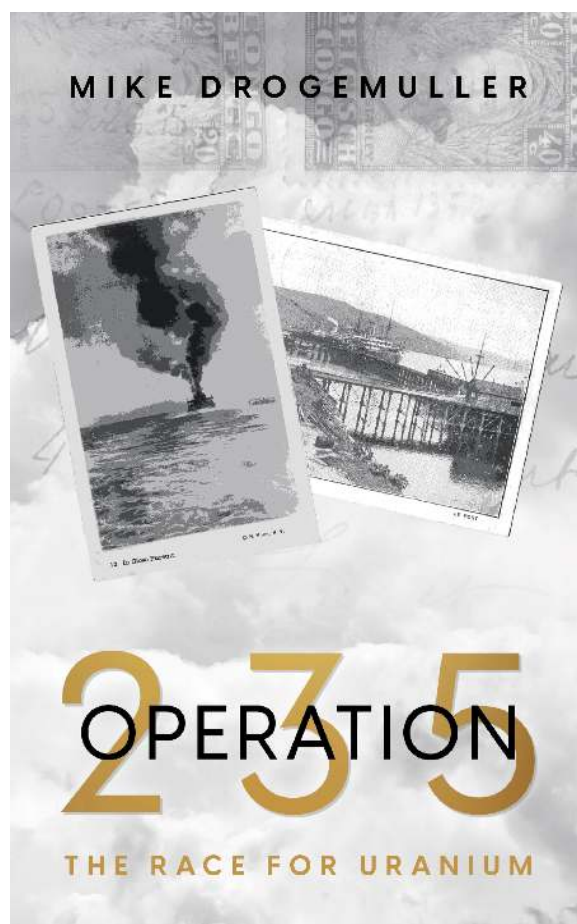


Operation 235

The Race for Uranium

Debut Novel by Mike Drogemuller

Media Kit



Operation 235 – The Race for Uranium

This historical spy novel, set in the summer of 1939, pits the United States against Nazi Germany, as the two nations compete for control of the world's purest uranium deposit.

In 1938, German scientists were the first to perfect nuclear fission, the process required to build a super weapon. But they lacked the volume and purity of uranium needed to turn the science into a bomb.

The answer lay at a mine owned by a Belgian, in Shinkolobwe, in the Belgian Congo. The owner gifted the deposit to the United States government, in order to prevent the Nazis access to its rich ore.

Based on actual events, this novel brings together the future head of the Office of Strategic Services (the predecessor to the CIA), Bill Donovan, and our protagonists, Lt Cdr Dean Butler and diplomat Nash Owens. The men are dispatched by President Roosevelt to the Belgian Congo, to ensure the uranium ships safely to the United States.

Hitler however directs the Abwehr, the Wehrmacht's intelligence section, to take the uranium, and a violent struggle ensues as German agents lead by a beautiful but cutthroat female agent and her brutal and sadistic colleague take aim at the Americans and their British ally. The pretence of peace and neutrality takes a back seat as the competing interests collide on both land and sea.

Author - Mike Drogemuller



A first time author, Mike Drogemuller's career has spanned public policy, corporate communications, consulting, writing and entrepreneurial endeavours.

He grew up in Canada and moved to New Zealand together with his partner Jan, after graduating university.

Following completion of a United Nations internship, he joined the New Zealand Department of Trade and Industry.

Mike started his communications career in Wellington, before moving to Australia a few years later.

His specialisation, both as a consultant and a senior corporate executive, was financial communications. He authored a range of documents including annual reports, prospectuses, corporate profiles and offering memorandums.

Twenty-two years and twin boys later, they decided to return to Canada to bring up their young family, as well as helping their elderly parents.

An enthusiastic amateur historian, Mike has studied World War II in detail and finally turned his hand to writing this fictional account, the author's first novel.

Author's Contact Details

T: 519 200 7079

E: bims1@aol.com

W. mikedrogemuller.com

For review copies please email me - bims1@aol.com

Operation 235 Media Kit

Book Details

Title: Operation 235

Author: Mike Drogemuller

Length: 258 pages

Genre: Fiction - WW2 - Spy Thriller

Publisher: Independently Published

Publication Date: 30 September 2022

ISBN Novel: 978-1-7780852-0-8

ISBN E-book: 978-1-7780852-1-5

Retail Price: C\$19.99 print, C\$7.99 ebook

Wholesale discount: – 40%

Ordering Information:

Available in print soft cover and ebook formats

Available at all major booksellers including Amazon, Chapters and Borders. Independent booksellers can order via Ingramspark Canada and through the author's on line store – www.nipissingstore.com.

Author will consider **consignment sales** through select **independent booksellers**. Please call or email author. Independent bookstores receive a 40% discount to retail pricing.

Libraries can order direct through the author. Please call or email the author. Library orders receive a 50% discount to retail pricing.

Excerpt - Prologue

In March 1938, German scientists Otto Hahn, Lise Meitner, and Fritz Strassmann discovered the process of splitting the atom, the exothermic, or physical reaction required to develop an atomic weapon. The discovery set off a race between Germany and the West to conquer this potentially destructive technology. While the Germans were at the forefront of nuclear fission, the British and Americans were close behind.

In early August 1939, Albert Einstein, the most famous theoretical physicist of his age, wrote United States President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, alerting him to the threat posed by the German science and the potential of the energy source for the development of a super weapon. Einstein's advice was timely, as Hitler had already ordered his scientists to begin work on a nuclear bomb. However, Germany lacked access to the quantity of Uranium-235 required to turn the theory into a device.

The Germans were aggressive in attempting to source the required raw material. They spread their influence far and wide, however only a handful of nations mined the resource with Canada being the most significant producer. Conquering Czechoslovakia gave the Nazis access to uranium, but not in sufficient quantities to build a bomb.

Through diplomatic channels, Germany let it be known to the operator of the Canadian uranium mine, at Great Bear Lake in the Northwest Territories, that it was seeking to purchase massive amounts of radium and uranium for 'scientific purposes. Little was known about the uses for the minerals within the Canadian government and that was Hitler's advantage. Thus, theoretically there was no impediment to the Nazi state purchasing the ore.

1939 began with war in Europe brewing, as the Nazis stamped their authority on the continent. The British policy of appeasing Hitler was an abject failure, Victorian era military thinking dominated the leadership of many west European nations, and treaties limiting weapons production were ignored by the Nazis who by that year were on a full war footing. Germany had rebuilt its military industrial capabilities and was preparing to unleash its might on its European neighbours.

Operation 235 Media Kit

The United States could do little more than stand by and watch, as American politicians and their constituents had no stomach to participate in another European war. In 1939, the United States also lacked a military capable of exporting its power. In addition, the United States government did not have an intelligence network in place to keep an eye on its enemies or undertake operations out of the public limelight.

Against this background, this fictional account is written.

Reviews

Reviewed by: K.C. Finn R for Readers' Favourite

Review Rating: 5 Stars

Operation 235: The Race for Uranium is a work of fiction in the historical subgenre. It is best suited to the general adult reading audience and was penned by Mike Drogemuller. Based on real events, this exciting novel tracks the power struggle between the United States of America and Germany when it was under Nazi control, as the two nations battled for complete control of the world's purest uranium deposit. Set in the summer of 1939 as Europe prepares for the cusp of the largest war it has ever seen, we travel the globe to the Belgian Congo, where a cutthroat German intelligence ploy is underway to bring down America's finely planned operation to ship the uranium out.

It can be tricky to achieve an accurate balance of historical facts but also leave room for a novel to build its drama and tension, and Mike Drogemuller does exceptionally well in this engaging and informative historical novel. The key to his success is in his characters, who bring a layer of humanity to the complex political, economic and military goings-on as we see them puzzle the situation out on the ground, as well as struggle and suffer at the hand of their savvy and ruthless enemies. I especially enjoyed the stylization of the German Abwehr and their many inventive techniques of infiltration and attack. I recommend Operation 235 to all historical fiction fans, especially those intrigued by tense thrillers set in Nazi Germany.

Target Audiences

Readers interested in World War 2, both fiction and non-fiction, will enjoy this novel. Typically, the demographic for this type of novel is +50 male.

The author believes the style of the book also suits readers of action fiction such as Clive Cussler and historical fiction writers like Robert Harris and Ken Follet.

The novel is a good weekend read with believable characters, and plenty of action, fitting into a historical context, setting and genre.

Operation 235 - The Race for Uranium

All rights reserved. This book is a work of fiction. Names used in this book are either fictional or are historical persons long deceased. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

Copyright © 2022 Mike Drogemuller

The scanning, uploading, and distribution of this book without permission is theft of the author's intellectual property.

If you would like permission to use material from the book (other than for review purposes) please email the author at bims1@aol.com.

First edition – September 2022