

**Three Men with a Martini**  
**Respectfully read at the Literary Club of Cincinnati**  
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Three men sit shoulder to shoulder staring, listening, one martini, two martinis, into the third delicious martini. They stare, they listen, they wait. Huddled together in a gigantic luxury apartment overlooking Central Park, what is it that brings together a British aristocrat masquerading as a nobody, a man born to poverty masquerading an aristocrat and a Jewish musical writer together to see if they successfully deceived an American president into duping the American people?

They stare at the radio as if it were about to move. The announcement comes, the president will begin momentarily – his Navy Day Address, October 27, 1941.

From the White House:

*“Five months ago tonight I proclaimed to the American people the existence of a state of unlimited emergency...”*

As the president drones on, the men listen, look to each other with bone-deep anticipation. One turns to the other and asks “Do you think he bought it? Do you think he knows it’s a forgery? Do you think if he knows, he will say it anyway? Did we actually bamboozle him?”

The president rolls on... And then it happens!

*“I have in my possession a secret map made in Germany by Hitler's government, by the planners of the new world order. It is a map of South America and a part of Central America, as Hitler proposes to reorganize it.*

The president is telling the American people about the map! The forgery worked. Now, will it move the American people? The president continues...

*And they have also so arranged it that the territory of one of these new puppet states includes the Republic of Panama and our great lifeline - the Panama Canal.*

*That is his plan. It will never go into effect.*

*This map makes clear the Nazi design not only against South America but against the United States itself.*

The speech continues but the men turn down the radio to assess what they just heard. They're stunned. Additionally, the German intelligence agencies are stunned. Germany had no more knowledge of this plan than the American people.

Eric, our Jewish musical writer, leans back in his chair, his eyes gaze into the distance, he smiles, turns to his comrades and states clearly and loudly, "This will certainly bust old Hans' chops. Hans may have gotten a head start, but we are getting his goat now."

Ian, our ranked aristocrat posing as commoner, stares intently back. "Do you think Roosevelt bought it? He must know it is a forgery. He and Donovan both know there are no U.S. agents in South America to intercept such a map. Roosevelt took a great risk by doing this, God bless him."

William, the Canadian commoner projecting as an aristocrat, turns and stares at them both, "It does not matter if he believes it or not, it only matters that the American people believe it."

Three dedicated MI6 agents all ponder the same question, would it move the needle of American opinion about entering the war? As the speech was being broadcast, Britain had been at war over 750 days, over 7,000,000 tons of shipping had been lost, Russian casualties exceeded 3,000,000, over 50,000 British citizen had died in the Blitz and the Gallup Poll "Should the United States enter the war now?" was less than 25%.

They had quite a hill to climb. America just could not seem to get on the train to join the British to liberate Europe.

So, who was this team of British agents bamboozling our president, and who was their enemy, Hans?

Ian Fleming, born to privilege and power of the high wealth of Britain, product of the finest schools, superbly educated, sophisticated family, father was a member of Parliament, grandfather was a leading investor known to all of Europe, presents in an ordinary dull suit with no indication he was a colonel in MI6.

William Stephenson, born above a brothel in the poorest district of Pointe Douglas, Winnipeg, Manitoba. His parents so poor he was given up to foster-care and adopted. He joined World War I to see the world and escape his poverty. He

reinvented himself as a sophisticated aristocrat, made millions in inventions and investing, married an American tobacco heiress, and developed an impressive intelligence network of his own through his businesses. That brings British Prime Minister Winston Churchill to send him to New York to lead the effort to change American public opinion as an agent of MI6.

Eric Maschwitz, Jewish Oscar-nominated songwriter of Broadway and London, writing songs by day and leading forgers at night. He was recruited into MI6 in 1939 and was sent to New York City in 1940 to work under Stephenson. Maschwitz was not the best of forgers, but he knew how to find them.

Three men, part of an influence campaign that ultimately takes multiple floors of Rockefeller Center in New York City with the sole purpose of bringing the U.S. into world War II. A massive propaganda machine that operated in plain sight.

So, who was this Hans that our trio of MI6 agents and nearly a thousand employees sought to undermine by conning the American people?

Hans Thomsen of the German embassy had been waging a broad, well-developed, isolationist, propaganda driven, America-First campaign since 1938. Born in Hamburg Germany in 1891 to an affluent, connected family, he became a career diplomat. He rose to be number two in the Washington embassy and loved the parties and the limelight. So much so that he was often reprimanded for his opulent lifestyle and threatened to be recalled. In November of 1938, Germany instituted the nightmare “Kristallnacht,” raining terror on the Jews of Germany. In protest, Roosevelt recalled the U. S. ambassador and the Germans did the same. This vaulted Thomsen to number one and he understood exactly what was coming. He could either clean up his act and become relevant or get recalled and spend the war in Europe. He made it his mission to do whatever it took to stay, safely, in the U.S.

Thomsen understood that the State Department was full of bumbling bureaucrats dedicated to keeping their titles who disliked Roosevelt, so he knew they could be played. He wined and dined them regularly. He had watched the totally inept role they played with the British to keep Italy out of the Axis Alliance in early 1939. The State Department would be his unknowing ally. He could turn them into his own police force to smoke out the British agents and they proved enthusiastic participants.

He developed a campaign of influence that touched every level of American society. Americans were being used as unknowing agents of the German propaganda machine. It only took a handful of isolationists and sympathizers in

the right positions to create the massive movement in public opinion needed to keep the U.S. out of the war. Sadly, for Britain, Hans had a well-funded, multi-year head start on Stephenson and his team.

They each sought the same prize— us, the USA.

It was a brutal battle between two conniving forces; one to bring the U.S. into the war and one to keep the U.S. out. The war in Europe would be won or lost by the outcome of our decision. The logistical planners in Berlin knew this as fact.

America had no idea of its power. Heading into 1939, the U.S. had a standing army of about 189,000, smaller than Bulgaria, an understaffed Navy and outdated planes. Germany fielded an army of 4.4 million and it appeared that Britain would be the loser. Why worry about America? American was weak and did not back losers.

Military planners understood the United States was the ultimate prize. In 1939-40 US-made 5 million cars a year - number one in the world. Produced 80 million tons of steel with capacity for over 200 million tons - number one in the world. Shipbuilding produced 100,000 tons, with capacity of 2 million tons - number one in the world. Seventy million Americans were between the ages of 16 and 45, mobilization age. The number that would fight or man the factories was larger than the entire citizenry of Germany. We were the prize; it was that simple.

On the other front of brewing hostilities was Japan. Their high leadership saw the U.S. as a cesspool of mixed breeds who would flee and hide from the noble and racially superior Japanese soldier. Unlike the Japanese leadership, both Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto – known for his famous quote of waking a sleeping giant after the Pearl Harbor attack – and General Tadamichi Kuribayashi – known for his tenacious leadership, tactics and self-sacrifice in the defense of Iwo Jima – had lived in the United States, traveled extensively and attended Harvard. They had both warned their leadership not to underestimate the resilience and adaptability of the American people. They wrote that we would go from peacetime to war “with the flick of a switch.” They understood we were a powerful tribe that unites around a common vision, not around our origin. We would unite as one, use our resources to relentlessly defend ourselves with a vigor the arrogant Japanese leadership did not and could not understand.

But, in 1939-40 it was not clear what we would do. The British attempted to appeal to our sense of justice, show the atrocities, convince us it was in our best interest, get us past our “leave us alone attitude” and hide the fact they were doing

it. The Germans attempted to convince us they were really good guys, they were not a threat, they were not our fight, appeal to and reinforce our “leave us alone attitude” and hide the fact they were doing it.

America had no idea of the extensive and complex propaganda machines that were driving their actions, behavior and opinions.

Unlike the movies, there was little evidence of blackmail, honey traps or direct influence on the American citizens. Instead, they showered the leading and influential Americans with praise, trust, friendship, access, information and opportunities to promote their own causes. The German Hans Thomsen let them think what they were doing was patriotic, then they would do all the dirty work for him. All he needed to do was let them be driven by their own sense of patriotism. A polite form of inspiring the “useful idiot” to promote his propaganda.

One of Thomsen’s first stops was Congress. He wined and dined them regularly and knew which ones had whispered their “sympathy and support” for Germany into his ear. Thomsen concocted a great plan to use the U. S. taxpayer to spread German propaganda. He conspired to use the Congressional franking privilege that allowed a member of Congress to send mail without postage and then the post office was reimbursed with taxpayer funds.

Thomsen would have a supportive member of Congress either read into the congressional record on a slow afternoon or ask the clerk to add to the record a nicely written piece positive about Germany – it didn’t matter if it was true or not, it just needed to express how “good” Germany was for Europe. Once in the Congressional record, the sympathetic congressman, in this case most of the mail came from the isolationist member from New York, Hamilton Fish III. Fish would then have the articles reproduced by the government, at taxpayer expense, up to print runs of a million copies. Then they would be mailed at taxpayer expense using the “Franking” privilege, sent to massive lists and pre-printed envelopes clandestinely supplied by the German embassy. Millions of Americans thought that the German situation was vastly different than it was, all driven by a propaganda machine started in Berlin through the German embassy into our Congress and right into our mailboxes at our expense. Thomsen received high marks from Berlin for figuring out how to have the Americans pay for the German propaganda. His prospects of staying in D.C. looked exceptionally good.

Thomsen had also found an ally in the State Department, Adolf Berle, to investigate so-called “British” influence while in charge of intelligence activities. How perfect! Thomsen was able, as an agent of German propaganda, to get the American government, at taxpayer expense, to go after his adversaries on the

British side. Again, Berlin gave Thomsen high marks for his ability to manipulate others at their own expense.

What better person to forward your cause than a True American Hero?!

Charles Lindbergh was Thomsen's greatest success. America loves to back a winner, so Thomsen's agents convinced Lindbergh to show America that Britain could not win. The German high command took Lindbergh on tours of the German aviation fields and factories through the late 30s. Wooed him with access to information, all carefully crafted to make them seem invincible and technologically advanced far beyond their actual status. When Lindbergh returned, believing Germany would win Europe and was unbeatable, he saw it as his patriotic duty to save America from this terrible loss. He became one of the most powerful "useful idiots" in Thomson's cupboard of unknowing collaborators.

To cement Lindbergh's commitment, at his regular social gatherings with his dear friends, they prodded him on to lead America away from the dismal fate of a losing war; men dying for nothing and a terrible drain on our economy. Little did he know that many of those friends were German agents. One of Lindbergh's most influential associates was Joseph Kennedy who thought Britain was lost and was brutally anti-Semitic. Kennedy successfully reinforced all Lindbergh's fears for America.

The rise of the American first movement established in the summer of 1940 was the perfect vehicle by which to take Lindbergh and launch him to an entirely new level. Founded by Yale law students including Potter Stewart, Gerald Ford and Sargent Shriver. The movement was supported by many including John F. Kennedy, Robert McCormick and Frank Lloyd Wright. It grew to 800,000 members all dedicated to protecting America and avoiding foreign wars. At many of the rallies, students swore an oath that they would never accept a draft and never go fight in a foreign war. The rallies were set up as massive patriotic events with flags, bands, pre-speakers, post-speakers and a host of influences to convince the participant that the only way to be a true patriot for America was to stay out of the war. Thomsen was having great success. Despite word leaking out about the atrocities and civilian deaths, Gallup showed less than one in five Americas favored sending an army to Europe. Thomsen was on a roll.

Many, if not most, of the posters and full-page ads taken in national publications were fully paid for from the German embassy through shell businesses and straw men to promote the illusion of a gigantic cause driven by a propaganda machine upon an unsuspecting public. Isolationist members of Congress were

more than willing to have their names put on the bottom thinking they were supporting their patriotic duty.

Thomsen was so successful that American agents offered him a \$1,000,000 bribe to expose his cohorts, then leaked it, hoping Germany would recall him for fear Thomsen would take the money.

Much of what made Thomsen's work easy was that the British were woefully behind. Their presence in North America was practically nonexistent. Prior to Stephenson taking charge, the effort had been a dismal, tiny office with a handful of staff held back by a virtual paranoia of being found out. Thomsen was acting with virtual impunity from his diplomatic position, working with cunning and spirit, while his British counterpart was a boring aristocrat who preferred hunting to actually doing any work. One of the British ambassador's statements to the press was "Britain's bust, it's your money we want." Churchill was furious, Roosevelt was furious and even Thomsen was stunned at the stupidity of his counterpart. It was not a fair game and Churchill knew it.

After being impressed by Stephenson's personal network of spies, the British intelligence service sent him to New York in June of 1940 to try to undo the damage being done by Thomsen and sway American opinion toward the Brits. Had you met Stephenson on the ship, you would have found a small, well-mannered and dressed man who was fully engaged and likable. He was most certainly a successful businessman on his way to America. As he walked off the ship, he had the luck of no one knowing who he was or why he was there. He certainly meant business, but not how his fellow passengers thought as they waved goodbye to this delightful man from England.

He was instructed to investigate the enemy, uncover any sabotage plans and change U.S. opinion about aid to Britain. When he arrived, he was sad to find the tiny stuffy office, threadbare furnishings, outdated and non-functional equipment at a terrible location, and an exhausted staff. There was no money and the central government in Britain was afraid to give him the autonomy he needed.

He stood there in sad awe. It was his first day in New York, but Britain had been at war for 370 days, the Blitz had begun, Allied shipping had lost 2 ½ million tons, the RAF had lost 792 planes, Nazi atrocities were mounting and in the most recent Gallup poll only a scant few Americans supported going to war. He decided to take things into his own hands. He would start his own efforts, then ask for forgiveness later – maybe.

With his own money Stephenson rented a giant lavish apartment in New York City overlooking Central Park. He bought top-of-the-line equipment,

increased his people's salaries and moved them to his apartment. The morale improved dramatically. Among their first efforts was to send "clippings" of articles to many different news agencies. If they were lucky, the articles would be picked up by a few agencies and then the rest would pile on. Being first was often more important than being right in the news business so they got the benefit of "circular reporting." That is where news or information appears to come from multiple sources but in fact comes from only one. It is a great way to spread "false news." The Germans and the British were both particularly good at it leading up to the war.

Despite some small successes, the tiny little organization just would not get the job done. So, Stephenson started his own work to change public opinion. America was a big place so he knew he would need a big plan, a big team and a big centralized office. He hired more staff through a Canadian agency to insure secrecy. Stephenson then rented, at his own expense, whole floors in Rockefeller Center for his new, ever growing, team. His minders in London were flabbergasted that he had rented space in such a public area. Stephenson had a simple view; what better place to hide a sea of people coming and going who look like clerks than in a place full of people coming and going that look like clerks? His reputation as a spymaster was growing.

As much as he had plan for manipulating the press and public opinion, he still needed contacts to stay in communication with the right people in government. He knew Hoover and Roosevelt were sympathetic. With Hoover it would be easy to get a foothold for communication, but Roosevelt was watched. Unlike Thomsen, Stephenson was not the centerpiece of fancy parties around D.C. so it was much more challenging.

For President Roosevelt he had Vincent Astor, the fellow New York millionaire, who could come and go as he pleased to the White House because everyone assumed he was simply Franklin's friend. He also used James Roosevelt, FDR's son, as a successful intermediary. With those two onboard, Stephenson's espionage campaign could communicate easily to the White House without being noticed.

America had extraordinarily little of an espionage organization so William Donovan, the wildly popular Medal of Honor recipient from WWII known as "Wild Bill" Donovan, was charged by the president in 1940 to develop one. In July of 1941, Donovan founded the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) which evolved into our modern CIA. For this go-between, Stephenson used Col. Fleming. As Col. Fleming was an active MI6 officer, he gave Donovan a steady stream of advice on how to build an intelligence agency. What a coincidence that the New

York office of the OSS, Room 3603, was not only in the same building as Stephenson's operation but on the same floor.

Stephenson, Fleming and Donovan together created a new agency that specialized in clandestine, subversive and even offensive operations in conjunction with the British. Only the Brits would have a "Ministry of Un-Gentlemanly Warfare." The trio came up with many ingenious plots through World War II.

Another powerful ally was Herbert Hoover, who used his own agents as contacts to come and go as they pleased. Secrecy was a must for the operation, the State Department, bent on staying neutral and full of leakers who wished to tarnish Roosevelt were watching endlessly to expose the British influence. They were constantly being wined and dined by the German officials. They had investigators everywhere so as large as the operation was, it had to remain incredibly quiet.

By the winter of 1940, there was an all-out PR war between Hans Thompson and William Stevenson. There were contravening radio broadcasts. One for America in and one for America out, all led by well-respected Americans believing they were doing their patriotic duty. They were all egged on by their subversive supporters bound to one foreign influence or another.

Extensive articles were published favorable to Britain and exaggerating German atrocities that were countered by the Germans using the franking system to tell voters how to write their congressman, how wonderful Germany was and how solid their position was in Europe. Selected clergy were found and financed to go on the radio and suggested their audience write their congressman to stay out of the war. Thomsen was successfully stirring up anti-Semitic sentiment in many churches. Lindbergh testified before Congress to stay out and keep it that way. We could be at peace with the unified German Europe.

America has had a centuries-old problem of the media wanting to be first over being right in order to grab the headline to peddle their papers, then radio, then TV and now the internet. Back in the 1700s, you could be fined up to 2,000 pounds of tobacco or a thousand pounds sterling for being a "Divulger of False News." As the politicians were afraid of the newspapers of the day, they put the onus on the source, not the publishing entity, for the responsibility of checking to see if it was true. This tradition was perfect for feeding "false news" to the news outlets to promote your cause and an impressive amount of "false news" made its way into our mainstream press. Whole news organizations became tools of the influence campaign and Thomsen went on to bribe quite a few more to help the process.

Stephenson's media wing generated up to 40 articles a day distributed to newspapers and national magazines all over North America. Many of the articles were truthful, some were based in fact and then exaggerated, others were complete falsehoods. The British were afraid of Americans thinking they were losers so they created impressive articles detailing victorious battles and espionage events that never happened. These were intended to leave the impression that Britain can win. By sending the news releases to many papers and having the British press run them in headline form, many U. S. papers would just run them, assuming everyone else had verified the facts. Britain played on the American newspaper desire to be first to the headline, fix the factual errors later or just move on never saying another word about conveying false news. Stephenson built an entire department for forgeries and one ended up on President Roosevelt's desk.

The information received from his agent neatly tucked deep into the Gallup organization helped Stephenson better understand the polling and its errors. With his expanded platform he began to counterattack Charles Lindbergh's America First organization with speeches by the immensely popular General John Pershing who led the national movement to save Europe. For each article that Thomsen put out, two more were generated from Stephen's writers. To counter the German false stories, they wrote their own false stories, lots of false stories – it was genuinely exciting to read about all the amazing British raids that never happened!

Stephenson's team was exceptionally good at staging incidents at the America First rallies. They would pass out free beer and liquor to the groups of men standing outside the halls where Lindbergh would be speaking and get them all riled up. Then they'd tip off the media of an incident and as the cameras were arriving a stream of well-dressed women with "Save Europe" signs would arrive. The disorderly men would attack the ladies and with perfect timing the headline of the paper the next day showed men punching women and no information on the rally itself. The manipulation of the media and their blind complicity with their limited efforts to check the facts was truly impressive.

Even as the massive PR campaign was very slowly moving the needle, Roosevelt knew from Churchill that England needed help now, not later. With the advice from Harry Hopkins and Bill Donovan, Roosevelt proposed the Lend-Lease program. A program where the U. S. could supply food, oil and war materials to Great Britain, Free France, China and later the Soviet Union without them having to come up with the cash. It was a creative way to skirt the neutrality laws but getting through the isolationist Senate would be a real challenge. But he had a secret partner in moving the Senate.

As the debate raged on in early 1941, Britain had been at war for 600 days. Allied shipping losses had exceeded 6 million tons, the Blitz had killed over 43,000 British citizens. The most recent Gallup poll asked if we should send an army to Europe. With all the atrocities and horror only 21% of America agreed.

President Roosevelt was extremely sensitive to Gallup's polling and carefully navigated his speeches and political moves not to go against the public opinion of the time. Despite the apparent lack of will for the American people to defend Europe, Roosevelt did many things to infuriate both Germany and Japan. Stephenson had heard from one of his covert liaisons with Roosevelt, millionaire Vincent Astor, that he would act to bring the United States into the war. With the polls seeming against war, he needed to prod our adversaries into starting the fight.

As Germany claimed rights to the Atlantic, Roosevelt moved the "line" in the Atlantic several times, placing war ships in what Germany called their war zone. He sent Bill Donovan to Europe in a very public way to work with the British on mutual defense plans. He sent troops to Greenland and moved ships to Iceland. Every time the Germans backed down but he was poking them with a stick as hard as he could. Roosevelt poked the bear, but the bear stayed quiet. He cut oil and steel from the Japanese, infuriating their leadership. He poked that bear too, and it too stayed quiet – for a time.

Roosevelt's constant poking of the German and Japanese regimes flew in the face of public opinion – or did it? Were the Gallup polls accurate?

The Gallup organization was very well respected. Their consistency of predicting outcomes and elections in measuring public opinion was next to none. Professor Gallup of Princeton was disciplined, strict and followed his rules to the letter. He had under his wing, on loan from Britain, a sharp young apprentice by the name of David Ogilvy. A bright fellow who was learning and excelling at the art of polling. Little did Gallup know that David Ogilvy worked for MI6. Ogilvy had tremendous admiration for Gallup's methods, but he felt that the order of the questions and how they were worded had far more of a dramatic impact on the conclusions than did his mentor. Gallup would ask should we go to war, and very few gave a positive result. Ogilvy, through a series of small polls asked the question "Will we go to war?" That gave a vastly different answer, 85% of America felt we would go to war. Gallup would have nothing to do with the ridiculous results, but Ogilvy understood what it meant. America did not want to go to war, who would? But she would go when it was time.

Ogilvy, a Brit, understood the American mind better than we Americans did. All you must do was look back at our history. In the 1830s and 40s, a French

aristocrat named Alexis de Tocqueville toured America and wrote about it. He marveled at how government was so local, we made our decisions together, we rallied around each other combining resources and talent for the public good as well as our neighbors.

Boiled down from parts of his 836 page work, de Tocqueville admired at how we shared our knowledge for the betterment of everyone, we would risk our lives to protect our community, we would never use force against our own people, we were brutally individualistic but longed to associate for a better good. Ask an American if he wanted to give away his shirt he would say no, but he would gladly give it away for the better good. He predicted that when the rest of the world saw how we lived; the aristocratic structures would fall. How right he was. What de Tocqueville recognized was that we behaved like an enormous, supportive tribe. In Sebastian Junger's book *Tribe*, he defined a tribe as "a community that you live in that you share resources with those you would risk your life to defend." Junger went on to explain that we did not mind hardship, in fact we thrived on it; what we minded was not feeling necessary. We were brutally independent but behave like a tribe when threatened. We thrive on a noble cause and we would turn on our war effort at the flick of a switch. Yamamoto understood it, Kuribayashi understood it, many in the German military understood it, David Ogilvy understood it but Gallup and the media did not.

This knowledge was passed on to MI6 in Bermuda, back through Col. Fleming to Bill Donovan then onto President Roosevelt. The president understood that Americans did not want to go to war but would go when the calling came. They just needed a noble nudge. A young MI6 agent planted on Professor Gallup's doorstep gave President Roosevelt the confidence to know we would act when the time came. Now, how do we get that time to sooner rather than later? Britain must not fall or we wouldn't have a launching pad for freeing Europe.

Through the winter 40 and into 41 the debate raged back and forth through Congress and it seemed as if the movement to pass Lend-Lease was lost. Despite frantic calls from Winston Churchill to his friend Franklin Roosevelt, Roosevelt was not able to provide him a single ounce of support.

No matter how well the efforts were going from the floors of Rockefeller Center, they would not matter if Britain was lost. Roosevelt knew we needed to support Britain but held back until after the election in the fall of 1940. Wendell Willkie had strong support for his isolationist stand and Roosevelt could not risk turning the reins of the U. S. over to him. So as Lend-Lease came up, Roosevelt used a plan developed by Stephenson and Donovan to get it done.

Under a strong suggestion sent through his mistress, Willkie did a tour of Britain after his loss. It moved him greatly. The day before Roosevelt was to be sworn in for his fourth term, Wilke and Roosevelt had a private meeting that, by Roosevelt's son's account, went quite well. The next day, Willkie met with Stephenson in New York to share information he learned from the president and lend support to Britain. The meeting was reported in one newspaper but it was written off as "false news." The details of that private meeting, unknown to U. S. historians for decades, was recorded in detail by British intelligence, declassified in 2013 and is now in the National Archives.

Lend-Lease was the ticket to keeping Britain alive until we entered the war. All seemed lost until the final discussions when Willkie came to the microphone at the hearings before Congress. Wendell Willkie gave an impassioned speech that "Roosevelt is my president now and we must support this bill or millions will die before they give up their island. We must help the British. It is our duty." When the antiwar candidate Willkie came out in favor of Lend-Lease, the votes were swayed and the first step towards saving Britain was accomplished. Yes, the staunch isolationist Republican candidate of 1940 worked in concert with President Roosevelt and MI6.

Even though the Gallup polls were not moving much, Thomsen felt his lead over the British starting to diminish and the America First movement was losing steam. There had been some success with the anti-Semitic radio preachers that Thomsen had financed so under the urging of Berlin it was decided to add this to their mix. Who better to weave it into the crowd-pleasing speeches than Charles Lindbergh?

Lindbergh had been slowly swayed by close friends that "Jewish influence" was the underlying force moving America away from isolation. On September 11<sup>th</sup>, 1941 Lindbergh gave a speech in Des Moines, Iowa that was his undoing. He called out American Jews, inferred conspiracy and proclaimed many things such as "Their greatest danger to this country lies in their large ownership and influence in our motion pictures, our press, our radio and our government." His effort to turn American opinion against the Jews was a disaster. Americans don't turn on other Americans. He was rebuked at every level, America First parted company with him, Roosevelt stripped him of his commission in the Air Force, Willkie denounced him, much of his family denounced him, even his home town took his name off local buildings. Stephenson had not come up with a successful strategy to derail America First but there was nothing better than a massive, self-inflicted wound to bust up a movement! America First never recovered from Lindbergh's blunder.

As the Germans and the Japanese were not being cooperative about creating an incident, Stephenson, Fleming and Donovan dreamed up the idea of making the threat much more real. They plotted to forge a map and occupation plan of Nazi intentions for South America. Then they concocted a story of Bill Donovan's OSS agents capturing it in a bold and decisive action. Then presented it to the president to share with the American people. Eric Maschwitz, our music writer by day and forger by night, put together his team and they forged the map and plans. Donovan delivered them and they passed inspection as "genuine," much to the surprise of the forging team. Roosevelt hoped it would move the opinion of the American people and create an incident. Roosevelt's radio address on October 27, 1941 covered all the torrid details. Three men listened intently from a luxury apartment while sipping delicious martinis from Stephenson's special recipe.

The next month, Gallup finally gave in to changing the nature of his polls. The question was rephrased to ask if we were going to eventually end up in a war in Europe. The results were a staggering change, 85% of America felt we were on our way to war, no surprise to Ogilvy. Just as de Tocqueville had described centuries before and Ogilvy picked up a year earlier, Americans did not want to go to war but were ready when the time came.

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941, President Roosevelt got his "swipe from the bear" and the tribe awoke. The images of the unprovoked attack on Pearl Harbor flicked the switch that Yamamoto and Kuribayashi had warned their superiors about.

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, Germany declared war on the United States and the following day we reciprocated. The greatest foreign influence campaign ever waged on American soil came to its natural end. It is unknown how much their efforts moved the needle; based on the work from Ogilvy, it might not have been necessary but most likely better prepared us for the inevitable. We did not want to go to war, but we were ready to go to war. Something Roosevelt understood far better than the media of the day.

We are a brutally independent people, until threatened. On the day of infamy, we united as the most powerful tribe on earth and the tyrants fell. We did not need a PR campaign for us to learn what was right; we already knew.

The vast propaganda machine built by the British on American soil may have come to an end, but the effort to win the war did not.

Three years, nine months and nine days later it was over. Our army in '39 of 189,000 had grown to over 12 million in uniform. Every fear Yamamoto and Kuribayashi had about starting a war with the U. S. had come true: the tribe awoke and the Third Reich and Empire of the Sun were no more.

## Epilogue

The conversation at the start of this paper was a creation to set the stage for the story and reflect the sentiment these men carried. All other content, Roosevelt's speech, the map, the men, events and outcomes are all documented history.

David Ogilvy, William Stevenson and Eric Maschwitz all went on to Camp X in Canada and did espionage work through the war.

William Stevenson, the self-made millionaire born to a brothel parading as an aristocrat, retired to the Bahamas and was rarely seen in public again. He had it specifically written in his will that upon his demise, no one was to know until well after he was buried. He died at his estate, Goldeneye, in Bermuda in 1989 at the age of 92. He wanted no fanfare and no recognition. He was a changed man.

Eric Maschwitz went back to writing, continued in London as a successful writer of songs and musicals, ultimately becoming president of the London Theatre Guild. He appeared unscathed despite by being blown up twice in the Blitz and enduring years of stressful espionage work. He died in 1969 at age 68.

Ian Fleming left the service in 1945 after engaging in many espionage missions through the war. My research would lead one to believe that the "larger than life" image of "Wild Bill" Donovan blended with the sophisticated, aristocratic air of William Stephenson became the basis for his most famous fictional character: James Bond. Fleming often enjoyed his time with Stephenson drinking Stephenson's delicious special martini recipe – shaken not stirred. He, as did Stephenson, had an estate named Goldeneye but in Jamaica. Sadly, Fleming was a heavy smoker and drinker and died of a heart attack in 1964. He was only 56.

"Wild Bill" Donovan, the larger than life Medal of Honor recipient from WWI, used all the insights and information he gleaned from working with Ian Fleming of MI6 to create the CIA out of his original charge from Roosevelt to create America's premier spy agency. Donovan's unique combination as bold innovator and imprudent rule bender made him the perversely perfect founder of American espionage. His underlings, such as William Casey, Allen Dulles and William Colby later became major figures in the CIA. Sadly, he was stricken with vascular dementia and died in 1959 at 76.

David Ogilvy came out of the war, decided he had had enough of the brutality of men and spent two years living with the Amish in Pennsylvania to clear his mind. He ultimately concluded that he was a New Yorker at heart, left

the farm, founded Ogilvy and Mather to become one of the most successful advertising agencies in the history of the world. He died in 1999 at age 88 in his chateau in France.

These are just a few of the amazing men who shined in the darkest of times.

Hans Thomsen, the villain from the German embassy, was recalled to Germany at the beginning of World War II and positioned himself to be placed safely in Sweden. He went on to head the Red Cross in Germany and died in 1968 at the age of 77.

Hamilton Fish III, the number one leader for the illegal franking program, blamed his Chief of Staff, George Hill. Hill took the fall, but most assumed Fish was behind it. Fish was voted out of office in 1945, victimized by his own actions and branded as a Nazi sympathizer. He died at the ripe old age of 102 in 1991 claiming to his death that he was protecting American, he was not a Nazi supporter.

What happened to our leading supporters of the America First movement?

John F. Kennedy, U.S. Navy, 35<sup>th</sup> president.

Gerald Ford, U.S. Navy, 38<sup>th</sup> president.

Potter Stewart, U.S. Navy, Supreme Court justice.

Sargent Shriver, U.S. Navy, founding director of the Peace Corps.

Charles Lindbergh, banished from military service by Roosevelt for his anti-Semitism, became an Air Force civilian consultant. He flew over 50 combat missions in the Pacific and was credited with shortening the Pacific war with his technological advances. He stayed active in civic and environmental causes until his death on Maui in 1974 at age 72.

The German and Japanese leadership had a fatal misunderstanding of America. They saw being a “tribe” as ethnic, not cultural. They didn’t understand that our tribe was an American tribe. Author Sebastian Junger reminds us, as true today as ever, that what we mind is not feeling necessary, we thrive on necessary. WWII gave us the most noble cause of necessity. As de Tocqueville observed over 200 years earlier, we are brutally independent but when threatened we behave as the most noble and powerful tribe on earth.

Who would believe that the largest foreign influence campaign to motivate us to war ever waged in America included co-conspirators of both presidential candidates of 1940, J. Edgar Hoover of the FBI and Bill Donovan of the OSS?

The fate of the free world as we know it, may have been determined out of Rockefeller Center, led from a luxury apartment overlooking Central Park, by three men with a martini?