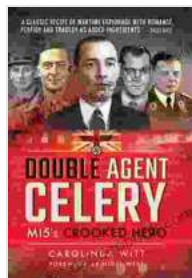


# Double Agent Celery: MI5's Crooked Hero



**Double Agent Celery: MI5's Crooked Hero** by Carolinda Witt

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5



The world of espionage is often shrouded in secrecy and intrigue. Double agents, individuals who play both sides against each other, are among the most enigmatic figures in this realm. One such agent was Eddie Chapman, a British criminal turned double agent, whose exploits during World War II earned him the nickname "Double Agent Celery."

## **Eddie Chapman: The Early Years**

Edward Arnold Chapman was born in Chingford, Essex, England, on November 16, 1914. From a young age, he exhibited a rebellious streak and a penchant for trouble. After dropping out of school, Chapman worked odd jobs, including stints as a boxer and a dance instructor. However, his path took a sinister turn when he became involved in petty crime and forgery.

In 1939, Chapman was arrested for burglary and sentenced to three years in prison. While behind bars, the outbreak of World War II ignited a glimmer

of patriotism within him. He volunteered for military service but was rejected due to his criminal record. Undeterred, Chapman devised an audacious plan to prove his loyalty and redeem himself.

## **Operation Celery**

Upon his release from prison in 1940, Chapman contacted the British Secret Intelligence Service (MI5) and offered his services as a double agent. MI5, desperate for information about German activities, reluctantly accepted his proposal. Codenamed "Celery," Chapman was trained in espionage techniques and sent to France to infiltrate the German Abwehr, the military intelligence agency.

Chapman's initial meetings with the Abwehr were not promising. He was suspected of being a British plant and subjected to rigorous interrogation. However, Chapman's cunning and charm eventually convinced the Germans of his sincerity. He provided them with fabricated intelligence about British military operations, while simultaneously feeding MI5 with valuable information about German intentions.

## **The Double Agent**

As the war progressed, Chapman became an invaluable asset to both sides. He played both the British and German intelligence services against each other, providing each with false information that misdirected their efforts. Chapman's double life was fraught with danger and deception. He had to maintain separate identities, memorize intricate cover stories, and outwit both the MI5 and the Abwehr.

In one daring mission, Chapman parachuted into England with the intention of carrying out sabotage operations. However, he was arrested by MI5 and

subjected to interrogation. Once again, Chapman's cunning prevailed. He convinced the MI5 officers that he was still working for the Abwehr and was merely carrying out orders.

## **The End of the War**

As the war drew to a close, Chapman's double game became increasingly precarious. The British and Germans alike were growing suspicious of his motives. In 1944, he was finally exposed as a double agent and arrested by the MI5.

Chapman was sentenced to death for treason, but his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. He served seven years in prison, during which time he penned a memoir titled "The Eddie Chapman Story." Upon his release in 1953, Chapman resumed his life as a civilian, working as a nightclub manager and a writer.

## **Legacy**

Eddie Chapman's exploits as Double Agent Celery remain a testament to the complexities of espionage and the shadowy world of double agents. His ability to deceive both the MI5 and the Abwehr, while maintaining his own agenda, is a testament to his cunning, courage, and tenacity.

Chapman's story has been the subject of numerous books, films, and television documentaries. His legacy as a crooked hero, a man who defied both sides in the pursuit of his own goals, continues to fascinate and intrigue to this day.

The tale of Double Agent Celery is a gripping account of espionage, betrayal, and redemption. Eddie Chapman's ability to navigate the





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