



American Author's Association



Title: The Allemagne Deception
Author: Donald J. Farinacci
Publisher: Navigator Books
Reviewer: Marc P. Yablonka – AAA Reviewer



Author attorney Donald J. Farinacci's fourth book, *The Allemagne Deception*, is a cross between *The Hunt for Red October* and any James Bond thriller starring Sean Connery, so packed full of mystery and suspense it is. Set alternately in the period after Germany's surrender at the close of World War II and the 1960s Cold War that followed in that country, neighboring Austria and Czechoslovakia, its writing can best be described as full of inviting intrigue which entices us to constantly guess ahead to what may happen next. It is espionage in its finest form of fiction embedded in truth.

Farinacci ushers us right into the tense drama when he writes in the prelude, "Long before the moderating influences of Gorbachev and Glasnost, NATO was engaged in a deadly shadow war with the Warsaw Pact forces in places like Budapest, the Soviet missile sites of Cuba, 'Checkpoint Charlie' at the East Berlin crossing, the streets of Prague, and the back alleys of Vienna. Its weapons were less often tanks and bombs than silencers, stilettos, poison pills, and encoded messages."

Not long into the book, Farinacci, who himself served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army's 3855th Security Detachment in Munich between 1967-1969, explores the relationship of two men, U.S. Army Sgt. (later Col.) Fred Reitenhauser, and his Russian counterpart, Field Lt. 1st Class Uri Putyagin, both of whom were charged with uncovering for their respective countries the secrets to Nazi war atrocities shortly after the deaths of most of the Nazi masterminds but before the Nuremberg Trials. What develops over the days and months that they work together is a deep friendship that will last a lifetime owing in large part to the fact that the American Sergeant saves the Russian Lieutenant's life after an assassination attempt by a KGB rogue operative.

"There was no denying that they were both soldiers to the core," Farinacci writes about Reitenhauser and Putyagin. "But unlike most military men, they seemed to share an abhorrence for war. It revealed itself through even the briefest conversations snatched up over cups of instant coffee and K-rations, at various times throughout their long days of searching for clues and evidence.

"They seemed to recognize in each other's eyes an unspoken depth of repressed rage mixed with horror over what the Nazis had done to humanity. But it was far more than simply sharing a thirst for justice—although that was certainly true as well."

Later, despondent over a similar abhorrence for the violence perpetrated against nearly 20 million Russian innocents in Stalinist U.S.S.R., Uri is convinced by Fred to spy for the United States. In so doing, the Russian officer helps thwart a cross-border military exercise which might have resulted in a major battle between the Warsaw Pact nations and NATO, if not World War III itself.

While *The Allemagne Deception* revolves around Fred and Uri in Farinacci's fascinating, fast-moving spy thriller, the book is also replete with others in what has been called "The Spy Game." Soldiers and double agents of all persuasions populate the book. Farinacci's writing brings them to life.

"*Halten si,*" one of his followers yelled.

"Olney slowed but did not stop. The pursuers were now no more than 50 feet behind him. It was decision time. If caught, he would have no way of letting the colonel know he had fulfilled his mission and set the wheels of the counter-mission in motion.

"Olney stopped and turned slightly to his right showing the two KGB men his profile. He withdrew a cigarette and lighter from his camel hair coat. He put the cigarette in his mouth and lighted it. The click of Olney's cigarette lighter was the last thing the two pursuers got to hear in this life. A bullet hit each of them in the middle of the forehead before the sound of the two shots fired from Olney's Walther PPK pistol could reach them."

Don Farinacci has written a spy thriller well worthy of comparison to the best works in this genre. Its 239 pages will have you on the edge of whatever you sit in from start to finish. I highly recommend this book.

(AAA Reviewer Marc Phillip Yablonka is a military journalist whose work has appeared in the Stars and Stripes, Army Times, Vietnam magazine, American Veteran, Military Heritage, Soldier of Fortune and many other publications. His first book is *Distant War: Recollections of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia*).

