



Agent Garbo: The Brilliant, Eccentric Secret Agent Who Tricked Hitler and Saved D-Day

By Stephan Talty

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Were the D-Day landings saved from failure because of a lone secret agent?

Agent Garbo tells the astonishing story of a self-made secret agent who matched wits with the best minds of the Third Reich — and won. Juan Pujol was a nobody, a Barcelona poultry farmer determined to oppose the Nazis. Using only his gift for daring falsehoods, Pujol became Germany's most valued agent — or double agent: it took four tries before the British believed he was really on the Allies' side.

In the guise of Garbo, Pujol turned in a masterpiece of deception worthy of his big-screen namesake. He created an imaginary million-man army, invented armadas out of thin air, and brought a vast network of fictional subagents whirring to life. His unwitting German handlers believed every word, and banked on Garbo's lies as their only source of espionage within Great Britain.

For his greatest performance, Pujol had to convince the German High Command that the D-Day invasion of Normandy was a feint and the real attack was aimed at Calais. The Nazis bought it, turning the tide of battle at the crucial moment.

Based on years of archival research and interviews with Pujol's family, *Agent Garbo* is a true-life thriller set in the shadow world of espionage and deception.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Juan Pujol is deserving of this biography, which captures not only his humanity, but also his humanism. Stephan **Talty has delivered a beautiful report of every impossible day of Pujol's life**, and AGENT GARBO is a confirmation of Donne's devotional, that 'when one man dies, one chapter is not torn out of the book, but translated into a better language.'"

--The Atlantic

"Talty gives us an appreciably richer picture not only of Pujol but also of an interwar period that could produce someone willing and able to undertake the duplicity required of a double agent. Along the way, **the author captures the chilling realities of bloody battlefields, tense war rooms and besieged London. Elegantly crafted.**"

--The Wall Street Journal

"A wonderful book for WWII buffs, **a true-life spy thriller** with about as much intrigue and excitement as you'd find in a le Carré novel."

--Booklist (starred)

"The exciting, improbable adventures of a young Spanish spy who managed to become Britain's most effective tool in deceiving Hitler. **A lively, rollicking good read.**"

--Kirkus Reviews

"**Epic intelligence coups of WWII unreel in this colorful caper saga.** Talty's Pujol is a captivating character with a talent for operatic confabulation, but Garbo is just the alluring lead in massive deceptions that the author likens to Hollywood productions, complete with rubber tanks, fake ships, and a Montgomery impersonator. The result is **a rollicking story of wartime eccentrics and their labyrinthine mind games.**"

--Publishers Weekly, starred

"AGENT GARBO is the fascinating story of a man whose wit, cunning, and steely nerves made the Allied victory possible in World War II. Stephan **Talty's unsurpassed research brings forth one of the war's greatest agents in a must-read book for those who think they know all the great World War II stories.**"

— Gregory Freeman, author of The Forgotten 500

From the Back Cover

The book presses ever forward down a path of historical marvels and astonishing facts. The effect is like a master class that's accessible to anyone, and "Agent Garbo" often reads as though it were written in a single, perfect draft. "The Atlantic"

Before he remade himself as the master spy known as Garbo, Juan Pujol was nothing more than a Barcelona poultry farmer. But as Garbo, he turned in a masterpiece of deception that changed the course of World War II. Posing as the Nazis' only reliable spy inside England, he created an imaginary million-man army, invented armadas out of thin air, and brought a vast network of fictional subagents to life. The scheme culminated on June 6, 1944, when Garbo convinced the Germans that the Allied forces approaching Normandy were just a feint; the real invasion would come at Calais. Because of his brilliant trickery, the Allies were able to land with much less opposition and eventually push on to Berlin.

As incredible as it sounds, everything in Agent Garbo is true, based on years of archival research and

interviews with Pujol's family. This pulse-pounding thriller set in the shadow world of espionage and deception reveals the shocking reality of spycraft that occurs just below the surface of history.

Stephan Talty's unsurpassed research brings forth one of the war's greatest agents in a must-read book for those who think they know all the great World War II stories. Gregory Freeman, author of "The Forgotten 500"

[AU PHOTO] STEPHAN TALTY has contributed reporting to the "New York Times Magazine," GQ, "Details," and many other publications. He is the author of "Escape from the Land of Snows," the best-selling "Empire of Blue Water," *The Illustrious Dead*, and "Mulatto America."

About the Author

Stephan Talty is the award-winning author of *Agent Garbo*, *Empire of Blue Water*, and other best-selling works of narrative nonfiction. His books have been made into two films, the Oscar-winning *Captain Phillips* and *Granite Mountain*. He is also the author of two psychological thrillers, including the *New York Times* bestseller *Black Irish*, set in his hometown of Buffalo. He has written for the *New York Times Magazine*, *GQ*, and many other publications. Talty now lives outside New York City with his family.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kevin Swafford:

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a wander, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book eligible Agent Garbo: The Brilliant, Eccentric Secret Agent Who Tricked Hitler and Saved D-Day? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have other opinion?

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The publication with title Agent Garbo: The Brilliant, Eccentric Secret Agent Who Tricked Hitler and Saved D-Day has a lot of information that you can discover it. You can get a lot of benefit after read this book. This particular book exist new expertise the information that exist in this guide represented the condition of the world now. That is important to you to be aware of how the improvement of the world. This kind of book will bring you within new era of the internationalization. You can read the e-book on the smart phone, so you can read this anywhere you want.

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