

## Charlotte-Krüger (Krueger)

*My grandfather, the counterfeiter. A search for traces of a Nazi's career*



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### Charlotte's Reasons and goals of the book (Q/A with Danny Spungen).

Friday, June 12, 2015 10:33 AM Charlotte: I wrote the book because since I first found out about my grandfather's past at the age of 14, I have been trying to understand how he came to be involved in this huge criminal enterprise. I remember him as a kind grandfather who showed me how to copy little pictures using ink paper. When he died, I was only ten years old - too young to understand what a Nazi was, too young to ask him about his past. When my father died in 2002, I realized that I had missed many chances to ask him about my grandfather as well. Because talking about him was never easy for my father.

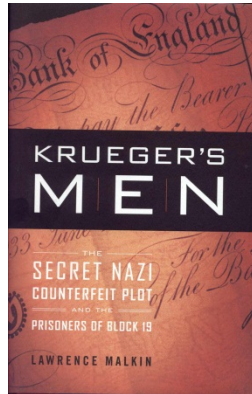
In 2009, I met one of the last survivors of "Operation Bernhard" in Berlin, Jack Plapler. That's when the story became "real" again and I started to put together all the pieces of my grandfather's biography. My ultimate goal is to understand how a kind man like my grandfather came to be a devoted Nazi, even though he probably saw crimes at the Eastern front, and who traveled to Auschwitz-Birkenau and saw the incredible suffering and death. Why did he still proudly wear a Nazi uniform?

Saturday, June 13, 2015 12:48 PM Charlotte: I think my main goal was - as I wrote before - to try to understand how someone becomes a fascist. Other than that, I wanted to find a way to get a grip on the Nazi past of my country through my own family history. I think for us, the third postwar-generation, it is harder to relate to that time than for our parents, who witnessed the postwar-era, the 50s, who went through the rebellion in 1968 against the Nazi generation. They had the chance to *confront* the old Nazis. We, the third generation, mostly did not. So we need to find our own way to deal with the past. For me, following the steps of my grandfather's SS career was a way to do so. Because when I saw pictures of Auschwitz in school for the first time, I just could not imagine that this actually happened in the world I live in, and was supported, accepted and built by people in my country. But Auschwitz did not happen on another planet, so it is our duty to try and find out how it came to be.

## A brief introduction to “Operation Bernhard”



#1



#2



#3 (2011\_Mar\_25\_MPCFest XII, Ohio)

#1: Dvd cover of the 2007 Academy Award winning moving, *The Counterfeiter's*.

#2: Book cover of *Krueger's Men (2006)* by Lawrence Malkin, a very accurate book on Operation Bernhard.

#3: Hans Walter, Ohio (b: Dec. 14, 1921) with his Debbie Walter, Lawrence Malkin and Danny Spungen. Only Hans and Adolph Burger (Prague). Jack Plapler sadly passed away in Berlin on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

While the Nazi plan to counterfeit British currency was a minor event in WWII, it nevertheless is an exciting story. The operation was dramatized in the 2007 Oscar winning foreign movie of the year, *The Counterfeiters*. Although the movie grossly twists the facts of what actually took place to create a “Hollywood style” storyline, it does a great job introducing the most successful counterfeiting operation in history.

Approximately 142 Jewish men selected from various concentration camps were sent to isolated barracks in Sachsenhausen concentration camp just north of Berlin equipped with excellent printing equipment and even bed sheets on the bunks. Bernard Krüger (Krueger) was the Nazi assigned by Berlin head the operation.

The counterfeit Bank of England “White Notes” were printed in 5, 10, 20 and 50 pound notes of which 40% were the 5 pound notes (bb p. 30). Figures kept in a secret diary kept Oskar Stein Skala the official record clerk of Operation Bernhard indicate 8,965,080 notes produced. This translates into at least US \$6 billion in today’s money. Through an elaborate spy/distribution network, the notes were used widely in Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. The Operation was also responsible for forging passports and producing propaganda like the England stamps featuring a Star of David on the Crown illustrating Jewish cancer infiltrating all of England.

