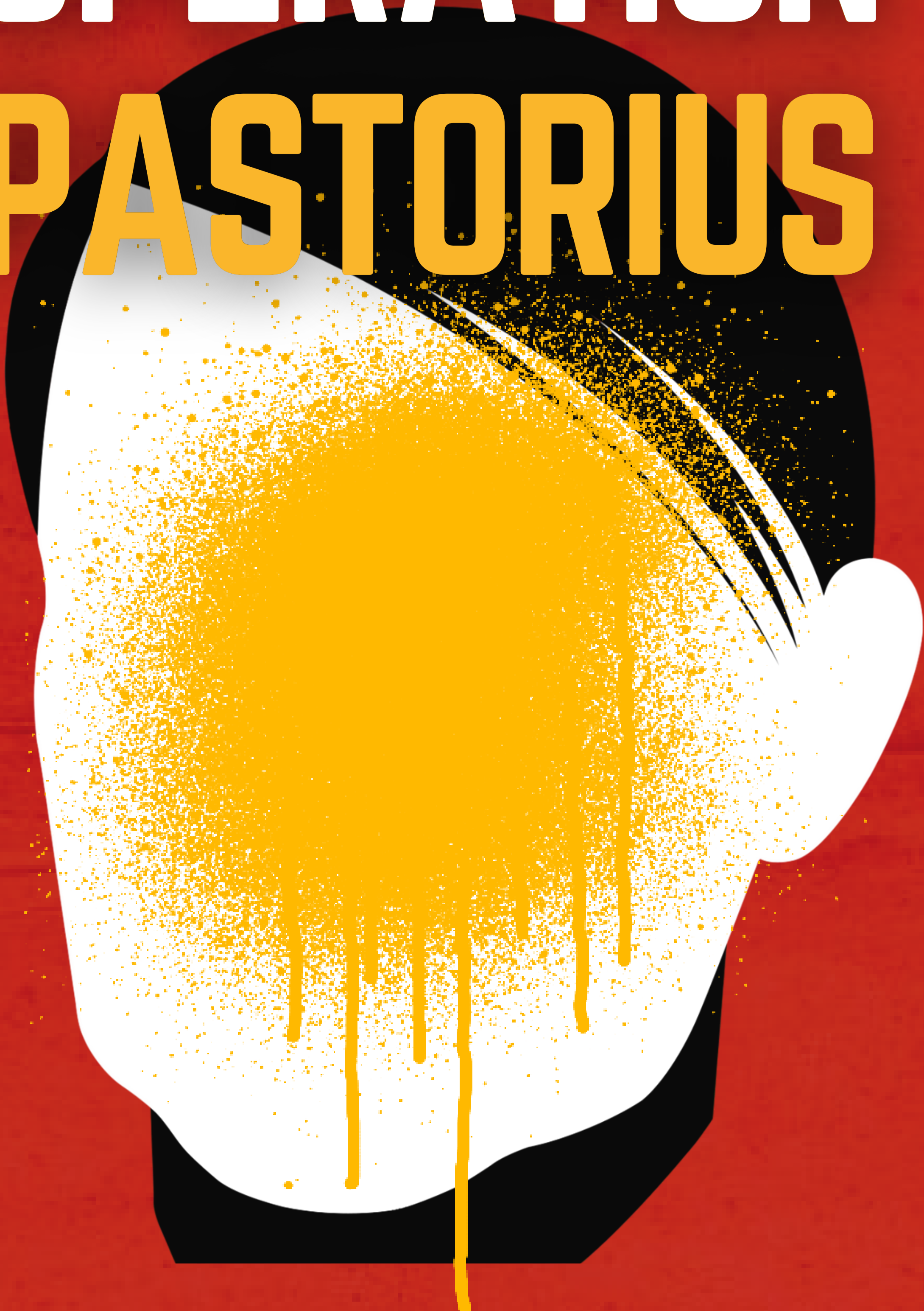


OPERATION PASTORIUS



WHEN THE NAZIS INVADED AMERICA, A TRUE STORY.

MATT VISSER

JEREMY SCHUETZE

BENNY SCHUETZE



In the early morning of June 12th, 1942, a Nazi submarine landed on a beach in The Hamptons. It carried a specially trained group of spies whose orders were to carry out acts of terror and sabotage within the United States.



**LUCKILY, THEY WERE
FUCKING IDIOTS**

OPERATION PASTORIUS



THE MISSION

Six months after Pearl Harbor, the Third Reich hatched a plan to send two teams of highly trained spies to the United States. Their mission: to cripple the war effort from within and incite widespread terror.

The recruitment process strictly required that the saboteurs speak English, possess trade skills for plausible cover, and have familiarity with and relationships in the United States.

Twelve blue-collar expats, handpicked by the Reich, were sent to a lakeside mansion 30 miles west of Berlin. This ironically idyllic farm served as the site of an 18-day training camp, where the men learned bomb-making, aerobics, and even Jiu-Jitsu.

On the early morning of Saturday, June 13, 1942, blanketed by thick fog, the first submarine ran aground on a sandbar in the Hamptons. The soaking-wet saboteurs made their way ashore with four boxes of explosives, more money than they had ever seen in their lives, and a mission orchestrated at the highest levels of the Reich.

They had the potential to change the course of history as we know it. However, within days, all eight men were arrested without carrying out a single act of sabotage.



A SOFT SPOT



GEORGE DASCH

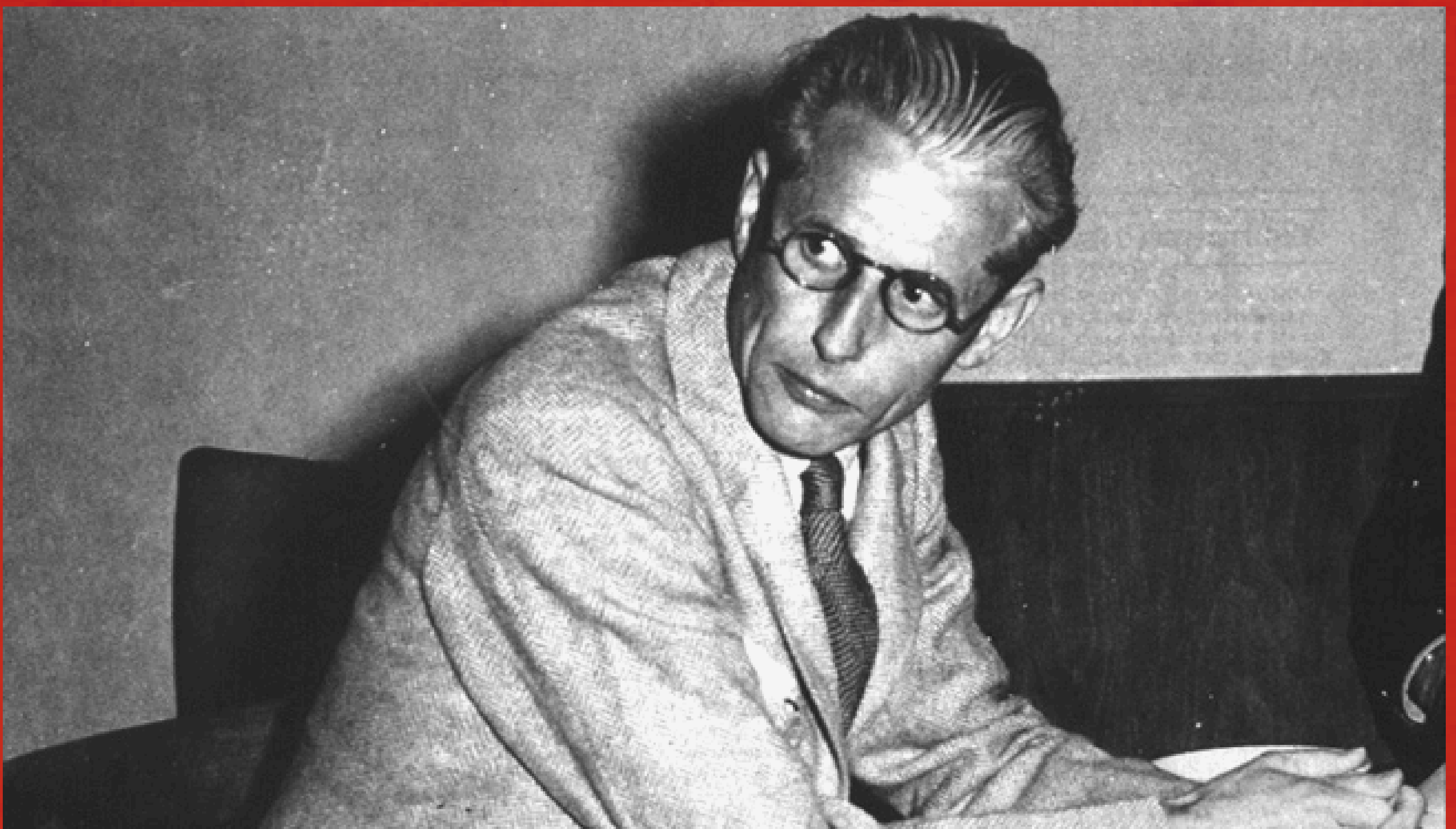
While the spies selected for Operation Pastorius may have been doomed from the start, George Dasch is the reason the operation failed so spectacularly.

At the outset of our story, George Dasch is living in pre-World War II America. Despite his fondness for his adopted country, Dasch headed back to Germany in search of work, with his wife due to join him.

However, not long after his arrival, the war ramped up, and he found himself alone, trapped in the center of the war, and working for German Military Intelligence.

One day, Dasch was asked by his superior, Walter Kappe, to lead Operation Pastorius, a sabotage mission to America. Dasch jumped at the opportunity with the intent to abandon the mission and return home to his wife.

But he would soon realize the mission required more of him. He owed it to his adopted country and his family to sabotage the mission, stopping Hitler and the Nazis from carrying out their nefarious plans.



ENSEMBLE



GEORGE JOHN DASCH

George Dasch

Former dishwasher and brothel owner placed in charge of headlining the operation. His love for his wife and America would lead him to betraying his comrades.



ERNEST PETER BURGER

Peter Burger

Wrote an anti Nazi propaganda piece that landed him in a concentration camp for 17 months. Somehow he was still selected to help lead the mission.



HEINRICH HARM HEINCK

Heinrich Heinck

"Phlegmatic type who seemed not quite sure of himself". Sharp as a bag of wet mice.



RICHARD QUIRIN

Richard Quirin

"Huge protruding ears and walked with a forward slouch,". Intelligent and rather mean. Quirin was hell bent on killing Americans.



J Edgar Hoover

The bull-headed face of 1940's law enforcement in America. Obsessed with order and control, but most importantly his reputation.



Charlotte Dasch

Bold and scrappy. Her charm become Dasch's only hope for exoneration.

Herbet Haupt

"The life of the party, the youngest and most Americanized". Herbert would sleep with a prostitute in Paris, refuse to pay her, because he felt that he was the commodity.



HERBERT HANS HAUPT

Edward Kerling

A snitch who became un trusting of Dasch. Prior to the mission, he worked as a chauffer in an affluent New York suburb. Saw a business oppertunity in co-owning a yacht.



EDWARD KERLING

Herman Newbaur

"A typical gangster type". Bought a small yacht with help from Edward Kerling, in an attempt to sail from Florida to France. Immediatly sent back by the coast guard.



HERMANN OTTO NEUBAU

Werner Theil

"A shabby dresser who spoke in monotone". Can't swim.



WERNER THIEL

Walter Kappe

The portly Lieutenant in charge of the recruitment and planning of Operation Pastorius. A confusing mix of oafish and sinnister.



Leslie Traynor

Resilient and battle-hardened. In a male-dominated world. Working under Hoover's watchful eye, she bears the scars of her experiences.





STORY COMPS

Death of Stalin, JoJo Rabbit, Burn After Reading, 4 Lions



GENRE

Political Satire, Dark Comedy



PRIMARY MARKETS

Europe and North America



LOCATIONS FEATURED

Germany, France, New York



WHY NOW?

World War II Anniversary Has Got Producers Thinking Creatively About The Horrors Of Conflict

"Next year marks the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II and it's no surprise networks and distributors are gathering the troops to commemorate. With war spreading in the Middle East and conflicts ongoing elsewhere around the world, the poignancy of programming in this area has been amplified this year." [🔗](#)

CANNES: Colin Firth WWII Drama 'Operation Mincemeat' Sells Out Internationally Prior to Production

"We are delighted that 'Operation Mincemeat' has captured the imagination of distributors all over the world at Cannes," / "This was a project that inspired a lot of interest and bidding from companies throughout the festival." [🔗](#)

DEADLINE

VARIETY

LOOK



TONE



While this story is satirical, it will have a very real, poignant ending to accurately reflect the story's true events and conclusion.

Operation Pastorius will be told with plenty of levity, and humour to reflect the absurdity of the mission and the incompetency of those carrying it out. Told as an ensemble comedy feature; Pastorius will be told as a story of high and low comedy similar to that of Armando Iannucci's "**Death of Stalin**", Tony McNamara's "**The Great**" and "**The Favorite**"; with the historical relevance to that of Colin Firth's WW2 Drama "**Operation Mincemeat**".

Much like "**Inglorious Basterds**", Operation Pastorius is a Nazi revenge story with the unlikeliest of heroes at the helm.

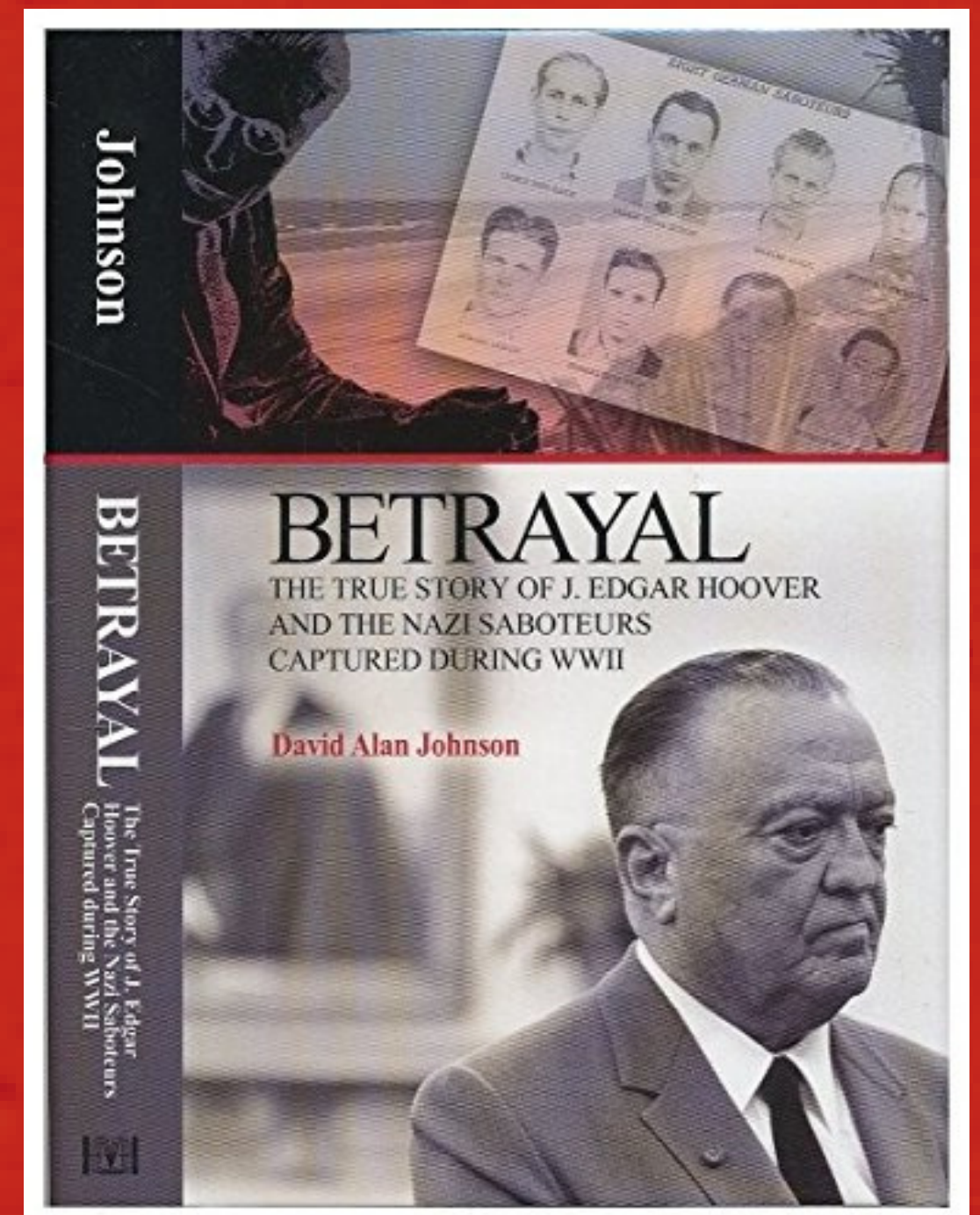


SOURCE MATERIAL



BETRAYAL BY DAVID ALAN JOHNSON.

The true story behind the Nazi saboteurs captured on Long Island in 1942, their betrayal by J. Edgar Hoover. At 4 AM on a foggy morning in 1942, Nazi submarines discharged eight men along the coasts of Long Island and Florida. A few days later, J. Edgar Hoover would burnish his reputation by announcing the swift capture of Nazi soldiers found prowling our shores, intent on sabotage. Omitted from the record (and still denied by the FBI) is the true story behind the the saboteurs' leader, George Dasch, who betrayed his own country by turning himself in first to a disbelieving FBI. Using documentation from the FBI archives, interviews and memoirs, David Alan Johnson carefully recounts the mounting betrayals in this utterly engrossing saga.



CHAPTER 3: Differing Objectives

" American language and customs had been drilled into the men from their first day at Quenszee. American English was spoken exclusively, seasoned with American slang expressions - telling someone to "beat it" or "get lost" when it was time for them to go, for instance. But not everyone got it right of course. Dasch thought that "You're a sight for sore eyes" meant that a person looked messy and disheveled. "

" Heinrich Heinck was renamed Henry Kaynor from Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. This was a problem at first, because Heinck could not remember how to spell [or pronounce] Wilkes-Barre. "

SCRIPT
ATTACHED.

