

INTO THE LION'S MOUTH

The True Story of Dusko Popov: WWII Spy, Patriot, and the Real-Life
Inspiration for James Bond

Larry Loftis

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He had the steel within, the ruthlessness and the cold-blooded courage that enabled him to go back to the German Secret Service Headquarters in Lisbon and Madrid time and time again, when it was likely that he was blown; it was like putting his head into the lion's mouth.

—Commander Ewen Montagu,
British Double-Cross Committee (1940 – 1945)

[M]y own life is much less important to me than that of my family. ... I hope to continue to be useful to our common cause and to be able to help within my modest means to bring the victory which alone will bring me happiness.

—Dusko Popov
Letter to Major Tar Robertson, August 9, 1941

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DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Tricycle Network Double Agents

Marquis Frano de Bona	FREAK (Popov's radio operator; German, GUTTMANN)
Friedl Gaertner	GELATINE (German, IVONNE)
Johann Jepsen	ARTIST
Dickie Metcalfe	BALLOON (German, IVAN II)
Dusko Popov	TRICYCLE, SKOOT (German, IVAN)
Ivo Popov	DREADNOUGHT (German, PAULA)
Hans Ruser	JUNIOR
Eugen Sostaric	METEOR
Stefan Zeis	THE WORM

MI5 (Security Intelligence Service) Staff

Guy Liddell	Section B chief
William Luke	Dusko Popov case officer (initial)
John Marriott	Assistant to Colonel Tar Robertson
Colonel T. A. "Tar" Robertson	Section B1A (Double Agents) chief

Ian Wilson

Dusko Popov case officer

MI6 (Secret Intelligence Service) Staff and Agents

Kenneth Benton

Agent, Madrid

Major Desmond Bristow

Agent, Lisbon

Colonel Felix Cowgill

Section V (Counterintelligence) chief

Major Frank Foley

Section V (Counterintelligence)

Cecil Gledhill

Lisbon station chief following Colonel Ralph Jarvis

Major Peter Hope

Agent, Paris

Colonel Ralph Jarvis

Lisbon station chief

Major-General Stewart Menzies "C"

Director

Major Walter Wren

Trinidad station chief (and part of Popov's New York support team)

Double-Cross Committee

Admiral John Godfrey

Director of Naval Intelligence (boss of Montagu and Ian Fleming)

Professor J. C. Masterman

Chairman, Double-Cross Committee; Oxford don

Commander Ewen Montagu

Naval Intelligence (working closely with Popov)

British Security Coordination (New York)

Colonel C. H. "Dick" Ellis	Assistant to Director Stephenson (transfer from MI6)
Captain H. Montgomery Hyde	MI6 security officer, Bermuda Censorship
William Stephenson	Director (code name, INTREPID)

Abwehr Staff

Abwehr I	Foreign Intelligence (I H = Army)
Abwehr III	Counterespionage
Admiral Wilhelm Canaris	Director
Albrecht Engels	Agent, Rio de Janeiro station (code name, ALFREDO)
Colonel Georg Hansen	Replaced Pieckenbrock as head of Abwehr I
<i>Oberstleutnant</i> Hans Kammler	I H West, Berlin, Spain, Portugal
Major Albert (Ludovico) von Karsthoff	Lisbon station chief
Lieutenant Fritz Kramer	Abwehr III, Lisbon
Colonel Gustav "Papa" Lenz	Madrid station chief
Colonel Ernst Munzinger	I H East chief, Balkans
Colonel Hans Pieckenbrock	Head of Abwehr I
Elisabeth Sahrbach	Secretary/mistress of Major von Karsthoff
Major Aloys Schreiber	Head of Abwehr I H West, Anglo-American Section

Lieutenant Colonel Martin Töppen Financial supervisor

Major Helmut Wiegand Paris station chief

SD and Gestapo Staff

Major Adolf Nassenstein SD agent, Lisbon

General Major Walter Schellenberg Nazi Foreign Intelligence chief, head of SD

Major Erich Schroeder SD agent, Lisbon chief following von Karsthoff

SD *Sicherheitsdienst* (Nazi Security Service, branch of the Gestapo)

Dr. Warnecke Gestapo specialist

FBI Staff

E. J. Connelley Assistant director, New York (initial Popov supervisor)

Percy “Sam” Foxworth Assistant director, Security Division (Counterintelligence); Assistant director in charge of New York Division, head of Special Intelligence Service (Popov supervisor)

J. Edgar Hoover Director

Charles Lanman Special agent, New York (Popov case officer)

Others

Victor Cavendish-Bentinck	British Foreign Office, chairman, Joint Intelligence Committee
William "Wild Bill" Donovan	Director, Office of Strategic Services (forerunner of the CIA)
OKW	German Armed Forces Supreme Command
King Peter II	King of Yugoslavia
Terry Richardson	Popov girlfriend
Simone Simon	Hollywood actress, Popov girlfriend
SOE	Special Operations Executive (British commandos)

PREFACE

He knew he'd have to kill him.

It was late July 1943. In a luxury villa salon on Portugal's Riviera, British double agent Dusko Popov waited for his German controller, Major Ludovico von Karsthoff. By now his Abwehr minder had more than enough evidence to believe Dusko was doubling for the Allies.

British Colonel Tar Robertson had warned him not to return. How would Popov explain his complete failure to provide the Germans with anything useful in the last fourteen months? How would he answer for the FBI radio messages sent in his name? How would he justify not visiting the Pearl Harbor naval base as instructed? When Dusko replied that the Germans probably wouldn't kill him right away, his case officer, Ian Wilson, said, "You might wish they had."

The odds were good—far more than even—that von Karsthoff would have orders to arrest him on the spot. That wasn't going to happen. Popov was an expert marksman, and his Luger rested inside his coat with a chambered round.

Problem was, he might be outgunned. If a Gestapo agent came in with the major, he'd have no chance. They'd take his weapon and truss him up for a long night of interrogation and torture. Once the lemon was fully squeezed, they'd discard him in a Lumiar alley.

He nudged off the Luger's safety.

Glancing about the room, he saw two doorways, one to a dining hall and the other a set of French doors leading to a garden. He stepped to the window and peered outside. As he studied the escape route, his mind raced through the last three and a half years of intrigue and double dealing.

Suddenly, steps behind him—

"Turn around slowly, Popov, and don't make any sudden moves."

Von Karsthoff's tone was hard.

Dusko slipped his palm over the pistol.

Chapter 1

Forging the Anvil

The word *spy* carries with it a certain pejorative connotation. Soldiers serve with patriotism and courage. Admirals lead with brilliance and heavenly wisdom. Field marshals and generals attack gallantly and operate, as Rommel proved, within an ethical code of conduct. Spies, on the other hand, thrive between the shadows of deceit and skullduggery.

Spies lie with impunity and lie with the enemy. They double-cross without conscience and kill without confession. If a spy wasn't a criminal before the secret service, he became one in the process. As one intelligence officer put it, he "must be prepared to be a villain, to be ruthless and dishonest in one role while being honest and tolerant in another. Second, he must be, or try to be, a good showman."

Like none other, Dusko Popov was born for the role. With equal measure he could and did wear all masks: villain and hero, killer and lover, deceiver and patriot.

But above all, he was a showman.

[End of preview]