



## **Burn After Reading: The Espionage History of World War II**

*Ladislas Farago*

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## **Burn After Reading: The Espionage History of World War II** Ladislas Farago

Fought under the cover of elaborate deceptions and ruthless lies, the deadly intelligence operations of World War II produced victories and defeats that were often as important as any reached on the battlefield. A behind-the-scenes history of the war, this book offers an exciting picture of the whole range of clandestine activities, the various forms of intelligence, espionage and sabotage, subversion and counter-espionage--the entire secret war conducted apart from conventional warfare. The major exploits of the O.S.S., M.I.5, Abwehr, and the Deuxieme Bureau are described in colorful detail by an author considered one of the foremost civilian experts on intelligence during the war. Ladislas Farago's account of Allied and Axis spymasters at work offers compelling reading about real traitors and heroes in cloak-and-dagger-dom.

## **Burn After Reading: The Espionage History of World War II Details**

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Author : Ladislas Farago

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## **From Reader Review Burn After Reading: The Espionage History of World War II for online ebook**

### **George says**

"...on December 2, 1941, what should have been an iron-clad tipoff was intercepted. A message from Tokyo instructed the Embassy in Washington to begin the destruction of codes, a certain indication that Japan was preparing for war." (from page 196 in book titled Burn After Reading (paperback edition) by Ladislas Farago, copyright 1961; chapter titled The Magic of the Black Chamber)

Pages 193-199 in chapter 7 (paperback edition) document the war warnings provided by Communications Intelligence prior to the Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941).

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### **James L. Ratledge says**

#### **Another angle of the end of WW Two**

We have been led to believe that the atomic bombs were necessary to hasten the end of the second world war but this book plainly says otherwise.

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### **Annmarie McGlone says**

I was not a history buff of any kind. I was a 20 something going to visit my friend and wanted something to read on the plane. I borrowed this book from my older brother for the plane ride. I started reading it and could not put it down. It was a fascinating read and have reread it many times.

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### **Al Lock says**

This is an excellent book which gives an insightful look into many (although far from all) of the intelligence operations around the world during World War II. It is far from exhaustive, and specifically skips those incidents that are well-known or covered extensively in other sources. Given when it was written, it does an especially fine job of covering the Soviet intelligence services. It also gives an insider's view of surrender negotiations with the Japanese. Anyone who thinks the dropping of the A-bombs were necessary to force Japan to surrender should read the last chapter.

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### **frank leppa says**

### **A winner**

A great summary of ww2 espionage . I've read complete books on some of the chapters. A good review of events.

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### **Bonnie Hershey says**

Good reading. The information given in this book on what went on behind the scenes during the war was excellent.

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### **Tom O'Malley says**

#### **Enlightening Information**

Good read about information most would never know. The wars within wars. The author provides an easy to read narrative covering both major theaters of WW II. The final section concerning Japan is colored by his participation and belief that the use of the atomic bombs was unnecessary.

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### **Ronnie says**

As one who spent 8 years in naval cryptography some of the events I knew of but there were many I had no clue of. It is easily my one of my favorite espionage books about WW2.

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### **Roger Causey says**

Parts were interesting, parts were boring, and some of the authors conclusions I just disagree with.

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### **Randy Kirkbride says**

#### **Interesting overview of how each country approached espionage during World War 2**

Book described the build-up and operations of the intelligence/espionage organizations for different World War 2 combatants, and how individuals contributed or hindered the efforts. The account provides an overview and did not go into the specifics of some of the more notable events. But that did not detract from the story. The end of the book was written a little differently in that it focused on the author's involvement in efforts to convince Japan to surrender. Unfortunately, those efforts were obscured by the use of the two atomic bombs.

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### **Bill Yardley says**

The dedication of the code breakers who, day by day, hour by hour, pored over volumes of nonsensical letters and numbers seeking a pattern so that the messages could be read goes way beyond admiration. Yes, the soldiers on the front lines faced more dangers (I worked as a law enforcement officer; not the same, but similar) than the office workers, but they deserved more recognition than they received. "...They also serve those who stand and wait..." \*

\*- John Milton

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### **Daniel Patitz says**

#### **A great story**

I never realized the effect of Espionage on the Second World War I gave it very good factual based background of several cases

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### **Wendy Smith says**

#### **Great Read**

Entertaining and extremely well-written chronicle of behind the scenes actual spy escapades of ww II. The 'dark war' actually had a lot more to do with both the progression and the winning of the war by the allies. The writer makes characters come alive with a fresh and imaginative writing style.

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