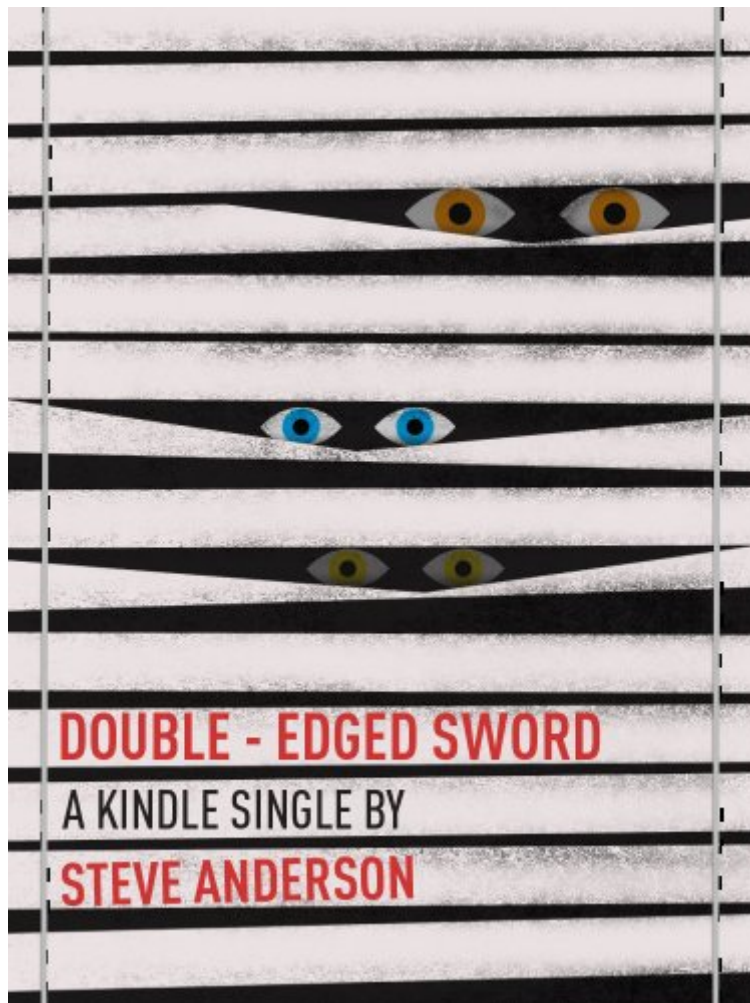


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Double-Edged Sword (Kindle Single)



Synopsis

This concise, fast read tells the true story of a self-made double agent who bluffed his way into the most ambitious Allied deception operation of WWII. In 1942, German military intelligence believed the Spaniard Juan Pujol Garcia was running a formidable spy network for them inside enemy Britain. In reality their man in London was making it all up, from Portugal. Pujol had fooled the Germans all on his own after the British embassies in Madrid and Lisbon rejected his services repeatedly. But soon British intelligence would smuggle the dogged double agent to London and build up his subterfuge under the code name Garbo. In 1944, Pujol aka Garbo took the lead on an elaborate Allied deception campaign that fooled Hitler and his generals about the D-Day invasion and surely saved thousands of lives. *Double-Edged Sword* focuses solely on the most crucial moments of an epic double cross that Pujol was so uniquely built to pull off. It equals about 70 print pages in length.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Steve Anderson has become a first rate author of little-known stories of World War II. His earlier

"The Losing Role" (fiction) and "Sitting Ducks" (nonfiction) were fascinating treatments of Germany's Operation Greif, a secret plan to infiltrate the Allied lines during the Battle of the Bulge in 1944. "Double-Edged Sword" is the story of Spaniard Juan Pujol Garcia, who ran a sham espionage network with the code name "Garbo." For more than three years, double agent Pujol and his network of phony subagents fed false information to the German Abwehr, culminating in a massive deception about the D-Day invasion. It's an absorbing story that the author chose to narrate as "creative nonfiction," where he used meticulously researched facts, filling in the blanks with actions and dialogues that could be reasonably surmised. As such, the story reads much like a novel. Pujol's motivation was his hatred of fascism. After seeing the fascist regime of Francisco Franco emerge after the Spanish Civil War, he was repulsed at the thought of Europe being dominated by fascist Germany. Offering his services to Great Britain, he was repeatedly rebuffed and dismissed, but eventually he was accepted and proceeded to begin operations. To his Abwehr handlers, he was agent "Arabel." For the next three years, he posted or radioed a staggering amount of misleading information to the Germans. The story is full of remarkable tidbits of history. Most amazingly, although the Germans thought he was operating from London, for the first few months of operation, he was actually in Lisbon, Portugal. Eventually, the British brought him to London, and the Abwehr never caught on to the deception. Another interesting piece of the story was the role of Pujol's wife Araceli, who with enthusiastic complicity, prodded him to approach the British with his double agent scheme. Kudos to author Steve Anderson for another superb treatment of a little-known operation of World War II.

Steve Anderson is the author of *Sitting Ducks* (Kindle Single), an expose of scared German soldiers who had exaggerated their English skills in the hopes of getting sent far from the battlefield during the Battle of the Bulge and not the highly trained Nazi killers created by Hollywood writers. He also wrote *The Losing Role* in which a failed German actor is forced to impersonate an American officer during that same battle. In both those works, and in *Double-Edged Sword*, Anderson mixes crime, history, mystery, noir and humor in a very readable fashion. Before reading the basic essay, I urge the reader to glance through Anderson's closing summary entitled "Sources and Storytelling". Some of the passages in the basic essay seem so incredible that it is well worth understanding how well the essay is based in fact. Anderson relied on a summary of the Garbo operation written by Tomas Harris immediately after the war. This summary was secret until 2000 when the British government published it as *GARBO: The Spy Who Saved DDay* (Secret History Files). Anderson also relied on Juan Pujol Garcia's recollections which he published as *Operation Garbo: The Personal Story of the*

Most Successful Spy of World War II. When the two versions didn't match up, Anderson chose the Harris version because it was written soon after the events and because Pujol may have had personal motives for missing information. For example, Pujol never mentioned Garbo's wife, who plays a very important role (roles would be more accurate) in the story, perhaps to protect her. Anderson mentions several other interesting accounts of these and other deceptions during World War II; he and I are both deeply impressed by Ben Macintyre's "consummate case study" Operation Mincemeat, for an analysis of the Abwehr in Spain. He mentions several others -- "Every crumb feeds the story in some way." And what a story it is. I was absolutely enthralled with every page of this essay -- and to think that it is as true as excellent research can make it -- stunning work. Robert C. Ross June 2012

This is a good story about real events during WWII overseas. There's enough historic background to engage readers that like stories from that era or that lived through those times to keep them interested. But the author uses enough suspense and humor to keep the story moving and on track - staying true to the plot so that anyone who likes any type of spy story will also enjoy this short book.

A great little read that tells the true story of an unremarkable Spaniard who emerged from the Spanish Civil War intact but smarting. By thinking globally and acting locally, Sr. Pujol decides to strike a blow for anti-fascism by doggedly re-inventing himself as a WWII double agent, duping the Nazi's and working for the British, by feeding the Germans a steady stream of dis-information. This nifty tale was well researched (see the notes at the end) and fun to read. A story that reminds us how one person can make a difference, however improbably. This is my first Kindle single and I enjoyed the format very much. I enjoy vertical history (a narrow focus on a smaller event that helps to illuminate a broader topic) and this format lends itself wonderfully to the genre. Mr. Anderson sheds a bright light on a very obscure but very key thread of the WWII narrative and does it in an engaging, entertaining and laconic manner. At 75 pages, Double-Edged Sword was a great way to spend a rainy Sunday afternoon. Bravo, Senor Anderson.

I enjoyed this book very much and found the subject, double agent Juan Pajol, an amazing person. Motivated to fight fascism in any form the Spaniard volunteered his services to the British and formed a significant portion of Britian's disinformation campaign during WWII. One should also read "D for Deception" as a companion book to this one. A. C.

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