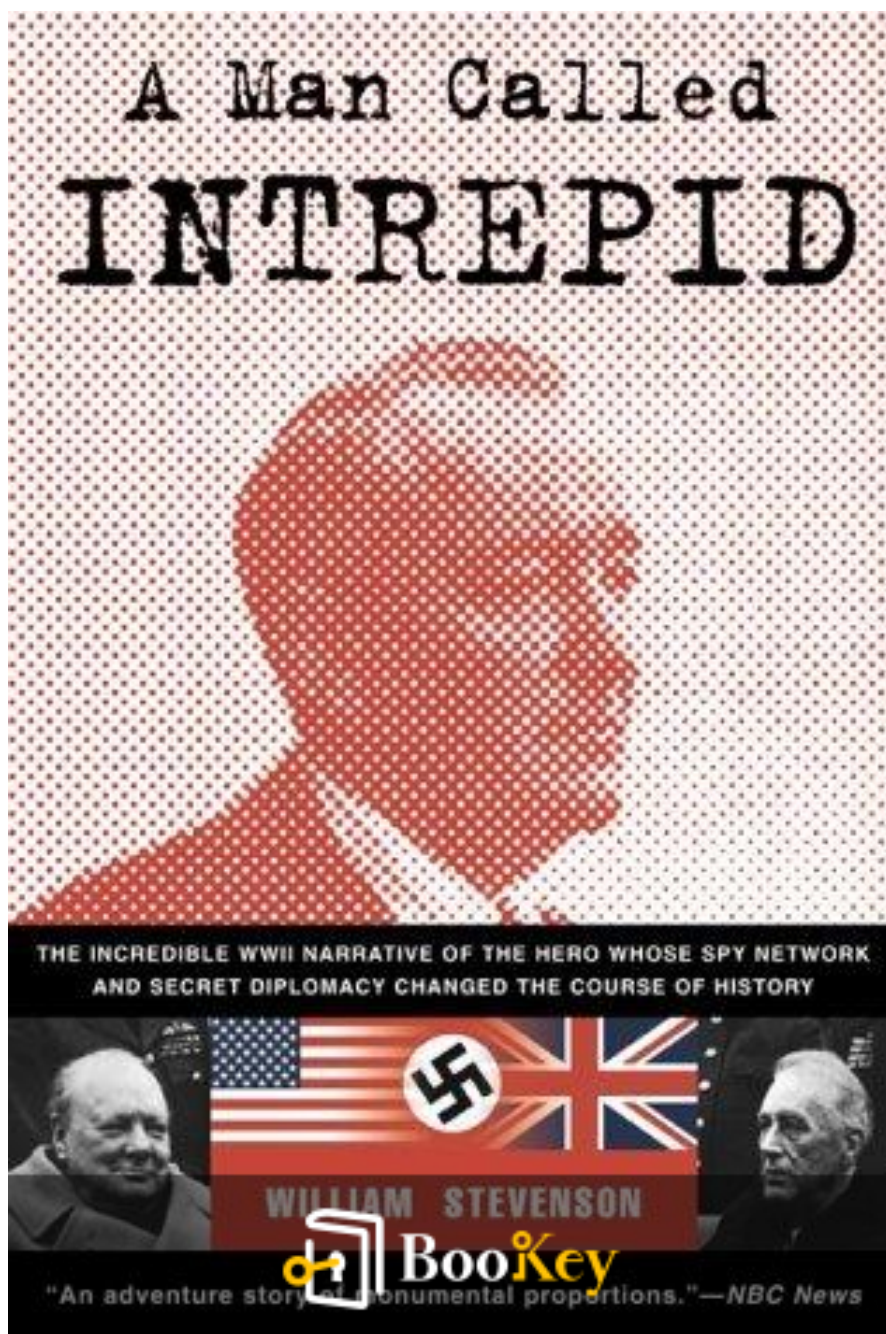


# A Man Called Intrepid PDF (Limited Copy)

William Stevenson



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## **A Man Called Intrepid Summary**

The Untold Adventures of Britain's Legendary Spy Chief.

Written by New York Central Park Page Turners Books Club

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## About the book

In "A Man Called Intrepid," William Stevenson chronicles the remarkable life and career of Sir William Stephenson, Britain's foremost spy chief during World War II. This gripping narrative uncovers the intricacies of espionage that played a pivotal role in the war, painting a vivid picture of the intelligence operations that not only influenced the course of the conflict but also set the stage for modern intelligence practices.

As the story unfolds, we learn that Stephenson, often referred to as "Intrepid," operated under a cloak of secrecy, orchestrating a broad network of spies, codebreakers, and operatives across Europe and North America. His initiatives were crucial in gathering intelligence that the Allied forces would later leverage against the Axis powers. The narrative dives into various clandestine missions, characterizing the peril and unpredictability of wartime espionage.

Key to understanding Stephenson's operations is his relationship with prominent figures, including Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt. The collaboration between British and American intelligence services, largely facilitated by Stephenson, was instrumental in laying the groundwork for joint efforts that would eventually lead to significant military victories. This partnership also revealed the complexities of international relations during the war, highlighting how intelligence work transcended mere

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military tactics.

Stevenson paints Stephenson as a visionary, whose methods and approaches to spy craft would later inspire fictional characters like James Bond. The narrative reveals not only the thrilling exploits but also the moral dilemmas faced by spies, emphasizing the sacrifices made in the name of national security.

Through detailed accounts and compelling anecdotes, "A Man Called Intrepid" immerses readers in a world of deception, strategy, and bravery, underscoring the vital role that intelligence played in World War II. Stephenson's legacy serves as a testament to the power of information and the lengths to which individuals will go to protect their country in times of crisis.

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## About the author

William Stevenson, a British-born Canadian author and journalist, is celebrated for his insightful explorations of espionage and history. Among his most significant works is "A Man Called Intrepid," published in 1976, which follows the life of William Stephenson, an influential figure in WWII intelligence known for his integral role in coordinating British and American efforts against the Axis powers. This gripping narrative, filled with intrigue and impactful events, became a bestseller and was later adapted into a mini-series featuring the esteemed actor David Niven.

In addition to this seminal work, Stevenson gained notable recognition with "90 Minutes at Entebbe," an urgent account of the high-stakes Israeli rescue operation carried out in 1976 after an Air France plane was hijacked. Remarkably, he penned, edited, and published this book within weeks of the event, showcasing his ability to deliver timely and gripping narratives on contemporary issues.

Stevenson's exploration of intelligence operations continued in 1983 with "Intrepid's Last Case," which examines the enduring impact of espionage in the geopolitical landscape. This sequel not only highlights Stevenson's adept storytelling but also cements his legacy as a significant chronicler of historical intrigue and the covert activities that shape world events.

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Throughout his works, Stevenson melds thorough research with captivating storytelling, illuminating the intricacies of espionage and its vital role in shaping history. His contributions continue to resonate, reflecting the timeless nature of intelligence work and its implications for global affairs.

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# Chapter 1 Summary: Point of Departure

## POINT OF DEPARTURE

### Foreword by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt

In the lead-up to World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt operated in the shadows, supporting a clandestine battle against tyranny while the United States remained officially neutral. The unexpected attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, shifted the nation's focus from diplomatic efforts to active combat, aligning it against the Axis Powers, including Nazi Germany, Imperial Japan, and Fascist Italy. While these overt hostilities became apparent, the extensive covert operations undertaken during this time, driven by the urgent need for national security, were typically hidden from public scrutiny in accordance with Britain's Official Secrets Act.

By 1940, the threat of Adolf Hitler's Germany loomed large, particularly as intelligence revealed plans for aggression that could jeopardize the United States. Winston Churchill, the British Prime Minister, sent a secret envoy to Roosevelt, signaling the necessity of American assistance to aid a beleaguered Britain facing Nazi aggression. Roosevelt, cognizant of America's unprepared state, understood the need for time to strengthen the

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nation's defenses without immediately entering the war.

Following the harrowing attacks by Japan and Hitler's subsequent declaration of war, America transitioned from a state of deception to open military engagement. However, the nuances of the prior clandestine operations conducted by organizations like the British Security Coordination (BSC) remained largely obscure. This narrative seeks to honor the courage and sacrifices of those involved in this unconventional warfare, many of whom remained unrecognized for their contributions.

Despite the fading memory of the BSC since the Axis Powers' defeat, the impact of its operations persists, revealing the complexity of historical narratives influenced by misinformation. William Stevenson undertook the monumental task of documenting the vast activities of the BSC, navigating through extensive records to present a coherent chronicle.

Roosevelt emphasized the lessons democracies must learn from history, particularly concerning the balance of secrecy and transparency in times of threat. While covert intelligence operations played a crucial role in achieving victory during the war, they also bear the potential risk of undermining democratic principles. Thus, intelligent stewardship of information is paramount, ensuring it serves the public good without overreach.

Ultimately, Roosevelt championed individual liberty as essential to human

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advancement. The collective resolve of free societies, the innovative spirit dedicated to preserving liberty, and steadfast resistance against tyranny form the bedrock of triumph in conflict. Intelligence, while an invaluable tool for safeguarding freedom, necessitates vigilant protection against misuse. As we confront modern challenges, we must engage with our shared human experiences and adopt lessons from the past, resisting the destructive impulses that have often impeded progress.

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# Chapter 2 Summary: A Break in the Silence

## A Break in the Silence

### Historical Note

In a tumultuous time marked by fluctuating peace and conflict, Britain established a sophisticated intelligence network, which raised significant concerns surrounding operational secrecy. By 1940, with the British Secret Intelligence Service struggling to function effectively in Europe amid the Nazi advance, the author was dispatched to the British Security Coordination (BSC) headquarters in New York. The BSC represented a critical shift, where a group of skilled amateurs took charge of sustaining intelligence operations, demonstrating that civilians could manage effective secret operations outside the traditional military structure.

Recognizing the need for an American counterpart to the BSC, the author devised a blueprint that illustrated how intelligence-sharing could bridge gaps between the U.S. and British leadership, particularly emphasizing the vital connection between the U.S. President and the British Prime Minister. Throughout this period, thousands of agents operated covertly beneath the watchful eye of the Atlas statue in New York, their identities meticulously

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guarded despite rising American interests in international affairs. This veil of secrecy would remain largely intact, with the nuances of the BSC's operations only partially revealed decades later, such as during the 1960s.

By 1972, however, the narrative shifted towards the necessity for transparency, a reflection of changing attitudes towards governmental secrecy. The author portrays President Roosevelt's efforts to bolster British support during World War II and discusses the subsequent threats posed by the Soviet Union, advocating that full disclosure was crucial for national security. This section emphasizes the historical significance of secrecy, arguing its importance in ensuring effective national defense strategies.

### **Colonel C.H. Ellis and Recognition**

Colonel C.H. Ellis emerges as a pivotal figure within this intelligence landscape, recognized for his impactful role as a British secret agent and a key coordinator of intelligence operations. His efforts were instrumental in the success of BSC teams, and his bravery in the field earned him rightful acknowledgment. In honor of his relentless dedication to evolving intelligence methods, Ellis received posthumous recognition from President Truman, solidifying his legacy as a distinguished contributor to the intelligence community. His story underscores the critical importance of individual commitment and innovation during a time when the stakes for

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national and global security were at an all-time high.

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## Chapter 3 Summary: I In Time of Peace

### Summary of Chapter 3: A Man Called Intrepid by William Stevenson

In Chapter 3, titled "Foresight and Secrecy," the author delves into the intricate intelligence operations during World War II, particularly highlighting the British Security Coordination (BSC). Established in the United States, the BSC operated under a veil of secrecy due to Britain's Official Secrets Act as the UK braced for escalating conflicts. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, despite America's initial stance of neutrality, recognized the critical need for covert operations against the Axis powers. His support was instrumental for the clandestine measures being undertaken by British intelligence.

The chapter introduces William Stephenson, known by the code name "Intrepid," who becomes a pivotal figure in bridging U.S. and British intelligence efforts. Stephenson was deeply involved in relaying essential intelligence regarding Nazi Germany's military strategies and nurturing covert diplomatic channels. His connections with influential leaders, including Winston Churchill, underscored his commitment to securing American support for Britain during a time of unprecedented threat.

A crucial aspect of the intelligence campaign involved breaking German

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communication codes, particularly the sophisticated Enigma cipher. The BSC's strategy emphasized intercepting enemy messages, decoding them swiftly, and disseminating valuable intelligence to allied forces. The chapter recounts various espionage tactics, such as the use of microdots and covert operations across neutral territories, to disrupt Nazi power.

However, the path to effective intelligence work was fraught with challenges stemming from political dynamics in both Britain and the U.S. Stephenson confronted obstacles from figures like Joseph P. Kennedy, the U.S. ambassador to Britain, who harbored isolationist beliefs and doubts about Britain's resolve. This tension was exacerbated by fears of a possible pro-Nazi regime emerging should Britain succumb to enemy forces.

The narrative moves toward a turning point as the urgency for formal cooperation between U.S. and British intelligence escalated, especially following France's fall. Stephenson's advocacy for collaboration during this critical juncture framed the alliance as vital for the survival of democratic ideals against the advancing totalitarianism.

In conclusion, this chapter meticulously outlines the early foundations of secret intelligence operations, the convergence of British and American efforts, and the profound implications of their cooperation. It also honors the sacrifices made by numerous individuals engaged in the covert fight against fascism during this tumultuous era in history.

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## Chapter 4: II Fight On

### Summary of "A Man Called Intrepid" - Chapter 4

### Introduction to the Secret War

Chapter 4 opens with an exploration of the covert operations waged against totalitarian regimes before the United States officially entered World War II. President Franklin D. Roosevelt recognizes this "secret war," emphasizing the crucial role of British Security Coordination (BSC) in New York, led by William Stephenson, known by the codename "INTREPID." Stephenson's intelligence contributions regarding Hitler's military ambitions became instrumental in shaping U.S. strategy.

### Roosevelt and Churchill's Partnership

The chapter highlights the urgent collaboration between Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill as global tensions escalated. Roosevelt's awareness of the threats posed by Nazi Germany and other aggressors prompted a reliance on Stephenson's intelligence network. Their partnership aimed to devise a counter-strategy against the Axis powers well before America's formal entry into the conflict.

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## **Importance of Secrecy**

Emphasizing the necessity of secrecy, the chapter portrays the challenges of hiding operational details from the public while striving to execute effective counter-intelligence measures. This secrecy was critical for protecting intelligence operations from Axis detection and allowed for strategic planning without risking vital missions.

## **The Role of Intelligence Agencies**

Stephenson's BSC evolved to include a variety of intelligence and military functions, acting as a conduit between American and British agencies. The formation of intricate networks of spies and clandestine operations is discussed, underscoring efforts to counter Nazi influence in both Europe and the Americas. This alliance paved the way for more robust joint operations.

## **Behind Enemy Lines**

The narrative details significant operations aimed at disrupting German military capabilities, including sabotage of essential resources needed for Nazi wartime efforts, such as heavy water used in atomic research. It is evident that as the collaboration between British and American intelligence deepened, the need for information sharing and coordinated operations intensified.

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## Consequences of War

As the chapter develops, it becomes clear that the unfolding war was reshaping strategic realities. The specter of Nazi occupation drove home the

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# Chapter 5 Summary: III Impeachable Offenses

## Summary of Chapter 5: "A Man Called Intrepid"

### Introduction to the Secret War

In a time when the United States maintained an official stance of neutrality, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt championed a covert war against tyranny, particularly in the face of Nazi Germany's growing threat. Behind the scenes, Roosevelt was informed by William Stephenson, the head of British Security Coordination (BSC) in New York, whose intelligence efforts were crucial as the U.S. remained on the sidelines before entering World War II.

### The Necessity of Secrecy

The chapter underscores the significance of discretion during this secret warfare, promoting covert operations that extended beyond conventional military confrontations. Intelligence gathering became imperative for forecasting and confronting the challenges imposed by the Axis powers.

### The Role of Stephenson and BSC

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Stephenson's influence expanded as he orchestrated efforts to bolster Britain. Both he and Roosevelt understood that without U.S. military assistance, Britain might succumb, posing a direct threat to American security. The chapter celebrates the valor of agents and resistance fighters operating outside established norms, who risked their lives to combat the forces of fascism.

## **U.S. and British Intelligence Cooperation**

As the conflict evolved, pivotal discussions between U.S. and British military officials resulted in the creation of the ABC-1 plan, which prioritized defeating Germany before addressing Japan. This plan marked a crucial turning point, affirming the necessity of American support for the survival of Britain and its Allies.

## **Challenges from Isolationism**

Amid these efforts, the chapter highlights the prevailing isolationist sentiments within the U.S., which posed considerable obstacles to Roosevelt's plans. Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy's reports reflected a defeatist view and pro-German leanings, swaying American public opinion and policy against deeper involvement.

## **Bletchley Park and ULTRA**

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Developments at Bletchley Park also play a critical role in the chapter, where cryptanalysts worked tirelessly to break German communications through the ULTRA program. This intelligence was vital for comprehending enemy strategies and movements, further emphasizing the race for information in the lead-up to war.

## **Rising Tensions and Armed Resistance**

As Britain faced existential threats, the narrative intensifies, advocating for guerrilla warfare tactics. The British Special Operations Executive (SOE) was established, focusing on sabotage and the support of resistance movements in occupied territories. This segment foreshadows the complex moral dilemmas inherent in conducting covert operations during wartime.

## **Conclusion**

Amid immense challenges and a complex international landscape, Stephenson and his network effectively laid the groundwork for robust intelligence operations aimed at destabilizing Nazi control and preparing for an inevitable confrontation. This chapter intricately weaves together the themes of deception, collaboration, and foresight that characterized the prelude to American involvement in World War II, highlighting the essential role of intelligence work in shaping the course of history.

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# Chapter 6 Summary: IV Cry, “Havoc!”

## Chapter Summary: A Man Called Intrepid - Chapter 6

### Setting the Scene

Chapter 6 delves into the covert operations undertaken by Britain and the United States on the eve of World War II. The narrative centers around influential figures such as William Stephenson, who led British Security Coordination (BSC), alongside leaders like President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill. These operations were crucial in counteracting the threat posed by the Axis powers, particularly as America's entry into the war was not yet assured.

### Intelligence and Collaboration

William Stephenson emerges as a pivotal figure, renowned for his ability to coordinate intricate alliances between British and American intelligence agencies. The BSC was instrumental in gathering vital intelligence that informed British and American strategies against German movements. Despite the official policy of American neutrality, Stephenson's efforts were critical in aligning the two nations' operations, showcasing the complexities of international intelligence collaboration.

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## **The Danger of Invasion**

As Europe succumbed to Nazi aggression, Britain faced an urgent need for American assistance. Churchill's impassioned pleas to Roosevelt highlighted the essential role of U.S. naval and aerial strength, particularly in securing destroyers to protect Britain from a looming invasion. This growing urgency underscored the desperate state of affairs as the Axis powers expanded their reach.

## **The Role of ULTRA and Bletchley Park**

The chapter highlights significant advancements in cryptography, especially the decoding of German Enigma signals at Bletchley Park. This intelligence breakthrough was vital for military operations and illustrated the collaboration between the BSC and American intelligence as they raced to decode critical communications and gather actionable military intelligence.

## **Sabotage Operations and Espionage**

Within the escalating tensions, strategies for undermining Nazi operations emerged, including sabotage missions and the training of guerrilla forces. The narrative reveals the intricacies of these covert operations, detailing how various agents were prepared for forthcoming engagements against the

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Nazis, reflecting the proactive stance taken by Allied forces.

## **Political Intrigue and Internal Conflicts**

The chapter also reveals the political landscape within the U.S. where isolationist sentiments, exemplified by figures such as Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy, complicated efforts to bolster support for Britain. This internal conflict added layers of intrigue to the already fraught political climate, as espionage and diplomacy sought to navigate the complexities of public sentiment and national security.

## **The Outlook for Resistance**

Concluding with a palpable sense of urgency, the chapter sets the stage for significant cooperative operations that would shape the early dynamics of WWII. It captures the clandestine world of intelligence work, underscoring the essential role of strategic political maneuvering in resisting the Axis powers during a critical and uncertain time in history.

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## Chapter 7 Summary: V An Original and Sinister Touch

### Summary of Chapter 7 from "A Man Called Intrepid" by William Stevenson

In Chapter 7, the narrative unfolds with President Franklin D. Roosevelt advocating for a clandestine war against tyranny, even as the United States remains officially neutral. Recognizing the escalating threat from Nazi Germany, Roosevelt underscores the urgency of collaboration with Britain through British Security Coordination (BSC), which is spearheaded by the resourceful William Stephenson, known by his codename "Intrepid."

The chapter emphasizes Roosevelt's pivotal role as a supporter of Britain, which is in dire need of arms and assistance to combat Nazi forces. The need for secrecy surrounding their covert operations is paramount, as exposure could undermine both the British war effort and the strategic gains they hope to make against totalitarian regimes. Within this context, the chapter elaborates on the complex landscape of espionage and intelligence operations, highlighting the risks undertaken by individuals engaged in unconventional warfare.

BSC's operations based in New York become a central hub for British intelligence, with many volunteers—often inexperienced in military matters—dedicated to intelligence gathering and executing secret missions.

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This segment introduces William Stephenson as an inspiring leader who fosters innovative strategies and collaborative efforts among his team.

The chapter also brings in Winston Churchill, whose insights and decisive leadership introduce a sense of urgency to BSC's operations. Churchill's dependence on such intelligence is evident as he seeks to overturn the momentum of totalitarian powers through subversion and sabotage.

As the narrative progresses, the focus shifts to strengthening ties with American intelligence. This collaboration is embodied by key figures such as William Donovan and J. Edgar Hoover, highlighting the merging of British and American efforts against their mutual adversary, the Nazis.

In preparation for potential Nazi occupation, military leaders like Gubbins strategize on establishing guerrilla warfare networks. The creation of secret intelligence operations aimed at counteracting and undermining the enemy's hold becomes essential to the resistance efforts.

As the chapter develops, the delusions of peace fostered by Neville Chamberlain's appeasement policies become increasingly untenable. Drawing on his experience, Stephenson emphasizes the pressing mission to prepare unconventional forces and devise plans for a resistance movement that could facilitate a British return to Europe if the situation deteriorated further.

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In conclusion, Chapter 7 vividly illustrates the weight of responsibility resting on Stephenson and his team. It captures the intricate dynamics of forming a robust resistance network against the backdrop of a global conflict, highlighting the crucial role of espionage and the emergence of a unified transatlantic front against Nazi aggression.

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## **Chapter 8: VI The End of the Beginning**

Chapter 8 of "A Man Called Intrepid" delves into the pivotal relationships and strategies that shaped the secret war against Nazi Germany, centering on William Stephenson, known as INTREPID, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

### **INTREPID and the Secret War Strategy**

The chapter begins by highlighting Roosevelt's growing recognition of Hitler's threat, which prompted him to collaborate closely with Stephenson. This partnership laid the groundwork for crucial intelligence cooperation between the neutral United States and Britain, poised on the brink of war.

### **The Role of Secrecy and Intelligence**

A significant theme is the imperative of secrecy surrounding British Security Coordination (BSC). This covert agency played a vital role in intelligence gathering to support the war effort, despite the U.S.'s official stance of neutrality. Churchill's foresight in uniting free nations against totalitarian aggression is underscored, emphasizing the urgency of their alliance.

### **Dangers of Information Leak and Deception**

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The chapter also examines the perilous nature of intelligence work, particularly the risks of leaks. The Tyler Kent incident illustrates the dangers that arose when sensitive information made its way to Nazi agents from the U.S. Embassy in London. The challenge of balancing secrecy with the need to inform the public is poignantly illustrated by the devastating bombing of Coventry, where foreknowledge of the attack could have saved lives but was withheld to maintain operational security.

### **The Modern Combat of Codes**

Stephenson's involvement in breaking the German Enigma code is a critical focus, with Bletchley Park serving as the epicenter of these efforts. The narrative conveys how the fates of the Allied forces hinged on successful intelligence operations, reinforced by Churchill's insistence on keeping plans against the enemy confidential.

### **Guerrilla Warfare and Resistance Strategies**

As the situation deteriorated for British forces, the formation of guerrilla units and strategies for sabotage became increasingly essential. The chapter introduces William Donovan, who emerged as a vital figure representing Roosevelt's interests while forging cohesive intelligence operations between American and British efforts.

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## Impact of American Involvement

The chapter also highlights Stephenson's urgent mission to secure U.S. military support, emphasizing the importance of unity in the face of the Axis powers' advancing threat. It reveals the intricate dynamics among Churchill,

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