

PICASSO^{FILM}

PRESENTS

SPY LANDS

A 4 x 60' Docuseries

Welcome to the Spy Lands

During World War II, while the most important cities in Europe were being razed to smoking rubble, there were places that still glittered during the darkest nights. Some few countries would declare their neutrality in this conflict, and in cities like **Lisbon, Geneva, Stockholm** and **Istanbul**, businesses were open, people went to work, and life went on as usual.

Soon, those lucky and resourceful enough to escape the war zone would find their way into these oases of peace. The wealthier would enjoy glamorous lifestyles spent at the elegant hotels, fashion shops, luxurious restaurants or even lively clubs and casinos where Jazz orchestras would set rhythm from dusk till dawn. It was here that Ian Fleming was inspired to write James Bond. It was here that nests of spies thrived, and regimes were made and broken by covert agents in the dangerous and frantic battle for information.

Welcome to the Spylands.

Locations

Spylands is a 4 x 60' docu-series that explores these peaceful oases in war-torn Europe. Each episode will be set in one neutral country, where we will consult with expert talking heads, feature incredible archive footage, revisit infamous locations of espionage show-downs, and reenact some of the most audacious acts of espionage, some of them carried out by Hollywood's glitterati and a surprising array of high-level turncoats.

Episode 1 – Portugal. Where Ian Fleming was inspired to create James Bond and the glamorous Josephine Baker stole naval information for the French Resistance.

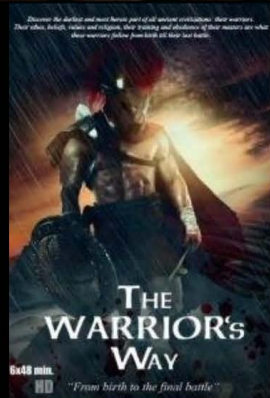
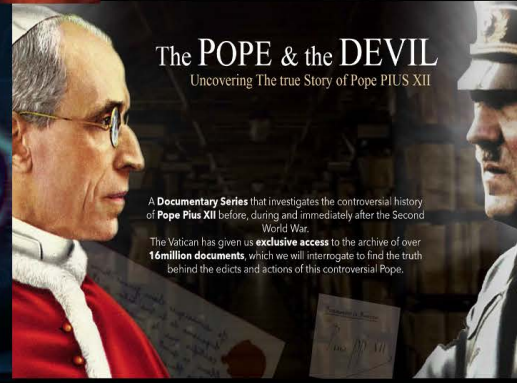
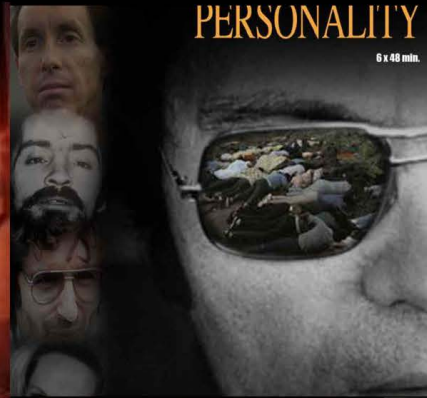
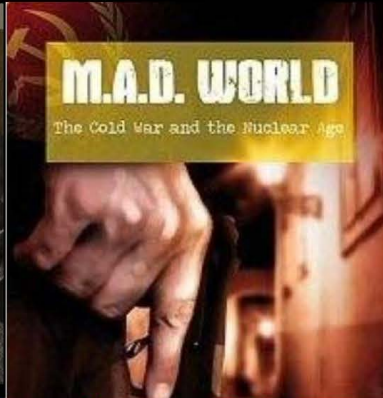
Episode 2 – Switzerland. Where former CIA Director Allen Dulles, after whom Washington, DC's airport is named, started his career and where America's sports stars came to chase revenge, ending with one of them being shot in the back and murdered.

Episode 3 – Sweden. Where the Swedish secret services brilliantly broke Nazi codes and Greta Garbo was persuaded to join MI6.

Episode 4 – Turkey. Where perhaps the biggest intelligence coup against the Nazis was staged, bringing down Nazi Intelligence in an instrumental move that expedited the end of World War II.

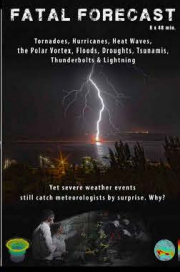
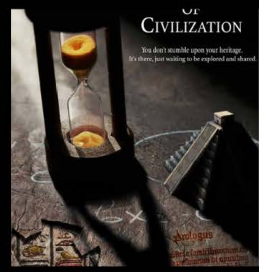
Based on in-depth research of recently declassified archives and the testimonials from world-renowned specialists, Spylands will unveil – for the first time – key episodes in the intelligence warfare that changed the course of history.

PICASSOfilm SOME OF OUR SUCCESSFUL PRODUCTS



THE PRODUCERS

Spylands is from PICASSO FILM. Since 2008, Picasso Film has produced over 50 original unscripted series for the world's most comprehensive entertainment platforms. Our production team produces numerous original unscripted series each year, focusing strongly on true crime, military and intelligence, history, science, and wildlife. We conceive, write, shoot, and edit in-house to deliver high-quality broadcast programming.



An aerial photograph of a city, likely London, showing a large cathedral (St. Paul's) and surrounding buildings. A semi-transparent white box is overlaid on the image, containing the title 'SPY LANDS'. The word 'SPY' is circled in red, and the final 'S' of 'LANDS' is also circled in red.

SPY LANDS

→ PLAY TRAILER ←



PORTUGAL

LISBON

TRUE NEST OF SPIES



EP1

Portugal: “The Embarkation Point”

The Portuguese capital of Lisbon became one of the most important ports in the world during World War II, not only because of its strategic position as a gateway into Europe, but also for its neutral port and safe harbour.

While in Portuguese territory there was no war confrontation whatsoever, and so it was quite customary to see German and Allied uniforms – and sometimes even officers – inside the same hotels, cafés, jazz clubs or even playing roulette together at the Casino do Estoril.

While on the outside Portugal appeared to be neutral, in truth the war was fought in the shadows by secret agents who stalked each other stealthily in the dark, narrow, cobbled alleys of the Moorish old town, in some of the most daring and dangerous intelligence operations that would influence the outcome of the War. For some of them, it would be their last mission...

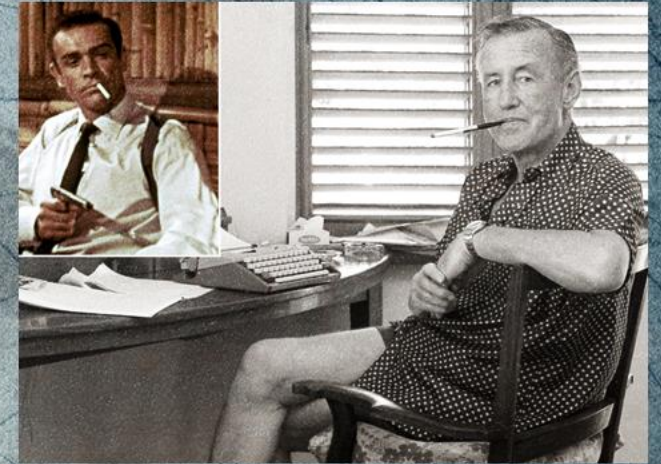


Portugal: Famous Spies

Ian Fleming : the author of the 007 spy novels was himself an agent for the Naval Intelligence Service in Portugal. He claimed to have “relieved some Nazi agents from a substantial part of their funds” while gambling at the Casino do Estoril. It was in Lisbon that Fleming met Duško Popov, triple agent and infamous playboy, on whom James Bond is believed to be based.

Josephine Baker : the American singer and dancer used her fame and beauty to get intimate with Axis diplomats in Portugal, from whom she stole naval information that was passed to the French Resistance through ingenious spycraft methods.

Leslie Howard : the English actor, famous for his role in *Gone with the Wind*, staged his final performance in Lisbon where he boarded flight BOAC 777 and was shot down by a German fighter, after Nazi Intelligence reported that Churchill was on board the craft. Recent research suggests that Howard was a MI5 operative and may have been the target himself.



Portugal: Expert Contributors

Neill Lochery - Historian, University College London, UK

Irene Flunser Pimentel - Historian, Institute for Contemporary History, Lisbon, Portugal

José António Barreiros - Author of *"Nathalie Sergueiew - A Double Agent in Lisbon"*

Rui Araújo - Journalist and author of *"Empire of Spies"*

João Moreira dos Santos - Author of *"Josephine Baker in Portugal"*

WAR IN THE SHADOWS
OF THE CITY OF LIGHT, 1939-1945

LISBON

"EVOCATIVE... FASCINATING AND READABLE." - WALL STREET JOURNAL

NEILL LOCHERY

GENEVA

THE GERMAN ANTI-HITLER
RESISTANCE

SWITZERLAND



EP2

Switzerland: The Nazi Resistance

Switzerland became the primary safe haven for those Germans who feared political persecution from the Nazis. Right from the beginning of the one-party rule, many of them started to organize underground movements that would spread anti-Hitler propaganda and news that the Nazi regime would censor, not only in Germany but all over the world.

These Nazi resistance groups received support from both the Kremlin and from those within the Nazi party who were disillusioned with Hitler's leadership, including high command officers from the Wehrmacht who wanted to overthrow the regime. In this episode of Spylands, we will reveal the covert activities of some of these resistance groups – in which German citizens played a key role – whose hands in the Nazi defeat have often been overlooked in by history.



Switzerland: Famous Spies

Allen Dulles : If you've travelled through Washington, D.C.'s airport, you've heard of Dulles, the first civilian director of the CIA who started his career in intelligence as the OSS spymaster in Bern. His impressive spy ring included prominent anti-Nazi resistant fighters like Austrian priest **Heinrich Maier**, who played an important role for the success of **Allied Operations Hydra** and **Crossbow** that would condition the use of V bombs by the Nazis.

"Moe" Berg : The famous baseball catcher joined the American Intelligence agency OSS. He would be dispatched to Europe as part of **Project Larson**, planted in Zurich with a license to kill German physicist Werner Heisenberg should the Nazis come too close to building an atomic bomb.

Alice Marble : In her autobiography "Courting Danger", the American tennis player, winner of 18 grand slams, claims that she joined the OSS to avenge her husband's death in the War. Her mission was to reconnect with a former Swiss lover who had connections with the Nazis. It would end with a dramatic car chase and Alice getting a bullet in her back.



Switzerland: Expert Contributors

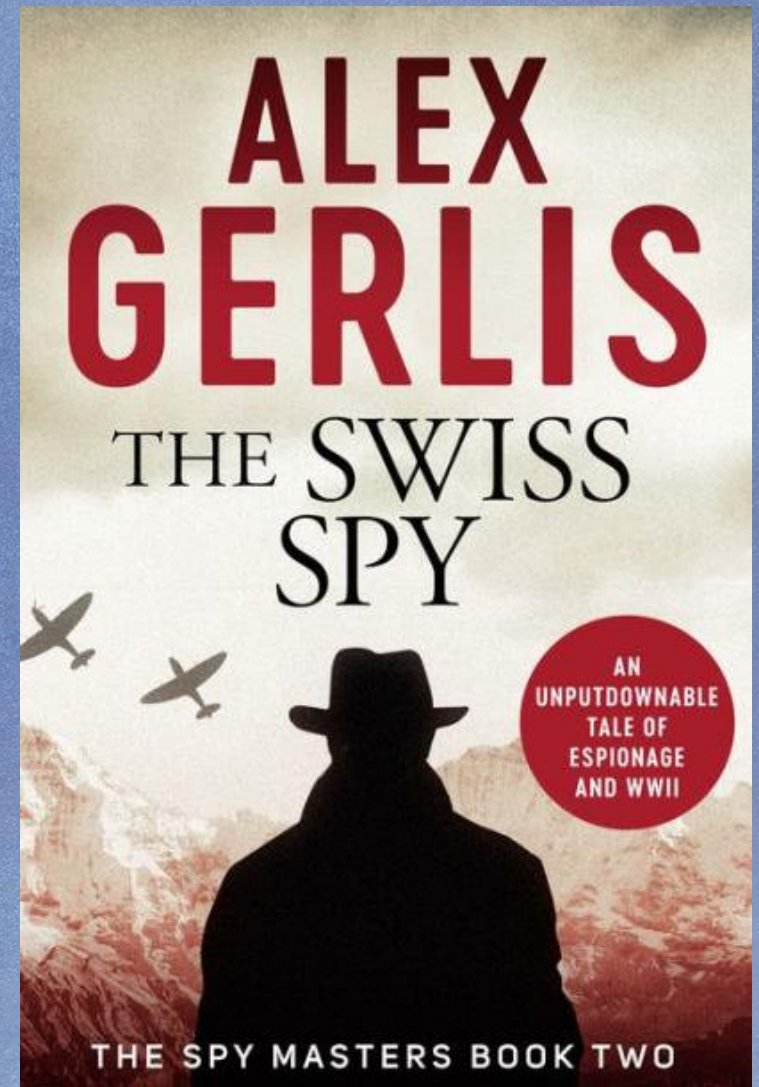
Alex Gerlis - Author of *"The Swiss Spy"*

Mark Zellweger - Swiss Master of Spy Novels

Scott Miller - Author of *"Agent 101"*

Nicholas Dawidoff - Author of *"The Catcher was a Spy"*

Dale Ann Leathermann - Co-author of *"Courting Danger"*





S W E D E N

STOCKHOLM

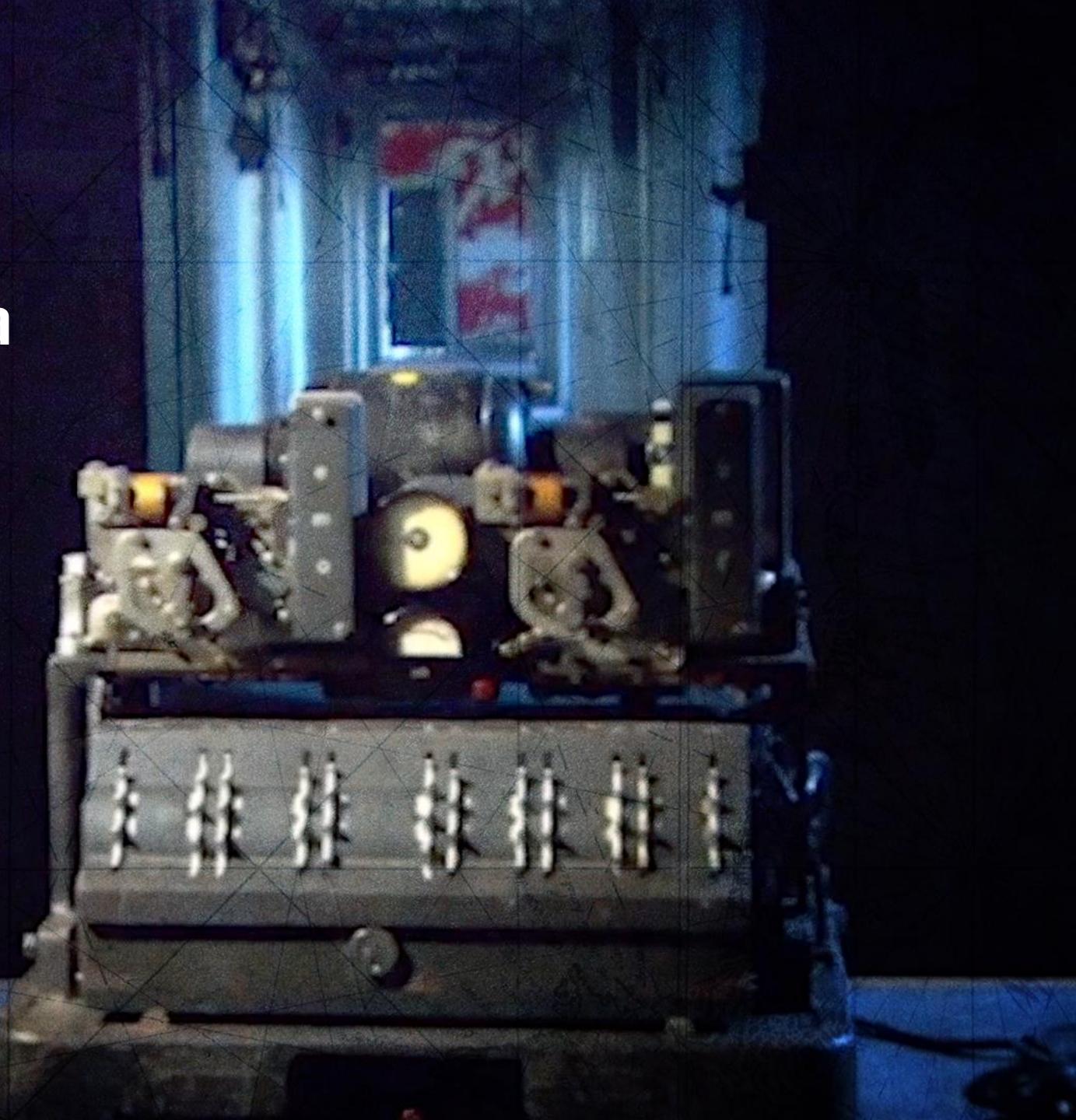
BREAKING NAZI SECRET CODES



EP3

Sweden: The Scandinavian Casablanca

Though they were forced to make some concessions to Germany, Sweden managed to stay neutral in a War that saw its neighbours Denmark and Norway fall to the Reich. Fearing for their independence, the Swedes managed to develop an organized defence system that relied in great part on its intelligence service, which had the advantage of intercepting coded messages by tapping telegraphic lines from Norway to Berlin that crossed through Swedish territory. Thus, the Swedish became code breakers and some of the most effective secret agents of the War.



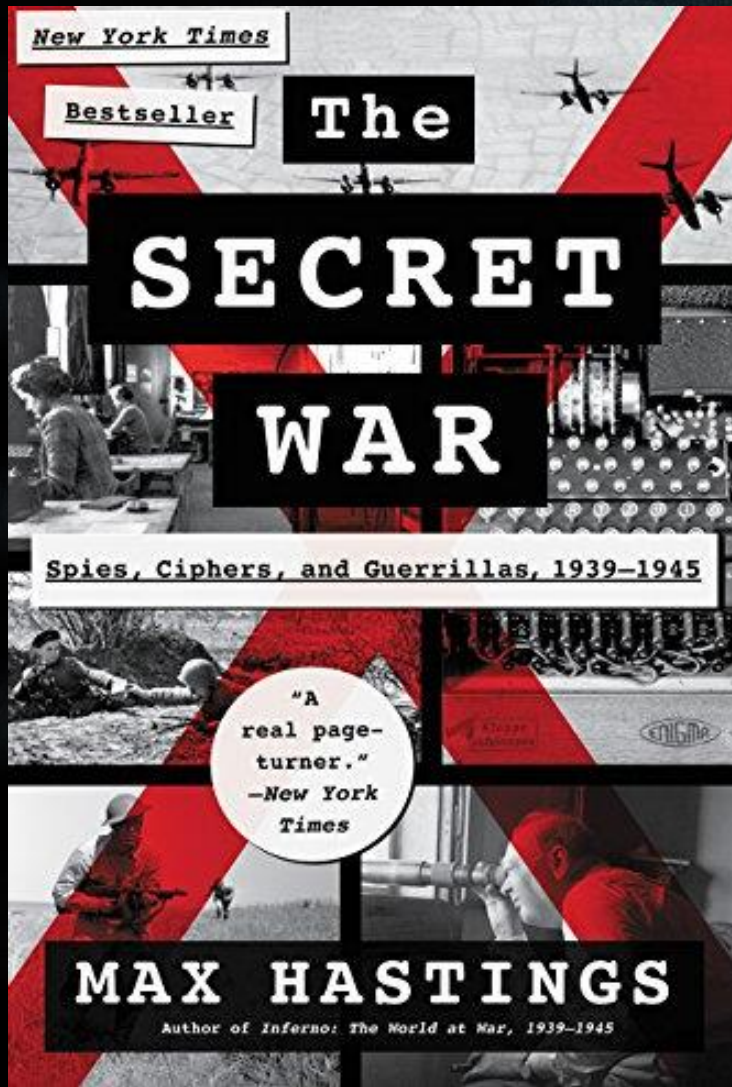
Sweden: Famous Spies

Arne Beurling: One of the most renowned mathematicians in history, Beurling would also make history by single-handedly deciphering the Geheimfernschreiber, a secret teletypewriter used by the Reich to send coded information.

Greta Garbo: The iconic Swedish actress took her Mata Hari role into real life by joining the MI6. She was assigned to gather information about Nazi sympathizers in many glamorous encounters, including a Swedish billionaire who was a personal friend of Hermann Göring.

Karin Lannby: This actress, a paramour of Swedish director Ingmar Bergman, was already a spy before WW2 for the leftist forces during the Spanish Civil War. She would infiltrate Stockholm's glitzy high society parties under the code name Annette to collect intelligence for the Swedish secret services. After the War ended, she changed her name, relocated to France, and lived until 2007 as an actress, translator and journalist.





Sweden: Expert Contributors

Victor Lundberg - Historian, Malmö University, Sweden

Pat DiGeorge - Author "Liberty Lady"

Max Hastings - British Journalist, author of "The Secret War: Spies, Codes And Guerrillas, 1939-45"

ISTANBUL

SECRET PLOTS AND
CONSPIRACIES

TURKEY



EP4



Turkey: The Oriental Spynest

Despite their declaration of war on February 23rd, 1945, Turkey never conducted any military operations and retained their neutrality during most of the conflict to become our fourth Spyland.

Tucked between Europe and Asia, Turkey's status as a peaceful passage for European Jews escaping to Palestine, as well as being a strategic point from which to observe naval movements in the Mediterranean and the Black Seas, made it a favourite place for spies on the hunt for information that could give them an advantage over their enemy. An enormous amount of intrigue crisscrossed the country, from Istanbul to Ankara, where spies from all over the world would sneakily observe each other in known hotspots like the "Snakepit Bar" inside Istanbul's luxurious Park Hotel, a Turkish version of the fictitious Rick's Café in the film "Casablanca".

It is in Turkey that the Abwehr, the German military intelligence service for the Reichswehr and Wehrmacht from 1920 to 1945, would meet its fateful demise.

Turkey: Famous Spies

George Earle III and Louis Matzhold: The former, an American ex-diplomat and personal friend of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, was sent to Istanbul in order to meet and deal with Nazi officials who were plotting against Hitler. There he met Abwehr agent Matzhold. The two became engaged in a battle of false information in Turkey that would dictate the defeat of the Nazis in the Invasion of Sicily.

Franz Von Papen: The former German Chancellor was assigned as German Ambassador in Ankara during the War. In 1943 he approached the American Secret Services in an attempt to lead a conspiracy against Hitler in an astounding move of betrayal. A plot to assassinate von Papen would be orchestrated by the Red Army's SMERSH in the supposedly neutral Turkish territory.

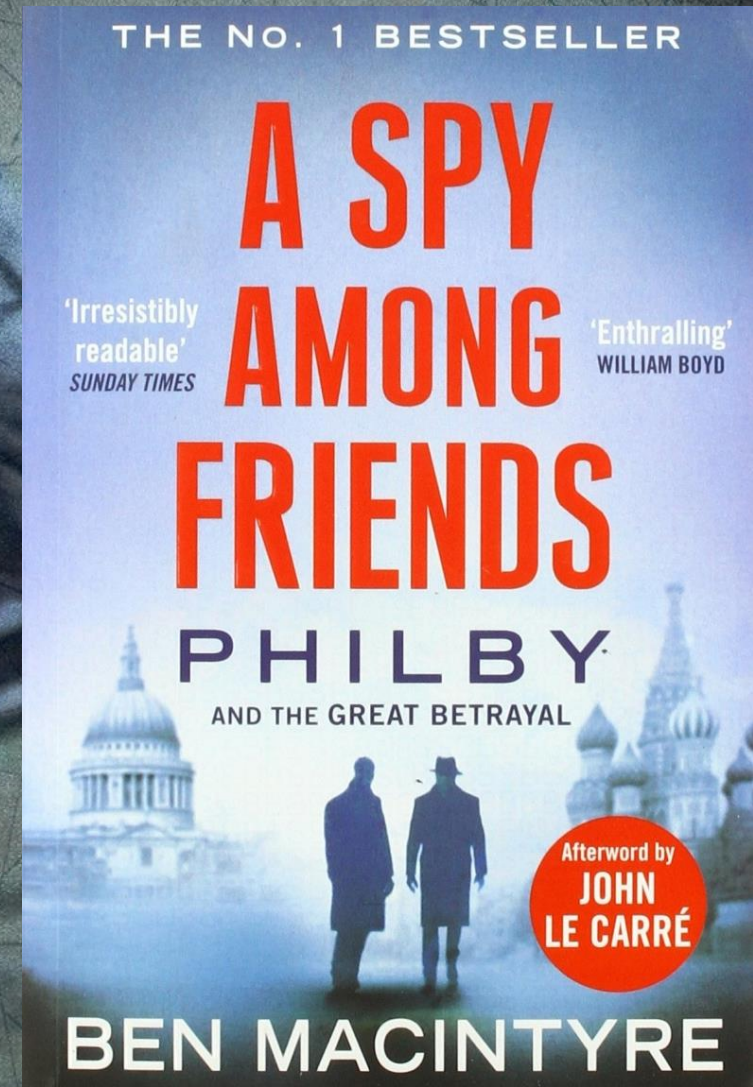
The Fall of the Abwehr: It was in Istanbul that Nazi intelligence met its demise with the audacious defection of agent **Erich Vermehren** and his wife to the British secret services. Besides defecting, Vermehren leaked an astonishing amount of information to **Kim Philby's** department, exposing many of the Abwehr's top-secret contacts and covert operations. A few weeks later, exposed, humiliated and afraid, Hitler dissolved the Abwehr and fired its commander Admiral Wilhelm Canaris, whose functions transferred to **Walther Schellenberg** of the SS intelligence. The Abwehr, which had served the Reich since 1920, was no more.

Turkey: Expert Contributors

Süleyman Seydi - Historian, TC Süleyman Demirel University in Istanbul

François Kersaudy - Historian, University of Paris, Author of *"The Cicero Affair"*

Ben MacIntyre - Historian, Author of *"A Spy Among Friends"*





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SPYLANDS

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SO WHAT MEDIA