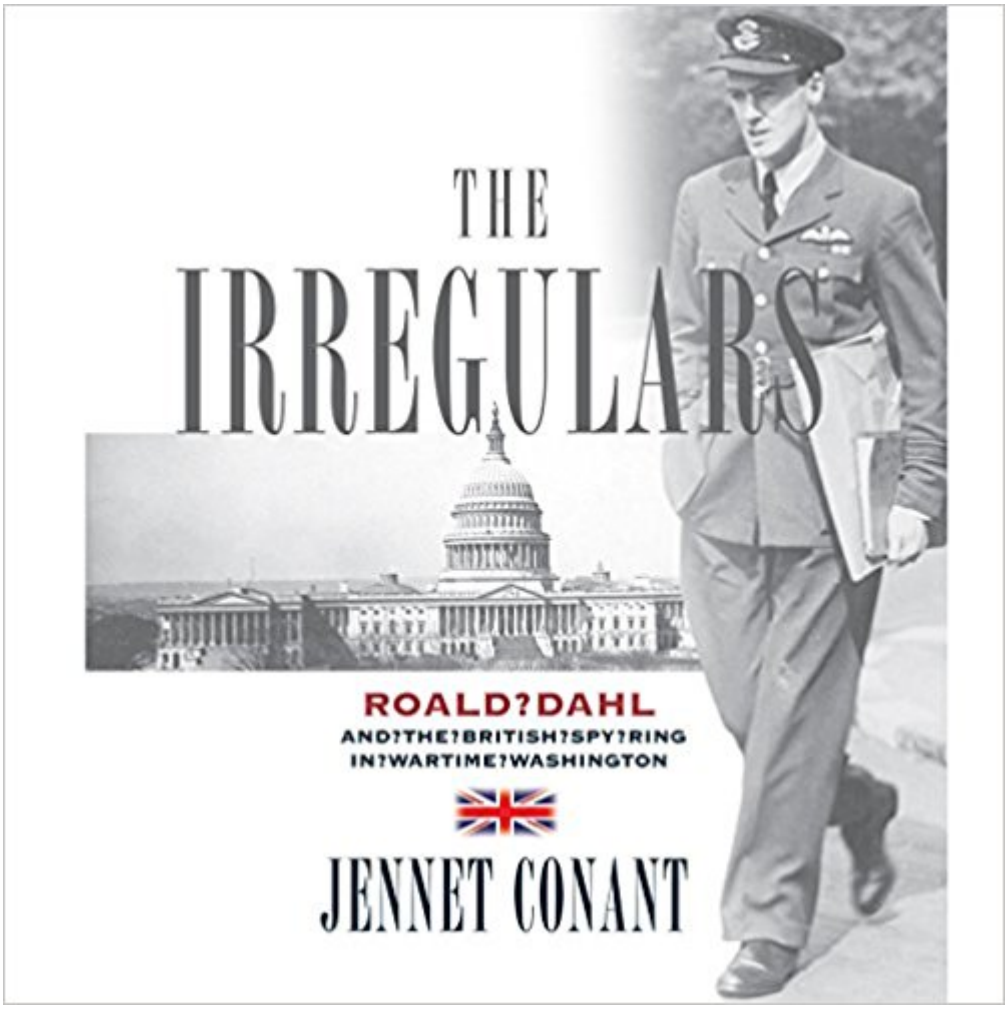
Ebook Directory
the best source of ebook

The book was found

# The Irregulars: Roald Dahl And The British Spy Ring In Wartime Washington




PDF
Adobe
DOWNLOAD EBOOK

## Synopsis

The rollicking true story of British spies who shaped American policy during WWII, told by the bestselling author of 109 East Palace. When dashing young RAF pilot Roald Dahl (that Roald Dahl) took up his post at the British Embassy in 1942, his assignment was to use his good looks, wit, and charm to gain access to the most powerful figures in American political life. He and his co-conspirators David Ogilvy, Ivar Bryce, and Ian Fleming (that Ian Fleming) called themselves the Baker Street Irregulars after the band of street urchins in some Sherlock Holmes stories. Their goals: to weaken the American isolationist forces, bring the country into the war against Germany, and influence U.S. policy in favor of England. Their mastermind: Churchill's legendary spy chief, William Stephenson, code name "Intrepid," who would later serve as the model for Fleming's James Bond. Based on never-before-seen wartime letters, diaries, and interviews, this lively account of deceit, doubledealing, and moral ambiguity is richly detailed, carefully researched, and better than any spy fiction.

## Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: HighBridge Audio; Unabridged edition (September 9, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1598876937

ISBN-13: 978-1598876932

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 30 x 5.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 111 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,571,099 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #146 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > History > Europe #394 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > History > Military #562 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > History > United States

## Customer Reviews

Best of the Month, September 2008: Long before Willy Wonka sent out those five Golden Tickets, Roald Dahl lived a life that was more James Bond than James and the Giant Peach. After blinding headaches cut short his distinguished career as a Royal Air Force fighter pilot, Dahl became part of an elite group of British spies working against the United States' neutrality at the onset of World War II. The Irregulars is a brilliant profile of Dahl's lesser-known profession, embracing a real-life storyline of suave debauchery, clandestine motives, and afternoon cocktails. If this sounds oddly

familiar, it’s no coincidence: both Ian Fleming (the creator of 007) and Bill Stephenson (the legendary spymaster rumored to be the inspiration for Bond) were members of the same outfit. Although "Dahl...Roald Dahl" doesn’t quite carry the same debonair ring, there is no discrediting this fascinating look at the British author’s covert service to the Allied cause during WWII. --Dave Callanan --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This carefully researched chronicle of Dahl’s WWII espionage ought to be more interesting than it isÃ¢â ¬â •the word spy ring suggests thrilling acts of derring-do, yet they never come. While occasionally intriguing, this is too frequently a dry collection of old gossip with too many tangents discussing minor characters, their real estate and their clothing. Simon Prebble reads creditably and distinctively, and his English accent is perfect for the subject. But even he cant hold ones attention in this excessively digressive, slowly paced academic work. Its a pity, because this is a comprehensive look at a topic that most people probably know little about: England’s efforts to counter American isolationism. A Simon & Schuster hardcover (Reviews, June 9). (Sept.) Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

If you fancy yourself as a student of WWII you must read this book. It is hard to imagine what Washington D.C. was like during WWII. You can guess what it must have been like and read all kinds of books about government contracts and who the major players were. Read this book and you’ll have met the decision makers in a human way that you’ve probably not seen anywhere else. Its the D.C. we all have suspected but never seen from the inside. The real persons the author reveals to us in her word paintings are so much more than simply a recitation of facts. Their motivations and personalities come alive. I had some idea previously that the Brits had maneuvered the U.S. into being their allies. We know that Roosevelt and Churchill were instrumental in that effort. Previously unknown to me, was how involved British Intelligence was in manipulating American attitudes towards helping the Brits. I had no idea that Roald Dahl was part of British Intelligence and an ace pilot. The author leads us into Dahl’s initial foray into writing. A great and fascinating read. I’m surprised no one has made a movie from the book of Dahl’s exploits during WWII. The author has practically written the script.

An interesting book about Roald Dahl in particular and British intelligence activities in the US in general. Dahl, famous for writing Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, the screenplay for Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, and other works, was a pilot injured during a crash and went on to become a spy in

Washington for the British during WWII. The book recounts British activities designed to bring America into the war and goes into Dahl's friendships with famous and politically connected Americans. Interesting to a point, it gets a little tedious but does cover a subject about WWII that most books leave out. When you think of the war the battles come to mind, this is a behind the scenes look at what went on at home, and really shows the distrust, and at times severe dislike, the Americans and British had for each other.

Jennet Conant's book The Irregulars promises much but delivers little. You'd think that a book that chronicled the activities of a British spy ring in WWII Washington would involve exciting tales of clandestine missions and other cloak and dagger activities. Unfortunately, Dahl's activities were limited to spying on various Washington socialites who had political leanings that the British considered dangerous, and through his friend and benefactor Charles Marsh, reported on the Vice-President Henry Wallace, who was considered by both governments to be potentially harmful to Roosevelt's chances for re-election. Through his friendship with Eleanor Roosevelt he was able to spend occasional weekends at the White House and Hyde Park, all of which he reported back to his bosses. The majority of Dahl's reports were concerned with the allies post-war plans for civilian aviation routes, a topic so mind-numbingly tedious that you'll find yourself skimming large sections of the book just to get to the next party scene.The information on the careers of Fleming and Stevenson doesn't go much beyond the surface and can be gleaned from other, better books.Tedium aside, The Irregulars still succeeds on two fronts, as a Biography of Dahl's formative years, and as a time capsule of the social scene in the Capitol during WWII. If you are a fan of either Roald Dahl or gossip columns and society pages, you might find something in this book to hold your interest. Otherwise I suggest you look to 109 East Palace for an example of Conant at her best.

Listened to this in the car. It's fascinating. It's another fascinating true story from Jennet Conant. Conant is known for similar books that tell the little-known stories of important developments during WWII. She has chronicled the Manhattan Project, from idea to the bombing of Hiroshima in Tuxedo Park and 109 East Palace as well as the story of Julia and Paul Child's work for the OSS during the war.Dahl (author of Willy Wonka and the Chocolate, inter alia) was an RAF pilot in the early part of WWII. He was badly injured in a plane crash and could no longer fly. He went to work as the air attache at the British Embassy in Washington, but he was really sent there to help convince America to join the war as a member of the British Security Coordination.His overseers at the Embassy did not always know what or why he was doing something for the BSC. They were none

too happy with this situation and periodically tried to have Dahl reassigned back to England. The same was not true for the social and political elites in DC. The work required him to work his way into the elite social scene in DC which meant that he was rubbing elbows with, and building relationships with, many of the most important people in the country. In fact, he became friends with the Roosevelts, the Vice President, numerous Congressmen, wealthy businessmen who supported election campaigns, and the doyennes who gave the parties that one just couldn't say no to. He had access to the people that mattered, and he knew how to constructively use that access to influence American policy toward Britain and the war.Dahl also began his career as a writer at this time. He wrote essays about his war time experiences for magazines and began writing children's story books. His book, The Gremlins, attracted the attention of Walt Disney who wanted to make a movie of the book. That didn't work out, but Dahl went on to write for the movies as well. This led him to some of Hollywood's most influential actors, writers, producers and studio heads.Conant does a great job, not just telling us the facts of the situation, but of turning real people into fascinating .characters

Fascinating information I never heard before. Also, gave in-depth insight into some famous authors. Eerily evocative of today's political miasma.

Download to continue reading...

The Irregulars: Roald Dahl and the British Spy Ring in Wartime Washington The Roald Dahl Audio Collection: Includes Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, James & the Giant Peach, Fantastic M r. Fox, The Enormous Crocodile & The Magic Finger Inside Charlie's Chocolate Factory: The Complete Story of Willy Wonka, the Golden Ticket, and Roald Dahl's Most Famous Creation. Who Was Roald Dahl? Oxford Roald Dahl Dictionary Roald Dahl 100 PHIZZ-WHIZZING POSTCARDS Roald Dahl's Book of Ghost Stories Roald Dahl's Marvellous Medicine The Culper Ring: The History and Legacy of the Revolutionary WarÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Most Famous Spy Ring Washington's Spies: The Story of America's First Spy Ring George Washington's Secret Six: The Spy Ring That Saved America George Washington's Secret Six: The Spy Ring That Saved the American Revolution Ring of Power: Symbols and Themes Love Vs. Power in Wagner's Ring Cycle and in Us- A Jungian-Feminist Perspective (Jung on the Hudson Book Series) The Engagement Ring: How to Choose the Perfect Engagement Ring and Get It Right First Time The Ring of Truth: The Wisdom of Wagner's Ring of the Nibelung Stalin's Englishman: Guy Burgess, the Cold War, and the Cambridge Spy Ring Family of Spies: Inside the John Walker Spy Ring Washington State Bed & Breakfast Cookbook: From the Warmth & Hospitality of 72 Washington State B&b's and Country

Inns (Washington State Bed and Breakfast Cookbook) Spy Vs. Spy 2: The Joke and Dagger Files Manchu Princess, Japanese Spy: The Story of Kawashima Yoshiko, the Cross-Dressing Spy Who Commanded Her Own Army (Asia Perspectives: History, Society, and Culture)

Contact Us

DMCA

Privacy

FAQ & Help