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The Book of the Week. The Enemy in our Midst... Passport to Treason: The Inside Story of Spies in America. By Alan Hynd.

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THE BOOK OF THE WEEK

~~Suspense rather than Fiction...~~

The Enemy in our Midst...

PASSPORT TO TREASON: The Inside Story of Spies in America

By Alan Hynd. (Robert M. McBride & Comp., New York. \$ 3.00)

Reality in this time is more fantastic, more incredible than any fiction could be. The author who dared to cram his mystery story with all the astounding facts contained in Passport to Treason, would be laughed at for his rampant imagination. "He goes too far," critical readers would say. "The world we live in may be crazy enough; but it isn't that crazy, after all. Certain things just don't happen."

Yet, curiously enough, they do happen, all the same. Alan Hynd, who wrote this first comprehensive inside story of Nazi spies in America, is by no means a visionary but an experienced, trustworthy reporter. His account is factual and concise, without literary pretensions.

He did not make up the sinister array of criminals and fanatics who tried with so much fiendish ingenuity to ruin America from within; they all lived, or are still alive (if only behind prison bars) - those reckless adventurers, venal traitors, and trained saboteurs. Come and meet Herr Von Der Osten, Hitler's master spy, who furnished the Japanese with American military secrets about Pearl Harbor! He appeared quite harmless and inconspicuous when he registered, at the Hotel Taft in New York, under the name of Lopez. Maybe the F.B.I. would never have suspected the discreet "Spanish" gentleman, if it hadn't been for an accident that took place on Times Square, in the course of which Lopez-Von Der Osten was killed and one of his most important collaborators unwittingly betrayed himself.

Meet Fritz Duquesne, the international agent and intriguer - a rather colorful, if extremely repulsive, character: sly and cynical, suave and ruthless. And this dignified-looking gent is Professor Borchardt - a top figure in the Nazi set-up: he analyzes scientifically the data submitted to him by the rank and file spies. As for Werner von Clemm, the German-born socialite president of the Pioneer Import Corporation, he is a cagey bird and certainly a man of the world - a relative by marriage, incidentally, of Nazi Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop. It's von Clemm's job to sell to the Americans the fine diamonds seized by the Nazis in the Low Countries - thus financing Hitler's army of agents and saboteurs in the United States.

What a weird and motley gallery! Helen Mayer, the ambitious housewife, specializing in informative chats with workers in armament plants; fabulous Count Vonsiatsky-Vonsiatsky, who hoped to become a Russian "Fuehrer", with the help of Hitler, and was on intimate terms with Doctor Willumeit of the Chicago Bund; spectacled Mr. Ludwig who was in the habit of touring U.S. Army camps, together with his secretary, Lucy Boehmler, an attractive blonde; Heine, the ex-Ford official; Lily Stein, the so-called model; Private ~~an~~ René Froehlich (yes, no kidding: this one had the nerve to serve Hitler as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces!) and the eight foolhardy desperados - Burger, Thiel, Haupt, Dasch, Heinck, Neubauer, Quirin, and Kerling - who landed, just a year ago, on two different spots of the American shores: in Amagansett, New York, and Ponte Vedra, Florida.

There are hundreds, maybe thousands, of them. Many were caught and punished, thanks to the vigilant efficiency of J. Edgar Hoover and his Federal Bureau of Investigation. But others are still at

large. Nobody who read Passport to Treason will be inclined to underrate the potential danger those Fifth-Columnists mean to our country and to our cause. They are ingenious and bold, well trained in Hitler's "spy schools" and "sabotage academies;" they are thoroughly versed in all devices of their evil trade and utterly lacking in moral inhibitions. They hate us. They loathe the American way of life. They are willing to commit any crime and take any chance, if it is against democracy, for the Fuehrer.

This book - a stirring and dramatic document - informs us of one phase in the subterranean struggle between the Nazi rings and the F.B.I. It reveals some of the appalling Nazi wiles and also some of the methods used by J. Edgar Hoover and his men. It's a thrilling story but it's an alarming one, too.

The war against spies and saboteurs is not over, as the author stresses in the concluding paragraphs of his book; on the contrary, it may be just beginning. "German psychology," Mr. Hynd tells us, "has to be taken into consideration. The Germans feel that if they are conquered no mercy will be shown them, no more mercy than they have shown to those they have conquered. As the hour of their final defeat draws closer, they will become desperate. Saboteurs and fifth columnists in this country will stop at nothing..."

No, they will stop at nothing. Happily, we have the F.B.I. and, moreover, our own vigilance and determination to stop them.

Klaus Mann

SUGGESTIONS
for individual articles or regular features
in THE MESSAGE

Already
done

[1.) An interview with one of the Chinese officers or enlisted men stationed now at this Post - describing the individual background of the Asiatic soldier, his reaction to American conditions, his ideas about the future, and so forth.]

2.) "Know Your Enemy!" A series of articles dealing with the basic principles of Nazi German, Fascist Italian, and imperialist Japanese philosophies. To point out, not only the anti-democratic, but also the anti-Christian elements in those philosophies.

3.) "Know Your Allies!" A series of articles describing the daily life - both in camp and in the combat zones - of soldiers in the Allied armies: maybe in form of (imaginary or authentic) letters from British, Russian, French, and Chinese men addressed to our boys.

4.) "What do you know about American history?" Recent investigations - sponsored by the New York "Times" - revealed the depressing lack of historic knowledge among American undergraduates. We may take it for granted that the average American soldier is even less familiar with the basic facts of his country's past. It may be a good idea to refresh his memory - either by confronting him, once a week, with a set of fundamental questions (the answers to which would be found in a different part of the paper), or by presenting some of the high-lights of American history in a series of short, dramatic stories.

5.) The Magazine Digest. Pointing out some of the most significant articles published in the American press and summarizing their contents. The material should be selected with special consideration of the average soldier's tastes and interests. The following periodicals are likely to yield pertinent items: The Atlantic, Harper's Magazine, Time, Life, The Saturday Evening Post, Collier's, Liberty, The American Mercury, The Infantry Journal, Current History, Survey Graphic, The Saturday Review of Literature, The New Yorker, Free World, The Nation, The New Republic, Common Sense, Tomorrow, Coronet, Fortune.

6.) The Book of the Week. A regular book column - informative rather than critical - reviewing and recommending especially such works which have a particular bearing on the War, the war aims, the character of our enemies, or the great traditions of the United States. Among recent books that would fit our purposes are for instance:

"What America Means To Me," by Pearl Buck

"United States Foreign Policy," by Walter Lippmann

"The Luftwaffe: Its Rise & Fall," by Hauptmann Hermann

"Attack Can Win In '43," by Max Werner

(The article I submit herewith represents a sample of the type of material I have in mind.)