



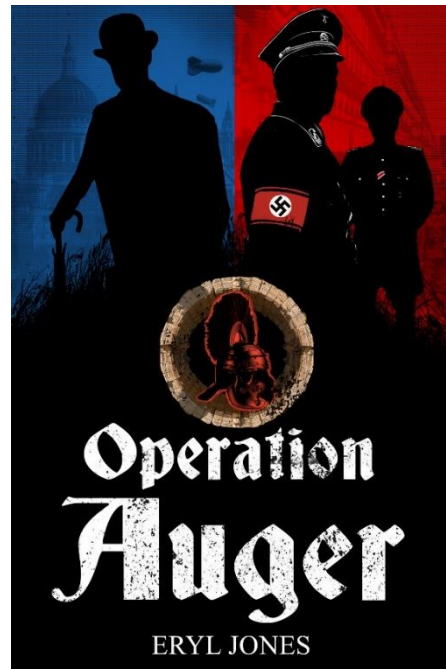
SPYING ON SPIES:

NEW WWII THRILLER EXPLORES THE ROOTS OF MISINFORMATION IN WARTIME

In an age when “fake news” and misinformation dominate headlines, Eryl Jones’ first piece of fiction, *Operation Auger*, explores maybe the most destructive weapon of war: misinformation.

Set during World War II, this gripping historical thriller sheds light on the power of misinformation and how it shaped the outcome of one of history’s greatest conflicts.

As many know, during World War II, fake intelligence was used to deceive the Germans about the locations of the D-Day landings. Throughout history, governments and military organisations have used misinformation to mislead enemies and manipulate public opinion.



Operation Auger imagines a war two months after the D-Day landings, where the Allies find themselves mired in a critical deadlock with Axis defences. This time they turn to a different kind of warfare: the psychological shadow-play of espionage and misinformation.

Author, Eryl Jones, says: “Wartime deception was not just a matter of the overt, such as the proliferation of fake planes and tanks in the English countryside; bogus information was also routinely fed to the opposition. One would not work without the other, and without both, the ruse had no chance of succeeding.”

Inspired by a historian enlisted into the war effort, British intelligence embark upon a daring plan: they seek to convince the Germans that they, the Allied forces, are themselves convinced of the existence of a tunnel

beneath the English Channel, dug by the Roman Empire. Not only this, they make sure the Germans discover that Allied command believes they have rediscovered this tunnel's location.

As a possibility, it seems... far-fetched. But that's the genius. If the Allies are wrong, it's a folly too disastrous for the Axis to pass up. Then inevitably, the whispers start: what if they're right?

A backdoor into Europe? A second invasion force. The Allies might just win the whole bloody business while their enemy isn't even looking.

Operation Auger portrays the misinformation game from both sides of the board, with the attacks, feints and counterattacks, of both German and British agents playing out across the Western Theatre.

The novel delves deep into the real-life strategies of the Combined Intelligence Committee, Britain's secret masters of deception, who carefully and systematically crafted a web of false information to mislead the enemy.

Jones weaves historical fact with fiction, showcasing how misinformation and propaganda have long been tools of influence, used to manipulate perceptions and shift the balance of power. *Operation Auger* is a reminder that long before the rise of social media, misinformation was shaping the fates of nations.

Eryl continues: "When it comes to the quality and capability of weaponry, the Allies and Axis forces were relatively evenly matched. However, in the shadowy realm of deception and cunning tactics, the British stood unrivalled. The longstanding British ethos of 'fair play' was cast aside, making way for a more ruthless approach to warfare."

Eryl Jones hails from North East Wales, where he grew up in the small villages of Rhualt and Ffynnongroyw. After studying agriculture and managing estates, Jones returned to Wales to farm with his father, later becoming a consultant and prolific writer on rural affairs. His deep passion for WWII history, combined with his fascination with the power of deception, inspired *Operation Auger*, his first venture into fiction.

Jones' unique style blends a love of history with a mischievous imagination, creating a gripping story where misinformation takes centre stage. In an era where "fake news" is a household term, *Operation Auger* invites readers to consider how the manipulation of truth has always been a potent force, especially in times of war.

Operation Auger is available from the 31st of October and is available at all good bookshops thanks to the Books Council of Wales.