

The German Secret Service

The German Secret Service. The *Abwehr* was led, for most of the war, by Admiral Canaris. The Germans ran their spying operation against Britain and her Allies from Hamburg. Here they monitored their agents' progress once they were sent to their areas of operation. St Erth radio operators were the first to note the existence of well organised groups of short wave stations working on the continent.

The *Abwehr* was staffed by many non Nazis and was not an efficient organisation. Their agents were ill prepared and after being sent to Britain were soon captured and given the choice of becoming double agents or be killed. Most chose to be double agents and their contribution to the Allied victory was incalculable.

The Morse messages sent by the Double Agents to Germany were master minded by an organisation called the **Double Cross System** This organisation ran the Double Agents throughout the war and was hugely successful. **RSS** operators monitored the German responses to the Double Agents radio messages. This gave invaluable insight into the mind of the Nazi war machine. Various estimates have been suggested that the work at Bletchley Park shortened the war by at least two years.

There were many double agents two of the most influential who volunteered to spy for Britain were;

Agent Snow



Arthur Owens was asked to spy for Germany but he volunteered to spy for Britain. From the early years of the war Owens was the main contact for all the German spies sent to Britain. He passed their details to MI5, most of these chose to spy for the British & so furnished Bletchley Park with immeasurably valuable

Park with immensely, valuable information. MI5 never fully trusted Snow; he was more interested in money and women. Eventually he was interred in Dartmoor Prison.

Agent Garbo



Juan Pabola Garcia **MBE** is probably the most influential spy of WW2. He was a Nazi hating Spaniard. Whilst in Lisbon he offered to spy for the Germans and they accepted him. He then went to the British told them what he had done and offered to spy for the allies. The British flew him to London and so commenced an incredible chapter of spying that changed the outcome of the war. He convinced the **German High Command** that he had 29 'sub spies' reporting to him. (all fictitious). He also persuaded the Germans that the allies intended to invade Europe across the Pay-de Calais. The subsequent invasion on the Normandy beaches led to victory in Europe. The lives saved by Garcias work are incalculable. He was called Garbo by his British handlers because of the many 'sub spy' parts he played. The Germans awarded him the Iron Cross, They never suspected his duplicity.

The American connection



William Sebald, a German American, was asked to spy by the **Abwehr** whilst he was visiting his ailing mother in Germany in 1939. His loyalty was with America and he offered to spy for them. He was the principle German agent in America. He was run by the FBI and had almost 30 sub agents reporting to him. The spy ring ran for 18 months and caused a sensation when the FBI eventually closed it down, and it became public knowledge. Hollywood very soon made a film based loosely on Sebald.