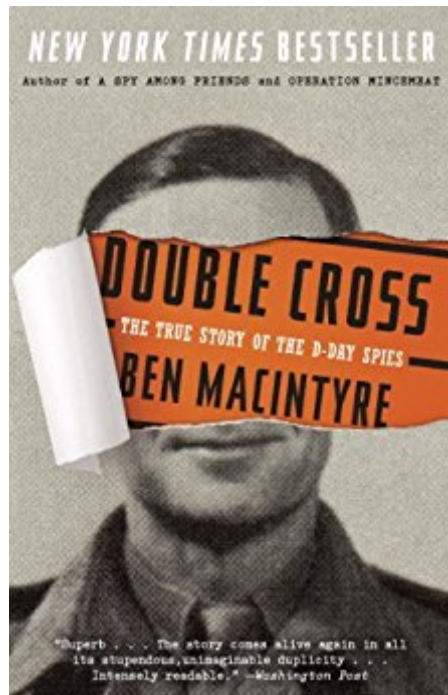


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Double Cross: The True Story Of The D-Day Spies



Synopsis

In *Double Cross*, New York Times bestselling author Ben Macintyre returns with the untold story of one of the greatest deceptions of World War II, and of the extraordinary spies who achieved it. On June 6, 1944, 150,000 Allied troops landed on the beaches of Normandy and suffered an astonishingly low rate of casualties. D-Day was a stunning military accomplishment, but it was also a masterpiece of trickery. Operation Fortitude, which protected and enabled the invasion, and the Double Cross system, which specialized in turning German spies into double agents, deceived the Nazis into believing that the Allies would attack at Calais and Norway rather than Normandy. It was the most sophisticated and successful deception operation ever carried out, ensuring Allied victory at the most pivotal point in the war. This epic event has never before been told from the perspective of the key individuals in the Double Cross system, until now. These include its director (a brilliant, urbane intelligence officer), a colorful assortment of MI5 handlers (as well as their counterparts in Nazi intelligence), and the five spies who formed Double Cross's nucleus: a dashing Serbian playboy, a Polish fighter-pilot, a bisexual Peruvian party girl, a deeply eccentric Spaniard, and a volatile Frenchwoman. The D-Day spies were, without question, one of the oddest military units ever assembled, and their success depended on the delicate, dubious relationship between spy and spymaster, both German and British. Their enterprise was saved from catastrophe by a shadowy sixth spy whose heroic sacrifice is revealed here for the first time. With the same depth of research, eye for the absurd and masterful storytelling that have made Ben Macintyre an international bestseller, *Double Cross* is a captivating narrative of the spies who wove a web so intricate it ensnared Hitler's army and carried thousands of D-Day troops across the Channel in safety.

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Customer Reviews

The story of the Double Cross System is the largely untold history of the unbelievably elaborate ruse to mislead the German war machine about the true target of the D-Day invasion of Europe. The deception was so successful, it kept German reinforcements out the fight at the Normandy beachhead until weeks after the initial landing--the Nazis withheld their best divisions from Normandy until it was far too late. Because of the Double Cross System, Hitler and the German High Command were convinced that the landings in Normandy were merely a diversionary feint to lure crucial defensive forces away from the Calais area where they expected the allies main attack to occur. The misinformation fed to them by the Double Cross spies led to the complete confusion of the German military before the invasion and even after the allied troops were actually on the beaches in Normandy. Eisenhower said that he would be satisfied if Double Cross could buy him 48 hours--by that measure it was a resounding success. Churchill and Montgomery were enthusiastic about the incredible contribution of British Intelligence to the most crucial battle of the war. This book is a highly detailed and personal account of the dedicated, oddly assorted and sometimes flamboyant cast of characters at the center of this historic charade. While it has many elements of a spy thriller, it isn't really the usual fare for devotees of that genre. I think it will be much more satisfying for history buffs--particularly those specializing in military history or in World War II.

If this book hasn't been made into a movie it should be. Filled with a variety of characters with disparate lifestyles, motives, skills and ambitions, accomplished numerous deceptions which aided in the success of the D-day invasion. One suggestion if your going to read this book: make notes of all the names, aliases and handlers of the spies. It will help you keep track.

Great research and wonderful job of turning non-fiction into a page turner. When you put the three books together, you have the background story of D-Day that was not widely known before. All that

was missing is General Patton's role, but then this is a British story! I enjoyed Agent Zigzag the best, probably because it focused on one man's story whereas Mincemeat had many characters in one operation and Double Cross followed the main spy players of the whole double cross behind D-Day!

This book, *Double Cross: The True Story of the D-Day Spies* which centers on some of the more colorful characters who worked for the Allied cause while also pretending to be German spies, was very interesting. It especially recounts the various deceptions they created to try and convince the Germans that the D-Day landings would take place somewhere other than Normandy. The victories that the Allies achieved in Normandy attributes to the success of their efforts. This is a must-read for World War II buffs

A terrific read about spies and D-Day and thwarting the Nazis during World War II and it's all true. Ben Macintyre did a marvelous job researching these men and women who did a nail-biting job getting information that literally stemmed the tide of the war. I can't say these were average people because what they did was beyond James Bond. They really did this stuff with wit and cleverness and unmitigated bravado, not just with gadgets and guns. In fact one man, Dusko Popov, was Ian Fleming's inspiration for Bond. Well worth your time. More than a great read.

I read this book right after reading the author's just released book on Kim Philby. Both were absolutely fabulous. Mr MacIntyre is a truly marvelous writer--informative, substantive and witty. It is such a treat to discover an author who so clearly has command of the subject matter and articulates it in such an entertaining manner. Really outstanding. [Unfortunately, reading Double Cross inspired me to also buy another book purporting to be a biography of one of the principal players in the Double Cross scheme, T. A. Robertson, "Gentleman Spymaster." Avoid that book at all costs--despite being over 300 pages, it provides less detail than Mr MacIntyre does in "Double Cross."]

This is a new account of the famous Double Cross system under which German spies in England were immediately turned to work for the Allies. Contrary to the author's assertion that this story has never been told, I have a whole shelf of books which all include this material. DOUBLE CROSS however adds a level of personal detail I have never heard. Not surprisingly the overall narrative

matches well with previous accounts of this operation, but the lives and conversations of many individual participants are covered. As I read this I kept wondering where he got all this minutia. I'm betting he made most of it up, or extrapolated small tidbits into whole chapters. I did enjoy the book, and will tentatively allow that it may all be accurate, but if I'm ever on Jeopardy I won't base my answers on this book.

I learned so much from this historical account that I never heard of, or even thought of before. Actually, I first got this book from my local library but thought so highly of the story, I bought a copy of this book from for a family friend who has made several favorable comments to me about the book and the many brave unknown people "behind the scene" who did so much to ensure the success of D-Day, thereby saving so many lives.

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