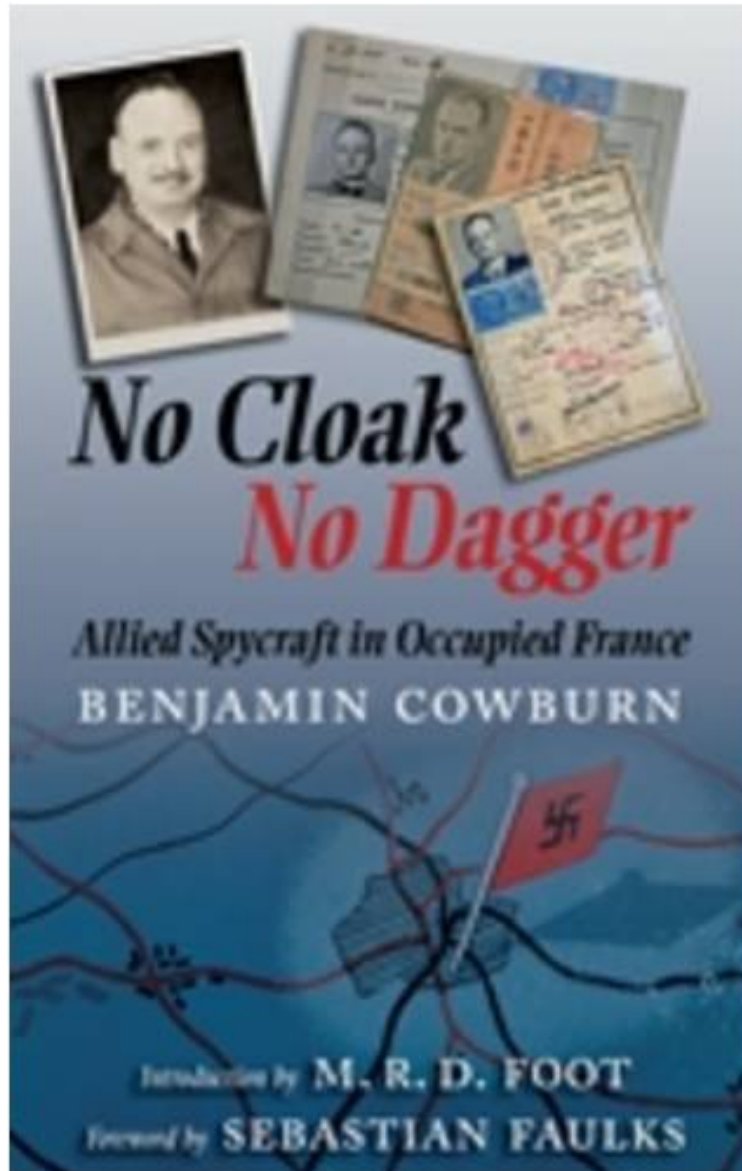


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No Cloak, No Dagger: Allied Spycraft in Occupied France

Benjamin Cowburn

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Benjamin Cowburn : No Cloak, No Dagger: Allied Spycraft in Occupied France before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised No Cloak, No Dagger: Allied Spycraft in Occupied France:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. REQUIRED READING. By Michael Davis I bought this book for several reasons. As an amateur WW2 historian, I was interested in the mechanics of the clandestine Resistance efforts

against the Nazis. As a clandestine ham radio operator, I was particularly interested in how the Allied clandestine "pianists" set up and operated their wireless transmitter (W/T). Comparing the chapter "Pianists and Mutes" (pp.154-164) with information gleaned from "Spy Princess", Shrabani Basu's biography on Noor Inayat Khan, it is now evident that SOE "pianists" used both indoor and outdoor stealth antennas to avoid German detection. The book gives a bird's eye view of the SOE effort against the Germans. There are other books that go into greater detail but Cowburn gave a general account from his perspective. REQUIRED READING.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book, fast shipping.By Terry YounceGreat book, fast shipping. You are there when you read this book, excellent0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent! Understated, but wonderful.By WinterThis story does a very good job of expressing the mix of much hum-drum with a modicum of terror. The unconventional railway rides must have been as frightening as the parachute jumps, but to Mr. Coburn it was all part of the day's work. Those who like military history, or the more factual parts of modern military fiction, will certainly appreciate this account. Well done, Mr. Coburn.

The memoir of SOE agent Benjamin Cowburn is rightly regarded as a classic of wartime literature. In simple, gripping detail Cowburn explains the methods of special agents who were dropped into France during the war and the ways that agents would set about establishing secure networks with the French Resistance. He also shows how agents were able to travel across France, how they set up transmitters and contacted their British headquarters for orders, and how they arranged airplane pick-ups and deliveries of supplies. His account sheds light on the views of both the Resistance fighters facing torture at the hands of the Gestapo and their besieged French countrymen. He notes the tensions within the different command centers, in particular between the French leader-in-exile Charles de Gaulle and his British counterparts, who were all eager to control the efforts of the Resistance. Cowburn gives fascinating general lessons in the art of spying from establishing a worthy target to executing an operation but also tells the full story of his own sabotage operations, including the effective destruction of cylinders for thirteen locomotives in the dead of night. As in so many operations, mistakes were made which could have led to numerous arrests. In this case, the details of the operation had accidentally been left on a blackboard in the school where they had planned the raid, but were luckily scrubbed out by the headmaster's wife. On another occasion, Cowburn snuck itching powder into the laundry of Luftwaffe agents to cause a disruption. This new edition contains an Introduction by M.R.D Foot and a Foreword by Sebastian Faulks.

About the Author Benjamin Cowburn is an author and historian.