

The Wolves at the Door: The True Story of America's Greatest Female Spy

By Judith L. Pearson

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"Judith Pearson does a remarkable job of bringing one of America's greatest spies back to life. I highly recommend this story of derring-do and white knuckles suspense." —Patrick O'Donnell, Combat Historian and Author of Operatives, Spies, and Saboteurs

The remarkable story of one of WWII’s greatest spies.

Virginia Hall left her comfortable Baltimore roots in 1931 to follow a dream of becoming a Foreign Service Officer.

After watching Hitler roll over Poland and France, she enlisted to work for the British Special Operations Executive (SOE), a secret espionage and sabotage organization. She was soon deployed to occupied France where, if captured, imprisonment and torture at the hands of the Gestapo was all but assured. Against such an ominous backdrop, Hall managed to locate drop zones for money and weapons, helped escaped POWs and downed Allied airmen flee to England, and secured safe houses for agents. And she did it all on one leg: Virginia Hall had lost her left leg before the war in a hunting accident.

Soon, wanted posters appeared throughout France, offering a reward for her capture. By winter of 1942, Hall had to flee France via the only route possible: a hike on foot through the frozen Pyrénées Mountains into neutral Spain. Upon her return to England, the American espionage organization, the Office of Special Services, recruited her and sent her back to France disguised as an old peasant woman. While there, she was responsible for killing 150 German soldiers and capturing 500 others. Sabotaging communications and transportation links and directing resistance activities, her work helped change the course of the war. This is the true story of Virginia Hall.

"Riveting..." —Publishers Weekly

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
Although Pearson's chronology wobbles early on and her prose is less than elegant, her account of Virginia Hall's work as a secret agent in German-occupied France is nevertheless riveting, thanks to the inherent drama of the time. Gifted with languages, Hall sought a career in Foreign Service in 1930s Europe, but a physical handicap (she had one wooden leg), her gender and her outspoken political views stymied her diplomatic ambitions. She escaped to London shortly after Germany's 1940 invasion of France and came to the attention of a secret British intelligence group that trained her in non-traditional sabotage techniques, cryptology and radio communication. As a newly minted secret agent, she returned to France, where she passed on information about German positions, transported downed Allied pilots and escaped prisoners to safety, oversaw the retrieval of supply drops and organized resistance fighters. Hall's espionage career ended with the allied victory and the dawn of the cold war, for which the CIA wanted a different breed of agent. Though commendable for its portrayal of Hall's unflagging courage and energy in dangerous and desperate conditions, the story is told in bland prose that fails to live up to the exceptional times it chronicles.
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Review

"Judith Pearson does a remarkable job of bringing one of America's greatest spies back to life. I highly recommend this story of derring-do and white knuckles suspense."-Patrick O'Donnell, Combat Historian and Author of *Operatives, Spies, and Saboteurs*

"A great, true, spy tale."--*Grand Rapids Press*

Praise for Judith Pearson's *Belly of the Beast: A POW's Inspiring True Story of Faith, Courage, and Survival aboard the Infamous WWII Japanese Hell Ship* Oryoku Maru

"An inspiring look at one of WWII's darkest hours."--James Bradley, author of *Flags of Our Fathers*

"Captures an experience almost too terrifying for words. To follow one man's ordeal in a Japanese torture ship is to travel through the bowels of hell."--Iris Chang, author of *The Rape of Nanking*

"[A] searing tribute."--Senator John McCain

"Recommended for any public library with readers interested in World War II."--*Library Journal*

From the Back Cover

Virginia Hall left her comfortable Baltimore roots of privilege in 1931 to follow a dream of becoming a Foreign Service Officer. After watching Hitler roll into Poland, then France, she decided to work for the British Special Operations Executive (SOE), a secret espionage and sabotage organization. She was soon deployed to France where the Gestapo imprisoned, beat, and tortured spies.

Against such an ominous backdrop, Hall managed to locate drop zones for money and weapons, helped escaped POWs and downed Allied airmen flee to England, and secured safe houses for agents. Soon, wanted

posters appeared throughout France offering a reward for her capture. By winter of 1942 Hall had to flee France via the only route possible: a hike on foot through the frozen Pyrénées Mountains into neutral Spain.Upon her return to England, the OSS recruited her and sent her back to France disguised as an old peasant woman. While there, she was responsible for killing 150 German soldiers and capturing 500 others, sabotaging communications and transportation links, and directing resistance activities.

This is the true story of Virginia Hall, a remarkable woman ignored by history books for over fifty years.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Tod Espitia:

Spent a free a chance to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book might be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the guide untitled The Wolves at the Door: The True Story of America's Greatest Female Spy can be good book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

Carolyn Robles:

The Wolves at the Door: The True Story of America's Greatest Female Spy can be one of your starter books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to get every word into pleasure arrangement in writing The Wolves at the Door: The True Story of America's Greatest Female Spy but doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource info that maybe you can be among it. This great information could drawn you into new stage of crucial considering.

Stephanie Matias:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray you, why because this The Wolves at the Door: The True Story of America's Greatest Female Spy publication written by well-known writer whose to say well how to make book that can be understand by anyone who have read the book. Written within good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and writing skill only for eliminate your own hunger then you still question The Wolves at the Door: The True Story of America's Greatest Female Spy as good book not merely by the cover but also through the content. This is one guide that can break don't assess book by its protect, so do you still needing yet another sixth sense to pick this!? Oh come on your looking at sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to yet another sixth sense.

Mary Moore:

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