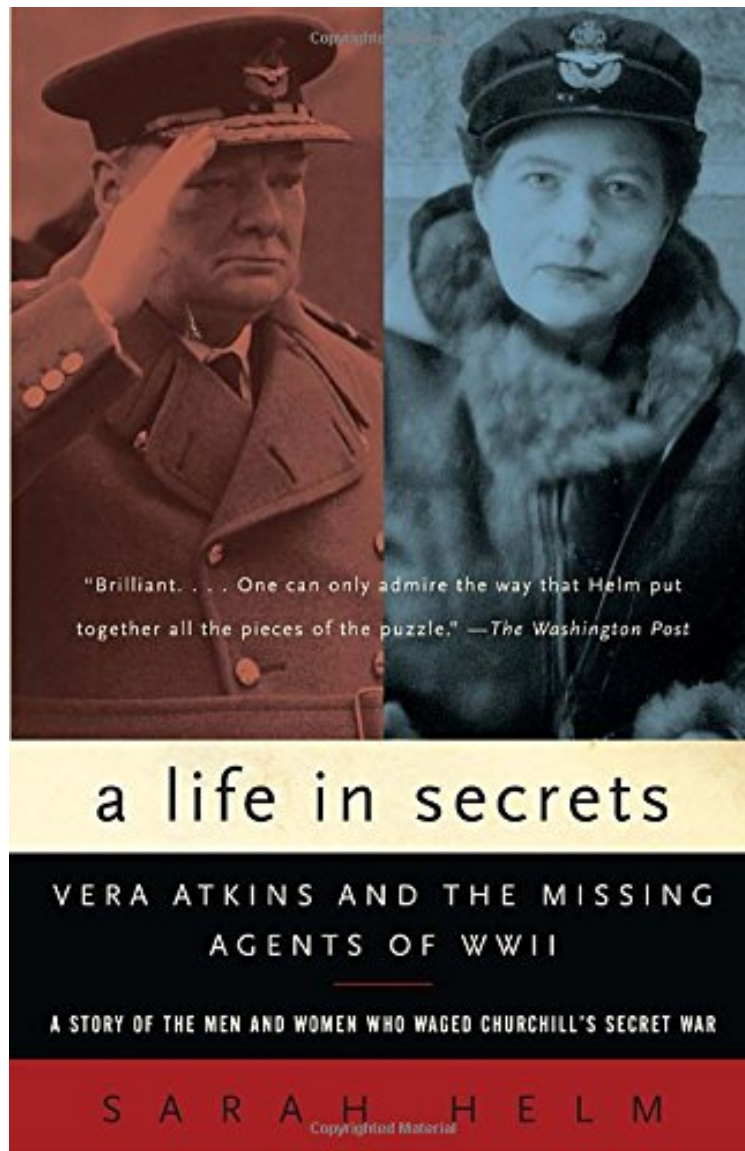


(Free read ebook) A Life in Secrets: Vera Atkins and the Missing Agents of WWII

## A Life in Secrets: Vera Atkins and the Missing Agents of WWII

Sarah Helm

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#185538 in Books Sarah Helm 2007-12-04 2007-12-04Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x 1.40 x 5.20l, 1.12 #File Name: 1400031400546 pagesA Life in Secrets Vera Atkins and the Missing Agents of WWII | File size: 63.Mb

**Sarah Helm : A Life in Secrets: Vera Atkins and the Missing Agents of WWII** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Life in Secrets: Vera Atkins and the Missing Agents of WWII:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Lots of detail on the British SOEBy Jay InhofInteresting story about

the beginnings and inner workings of the SOE, the behind the lines secret operations unit of the British Department of Economic War. The story centers on real life Rumanian born Vera Atkins who was instrumental in organizing the French section. The author was able to peel away much of the veil of secrecy and obscurity of British bureaucracy to reveal details of the lives of many unsung brave SOE agents in WW2. The book features a lot of original research--the author traveled to many obscure villages and towns to ferret out people who knew Vera or her family members. She also interviewed countless family members of other murdered SOE agents to discover the true story of the work of the SOE agents and how many of them perished executing their assignments or in the camps. If you like this book you may also like "Donovan, Master Spy" about the WW1 war hero who organized the American version of the SOE, called the OSS, which was the forerunner of the CIA .5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. fascinating time in history; well written about Vera Atkins' ...By SONDYfascinating time in history; well written about Vera Atkins' background, her service during WWII and most fascinating about her search for her agents in the aftermath of the war. Sarah Helm writes a picture of this woman that was carefully researched and does not embellish or sentimentalize any part of this biography while still providing the emotional reality of this difficult period. highly recommended0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful tribute to the many brave souls in wartorn FranceBy Kevin (Ric) RichardsonA wonderfully written (although stretched a little too far) and researched work indeed. It brings home the thousands of unknowns that people lived with during World War 2, the lost lives of so many brave souls. Heroine Vera Atkins seems vastly interested in the females who gave their lives to their brave beliefs... a trite disappointing, yet the dedication of those girls and women were brilliantly displayed.

From an award-winning journalist comes this real-life cloak-and-dagger tale of Vera Atkins, one of Britains premiere secret agents during World War II. As the head of the French Section of the British Special Operations Executive, Vera Atkins recruited, trained, and mentored special operatives whose job was to organize and arm the resistance in Nazi-occupied France. After the war, Atkins courageously committed herself to a dangerous search for twelve of her most cherished women spies who had gone missing in action. Drawing on previously unavailable sources, Sarah Helm chronicles Atkins's extraordinary life and her singular journey through the chaos of post-war Europe. Brimming with intrigue, heroics, honor, and the horrors of war, *A Life in Secrets* is the story of a grand, elusive woman and a tour de force of investigative journalism.

From Publishers WeeklyStarred . Vera Atkins (1908-2000) was the highest-ranking female official in the French section of a WWII British intelligence unit that aided the resistance. Atkins sent 400 agents into France, including 39 women she'd personally recruited and supervised. Many were caught by the Gestapo and subsequently disappeared and presumed dead. In 1945, after the war, Atkins, fiercely loyal to the memory of her missing agents, took it upon herself to spend a year interviewing concentration camp officials and survivors in order to piece together her agents' fates. Helm, a founding member of London's Independent, brilliantly reconstructs Atkins's harrowing detective work, shedding light in particular on the fate of missing agent Noor Inayat Khan, whose suitability for the job had been widely doubted. Helm's portrait of Atkins is acute, dwelling evocatively on her Romanian-Jewish origins and their social significance for Atkins within upper-crust British circles, and on Atkins's mysterious personal life. Drawing on interviews with relatives and friends of both Atkins and her agents, and on full access to Atkins's private papers, Helm has produced a memorable portrait of a woman who knowingly sent other women to their deaths and a searing history of female courage and suffering during WWII. (On sale Aug. 22) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From BooklistThe Special Operations Executive (SOE), Winston Churchill's personal creation to subvert Nazidom, occupies a legendary but controversial place in World War II annals. This original investigative history by a British journalist allays none of the criticism of the SOE--it was a failure that cost hundreds of agents their lives--but vindicates the valor of SOE agents. Centering attention on a high-ranking SOE officer named Vera Atkins (1908-2000), Helm recounts a war-crimes inquiry Atkins conducted in the immediate aftermath of the war: Atkins sought information about the fates of about 100 agents she had sent into France. Atkins knew during the war that SOE's French operations had been compromised but not whether it was through treachery or lax security. Solid on the spycraft aspects of Atkins' quest, which identified a Nazi mole in SOE, Helm engrossingly narrates Atkins' hunt for the truth in furtive traces about her agents gleaned from Germans who had shunted them from capture to concentration camp. Carried off with consummate skill, Helm's report is also an inveigling portrait of Atkins' own secretive life. Gilbert TaylorCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Brilliant. . . . One can only admire the way that Helm put together all the pieces of the puzzle. The Washington PostFascinating. . . . Compelling. . . . Gripping. . . . A stupendous job of reporting. The New York TimesHelm's account is a chilling reminder of the ghastliness of WWII. Entertainment WeeklyA Life in Secrets is a work of history that is at once a compelling thriller, an intriguing mystery, and a biography of bravery. . . . Better than CSI because it is all true and inspiring. Tina Brown