient Rome, medieval times, the old West, and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

### **The British National Bibliography**

An animated adaptation of the story of the same title by Maurice Sendak in which a small boy makes a visit to the land of the wild things. Tells how he tames the creatures and returns home. For primary grades.

## **World War II**

One of the lasting legacies of World War 2 was the proliferation of what today are known as Special Forces. At the time many soldiers, often of high rank regarded these units as nothing short of ill-disciplined cowboys or worse! However desperate times called for desperate measures and there were those in high places who were prepared to take risks. As specially recruited units such as the LRDG, SAS and SBS earned their spurs and scored significant victories, at high cost both to the enemy and themselves, so faith in the concept grew

## **Hitler's Commando**

In 1963, a frustrated President Kennedy turned to the Pentagon for help in carrying out subversive operations against North Vietnam- a job the CIA had not managed to handle effectively. Thus was born the Pentagon's Special Operations Group(SOG). Under the cover name "Studies and Observation Group," SOG would, over the next eight years, dispatch numerous spies to North Vietnam, create a triple-cross deception program, wage psychological warfare by manipulating North Vietnamese POW's and kidnapped citizens, and stage deadly assaults on enemy soldiers traveling the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Written by the country's leading expert on SOG, here is the story of that covert war-one that would have both spectacular and

disastrous results.

## **Churchill's Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare**

### **Churchill's War**

This “lively and action-packed account” of the infamous Gran Sasso raid chronicles the Nazi paratrooper operation that freed Mussolini (WWII History). As the Allied invasion tore through Italy in the summer of 1943, Benito Mussolini was suddenly overthrown by his own people and imprisoned on the remote Gran Sasso massif of the Apennine Mountains. But Adolf Hitler quickly devised a plan to rescue his ally and friend. On September 12, a small convoy of Nazi glider aircraft crash-landed near the mountain hotel where Mussolini was held. German commandos poured out of the half-wrecked planes and quickly overwhelmed the hotel. “I knew my friend Adolf Hitler would not abandon me,” Mussolini told his rescuers. One of the most audacious commando operations of the twentieth century, the Gran Sasso raid was also the culmination of a bizarre friendship between two of the century’s most infamous dictators. This vivid narrative recounts the drama of this secret six-week operation and the disreputable characters who pulled it off—including the raid’s leader, Otto Skorzeny.

## **Skorzeny's Special Missions**

Documents the complete training regimen of the U.S. Army's Special Forces soldiers, the Green Berets, from their initial recruitment, through their physically and mentally grueling course of training, detailing the special character, intelligence, language skills, and adaptability that the Army looks for in selecting these versatile troops. Reprint. 25,000 first printing.

## **The Women Who Lived for Danger**

Otto Skorzeny, Germany's top commando in the Second World War, is one of the most famous men in the history of special forces. His extraordinary wartime career was one of high risk and adventure and here he tells the full story. Skorzeny quickly proved his worth in Yugoslavia and then Russia. In 1942 he was awarded the Iron Cross, and in April 1943 he was promoted to captain and named "Chief of Germany's Special Troops, Existing or to be Created in the Future". When Mussolini was imprisoned in Italy in 1943, it was Skorzeny who successfully led the daring glider rescue, winning the Knight's Cross and promotion as a result. Skorzeny's talents were brought into play again when he was sent to Budapest to stop the Hungarian regent Admiral Horthy from signing a peace with Stalin in 1944. Now dubbed "the most dangerous man in Europe" by the Allies he was awarded the

German Cross in Gold. A few months later he took a critical role in the Ardennes offensive with a controversial plan to raise a brigade disguised as Americans with captured Sherman tanks. His captured colleagues spread a false rumour that he was planning to assassinate Eisenhower, who was consequently confined to his headquarters for weeks.

### **Night of the Assassins**

### **On Secret Service**

This gripping book tells the remarkable story of Germany's special forces military, naval and aerial during the Second World War. Although capable of stunning achievements against all the odds, the absence of proper coordination and planning resulted in a lost opportunity for Germany. Units were raised ad hoc, as an increasingly desperate response to Germany's ever-weakening position and the growing strength of the Allies. At sea, flotillas of manned torpedoes and explosive motor boats were introduced. In the air, the world's first operational jet planes were grouped into special squadrons in an effort to cripple the US air offensive. On the ground, battalions of over-age men set out on foot or on bicycles towards Berlin to protect the city from the Soviet Army's tank armadas. In other parts of

Germany the Werewolf was recruiting and training young people to carry out partisan warfare. Then there were the children of the Hitler Youth, some not even in their 'teens, who committed acts of sabotage against military installations and attacked British and Americans soldiers. Packed with useful detail and incisive analysis, this is one of the fullest and most accessible accounts of Germany's special forces and their efforts to stave off impending military defeat.

### **Hitler's Fortresses**

Petty Officer John G. Makie of the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve did not realize what he was getting into in the summer of 1942, when he gave an oath at Camp X under the Canadian Secrets Act of 1939. He was only seventeen years old and determined to defend the freedom of Canada. He did so, in the most extraordinary way. He was special agent number 034, of the secret service group - under water demolition squadron. These secret agents were very highly trained commandos, who came from Canada, Britain, and Australia. These fearless men were scuba divers trained in small arms and hand-to-hand combat. They entered enemy occupied countries by the sea, carried out acts of sabotage and clandestine warfare. Then, they quickly disappeared into the night, back to the sea. These men had no name or rank, just mission after mission in Russia, Norway, Sweden, and France. This brave group of men, personally encouraged by Sir Winston Churchill, Sir William Stephenson, and Lord Louis Mountbatten set out to set Europe ablaze.

When the war was over in Europe they set out to mop up Burma and Hong Kong. Yet no record of fallen buddies can be found. The year 1996 marks the end of the fifty-year gag order by oath and with it, the truth is finally set free. The Spy Worker reveals secrets of a time long, long ago all accounted by the lone survivor, now in his eighties which are finally free to share with friends and family. After many therapeutic sessions over the last ten years, events of this forgotten group are starting to surface. Although there are no records of their missions or medals of valor ever rewarded, The Spy Worker pays tribute to the unsung heroes of war in remembering their notable acts of bravery.

### **A Time for Trumpets**

### **The Secret War Against Hanoi**

A daily chronology of World War II as depicted in newspaper columns and press releases explores key figures and events, roles of spies and codebreakers, development in arts and literature, and influence of wartime propaganda.

### **Skorzeny**

Hitler's Secret Commandos is the history of the K-Verband naval commando unit, established in 1943 to reek havoc amongst invading allied forces involved in amphibious landings or actions, against German-occupied coasts. Following the Italian and British example, the basic idea was for a small, exceptionally well-trained and absolutely reliable commando force using the maximum element of surprise. Midget U-boats, and small torpedo-carrying craft along the lines of the "explosive boats" used by the Italian Navy, were designed for individual operations while a naval assault troop was formed for missions against important enemy operational targets near the sea after being landed from naval vessels offshore. Using German archive material, first-hand accounts and other published material this is the first comprehensive history of the K-Verband. It charts the development, structure, selection, training and equipment the Commando\_unit used together with a detailed narrative of the operations undertaken. The material has been translated from a German text, previously published in Germany with wide acclaim.

### **Hitler's Raid to Save Mussolini**

The incredible World War II saga of the Jewish refugees who fought in Britain's most secretive special-forces unit—but whose story has gone untold until now. June, 1942. The Third Reich is victorious everywhere. In desperation, Winston Churchill and his chief of staff form an unusual plan: a new commando unit made

up of Jewish refugees who have escaped to Britain. Many have lost their families, their homes—their whole worlds. They will stop at nothing to defeat the Nazis. Trained in counterintelligence and advanced combat, this top-secret unit becomes known as X-Troop. Some simply call them a “suicide squad.” Drawing on extensive original research, including interviews with the last surviving members, Leah Garrett follows this unique band of brothers from Germany to England and back again, with stops at British internment camps, the beaches of Normandy, the battlefields of Italy and Holland, and the hellscape of Terezin concentration camp—the scene of one of the most dramatic, untold rescues of the war. For the first time, X Troop tells the astonishing story of these secret shock troops and their devastating blows against the Nazis.

### **OSS Commando: Hitler's A-Bomb**

Hitler's Atlantic Wall, the complex system of coastal fortifications that stretched from Norway to the Spanish border during the Second World War, was built to defend occupied Europe from Allied invasion. Many of its principal structures survive and can be visited today, and this book is an authoritative guide to them. The wall, which was constructed on a massive scale between 1942 and 1944 by German engineers, forced laborers and troops, consisted of strong points, artillery casemates, bunkers, troop shelters, minefields, anti-tank and anti-boat obstacles. It also included the concrete U-boat and E-boat pens in the key ports and, behind

the Channel coast, the V-weapon sites. This huge scheme of fortifications was one of the longest defensive lines in military history. This history and guide takes the reader—and visitor—through the entire story of the fortifications from the fall of France to the Allied breakthrough and the defeat of the German armies in Normandy. This narrative puts the extensive remains that can be seen today in a fascinating historical context. As a guide to some of the most impressive relics of the Second World War, this book will be essential reading and reference for any one who is interested in the history of fortifications, D-Day and the liberation of occupied Europe.

### **Ian Fleming's Commandos**

“Riveting and poignant . . . The Winter Fortress metamorphoses from engrossing history into a smashing thriller . . . Mr. Bascomb’s research and, especially, his storytelling skills are first-rate.”—The Wall Street Journal “Weaving together his typically intense research and a riveting narrative, Neal Bascomb’s *The Winter Fortress* is a spellbinding piece of historical writing.” — Martin Dugard, author of *Into Africa* and co-author of the *Killing* series In 1942, the Nazis were racing to complete the first atomic bomb. All they needed was a single, incredibly rare ingredient: heavy water, which was produced solely at Norway’s Vemork plant. Under threat of death, Vemork’s engineers pushed production into overdrive. If the Allies could not destroy the plant, they feared the Nazis would soon be in

possession of the most dangerous weapon the world had ever seen. But how would the Allied forces reach the castle fortress, set on a precipitous gorge in one of the coldest, most inhospitable places on earth? Based on a trove of top-secret documents and never-before-seen diaries and letters of the saboteurs, *The Winter Fortress* is an arresting chronicle of a brilliant scientist, a band of spies on skis, perilous survival in the wild, Gestapo manhunts, and a last-minute operation that would alter the course of the war. “A taut and peerlessly told adventure story full of thrills, derring-do and heart-stopping tension.” — *Seattle Times* “Told with both historical and scientific accuracy . . . this book has rocketed into my pantheon of the top suspense-filled stories about [World War II], along with *The 900 Days* and *The Colditz Story*.” — Ethan Siegel, *Forbes*

### **Hitler's Hangman**

In the spring of 1942 Britain's far-flung empire was in the greatest peril. North Africa was being overrun by the German Afrika Korps and in south-east Asia the forces of Imperial Japan had captured Singapore and were threatening India. Only the most urgent reinforcement of both war fronts could prevent disaster. But Britain's shipping routes to Egypt and India passed the island of Madagascar. If the Japanese Navy, operating out of Madagascar, could sever Britain's communications with Cairo and Delhi, then the whole of North Africa and the Indian sub-continent would be at the mercy of the Axis Powers. In a desperate race

against time, and under conditions of the utmost secrecy, at Churchill's instigation Britain planned to seize Madagascar, the fourth largest island in the world, before the Japanese could strike. An overwhelming force was assembled and despatched as part of the largest convoy ever to have left Britain's shores. Yet the expedition's commanders were faced with not just military but also political obstacles, because the forces occupying the island were not those her enemy's but those of her former ally - France. The Secret Invasion is the first book to examine in detail this crucial campaign which was Britain's largest amphibious assault since the First World War and the first large-scale combined air, sea and land operation Britain had attempted.

### **The Meuse First and Then Antwerp**

"They flirted with men, and with death." In *The Women Who Lived for Danger*, acclaimed historian Marcus Binney recounts the story of ten remarkable women -- some famous, some virtually unknown -- recruited to work behind enemy lines as secret agents during WWII. Part of Winston Churchill's Special Operations Executive, formed in 1940 to "set Europe ablaze," the women of the SOE were trained to handle guns and explosives, work undercover, endure interrogation by the Gestapo, and use complex codes. Once in enemy territory, theirs was the most dangerous war of all, leading an apparently normal civilian life but in constant danger of arrest and execution. Passing themselves off as country wenches by

afternoon and chic Parisiennes by night, these women put service to Britain and the Allied forces above all concerns for personal safety -- they organized dropping grounds for arms and explosives destined for the Resistance, helped operate escape lines for airmen who had been shot down over Europe, and provided Allied Command with vital intelligence. The exploits of those chronicled in *The Women Who Lived for Danger* form a new chapter of heroism in the history of warfare matched only by their legacy of daring, determination, resourcefulness, and ability to stay cool in the face of extreme danger.

### **Hitler's Last Offensive; the Full Story of the Battle of the Ardennes**

Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt (1875-1953) was one of the foremost German commanders of the Second World War. After service on both the Western and Eastern Fronts during 1914-1918 he rose steadily through the ranks before retiring in 1938. Recalled to plan the attack on Poland, he played a leading part in this and the invasion of France in 1940. Thereafter he commanded Army Group South in the assault on Russia before being sacked at the end of 1941. Recalled again, he was made Commander-in-Chief West and as such faced the 1944 Allied invasion of France, but was removed that July. He resumed his post in September 1944 and had overall responsibility for the December 1944 Ardennes counter-offensive.

Captured by the Americans, he was handed over to the British, who wanted to try him for war crimes. Only his ill health prevented this from coming about.

## **Secret Forces of World War II**

The author of Hitler's Terror Weapons digs deep into the history of Nazi Germany's atomic research and development, separating fact from fiction. What were Hitler's fabled "miracle weapons" with which he promised to win the war for Germany at the last gasp? This book resolves the mystery and discusses the factors restraining Hitler from using them in Europe as Nazi Germany disintegrated. Here, too, is the conclusive evidence of Nazi-Japanese cooperation that convinced the Americans that no alternative existed but to strike preemptively against Japan as soon as the atomic bombs were ready. For the first time, hard facts are presented suggesting that it was not the United States but Hitler's Third Reich, which built the world's first nuclear reactor. And finally the controversy as to the role played in the Nazi atomic research by the Nobel Prize-winner professor Werner Heisenberg is settled once and for all.

## **Stalin's Secret War**

Six gentlemen, one goal: the destruction of Hitler's war machine In the spring of

1939, a top-secret organization was founded in London: its purpose was to plot the destruction of Hitler's war machine through spectacular acts of sabotage. The guerrilla campaign that followed was every bit as extraordinary as the six men who directed it. One of them, Cecil Clarke, was a maverick engineer who had spent the 1930s inventing futuristic caravans. Now, his talents were put to more devious use: he built the dirty bomb used to assassinate Hitler's favorite, Reinhard Heydrich. Another, William Fairbairn, was a portly pensioner with an unusual passion: he was the world's leading expert in silent killing, hired to train the guerrillas being parachuted behind enemy lines. Led by dapper Scotsman Colin Gubbins, these men—along with three others—formed a secret inner circle that, aided by a group of formidable ladies, single-handedly changed the course Second World War: a cohort hand-picked by Winston Churchill, whom he called his Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare. Giles Milton's Churchill's Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare is a gripping and vivid narrative of adventure and derring-do that is also, perhaps, the last great untold story of the Second World War.

### **Hitler and His Secret Partners**

German soldiers assigned to guard the tiny Channel Island of Sark described it as a 'little Paradise' and, because it was never bombed by the RAF, the best air-raid shelter in all of Europe. But paradise for them came to a bloody end in October 1942 when a small group of British Commandos raided the island, capturing one

German soldier and killing several others. Operation Basalt would have been a footnote in history but for the reaction of Hitler, who believed that British soldiers executed several Germans who had already surrendered and whose hands were bound. Days after the raid, he issued the infamous 'Commando Order', a death sentence for those Allied commandos who fell into German hands. Drawing on extensive archival research and interviews with survivors of the period, Eric Lee has written the definitive account of the raid, putting it into the context of the German occupation of British lands during the war.

### **Churchill's Secret Invasion**

In 1941, the United Kingdom faced its darkest hour: it stood alone against the Germans, who had chased British forces out of France, Norway, and Greece. All it had left were desperate measures--commando raids, intelligence coups, feats of derring-do. Any such "novel enterprise," wrote Admiral John Godfrey, Director of Naval Intelligence, required "an officer with drive and imagination of the highest order." He found one in Commander Ian Fleming. In Ian Fleming's *Commandos*, Nicholas Rankin tells the exciting story of a secret intelligence outfit conceived and organized by Fleming. Named 30 Assault Unit, the group was expected to seize enemy codebooks, cipher machines, and documents in high-stakes operations. Assault unit commandos fought in the North African campaign and the invasions of Sicily and Italy, poked over the bones of bombed Pantelleria, and liberated Capri.

Rebranded '30 Assault Unit', they went ashore on D-Day, heading for rocket-sites and radar-stations. They helped liberate Paris (including the Ritz Bar and the Rothschild mansion) and then set out to steal scientific and industrial secrets from the heart of Germany. Their final amazing coup was to seize the entire archives of the German Navy's three hundred tons of documents. Ian Fleming flew out in person to accompany the loot back to Britain, where it was combed for evidence to use in the Nuremburg trials. Based on incisive research and written with verve and insight, this new paperback edition of Ian Fleming's *Commandos* brings to life a long-observed chapter of World War II and reveals the inspiration behind Fleming's famous fiction.

### **Return to the Reich**

### **The Nazi Secret Service**

### **The Atlantic Wall**

World War Two rages on. In the conflict's darkest days, both the U.S. and Germany scramble to achieve nuclear capabilities. And if Hitler's scientists hand him the

atomic bomb first, the world will be his. Hand-picked and trained by OSS chief "Wild Bill" Donovan, Captain James Cantrell is expected to do the impossible. He must parachute alone into ravaged Poland, and into the jaws of the Nazi beast, to rescue an aging scientist who's been marked for extermination. With the Russians racing to capture the same prize, one wiry and tough ex-Oklahoma cop faces the most tragically difficult choice he's ever had to make. If the SS realize the value of Professor Jahne's secrets, their war is as good as won. So the fragile old genius must accompany Cantrell out of the country—or else he must die.

### **Hitler's Nuclear Weapons**

A chilling biography of the head of Nazi Germany's terror apparatus, a key player in the Third Reich whose full story has never before been told. Reinhard Heydrich is widely recognized as one of the great iconic villains of the twentieth century, an appalling figure even within the context of the Nazi leadership. Chief of the Nazi Criminal Police, the SS Security Service, and the Gestapo, ruthless overlord of Nazi-occupied Bohemia and Moravia, and leading planner of the "Final Solution," Heydrich played a central role in Hitler's Germany. He shouldered a major share of responsibility for some of the worst Nazi atrocities, and up to his assassination in Prague in 1942, he was widely seen as one of the most dangerous men in Nazi Germany. Yet Heydrich has received remarkably modest attention in the extensive literature of the Third Reich. Robert Gerwarth weaves together little-known stories

of Heydrich's private life with his deeds as head of the Nazi Reich Security Main Office. Fully exploring Heydrich's progression from a privileged middle-class youth to a rapacious mass murderer, Gerwarth sheds new light on the complexity of Heydrich's adult character, his motivations, the incremental steps that led to unimaginable atrocities, and the consequences of his murderous efforts toward re-creating the entire ethnic makeup of Europe. “This admirable biography makes plausible what actually happened and makes human what we might prefer to dismiss as monstrous.”—Timothy Snyder, *Wall Street Journal* “[A] probing biography.... Gerwarth’s fine study shows in chilling detail how genocide emerged from the practicalities of implementing a demented belief system.”—*Publishers Weekly* “A thoroughly documented, scholarly, and eminently readable account of this mass murderer.”—*The New Republic*

## **The Last Prussian**

### **Kommando**

The memoirs of the legendary Skorzeny appear here in its first unabridged English edition. Skorzeny's fame began with the successful raid to free Benito Mussolini from the Gran Sasso, Italy in 1943. His elite commandos surprised Italian guards in

a daring daytime raid. Hitler presented Skorzeny with the Knight's Cross for this operation. Not only is this raid explained in minute detail, many of Skorzeny's previously unknown operations in all European and Russian theatres of World War II are given in detailed accounts. Operation Griffin - the innovative use of German Kommandos dressed as American soldiers working behind enemy lines - during the Ardennes Offensive in 1944 is given in-depth coverage, as is Skorzeny's remembrances on the Malmedy massacre. Skorzeny also offers his insights into the mysterious Rudolf Hess mission to England in May 1941, and offers a behind the scenes look at German and Russian secret military intelligence, and the workings of Canaris and Gehlen. 16 pages of photographs

### **Chosen Soldier**

The New York Times bestselling author returns with a tale as riveting and suspenseful as any thriller: the true story of the Nazi plot to kill the leaders of the United States, Great Britain, and the U.S.S.R. during World War II. The mission: to kill the three most important and heavily guarded men in the world. The assassins: a specially trained team headed by the killer known as The Most Dangerous Man in Europe. The stakes: nothing less than the future of the Western world. The year is 1943 and the three Allied leaders—Franklin D. Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and Joseph Stalin—are meeting for the first time at a top-secret conference in Tehran. But the Nazis have learned about the meeting and Hitler sees it as his last chance

to turn the tide. Although the war is undoubtedly lost, the Germans believe that perhaps a new set of Allied leaders might be willing to make a more reasonable peace in its aftermath. And so a plan is devised—code name Operation Long Jump—to assassinate FDR, Churchill, and Stalin. Immediately, a highly trained, hand-picked team of Nazi commandos is assembled, trained, armed with special weapons, and parachuted into Iran. They have six days to complete the daring assignment before the statesmen will return home. With no margin for error and little time to spare, Mike Reilly, the head of FDR's Secret Service detail—a man from a Montana silver mining town who describes himself as “an Irish cop with more muscle than brains”—must overcome his suspicions and instincts to work with a Soviet agent from the NKVD (the precursor to the KGB) to save the three most powerful men in the world. Filled with eight pages of black-and-white photographs, *Night of the Assassins* is a suspenseful true-life tale about an impossible mission, a ticking clock, and one man who stepped up to the challenge and prevented a world catastrophe.

### **Operation Basalt**

Tells the story of the financial calculation, exploitation, and greed at the core of the Third Reich, and includes revelations about those who provided Hitler with money

## Rogue Heroes

The remarkable story of Fred Mayer, a German-born Jew who escaped Nazi Germany only to return as an American commando on a secret mission behind enemy lines. Growing up in Germany, Freddy Mayer witnessed the Nazis' rise to power. When he was sixteen, his family made the decision to flee to the United States—they were among the last German Jews to escape, in 1938. In America, Freddy tried enlisting the day after Pearl Harbor, only to be rejected as an “enemy alien” because he was German. He was soon recruited to the OSS, the country’s first spy outfit before the CIA. Freddy, joined by Dutch Jewish refugee Hans Wynberg and Nazi defector Franz Weber, parachuted into Austria as the leader of Operation Greenup, meant to deter Hitler’s last stand. He posed as a Nazi officer and a French POW for months, dispatching reports to the OSS via Hans, holed up with a radio in a nearby attic. The reports contained a goldmine of information, provided key intelligence about the Battle of the Bulge, and allowed the Allies to bomb twenty Nazi trains. On the verge of the Allied victory, Freddy was captured by the Gestapo and tortured and waterboarded for days. Remarkably, he persuaded the Nazi commander for the region to surrender, completing one of the most successful OSS missions of the war. Based on years of research and interviews with Mayer himself, whom the author was able to meet only months before his death at the age of ninety-four, *Return to the Reich* is an eye-opening, unforgettable narrative of World War II heroism.

## **Chronicle of the Second World War**

This “lively and action-packed account” of the infamous Gran Sasso raid chronicles the Nazi paratrooper operation that freed Mussolini (WWII History). As the Allied invasion tore through Italy in the summer of 1943, Benito Mussolini was suddenly overthrown by his own people and imprisoned on the remote Gran Sasso massif of the Apennine Mountains. But Adolf Hitler quickly devised a plan to rescue his ally and friend. On September 12, a small convoy of Nazi glider aircraft crash-landed near the mountain hotel where Mussolini was held. German commandos poured out of the half-wrecked planes and quickly overwhelmed the hotel. “I knew my friend Adolf Hitler would not abandon me,” Mussolini told his rescuers. One of the most audacious commando operations of the twentieth century, the Gran Sasso raid was also the culmination of a bizarre friendship between two of the century’s most infamous dictators. This vivid narrative recounts the drama of this secret six-week operation and the disreputable characters who pulled it off—including the raid’s leader, Otto Skorzeny.

## **The Spy Worker**

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## **Bitter Woods**

Hitler's 'West Wall' was one of the greatest engineering projects of the 1930s. Stretching more than 390 miles and containing some 14,000 pillboxes it was a significant statement of intent. But it was only as World War II progressed that Germany's defensive requirements expanded beyond all previous expectations. Along the Atlantic coastline Germany poured millions of tonnes of concrete into chain batteries, bunkers and minefields, whilst defensive works were sunk into the mountainous terrain of Italy in an attempt to halt the advancing Allies. As well as these large-scale defensive works, Hitler's Fortresses delves into the principles and engineering of basic frontline defences, showing how the average German soldiers prepared their fox-holes and field fortifications, as well as exploring special purpose fortifications like the huge U-boat pens, V-weapon sites and Hitler's own personal constructions, from his sprawling headquarters to his mountain-top lair. This exhaustive study of German wartime fortifications reveals much about the strategic and tactical thinking of the German High Command, and combat accounts explore how effective the defences were in practice. Illustrated throughout with contemporary photographs, cutaway diagrams, artworks and maps, this edition shows exactly how key types of defensive positions looked and functioned, and provides an authoritative record of the Third Reich's defensive mindset.

## **X Troop**

Detaljeret gennemgang af de tyske hærstyrkers sidste store operation i 2. Verdenskrig under Ardenneroffensiven, "Operation Greif", hvis formål var at tilintetgøre allierede førerhovedkvarterer, erobre drivmiddellagre og krigsmateriel. Operation Gfeif blev ledet af SS-Obersturmbahnführer Otto Skorzeny, chef for Panserbrigade 150.

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