

Reîntorcerea în Reich. Misiunea secretă a unui refugiat evreu împotriva Germaniei naziste By Eric Lichtblau

Audiobook narrated by Dennis Boutsikaris My library hold on this audiobook was nearly due to get sucked back into the internet so I decided to complete a speed listen (2X) through it. If he was indeed tortured in the way he says he was with his physical injuries I just can't see how two days later he could be sitting upright in a car being transported to a Nazi official's home and enjoying a fabulous luncheon all the while acting as an Allied diplomat urging the official to surrender. It made a good follow-up to another new book that I've read about William Donovan and the creation of the OSS Agents of Influence: A British Campaign a Canadian Spy and the Secret Plot to Bring America into World War II. World War II 'Return to the Reich' by Pulitzer Prize winning author Eric Lichtblau is a thrilling and racy account of the extraordinary exploits in subterfuge pulled off by three indomitable men right behind enemy lines. Private First Class Fred Mayer Sergeant Hans Wynberg and the Wehrmacht deserter Franz Weber were tasked by the Office of Strategic Services ("OSS") a wartime intelligence agency of the United States during World War II and a predecessor to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to penetrate German lines in the Tyrolean capital of Innsbruck in Austria. If this resistance rumoured to be known as the Festung or the 'fortress' was to be left unchecked then there was the unenviable and unsavoury prospect of the World War being prolonged for a few more months if not weeks. The son of Heinrich Mayer a decorated German war veteran and also the recipient of an Iron Cross medal Freddy's life is turned upside down with the ascendancy to power of the Nazi Party. The calamitous strike on Pearl Harbour that sucked America into World War II provided the most appropriate opportunity for Mayer to do his bit in fighting the very forces of evil that had led to his family getting uprooted from their own home. Hans and his twin brother Luke were dispatched to the United States by his astute father who feared the worst for the Dutch in the event of the country being run over by the Germans. His worse prophesies come true as the Germans not only occupy Netherlands but arrest Han's parents and his little brother Robbie before putting the trio away at the infamous concentration camp as Auschwitz where the family perishes. He was also inextricably bound by Gewissen - his conscience as a Catholic which prevented him from engaging in unspeakable atrocities which for his fellow soldiers constituted pleasure and purpose. On the 25th of February 1945 Mayer Hans and Franz are para-dropped from a B-24 Liberator piloted by the irascible twenty-one-year-old John Billings to land near the Sultztaler Glacier at an elevation of 10500 feet. A Pass dividing southern Austria and northern Italy for some sixty miles The Brenner Pass acted as a veritable lifeline for the Nazis transporting weapons and troops to the frontline. Hans strings up a communication platform and works from the attic of an allied sympathizer and the trio begin transmitting some extraordinarily delicate & confidential information back to OSS Head Quarters. For example Mayer obtaining Nazi uniform and papers surreptitiously walks in an audacious manner into a barracks for the Nazis and even manages to get an assistant who irons his uniform and shines his boots! Disguised as a Nazi soldier on recuperation strikes a conversation with a more than just boisterous Nazi officer. Lichtblau admirably reveals the most wonderful and material missive of Messrs Mayer Hans and Franz involved leaking information about a massive caravan of military supplies heading for the front line in Italy. B-17 fighter planes swooping down upon 26 trains of 30 to 40 cars each - and stuffed with ammunition tractors anti-aircraft guns gasoline and light equipment - bomb them with the utmost ferocity before reducing the caravan to a smouldering spectacle of ruin and rubble. However Mayer's egregious attitude and an eagerness that even extended to insubordination brings him right at the door step of death as after weeks of sabotage surreptitiousness and secrecy the truth and the Gestapo finally catch up with him. Mayer is sold out by a mercenary and turncoat Karl Neiderwanger a man who had earlier informed Freddy that he could produce five hundred resistance fighters for him and Hermann Matull a Nazi Radio Operator who defected to the OSS before agreeing to work for the Germans as a double agent. Slapping and punching Mayer rupturing his right eardrum knocking out 6 of his teeth whipping him until his back had deep cuts and waterboarding him were some of the techniques resorted to by

Guttner during Mayer's seven days of Gestapo custody. In a jaw dropping spectacle of self-professed diplomacy Mayer convinces Hofer to not exhort his soldiers to fight but to lay down their arms as further encounters would only be futile. The "Das Verwegene Trio" or the "Three Swashbuckling guys" not only secured intelligence to bomb Nazi supply trains but also tracked German troop movements pinpointed Hitler's bunker and in a feat of insurmountable stupefaction arranged the surrender of Innsbruck! But the core and crux of Mr. Lichtblau beautifully chronicles in this absolute masterpiece may honours be damned! The honourable will live forever! World War II



Proiect istoriografic initiat de regizorul Steven Spielberg Reintoarcerea in Reich este remarcabila poveste a lui Fred Mayer un evreu german care a fugit din Germania nazista si care s-a intors in teritoriile ocupate pentru a conduce o misiune secreta in spatele liniilor inamice. Infruntand pericolul permanent cei trei au reusit sa obtina si sa transmita informatii vitale pentru Aliati contribuind semnificativ la efortul de razboi cu doar trei luni inaintea victoriei. Mai mult desi a fost capturat de Gestapo si torturat cu bestialitate Freddy a reusit in mod surprinzator sa-l convinga pe liderul nazist al regiunii sa se predea fortelor aliate care inaintau decisiv. Niciun cuvânt irosit nicio pagina nu trebuie ratata in aceasta minunata relatare a uneia dintre cele mai indraznete si de succes misiuni secrete din timpul celui de-al Doilea Razboi Mondial scrisa cu maiestrie de un scriitor fantastic de talentat. Alex Kershaw New York Times Captivanta carte a lui Eric Lichtblau are toate atributurile unui adevarat roman de spionaj [...] Relatarea actiunilor celor doi refugiat evrei din Europa lui Hitler luptand impotriva ororilor comise de Germania nazista nu este numai o poveste a experientelor lor uimitoare ci si o lectie atat de necesara azi. Margaret Henoch fost sef de statie CIA Eric Lichtblau jurnalist laureat cu doua premii Pulitzer este autorul best-sellerurilor Nazistii de langa noi si Bush's Law: The Remaking of American Justice. Misiunea secretă a unui refugiat evreu împotriva Germaniei naziste I've read so much about world war 2 and even the OSS but this story is one I had never heard and it is something out of a movie. Yet he was vital to the surrender in Austria and made a huge impact in the war ending! So amazing this man ended up in West Virginia and lived until 2016! World War II I was in awe of him. Freddy Mayer Remember that throwaway line of dialogue in Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade where the fictional hero almost in an aside to the audience grumbles Nazis - I hate these guys ? It gets an easy but knowing laugh from viewers. What Mayer and his two companions (who have interesting backgrounds of their own) accomplish during two months deep undercover in Germany and Nazi-controlled Austria and what Mayer then ultimately experiences - as he is apprehended by the Gestapo (!) - is the stuff that great non-fiction 'novels' are made of: Interesting fast-paced biography about a WWII spy; Freddy attributes his ability to do the audacious things he did to chutzpah. World War II My interest in WWII spy stories is minimal at best, But I love narrative nonfiction especially when a broad story is told through the lens of one person, It's a page turner both for the plot of the story and the characters themselves. Freddy Mayer grows up in Germany but flees with his family in 1938 escaping from Hitler ahead of the Holocaust, Arriving in Brooklyn he is recruited to the OSS the predecessor to the CIA. Having escaped Hitler now he is desperate to go back and defeat him. He and two other men are chosen to parachute into Austria to gather intelligence on troop movements and resources. He's a remarkably effective spy able to assume identities and insert himself into almost any situation, He becomes at different times a German officer a French POW and a factory worker, Mayer and his compatriots arrive as the war is coming to a close and the Nazis are making their last-ditch stand: It was in this section about the torture that my only doubts about the story surfaced: I don't know what sources the author relied on for the physical description of the torture perhaps only Mr: I got the same feeling when I read parts of Laura Hillenbrand's Unbroken, It's a great read even if your interest in WWII is minimal. World War II From not wanting to read about Nazis I'm suddenly flooded with Holocaust novels: This one is more of a spy on and thwart the Nazis novel and its main character Freddy Meyer has to be celebrated for his bravery and chutzpah: That so many in the Nazi party who just followed orders went unpunished makes my blood boil. Freddy Mayer grew up in Germany during the Nazi reign of terror against the Jews and other subhumans. When Freddy was sixteen He

and his family fled to America in 1938 they were the last German Jews to escape. Army after the attack on Pearl Harbor but was rejected as an enemy alien because he was German. He was then recruited by the OSS the forefather of today's CIA: Freddy and other Dutch Jewish refugees parachuted into Austria to stop the Nazis, For nearly two months he posed as a Nazi officer and a French POW dispatching reports to the OSS. The reports told of Hitler's underground bunker and Nazi trains shipping weapons and supplies in which Allied planes bombed them: Freddy was eventually captured by the Gestapo and was tortured and waterboarded, He survived the torture and eventually persuaded the region's Nazi leader to surrender: It became one of the most successful OSS missions of the war. The motive: to garner as much intelligence as possible on the despotic Adolf Hitler's proposed last and violent stand in the Alps against rapidly advancing Allied Forces. Lichtblau regales us in fascinating detail Freddy Mayer was one astounding individual: The otherwise tolerant and accommodating town of Freiburg becomes a bastion of the Third Reich philosophy. The Mayer family forced to desert their family home and business clamber aboard the SS Manhattan and in March 1938 find themselves at New York: However Mayer's application papers get rejected solely on account of the fact that he was a Jew of German descent: A paranoia of "Fifth Column" incursions cast aspersions on both the motive and loyalty of 1. However a paucity of both physical bodies and intellectual information ensured that Mayer was drafted into the OSS a brainchild of celebrated World War I hero William Donovan. Lichtblau informs his readers the ambitions of the OSS stretched from training bats to drop bombs and injecting Hitler with female hormones to make him less aggressive, Hans Wynberg Mayer's radio operator and perpetrator-in-crime also had his justified grouse against Hitler and his forces. Franz Weber a twenty-three-year-old Prisoner Of War ("POW") inside Camp 209 in Naples was a man nursing a wounded conscience. Although fighting for Hitler his beliefs were in direct contradiction to that of the brutal Nazis: Hence when Dyno Lowenstein Mayer's boss approaches Franz with a proposal to not merely defect but work for the OSS he agrees immediately: From here begins the unbelievable story of Operation Greenup or Operation Gulliver that has now attained immortality in the lore of espionage, Franz Weber now calling himself Leutnant Erich Schmitzer and armed with a Nazi Soldbuch identification proceeds to Innsbruck, The primary objective of their mission is to glean invaluable information about the German activities surrounding The Brenner Pass. Any disruption to this line would create havoc for the Nazis sending their supply schedules into a tailspin: Banking on an incredibly intricate system of covert networking Mayer seeks out Nazi resisters and disgruntled populace who are more than just eager to see the decimation of the Nazis. Popularly known as "cut outs" they included Alois Abenthung a former Burgermeister in Oberperfuss and Franz's own fiancé Annie. Fueled by both pride and copious quantities of wine the officer by now garrulous boasts about the fortification of Fuhrerhauptquartier - Hitler's underground bunker, The spectacular quality of details divulged include even the precise location of the bunker. Upon receiving this information the 15th Air Force sends a reconnaissance mission which corroborates Mayer's stupendous information: Matull was derisively termed 'a real gutter snipe' by his OSS trainer Walter Haass: Walter Guttner an Obersturmfuhrer in charge of Mayer's interrogation employs the most extreme measures to squeeze out information from Mayer: As suddenly as he was arrested Mayer is released and is escorted to the house of the most powerful Nazi in Tyrol: Gauletier Franz Hofer, Incredulously Hofer heeds Mayer's pleas and surrenders to the Allied forces. Innsbruck is thus liberated without a single drop of blood being shed: Lichtblau concludes the Gulliver mission will go down in the annals of military history as one of the most successful espionage operations engaged in by the Americans, Lichtblau's wonderful book - a monumental testimony to the preservation of humanity - is contained in one of its concluding passages: Mayer's meets with Guttner who is now imprisoned at the end of the war "Do anything you want with me" Guttner begs "but don't hurt my family, "Nazis?" Although Freddy Mayer for his show of exemplary and singularly undaunted courage was honoured with the Legion of Merit the Congressional Medal of Honour was denied to him. One of the banal excuses proffered for this travesty was that Freddy's daring acts did not demonstrate "actual conflict or direct physical contact with an armed enemy: Recrutat de OSS precursorarea CIA Freddy a fost parasutat in Alpii

austrieci impreuna cu refugiatul olandez Hans Wynberg si dezertorul nazist Franz Weber. O poveste impresionanta si captivanta despre eroism determinare si spirit de sacrificiu: A fost reporter pentru New York Times timp de 15 ani colaborand si cu Los Angeles Times The New Yorker Time si alte publicatii. In fact if some of the stuff that happens to Fred Mayer came up in a movie I would call it impossible or cliched. This is a true story of what a determined refugee can do in this case as a prolific spy. Also the luckiest spy again if what wasn't recorded from multiple sources I would say it was all a lie: World War II I only wish this was longer and that Freddy hadn't passed away before this author could do more interviews: However this was a fascinating story and a must-read for anyone interested in WW II! I never knew so many escaped Germany fled to America then became US soldiers. It's sad it took him so long to get on a mission then to be captured 9 days before Hitler died. However said line popped into my head when reading Return to the Reich because it sounds just like something that would be uttered by this book's main character: Frederick 'Freddy' Mayer was born in Germany to a Jewish family and was the son of a decorated German soldier from WWI. His family fled their hometown just months before the Nazis closed the borders and ports and emigrated to New York City, Though not particularly religiously devout nor an exceptional student Mayer worked as a diesel mechanic for a few years before racing to enlist once America became involved in WWII: He sincerely wanted to serve in the military of his new country and initially thought he would be accepted for aircraft maintenance. At first he was rejected - since his family had only recently left Germany - but soon he would find himself in an improbable scenario: Army Mayer is determined to be an ace candidate for the new Office of Strategic Services the forerunner to the modern Central Intelligence Agency: (This time it was a big plus being a German native that and his fluency in French and English: ) After an extensive - or seemingly endless - training period Mayer leads a three-man team on a mission nicknamed 'Gulliver' in early 1945, The squad parachutes into the Alps under the cover of night to begin their espionage. This is one of those little-known but remarkably true heroic tales that occurred regularly during WWII: Mayer is one plucky hero and has such a perfect exit line (at the finale of chapter 12) that I hope his story is adapted into a film. I can see actor Ezra Miller - who played chatty young Barry 'The Flash' Allen in the 2017 Justice League superhero movie - as a natural for the role. World War II This the true story of Freddy Mayer a Germany born Jew who fled his home country just before the Nazi's began rounding up the Jewish people. His family made their way to the United States and settled in Brooklyn. As America entered the war Freddy hoped to help his new country defeat the fascists and enlisted. He ended up becoming a commando spy for the newly formed OSS, Pleading for a mission they teamed Freddy up with another Jewish radio operator and a turned Nazi officer, It reads like a modern day thriller dripping with danger and suspense. Extra: details some aspect of the torture administered. I found Mr. Lichtblau's book impossible to put down. They are brutal to the end. Mayer is captured and tortured (not a spoiler. this is revealed on the book jacket). Mayer himself but to me it sounded somewhat unreal. But that's my only caveat about this book. I suppose stories like Freddy's makes up somewhat for that. World War II A wonderful story of courage. In America Freddy tried to enlist in the U.S. As Mr. 1 million Americans of German Italian and Japanese descent. As Mr. Mayer and Hans are his supposed deferential collaborators. But as Mr. As Mr. "Who do you think we are?" Mayer replies. "But as Mr. Reintoarcerea in Reich este un admirabil reportaj istoric. Locuieste langa Washington DC. Reintoarcerea în Reich. World War II 4.9 □ as there are a few words used in quotations. He was born without the fear gene. He feared nothing. -- former U.S. Army flight lieutenant John Billings on Sgt. Finally accepted into the U.S. They were dropped in Austria 200 miles behind enemy lines. This is their story. This is a magnificent story of an unsung hero. I am so happy I found this gem. World War II.