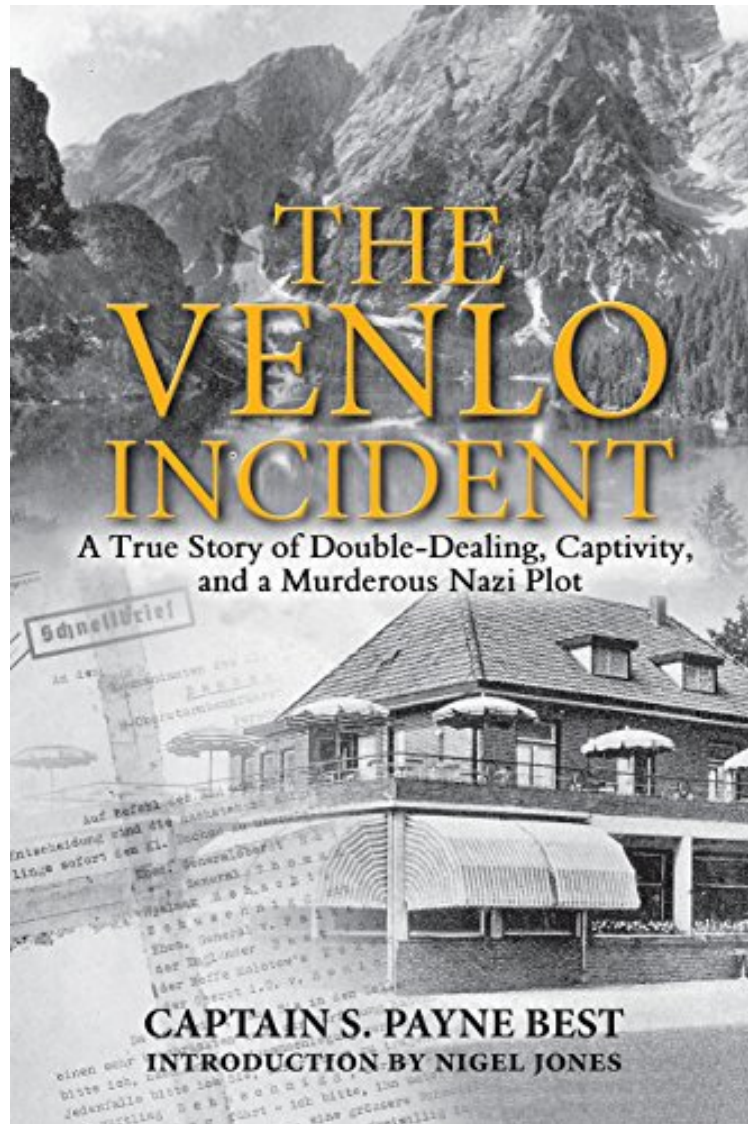


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The Venlo Incident: A True Story of Double-Dealing, Captivity, and a Murderous Nazi Plot

S. Payne Best

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S. Payne Best : The Venlo Incident: A True Story of Double-Dealing, Captivity, and a Murderous Nazi Plot before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Venlo Incident: A True Story of Double-Dealing, Captivity, and a Murderous Nazi Plot:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A patient observer and survivorBy M. SchwindtThis was an interesting account of a near-fabled event at the onset of WWII. Payne Best interested me initially as a brief

acquaintance of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's. Best has written a remarkable story of determined survival. I marveled at his ability to read his jailers (SS men) from the first. This trait let him live while others around him died. Good book. Should have been a movie, too, but I don't think it would appeal or seem relevant today. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It said nothing about Venlo. That's why I wanted ...By Kindle Customer gayleals It said nothing about Venlo. That's why I wanted to read it. The only interesting part was when the war was over and how everyone got home and how long it took. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Customer Intelligence - that's a stretch. British got really suckered in this one. But a really interesting story.

World War II seems to provide an endless supply of amazing true stories of heroism in the face of mortal danger. This true account of an MI6 agent's kidnapping and survival is a real-life spy thriller, and one worth knowing. On November 9, 1939, Captain Sigismund Payne Best and other members of Britain's ultra-secret Z service sat near a cafe in Venlo, The Netherlands, waiting to meet with whom supposedly sound intelligence told them would be German resistance leaders. In reality, what they would meet at Venlo was an SS ambush leading to the murder of Best's Z associate and the Nazis' seizure of a plain text list of British under-cover agents. It was a massive disaster for British intelligence and a crucial turning point of war-time espionage. Best survived Venlo to tell of the shocking intelligence coups that precipitated the attack. His harrowing account of torture at the hands of the Nazis and five years in the infamous Sachsenhausen and Dachau concentration camps offers unparalleled, first-hand details from inside the Third Reich. As a prisoner, he crossed paths with famous Nazi resistance fighters, including Georg Elser and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Best's explication of top-secret spy techniques and his depiction of how the incident played out to justify Nazi aggression is military history at its finest. His memoir of espionage, survival, and captivity is a riveting narrative that readers will not soon forget. Skyhorse Publishing, as well as our Arcade imprint, are proud to publish a broad range of books for readers interested in history--books about World War II, the Third Reich, Hitler and his henchmen, the JFK assassination, conspiracies, the American Civil War, the American Revolution, gladiators, Vikings, ancient Rome, medieval times, the old West, and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

From Booklist *Starred * Nazi plots; plots against Nazis; secret meetings; double and triple crosses; narrow escapes; capture and imprisonment; intelligence, both organized and individual this is the stuff of spy thrillers, but it's all here in this nonfiction account of a real-life espionage snafu during WWII. Captain S. Payne Best was a British Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) agent during both world wars. This memoir, first published in 1950 but long unavailable, traces the attempts of British intelligence to contact German insiders who opposed Hitler. The plan culminated in the disastrous Venlo incident, a trap sprung by the Nazis on the British at Venlo on the Dutch-German border. Best was caught and spent the rest of the war in a concentration camp. The Nazis made propaganda hay out of his capture and what they portrayed as the failure of British intelligence. Best's memoir is well worthy of republication for a contemporary audience. Besides giving readers an insider's account of spy tactics, Best provides fascinating details about life in a Nazi prison and then in a concentration camp. His sketches of the people he encountered (including figures in the Nazi resistance movement) are novelistic in scope and texture, and his dissection of his reactions to imprisonment have immediacy and humor. All in all, an amazing read nonfiction boasting the kind of plotting, sense of place, and rich characterization that one associates with *Le Carré*. --Connie Fletcher Starred . In all, an amazing read nonfiction boasting the kind of plotting, sense of place, and rich characterization that one associates with *Le Carré*. (Booklist) Lovers of espionage and war literature, fictional and nonfictional alike, should read this. (Margaret Heilbrun - Library Journal) About the Author Captain S. Payne Best (April 14, 1885 September 21, 1978) was a British Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) agent during both world wars.