

# **A Man Called Intrepid: The Secret War Study Guide**

**A Man Called Intrepid: The Secret War by William  
Stephenson**

(c)2015 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved.



# Contents

<a href="#">A Man Called Intrepid: The Secret War Study Guide.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Plot Summary.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 1-4.....</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 5-8.....</a>	<a href="#">5</a>
<a href="#">Chapters 9-14.....</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 15-17.....</a>	<a href="#">8</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 18-21.....</a>	<a href="#">9</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 22-25.....</a>	<a href="#">10</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 26-27.....</a>	<a href="#">11</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 28-30.....</a>	<a href="#">12</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 31-34.....</a>	<a href="#">13</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 35-38.....</a>	<a href="#">14</a>
<a href="#">Chapter39-40.....</a>	<a href="#">15</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 41-42.....</a>	<a href="#">16</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 43-44.....</a>	<a href="#">17</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 45-46.....</a>	<a href="#">18</a>
<a href="#">Chapter 47-49.....</a>	<a href="#">19</a>
<a href="#">Characters.....</a>	<a href="#">20</a>
<a href="#">Objects/Places.....</a>	<a href="#">23</a>
<a href="#">Themes.....</a>	<a href="#">25</a>
<a href="#">Style.....</a>	<a href="#">27</a>
<a href="#">Quotes.....</a>	<a href="#">29</a>
<a href="#">Topics for Discussion.....</a>	<a href="#">32</a>



# Plot Summary

A Man Called Intrepid, by William Stevenson, is the fascinating story of William Stephenson and his British Intelligence that functioned out of New York during World War II. Stephenson was code named Intrepid as was his operation, the British Security Coordination, which remained based in New York until September 1945.

Stephenson had served in World War I and become interested in electronics and communications. He was one of the first to form public broadcasting companies like the British Broadcasting Company (BBC). By the time of World War II, he had extensive business holdings around the world. He watched the situation in Nazi Germany develop and watched their gains in science and technology. He and others were appalled at Chamberlain's policy of appeasement— he could see the need for information and a source to interpret, analyze and coordinate that information. Businessmen, like himself, who traveled and has business dealings with the Germans were the source of information at the time. Stephenson's London office became the center for intelligence.

When Churchill became Prime Minister, he appointed Stephenson the head of His Majesty's Secret Intelligence Service. This became known as the BSC or the British Security Coordination. It had no official name at the time. Since they knew that England faced invasion from Hitler at some point in the future, Stephenson established his headquarters in New York, with Stephenson posing as a Passport Control Officer.

Before this, Stephenson was aware of the Germans' development of the Enigma coding machine. They improved it and used it in all Axis communication throughout the war and in the pre-war period. One of the biggest intelligence coups of the war was the smuggling of an Enigma machine out of Poland. The machine was placed at Bletchley, the site of the British code breaking operations. The material that came from this operation was coded as ULTRA and the British went to all lengths to protect the fact that they had an Enigma machine and were intercepting and decoding Axis communications all through the war. By the end of the war, Stephenson had developed a computer called COLOSSUS, to aid in the work.

This fascinating book tells this whole story as well as the various operations and tactics employed. They eventually established a training camp and base on a farm in Canada near Oshawa where they practiced for special operations, such as the assassination of Heydrich. The book gives a good look at how the decisions were made, many of which cost thousands of lives, as the British had to protect the source of their information.

This book is well worth the reader's time. The reader will learn the intriguing story of the intelligence work that took place in the World War II years. The book is easy reading and very interesting.



# Chapters 1-4

## Chapters 1-4 Summary and Analysis

William Stephenson, born in Western Canada, served with the Royal Canadian Engineers and then the Royal Flying Corps in World War I. He began to write reports assessing the German air capability. After being shot down and captured in Germany, he escaped and wrote a detailed report on German prison camps. Stephenson was then assigned to be a test pilot. At this time, William Wiseman became the chief of British Secret Intelligence Service in Washington, a post he was to hold through World War I.

In Chapter Two, World War I is over. Stephenson attends Oxford specializing in radio communications. He taught at the University of Manitoba and became interested in public broadcasting. His interest along with two other men, led to the formation of the British Broadcasting Company. At this time, there was a lot of scientific work taking place in Germany, as well as the revival of German militarism.

Working with Charles Steinmetz and Chaim Weizmann, Stephenson learned various scientific concepts and began to see the value of early warning systems in defense and the value of intelligence services. At this time there was no wide-based intelligence service. As Chapter Three opens, there was no comparable intelligence service in the United States to the little the British had. The closest the United States had was the Black Chamber, which was involved in codes and ciphers.

Hitler, at this time, was in a German prison and writing Mein Kampf. He was beginning to attract a following, while Stephenson was developing his business and scientific interests, mainly in the field of communications. Soon, Hitler was out of prison.

In Chapter Four, in 1924, the Enigma was developed. Stephenson played with it and then forgot about it. Stephenson was writing reports of the situation developing in Germany as National Socialism became stronger. Stephenson was of interest to the Nazis because of his own communications and business empire. A business deal between Germany and ITT allowed the ITT engineers to view the German communication network; the engineers reported a heavy amount of coded traffic. This was due to the use of the Enigma.

Stephenson and others believed war with Hitler was coming, but there were no national intelligence services to gather information at his time. Most intelligence came from men like Stephenson. His London business office became a clearinghouse for information.



# Chapter 5-8

## Chapter 5-8 Summary and Analysis

Stephenson watched as Germany armed itself and prepared for war while England tried to pacify him. The Americans were making some efforts to break Japanese code; the information they had came from Colonel Bill Donovan who functioned in the same capacity for Roosevelt as Stephenson did for Churchill. Both Stephenson and Donovan agreed about the danger posed by Hitler and Germany. Their German counterpart at this time was Reinhard Heydrich who worked closely with his father-in-law, Admiral Wilhelm Canaris, who was involved with German foreign intelligence.

As a member of the Allied Control Commission that inspected German factories to ensure they complied with the peace treaty, Stephenson could see how they were hiding their production of weapons. Stephenson found out about the new Enigma through his business contacts and immediately recognized the implications. Chamberlain, at this time, was more interested in Russia than Germany.

In Chapter Six, Roosevelt is beginning to understand the danger of Germany and the need for information, especially regarding the Enigma. As problems were intensifying in Poland, the British captured a Heydrich-Enigma machine which they brought out of Poland right before the trouble began.

In Chapter Seven, Britain is warning Germany to withdraw their troops from Poland, since the Brits had pledged to support Poland.

In August 1939, the Government Code and Cipher School was relocated to Bletchley. This is where the Nazi Enigma machine was and where they hoped to intercept German communications.

Chapter Eight reveals that the next one-hundred-and-fifty days were known as the Phony War. This consisted of communications between Churchill, coded "Naval Person" and Roosevelt coded "POTUS."

By this time most of Stephenson's business operations were involved in intelligence. It was also known that there were some top level atomic scientists in Scandinavia, and the British did not want them to fall into Hitler's hands. Russia invaded Finland at the end of November. The British wanted to keep Hitler from obtaining the iron ore he needed which came from Sweden. "Heavy water" also traveled to Russia through this area. Stephenson traveled to Stockholm where his friend, Axel Axelson Johnson was a major stockholder in the port and rail facilities under consideration. When the royalty of the various countries protested, the mission, known as STRIKE OX, was canceled.



# Chapters 9-14

## Chapters 9-14 Summary and Analysis

Stephenson had a network of amateur Swedes who were active in intelligence and code breaking. They had intercepted Russia's plans to invade Finland, thus doing away with the element of surprise. The Swedish code breakers kept the Finns informed of Russia's every move. The Finns lost the battle because of lack of military support from Washington. Stephenson, who had been at the side of the Finnish general, now went to Norway, where the heavy water plant was located. It was coveted by both Russia and Germany. Stephenson and a chemical engineer figured out how to sabotage the heavy water, making it useless. The invasion of Norway by Germany shook Britain from its complacency.

Chapter Ten reveals that the people at Bletchley had not yet learned how to use the Enigma. The Swedes were able to supply some German code books as the British tried to figure out the drum changing routine. When the King and Queen of England visited the United States the summer before the beginning of the war, Roosevelt promised the United States would come to England's aid if England was attacked.

In Chapter Eleven, King George V makes it clear he will not leave England if the Germans invade and will not collaborate with any German puppet government. This would result in more support from the population and result in more resistance against the Germans. Plans for resistance networks were being made. A group known as the Baker Street Irregulars was formed for the purpose of secret warfare, if it became necessary. They were headed by Colin Gubbins who was instrumental in spiriting the Enigma out of Poland.

In Chapter Twelve, the work on the German codes in mid-April continued. Stephenson wanted a computer for use in breaking the codes. Churchill wants to share intelligence with Roosevelt and feels it should be done on a daily basis. Stephenson went to America to meet with Roosevelt. He had information that Germany was researching nuclear fission and that it was possible to build an atomic bomb. They arranged for cooperation between the Federal Bureau of Investigation and British Intelligence.

In Chapter Thirteen, Bletchley intercepted a message from the German Ambassador to Italy about communications between Roosevelt and Churchill. Since nobody knew about the Phony War, these intercepts weren't paid much attention to until Stephenson saw them. Stephenson began an investigation into how the German Ambassador obtained this information.

Churchill became Prime Minister in May 1940, when Germany attacked Belgium and the Netherlands and right before Hitler began attacking England.

In Chapter Fourteen, Stephenson's investigations reveal that the leak in the United States Embassy was a clerk who passed the information through the daughter of a former Tsarist Russian admiral. Both are arrested. Stephenson now had a new network in place that bypassed Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy.



# Chapter 15-17

## Chapter 15-17 Summary and Analysis

Churchill made several trips to France while the Germans were invading. In London he tells Parliament that they will never negotiate or surrender. Meanwhile, the operations at Bletchley are still producing ULTRA reports.

Stephenson wanted to bring American intelligence agents into Bletchley. He was working on electronic computers that would aid in the code breaking. Churchill appoints him the director of His Majesty's Secret Intelligence Services and gives him a great deal of latitude in performing his duties. The organization was known as the BSC or British Security Coordination and it established headquarters in New York City.

Hitler failed to crush the British troops in France because of Bletchley correctly analyzing and anticipating German plans. Hitler wanted the Royal Air Force destroyed before invading England and German troop positions indicated that they would soon invade England. This made Stephenson's BSC in New York vital.

In Chapter Sixteen, Churchill and Stephenson decide on the code name Intrepid. His cover was as a passport control officer. Soon after Stephenson returns to New York, Reinhard Heydrich hosts a party at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel trying to persuade prominent Americans to not supply England. The opportunities for trade with the new German empire would be enormous.

In Chapter Seventeen, Stephenson has Bill Donovan travel to London to meet with the King. He also met with a variety of other people who would be active in secret warfare. The official organization was called a Special Operations Executive, the formal name now for the Baker Street Irregulars. They would function under the direction of the BSC, which wasn't officially acknowledged in the United States.

The Battle of Britain began on July 10 with the invasion planned for September 15. The British government would not even discuss Hitler's peace offer when it was delivered. As Hitler took the Channel Islands, the British organization for guerrilla warfare against the Germans was already in place. The German air raids had begun by the time Donovan departed. Back in the United States, Donovan tells Roosevelt that the United States should accelerate aid to England.





# Chapter 18-21

## Chapter 18-21 Summary and Analysis

Roosevelt had to convince the American public to support England. Supply lines had to remain open which is what Stephenson's BSC was busy doing. All the guerrilla warfare would be directed from New York should England become occupied by the Germans. England needed destroyers and other war equipment. This placed Roosevelt in an awkward position because he was running for re-election and couldn't openly be pro-war.

Britain was close to being bankrupt at his time. There was talk of loaning the British ships and arms in exchange for bases that were necessary for the defense of the United States. This was the approach favored by Donovan. The Germans were not attacking British fighter bases and radar stations, but the big attack came on August 15. In the next few days, the destroyer deal was agreed to.

Chapter Nineteen has the British preparing for the German invasion. Sir Henry Tizard brought an assortment of confidential information to the United States so it wouldn't be captured by the Germans. The British traded some of their technology and secrets for arms and munitions.

Ambassador Kennedy remained in London until Hitler began bombing London. The Roosevelt administration kept Kennedy in London as long as possible because they were afraid he would campaign against Roosevelt.

Chapter Twenty begins after the American election on November 5, 1940. Hitler was expanding his terror bombing to other English cities. Warning those population centers would give away their capability to break the German codes. No warnings were given.

Chapter Twenty One reveals that the extent of Roosevelt agreements with Britain were now known. The United States was preparing for war. Conferences with the British were organized to discuss war plans. Publicly, the United States said it had no plans to enter the war. Stephenson gained a concession that Germany would be the focal point of United States efforts, which was the last thing Hitler wanted. A new American intelligence agency was being formed.



# Chapter 22-25

## Chapter 22-25 Summary and Analysis

Stephenson flew to England monthly during this time. This could be dangerous since many planes were shot down, but he needed to meet with Churchill and others. Churchill realized there was no way to force Roosevelt's hand in entering the war. The declaration could only come from Congress.

Chapter Twenty-Three indicates the growth of the Intrepid network. Stephenson had established a variety of satellite bases. One was the Bermuda Station in the Caribbean. They basically functioned as a miniature Bletchley, providing Hoover and Stephenson with intercepted messages. This led to the arrest of many German agents and smugglers as well as Hitler's plans for Latin America.

The British had laboratories under several hotels. Many ships headed for Lisbon stopped at Bermuda since it was on the transatlantic routes. They recovered reports written in invisible ink concerning troop and weapons movements. The Germans had no idea their material was being examined but the intercepts revealed that Heydrich was now running all of the German intelligence operations.

In Chapter Twenty-Four, both the British and the Americans do what they can to keep the sea lanes to Britain open. The German U-boat attacks were serious problems for the British. German communications with U-boats were by radio with the use of the Enigma. Bletchley and the Bermuda Station were able to learn quite a bit of information from these U-boat communications.

Confiscated art treasures were stored in vaults for return to their original owner. The women who secretly opened letters and found the microdots were called trappers.

Chapter Twenty-Five discusses Camp X, a training base for agents that was located in Canada about three hundred miles from Manhattan. Author Ian Fleming, active in British intelligence, trained there. An underground transmitter linked Camp X with British intelligence stations all over the world. The transmitter was called HYDRA. In 1943, they installed ASPIDISTRA, the world's biggest radio communication unit. Camp X also supplied all the paraphernalia for the spy trade.

The camp also provided commando and parachute training as well as other kinds of training. The men were known as leopards. The women were a part of FANY or First Aid Nursing Yeomanry and specialized in radio work. Many famous people became a part of intelligence in various ways.



# Chapter 26-27

## Chapter 26-27 Summary and Analysis

Hitler's invasion of Russia was coded Barbarossa. Donovan, Stephenson and Roosevelt went to the Caribbean where Roosevelt was vacationing. Both Donovan and Stephenson went on to London. Donovan was seen; Stephenson was not. Donovan had German agents tailing him. Donovan was checking to see if there was any value to trying to strengthen the British in the Mediterranean.

The British had warned Stalin, but he didn't believe them and they couldn't reveal the source of their information. Churchill had a plan to delay Hitler's scheduled invasion, and Donovan went to Eastern Europe to put it in place. He met with King Boris of Bulgaria and got a short delay in German troops being able to pass freely through. In Belgrade, Prince Regent Paul was told that the Germans would only pass through on their way to invade Russia, and the prince was an anti-Bolshevik. Donovan let it be known that the United States would only support those who opposed Hitler. To Tito, Donovan sent the message to revolt if the prince gives in to the Nazis. The prince was overthrown soon after.

United States Navy ships were now protesting British supply ships in the Mediterranean. That and Donovan's press conference sent Hitler into a rage and he bombed Belgrade for four days. The result was a six-week delay in the German invasion of Russia until June 22, 1941. They could not reach their goal before the onset of winter.

Chapter Twenty-Seven is about the agent Madeleine, whose real name was Noor Inayat Kahn. She and her family lived in France and she volunteered for the RAF. She was used as a radio operator for a guerrilla network and was sent to France. Several days before Madeleine's departure for France, Bletchley had been told to suspend the air operations by the French groups because of German security forces in the area, but they maintained the operations.

Madeleine was flown into France and traveled by train to Paris, where she made her contact. Soon after her arrival, the entire PROSPER network was arrested. The only one who wasn't was Madeleine. She was told to leave Paris but refused because she was the only radio operator there. She continued her transmission until she was captured in October and died in the Dachau Camp on September 12, 1944. She was one of the few agents to be awarded the George Cross.



# Chapter 28-30

## Chapter 28-30 Summary and Analysis

The Bismarck was the pride of the German Navy. As the most powerful warship, it sunk Britain's Hood and many others. The Bismarck and the Prinz Eugen were spotted in Norway on May 21, 1941; this information is reported to the Norwegian Section of the BSC. Six British destroyers rushed to the area since Hitler had given the order to destroy the British sea links. The Hood found and began firing on the Bismarck. The Hood was sunk and the ship Prince of Wales had to retreat. The Bismarck and the Prinz Eugen made it out into the open Atlantic.

By Sunday, May 25, 1941, British warships were forming a net to trap the Bismarck. The Bismarck maintained radio silence for thirty hours, showing up in the Bay of Biscay off the French coast, where it was spotted by an American plane on loan to the British the next day. The pilot radioed the location, and on Tuesday, May 27, the Bismarck was sunk.

Roosevelt wanted American action to guarantee the British supply lines but was limited by public opinion. American advisers were sent to Britain. The role of the American crew on the British plane was kept a secret for thirty-two years. Roosevelt had vowed to give the British as much support as possible. The Americans learned the value of radio traffic analysis from the Bismarck incident.

The Canadians were also patrolling in many converted American ships. The Americans couldn't violate their neutrality by dealing with belligerents so they passed arms through the Canadians. The Canadians were also active in intercepting radio messages. German U-boats were located by the use of HuffDuff. They would locate the signal of the sub and relay the information to the ships that would try to sink them.

Chapter Twenty-Nine opens with Stephenson wiring Churchill with the information that Donovan had agreed to coordinate all intelligence. Donovan and Stephenson travel to London on June 1, 1941. They learn that the British expect the invasion of Russia to begin in June 22. It actually began on June 20. The Germans believed they would take Russia in twenty weeks.

Chapter Thirty discusses "Tricycle," the code name for a Yugoslav named Dusko Popov. He was a double agent and was ordered to the United States in June 1941. TRICYCLE delivered information of a planned Japanese attack of Pearl Harbor, using the tactics the British had used at Taranto. J. Edgar Hoover did not find TRICYCLE to be credible and he was moved to Camp X. In August 1941, Roosevelt and Churchill met on Navy ships. Roosevelt wanted to come into the war and was looking for an act of provocation that would justify it.



# Chapter 31-34

## Chapter 31-34 Summary and Analysis

Stephenson's attention turns to Latin America and the aid it was providing to the Nazis. Brazil was being used as the base for operations against the United States.

Stephenson's intelligence agency decides to discredit some of the people involved by planting forged letters and documents implicating them in a plot against President Vargas, President of Brazil. The operation was successful.

Bill Donovan had been appointed as head of the Office of the Coordinator of Information in July 1941. This angered Hoover who began to cause problems for the BSC. Stephenson tried to appease Hoover by sharing more information with him.

Chapter Thirty-Two, German agents are active in Mexico but have run out of money. Their operations had been very successful but were very expensive. Hoover alerted the BSC that Italian diplomats were transferring large sums of money to Mexico. Stephenson had one-third of the money confiscated in Mexico. The remainder reached the Italian Embassy in Rio.

The BSC also worked with the United States to keep German ships from using Mexican ports and were prepared to resort to sabotage to do so.

Chapter Thirty-Three discusses Hitler's plans for the United States. The German spent years consolidating the interests of their industrial concerns in the United States. Infiltration came through their businesses which became an area of interest to Stephenson. Stephenson dealt with companies like Standard Oil who had a relationship with I.G. Farben, through publicity. Many big companies were doing business with the Nazis through their foreign subsidiaries and the BSC prepared a four-hundred page report on this. This also involved a battle against American labor leader John L. Lewis.

In Chapter Thirty-Four, Roosevelt reveals the Nazi plans for Latin America. Their plans included a series of pro-Nazi revolutions. The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in December 1941. Hitler declared war against the United States on December 11.



# Chapter 35-38

## Chapter 35-38 Summary and Analysis

The Vichy French ran their own activities from their Washington embassy. They occupied two islands in the St. Lawrence which they captured in December 1941. Roosevelt decided to recognize the Vichy French who were the Free French supporters of General Charles de Gaulle.

CYNTHIA was an American agent who had been recruited by the BSC. Married to British diplomat Arthur Pack, they were stationed in Warsaw. She formed liaisons with members of Poland's Foreign Service and was able to obtain information about the Heydrich Enigma. After Warsaw, the Packs were assigned to Chile and in 1940, CYNTHIA was sent to New York and then to Washington DC. She resumed an affair with an old lover, Admiral Alberto Lais and obtained the Italian naval ciphers. One day a Mr. Williams appeared at her apartment, and she realized that he was Bill Stephenson. He needed her to obtain certain correspondence between the Vichy French and Europe. She began the assignment in May 1941.

In Chapter Thirty-Six, the British sank the French fleet at Oran in 1940 to keep the ships from being turned over to the Germans. CYNTHIA discusses this with Captain Brousse, her new lover from the French Embassy. He tells her that the French have gold hidden in a fort on Martinique, which Stephenson devised a plan to steal. When they couldn't steal the gold, they devised a plan to guarantee it couldn't leave Martinique.

In Chapter Thirty-Seven the French Ambassador and many members of the staff are German collaborators. Brousse had worked with Anglo-French Air Intelligence before France was occupied. Many of these people were questioning where their loyalties lay.

Chapter Thirty-Eight finds CYNTHIA trying to obtain the French naval ciphers. She openly asks Brousse for them, and he tells her who has access. They work it out so the guard is drugged and a team from BSC walks in and determines the combination to the safe where the codes are stored. It was daylight so they left without the codes. On the next several visits, CYNTHIA tried to open the safe. Finally, they bring the BSC man in again and accomplish their goal. CYNTHIA's operation made operation TORCH possible. This was a joint Anglo-American amphibious operation that paved the way for the invasion of Europe.



# Chapter39-40

## Chapter39-40 Summary and Analysis

Plans for the assassination of Heydrich began in August 1941, even though they didn't carry out the plot until after Pearl Harbor. One of Heydrich's duties was the solution of the Jewish question. The BSC knew Hitler believed in astrology so they planted a story about his horoscope showing that a dangerous evildoer will die in four months. They paid an astrologer to publish the information that they wanted. Heydrich submitted his plan for the destruction of the Czech nation; the plan called for the extermination of a large number of people. He plans a trip to Berlin on May 27, 1942 to discuss the plans. The assassination team of Korda, Zoltan and Alexander are waiting at a hair pin curve in the road where his car must pass. Other members of the team were Josef Gabek and Jan Kubris, along with Valcik and Jemelik. They were all positioned along the road at different points. The last four men had been parachuted in for the assignment. They threw a grenade at Heydrich's car as it passed. As Heydrich lay in a hospital dying, the Germans began a series of retributions by killing one hundred Czechs every evening. More killings followed as houses were searched. The people were killed in the village where the assassins had landed. The village of Lidice was burned to the ground. The revenge took place all over Europe. Heydrich died one week after the attack. The assassins were eventually caught and killed. The Revenge sparked the resistance movement.

In chapter Forty, intelligence activities are expanding. Allen Dulles moved into an office at the Rockefeller Center and was eventually given an intelligence post in Switzerland. Many supplies that both sides required came from Latin America, such as ores and the ingredients for certain drugs. Agents in various country needed funds in local currency. In some situations, they resorted to using counterfeit currency. Discussions were underway in 1942 for across-Channel invasion but these were only several places where the RAF could provide support. Churchill warned about any premature actions.

# Chapter 41-42

## Chapter 41-42 Summary and Analysis

Operation JUBILEE succeeded in deceiving the enemy. It deceived them about when and where the Second Front would be. It also tested the enemy radar. The German radar was at Dieppe and an FBI agent and two British radar specialist were sent to examine and destroy it. There was a two-hundred-fifty ship fleet and thousands of soldiers to give the appearance of an invasion taking place at Dieppe.

There was a big push to gather information on the Germans at Dieppe. The Russians were pushing for the opening of a Second Front. They were entertaining the acceptance of a peace deal that Hitler had offered. Churchill and Roosevelt meet again on June 17. Churchill learns that Tobruk had fallen. The Germans were monitoring the American radio transmissions and were kept up-to-date on British and American tactics and operations. He knew of the British plans to attack his supply lines and was waiting for them. As plans for JUBILEE proceeded, Roosevelt established the Office of Strategic Services on June 14, 1942.

In August, preparation for JUBILEE continued. The invasion fleet was ready on August 18. Most people thought that the attack at Dieppe was a failure but the raid was a diversion. The real target was the radar station where a team stole vital equipment. This would help make the D-day invasion easier for Allied bombers. JUBILEE helped the Allies prepare for D-day by designing new equipment, armor and techniques that would result in fewer casualties.

In Chapter Forty-Two, Operation TORCH kept being delayed for various reasons. TORCH was the code name for the invasion of French North Africa. At this time, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander Allied Expeditionary Force, was in London making plans for the D-day invasion. TORCH called for three different groups to invade French North Africa by sea, land and air units. Eisenhower warned against the operation saying they would have the same problems as they had at Dieppe. He moved his headquarters to Gibraltar for the action.

The Allies leaked disinformation that the invasion would be at Dakar, sending the Germans in that direction, allowing the TORCH fleet to pass through the Straits of Gibraltar. They began their landings and Operation TORCH was a success.





# Chapter 43-44

## Chapter 43-44 Summary and Analysis

After TORCH, relations between British and American intelligence were some what strained. Hoover tells Stephenson that his request for information about subversion wasn't answered and blamed it on Communist sympathizers. At this time, Soviet spy Kim Philby worked at British Intelligence in a sensitive position. Hoover knew something was wrong but did not know what. Stephenson also knew that things were being sabotaged in London. Philby's purpose was to force a wedge between the BSC and the OSS.

The British and Americans were trying to prevent Hitler from developing the atomic bomb. They wanted to bring scientist Niels Bohr out of German occupied Denmark.

Chapter Forty-four reveals that there was a race to control the first atomic bomb. Bohr and others were working in Copenhagen. This kind of work was also taking place in the United States, Britain and Russia. Hitler had a good chance of making the bomb because he ruled by decree and could easily mobilize resources. He also had control of the heavy water plant in Norway. I.G. Farben had invested in the plant and held excluding purchasing rights.

The British had a plan, and an agent code named Cheese, in place to sabotage the Norsk Hydro plant on Barren Mountain. They planned to attack with gliders, but the planes towing them were shot down by the Luftwaffe and survivors were killed. A second team parachuted in on February 16, 1943. This was the SWALLOW team. They placed the explosives and departed. They thought their mission had failed but learned much later that they had destroyed the plant. The Germans rebuilt it, and it was operational a year later.



# Chapter 45-46

## Chapter 45-46 Summary and Analysis

Dr. Niels Bohr continued his work in Copenhagen. His lab and his experiments grew since there was always funding available. There was a heavy water cyclotron under his lab, and saboteurs had already placed explosives just in case they needed to destroy the facility. The British government sent Bohr a message hidden in holes bored in two keys. He rejected the British request to stop his work and move to England.

The Nazis began to round up Jews in Denmark; Bohr gave his colleague, Stefan Rozental, his important papers and told him to escape to England. He didn't want the important parts of his work to fall into German hands. They never arrived as Rozental lost them on his way to Sweden. Bohr, himself, escaped at the end of September before he was arrested by the Gestapo. Bohr agreed to go to England and was flown out of Sweden on October 7, 1943, leaving his wife and children behind.

Chapter 46 begins with Bill Stephenson awaiting Bohr's arrival. The unconscious Bohr is removed from the plane. His son, Aage, was brought out of Sweden a few days later since he was familiar with his father's work. After a meeting with Churchill, Bohr is told that they want him to go to the United States to work on the atomic bomb. Both he and his son want to work on the Manhattan Project. The Germans began to launch rockets with bombs at London in the summer of 1944.



# Chapter 47-49

## Chapter 47-49 Summary and Analysis

People throughout occupied Europe looked to London for help, since the American command was also located there. They helped where they could and sent what information they could. The BSC had to keep them supplied with radios.

London was being hit with German rocket bombs. Radar would warn them of the attacks. The Allies needed one of the rockets to develop a counter weapon. A group in Poland tampered with some rockets' radio guidance system and they were able to retrieve the V-1. The British sent a plane to retrieve it. There was a one-to-one ratio of rockets to people killed. Just as they became effective in stopping the V-1s, the more powerful V-2s appeared. The Americans and British bombed the V-2 launching sites.

In Chapter 48, it was decided not to destroy the Copenhagen lab or Bohr or it would have alerted the a Nazi's to the importance of his work. But the Gestapo had taken prisoners who knew of the importance of Bohr's work and some of them might talk. The decision was made to attack the Gestapo headquarters. The bombing raid took place on March 21, 1945. The Gestapo files were destroyed in the fire and many of the prisoners escaped. The bombs also hit a school located next to the headquarters and many children were killed.

In Chapter Forty-nine, Stephenson says that intelligence was the key to the outcome of the war. ULTRA was used to feed the Germans false information, especially after the D-day invasion. With the exception of Rommel, the Nazi command believed Normandy was a diversion. The invasion was known as OVERLORD; the teams dropped behind enemy lines prior to the invasion were called Jedbergs.

Realizing the importance of the need for information, Stephenson and Donovan wrote Roosevelt asking him to preserve their cooperation and shared intelligence, but Roosevelt died shortly thereafter. A month after the death of Roosevelt, the BSC was asked to leave the United States and departed for Camp X. The OSS was disbanded on September 20, 1945. Bletchley was also disbanded. After World War II, the Cold War began and the Central Intelligence Agency was formed on September 18, 1947. Stephenson retired and moved to Bermuda.



# Characters

## William Stephenson

William Stephenson grew up in Western Canada and was born on January 11, 1896. He was an avid reader and liked to experiment with Morse Code, electricity and other things. Stephenson served with the Royal Canadian Engineers in World War I and was sent to England after a gas attack, considered disabled. After this he became a combat pilot in the Royal Flying Corps. He was shot down and captured in Germany and escaped three months later. After the war, he attended Oxford, specializing in radio communications and returned to Canada to teach math and science at the University of Manitoba. He was interested in public broadcasting and helped form the British Broadcasting Company. He had an interest in several radio companies and did some work on the concept of television. From his scientific work, he began to see the value of intelligence for early warning systems.

On 1924, he meets and marries Mary French Simmons, an American tobacco heiress, and continued to build his business and communications empire. His London office functioned as a clearinghouse for information. He was involved in developing a computer for use at Bletchley when Churchill appointed him as head of His Majesty's Intelligence Services. He established the intelligence service, British Security Coordination, BSC, in New York City, where it remained until September 1945, when it moved to Camp X. He retired and lived in Bermuda with his wife.

## Colonel Bill Donovan

Colonel Bill Donovan was an American who traveled around the world gathering information and making reports to the United States President. Donovan was a lawyer with offices in New York and worked closely with Stephenson. In 1941 Donovan was appointed as head of the Office of the Coordinator of Information, which later became the Office of Strategic Services, OSS. This was the forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency; its purpose was to coordinate information. Donovan worked with Stephenson, Roosevelt and Churchill throughout the war sharing and coordinating intelligence and using it to manipulate the Nazis.

## Reinhard Heydrich

Reinhard Heydrich was part of the Nazi intelligence apparatus. He worked closely with Admiral Wilhelm Canaris. Heydrich promoted the use of the Stuka dive bomber and other terror tactics and masterminded the attack on a German radio station. He strongly promoted the Enigma. He rose to control of all of the Nazi intelligence forces and became known as the Butcher of Prague. The agents who assassinated him trained at Camp X, since it was feared that he would become Hitler's successor. He was living in Prague with his wife Lina and their three children.



## **Madeleine**

The agent Madeleine's real name was Noor Irayat Kahn. She volunteered for the RAF but was trained for FANY and sent to Paris to be the radio operator for the PROSPER network. Soon after her arrival, the entire PROSPER network was arrested. Instead of returning to England, she remained in Paris to try to rebuild the network. She was arrested several months later and sent to the Dachau Camp where she was executed on September 12, 1944.

## **Dr. Niels Bohr**

Dr. Niels Bohr was an important atomic scientist who worked in Copenhagen during the Nazi occupation. He refused to leave Denmark until the Nazis began arresting Jews. He and his family safely fled to Sweden. The British flew him and his son out of Sweden to the United States to work on the Manhattan Project.

## **Winston Churchill**

Winston Churchill became Prime Minister of England in May 1941 shortly before England was attacked. He did not follow Chamberlain's policy of appeasement. Churchill appealed to Roosevelt for help as Britain drew closer to war. He worked closely with Stephenson, Donovan and Roosevelt coordinating and sharing intelligence.

## **CYNTHIA**

CYNTHIA was a British agent and the wife of a British diplomat, Arthur Pack. She engaged in liaisons with different men to obtain information. She served in Warsaw and Chile before being sent to Washington where she was able to obtain the French Naval codes that would make operation TORCH a success.

## **Franklin Roosevelt**

Franklin Roosevelt was the President of the United States. He supported the British as much as he could given the confines of American neutrality. He signed the Executive Order that created the OSS. He dies on April 12, 1945.

## **John Edgar Hoover**

J. Edgar Hoover was the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and was a part of the plan of cooperation between the FBI and British intelligence. He also looked the other way regarding the BSC activities in New York.



## **General Dwight D. Eisenhower**

Dwight D. Eisenhower was Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force.

## **Admiral Sir Huigh Sinclair**

Sinclair, known as "C" was the Secret Intelligence Service chief, appointed by Churchill.

## **Admiral Blinker Hall**

Admiral Blinker Hall was the intelligence chief for Winston Churchill.

## **Stewart Menziies**

Menziies replaced Sinclair as "C" and chief of Secret Intelligence.



# Objects/Places

## Point Douglas

Point Douglas is near Winnipeg Canada where Stephenson grew up.

## London

London, England is where Stephenson had his business office which came to be a clearinghouse for information.

## Bletchley

Bletchley is located in Buckinghamshire and the location of the Government Code and Cipher School

## New York City

New York City, New York is where the BSC established its headquarters.

## The Hole in the Ground

The Hole refers to a myriad of underground rooms and the War Room under Whitehall.

## Washington, DC

Washington DC is capitol of the United States and the location of the White House where Stephenson and others meet with Roosevelt.

## Paris

Paris, France was an occupied city where the agent Madeleine was captured.

## Bermuda Station

The Bermuda Station was an espionage center set up under hotels in Bermuda.



## **Camp X**

Camp X was a British intelligence training facility located on a farm near Oshawa, Canada.

## **Prague**

Prague is the capitol of Czechoslovakia. It is where Heydrich lived and was assassinated.

## **Copenhagen**

Copenhagen, Denmark is the city where Niels Bohr and other were working on nuclear fission and an atomic bomb. Denmark was occupied by the Nazis.



# Themes

## Need for Information

The overall recurring theme of the book is the need for information. This need becomes known in the years before World War II when Stephenson is doing business in Germany and other places in the world. He is learning about the scientific, technological and weapons advances of the Germans as a normal part of his business. Since there is no entity in existence for the collection of this kind of information, his London office becomes the center for the information flow. After Churchill assumes the position of Prime Minister, he appoints Stephenson as the head of His Majesty's Secret Intelligence Service, an entity with no official name.

Since England is moving closer to war, Stephenson decides to locate the intelligence service, known as the BSC or British Security Coordination, in New York, where it wouldn't be endangered by a Nazi invasion. As the war began, the need for information intensified. The confiscated Enigma machine allowed the British to monitor much of the Axis communications, so the Brits knew about many of the Nazi plans and strategies. The network of irregulars was so extensive that whenever they needed information, they just had to contact the appropriate agent or group. This was how they obtained the French Naval codes and ciphers that they were able to copy and use to make OPERATION TORCH and the invasion of French North Africa a success.

The need for information is why intelligence agencies exist. Having information allows people to make better and more informed decisions, and this was true of the leaders in World War II. They were able to anticipate the Germans and feed them disinformation. Being able to secure the required information and contributed to the Allied success in World War II.

## Secrecy

Another recurring theme in the book was the need for secrecy. The British made decisions, like those regarding Dieppe and Coventry, based on the secrecy of the fact that they had an Enigma machine. They were intercepting German and Axis communications before they formally entered the war. The information that came from the Enigma was coded as ULTRA and they were always careful to hide the fact that their information was the result of the confiscated Enigma machine that they didn't want the Germans to know about. The British didn't even tell Stalin the source of their warnings about the Nazi invasion of Russia. He didn't believe their warnings because he didn't know the source of their information.

Secrecy was also needed for the thousands of people in the irregular or guerrilla groups that were fighting the Nazi occupation around the world. Each group had a radio and were constantly being hunted by the Gestapo. Capture meant torture and death. These

people would wait for phrases on the radio to set in motion an assignment. These people and their radios were also instrumental in helping move agents in and out of occupied territory.

Secrecy both cost lives and saved lives. The protection of the Enigma and the British source of information costs thousands of lives. At the same time, secrecy protected the lives of agents and members of the resistance.

## **Dedication**

Dedication is another major theme of the book. Many people from all walks of life were involved in the war effort. They chose a side and a role based on their beliefs and were willing to dedicate their life to their cause. This is true of everyone from couriers, to resistance groups to soldiers. Stephenson himself made many trips from New York to London in spite of the dangers because of his dedication. People like movie stars, passed information and served as couriers.

The dedication of the people at the BSC and at Bletchley made the intelligence operation a success. They were willing to work long hard hours and to take many risks. This dedication and hard work made the intelligence efforts a success and contributed greatly to the Allied victory in World War II. The results could have been very different without them and their dedication.

# Style

## Perspective

A Man Called Intrepid is written from the third person point of view. The author, William Stevenson, functions as the narrator. As such, he is able to provide the much needed background information and other details that make the book so interesting. The author sets the scene by describing the setting, the equipment and other details so the reader has a complete picture of what is happening.

There is plenty of dialogue in the book, most of it coming from Bill Stephenson, as he relates the various stories and details of different incidents. Most of the quotations are Stephenson's comments as he describes various incidents.

The third person point of view with comments by Stephenson is appropriate for this book. If the book had been written in the first person point of view, the knowledge of the reader would have been limited to events that occurred in the presence of Stephenson. This limitation is overcome by the use of the third person since the author is able to discuss events that occur in other places. This makes for a much richer reading experience for the reader and makes the book more interesting, as the reader learns the exciting behind-the-scenes details of World War II.

## Tone

The tone of the book is obviously pro-British and factual. In spite of this, the material is presented in an objective manner as Stevenson relates the details of the various incidents and describes how the decisions were made. The British protected their source of information, the Enigma machine, that they had at Bletchley, even though this meant the loss of thousands of lives. At several points in the book, Stevenson, the author questions the wisdom and ethics of this. For instance, the British and Americans knew that many people would die in OPERATION JUBILEE, yet they needed the information they would learn in preparation for the real D-day invasion. Another example is the bombing of Coventry. If the British had warned or evacuated the city before the Nazi bombing, they would have saved lives but given away the secret of the Enigma.

The tone of the book is appropriate. The facts are presented in an objective manner and the proper questions are asked at the right places. The reader is exposed to the nastier side of war and intelligence work with an author who is questioning some of the tactics and decisions.

## Structure

The book consists of six parts and an Epilogue with a total of forty-nine chapters. Each part pertains to a different topic in the exciting story of British intelligence in the World



War II era. Throughout the book, Stevenson tells the stories of various operatives and operations.

There is a Foreword written by Stephenson who is the man that was code named Intrepid. This relates his reasons for telling his story and the various conflicts he faced. The Epilogue, or last chapter, finds Stephenson retired in Bermuda. The Valediction at the very end, is by the author, William Stephenson, who thanks the various people involved in the book.

A historical note by Charles Howard Ellis precedes the opening chapter. He had been assigned to the BSC in New York and was a contributor to the book. There is an Index that is a valuable for the reader who wants to look up a name or other information.

Throughout the book there are maps, charts and pictures. These additional sources of information are useful to the reader. There are pictures of the Enigma machine, microdots, missiles as well as agents and others. This adds to the realism of the book since the reader is able to associate a picture with a face or an item discussed in the book. The structure of the book works well. The reader is slowed down a little by the charts and pictures but they add to the reading experience so the reader doesn't mind being interrupted by them. They are a part of the overall experience of the book, A Man Called Intrepid.



## Quotes

"Stephenson saw such an early-warning system as a co-ordinates intelligence service. Admiral Blinker Hall was the man who might accomplish it. Hall was now Churchill's personal intelligence chief. But Churchill's political fortunes were in decline. There was no British intelligence service faintly resembling those intriguing versions of popular fiction. Instead, there were a few undervalued professionals and some amateurs who began to arrange themselves around Stephenson. And there was the small underpaid, overworked, and ill-appreciated British Secret Intelligence Service, which commanded official recognition and little else." (Chapter 2, pg. 18)

"This knowledge would prove as valuable as the discovery that the new portable Enigma was very different from the original. The machine had a keyboard like a typewriter. The keys were linked electrically through a system of drums. The relationship between the drums could be changed swiftly in a multitude of ways. The sender of a message would hit the keys as if typing routinely. The machine switched each letter to a different one. The operator might press A, and Z would be transmitted. The receiving Enigma, its drums adjusted to the prearranged setting, would respond by translating Z back into A. Anyone intercepting the signals between the two stations would pick up gobbledygook. The elaborate system seemed foolproof. Not only was the portable Enigma itself a mystery, but so also were the schedules for setting the drums." (Chapter 5, pg. 35-36)

"The change in Britain's leadership had produced a surge of confidence. In code-breaking, the consequences of the sudden lift in morale were spectacular. Mental blocks dissolved. A mechanical contrivance was built that reduced the work of the mathematicians. It would be some time before the enemy's secrets were laid bare by retrieving the German High Command's orders on a reasonably regular basis. But there was a sense of a breakthrough, sufficient for Stephenson to propose that intelligence distilled from this source be labeled 'Top-secret Ultra.' Under this label would be filed only that intelligence which came from Bletchley and sources so highly confidential that no more than selected segments could be communicated to battle commanders, and then often in disguised form. ULTRA reports would be confided to the smallest possible number of British leaders, to reduce the risk of a leak, and to one other: the President of the United States." (Chapter 13, pg. 86)

"Stephenson was being given extraordinary independence and power. He was to direct His Majesty's Secret Intelligence Services and a great deal more. He was to move against the enemy wherever and whenever he saw fit, to take action through covert diplomacy or clandestine agencies without seeking prior approval from the War Cabinet. He would be protected only to the degree that the purpose of his movement would be known to very few." (Chapter 15, pg. 101)

"The organization, even prior to its official birth, had grown grotesquely in size and shape. Some respectable title had to be given it before Americans began to ask awkward questions. Here was an invisible man directing four major British intelligence



departments - SOE, SIS, Security Executive, and now MI-5 - plus a communications - intelligence web whose threads ran in every direction abroad, and a secret police force on American soil." (Chapter 18, pg. 140)

"In this way, questions were posed and answered that, officially raised, might cause trouble. None doubted the absolute security of Stephenson's communications. They were, as Donovan was to say, the only communications for a time that were as leak proof as human endeavor could make them. It was for this reason that Donovan himself played the game and became in his turn a man "put in place" by the unseen coordinator of intelligence in New York, knowing that the President himself approved." (Chapter 22, pg. 170)

"In essence, Bermuda's methods were those of Bletchley. The requirements were first to hear the enemy U-boat traffic, then unscramble the gobbledygook, and finally analyze and distill information from terse messages. The three functions were separate: signals, cryptography, intelligence. There was an additional absolute requirement that whenever intercepted information was acted upon, there must be a cover story to account for the acquisition of the knowledge. The Germans must not guess that the movements of the U-boat packs could be closely followed and even anticipated. If an enemy submarine surfaced under a waiting bomber, there had to be some acceptable explanation, however false, that would fool the enemy." (Chapter 24, pg. 181)

"The President kept secret a flagrant breach of the Neutrality Act that led to the most celebrated victory in modern British naval annals. Bismarck, the most powerful warship then in existence, pride of the German Navy, was sunk after the longest running fight in naval history. The action brought into play every facet of warfare, from secret agents to aerial torpedoes. Every contemporary electronic device was used. What caused the President to brood before Bismarck met her fate was that the greatest sea epic in history might end in a terrible, perhaps fatal, British defeat. Bismarck had taken to sea and disappeared. Britain's future hinged dramatically on one final despairing air search." (Chapter 28, pg. 235)

"A few blocks from Churchill in the White House, preparations were already underway. A BSC pawn inside the French Embassy had started a process of corrosion that would eat into Fortress Europe." (Chapter 34, pg. 303)

"The telegrams must have seemed revolting enough at the time to Captain Brousse. His tortured conscience displayed to Stephenson the kind of psychological disturbance that would soon shake all Europe despite the dictators' controls. Was Brousse a traitor for resisting Vichy's requests for information? He suffered from the same confusions of loyalty that perplexed the French garrison in Martinique. Fortress Europe was full of such people, reconsidering their loyalties." (Chapter 37, pg. 325)

"Plans for the assassination of this man Heydrich were begun in New York, at the beginning of August 1941. They were carried out when the aftermath of Pearl Harbor was distracting attention from the fate of helpless civilians." (Chapter 39, 343)



"British policy was to guard against the enemy guessing that his secret radio traffic was being read. The British would not make available to their own SIS representatives in Latin America the deciphered versions of this German traffic, in case of leaks that could endanger Bletchley." (Chapter 40, pg. 369)

"Operation JUBILEE deceived the enemy into thinking the slaves of Nazidom were about to be freed. When it seemed to fail, JUBILEE deceived the enemy about how the Second Front would be created. Canadian troops, who suffered the bulk of the casualties, thought it was a horrible mistake. Sergeant Peretz Rose say it as a classic guerrilla operation that served political and military ends." (Chapter 41, pg. 377)`

"Caught in the middle was Bill Stephenson. All he knew in November 1942 was that understandings between himself and Bill Donovan had been sabotaged in London. The plans to conduct secret warfare as one team had been somehow sidetracked."(Chapter 43, pg. 411)

"I listened to this valiant man and thought one again how superbly apt Winston Churchill had been in selecting his code name: INTREPID." (Chapter 49, pg. 470)



## Topics for Discussion

How was Stephenson in a position to learn about German technology and weapons prior to World War II?

Why was there some suspicion of United States Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy in London? What was the cause of the look at the United States Embassy?

Why did Stephenson set up the BSC in New York in the United States? What was its purpose?

What was the FANY? What was its purpose? Who was Madeleine?

Why didn't Stalin believe Russia was going to be invaded? Why didn't the British share how they got their intelligence even though they warned him?

What was Stephenson's and the British hope for one intelligence agency? Why didn't it happen?

In looking at the different steps and operations, such as JUBILEE, in the planning for the D-day invasion, did the end justify the means?