

Behind Enemy Lines: Evasion and Escape Aids of World War II

R.E. Baldwin

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BEHIND ENEMY LINES *Evasion and Escape Aids of World War II*



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R.E. Baldwin : Behind Enemy Lines: Evasion and Escape Aids of World War II before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Behind Enemy Lines: Evasion and Escape Aids of World War II:

In 2013, well known scholar and leading authority on Second World War evasion and escape tactics Bob Baldwin, author of “Last Hope: The Blood Chit Story” (Schiffer Publishing, 1997), was invited to guest curate an important exhibit of evasion and escape artifacts at the Frazier History Museum in Louisville, Kentucky. The exhibit, “Behind Enemy Lines: Evasion and Escape Aids of World War II,” showcased hundreds of rare items which are seldom seen and had never previously been displayed together in one place. To accompany the exhibit, a high quality, full colour catalog featuring photographs and descriptions of all of the artifacts on display was produced. The danger faced by

soldiers trapped behind enemy lines has been recognized since the beginnings of warfare. Allied aircrew members, special operations personnel, and other soldiers at high risk of being caught behind enemy lines during World War II had a “secret weapon” unlike anything seen before. This weapon came in the form of the secret Evasion and Escape (EE) organizations established first by the British government, and then by the United States. These organizations provided EE training for Allied soldiers, organized safe escape routes in occupied countries, communicated with prisoners in enemy prisoner-of-war camps, and provided special EE aids. It was an extraordinary operation, unique in military history, and inspired the Survival, Evasion, Rescue and Escape (SERE) operations conducted by today’s military. The illustrated catalog proved to be extremely popular as a reference source for students, historians and collectors, and, long after the exhibit ended, copies of this book are still highly sought after. It is now offered as a reprinted second edition, featuring a new foreword and introduction by Mr. Baldwin.

About the Author R.E. Baldwin is an independent scholar who has been researching and collecting evasion and escape material since 1985. His collection of language-related evasion and escape aids is considered definitive, and he is the acknowledged world authority on these aids. His collection of evasion and escape maps ranks among the world's most comprehensive among private collectors. He has penned dozens of articles on evasion and escape aids. He has given presentations to groups as diverse as aviation societies in the United States and small gatherings of artists in Japan. He curated the "Fragile Hope" exhibition of language aids and cloth maps shown for their design elements at the Design Museum of the University of California at Davis, California in 2003.