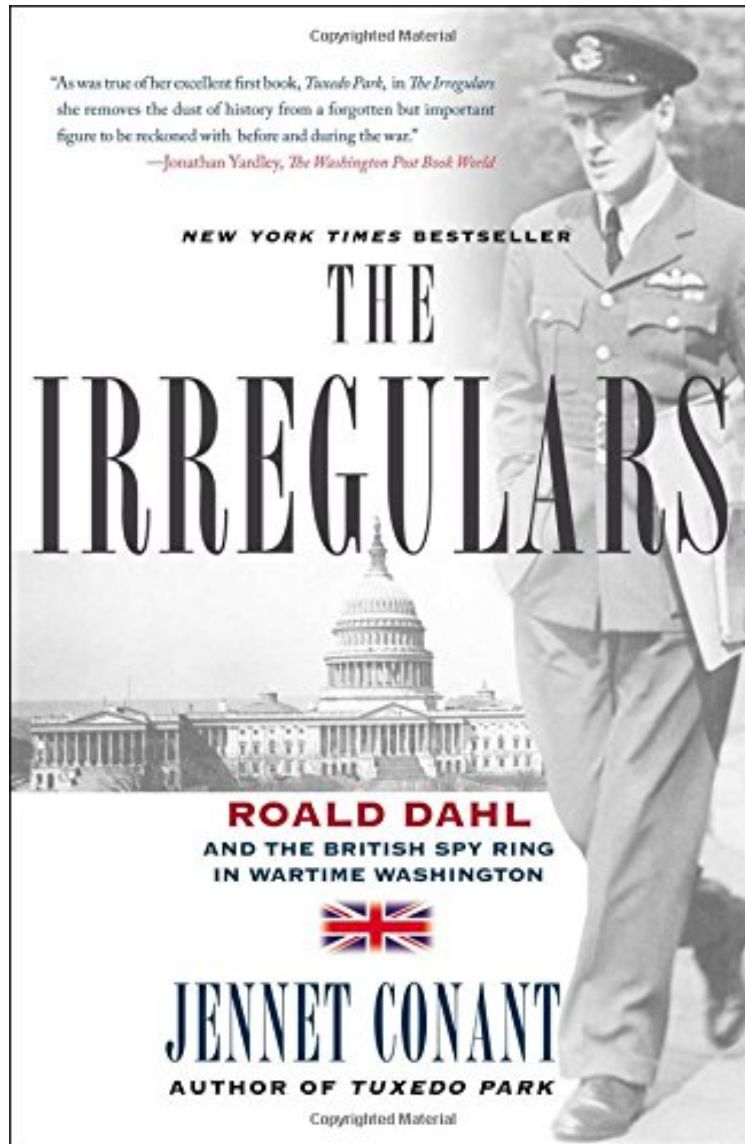


(Free read ebook) The Irregulars: Roald Dahl and the British Spy Ring in Wartime Washington

The Irregulars: Roald Dahl and the British Spy Ring in Wartime Washington

Jennet Conant

ebooks / Download PDF / *ePub / DOC / audiobook



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#293274 in Books Jennet Conant 2009-09-08 2009-09-08 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.44 x 1.10 x 5.50l, .84 #File Name: 0743294599416 pages The Irregulars Roald Dahl and the British Spy Ring in Wartime Washington | File size: 34.Mb

Jennet Conant : The Irregulars: Roald Dahl and the British Spy Ring in Wartime Washington before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Irregulars: Roald Dahl and the British Spy Ring in Wartime Washington:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. was like during WWII By Customer Kathy Kingsbury Roessler 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. It's 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.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A good read... By John Paul Sassone 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.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Real spies in WWII By Angelena 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 & the Chocolate Factory*, 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 attaché 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.

Now in paperback, and following her extraordinary, bestselling, and much-acclaimed accounts of the most guarded secrets of the Second World War, here is a rollicking true story of spies, politicians, journalists, and intrigue in the highest circles of Washington during the tumultuous days of World War II. When Roald Dahl, a dashing young wounded RAF pilot, took up his post at the British Embassy in 1942, his assignment was to use his good looks, wit, and considerable charm to gain access to the most powerful figures in American political life. Better than any spy fiction, *The Irregulars* is a fascinating, lively account of deceit, double dealing, and moral ambiguity—all in the name of victory. Richly detailed and carefully researched, Conant's masterful narrative is based on never-before-seen wartime letters, diaries, and interviews.

.com 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 From Publishers Weekly This carefully researched

chronicle of Dahl's WWII espionage ought to be more interesting than it is—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 can't hold one's attention in this excessively digressive, slowly paced academic work. It's 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 (\$24.95, June 9). (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Bookmarks Magazine What critics praised most in Jennet Conant's *The Irregulars* is the quality that is becoming the author's signature knack: her ability to show how a seemingly obscure group of characters personifies the mood of a time and place and exercises more influence than one might expect. However, the same reviewers indicated that the later careers of Dahl and his cohorts, as well as the relative insignificance of their activities in the annals of espionage, led to some cognitive dissonance in *The Irregulars*, which is filled with entertaining details but makes little case for the group's political and strategic importance during the war. Nevertheless, no one faulted Conant's expert writing or research, and everyone indicated that *The Irregulars* will be very enjoyable for the right kind of reader. Copyright 2008 Bookmarks Publishing LLC