

World War II was wrong.

Perhaps the most famous situation was the Vessel Affair, in which the Vatican secretly negotiated with Japanese authorities for a complete and unconditional surrender. Max's unit was in liaison with several cardinals and priests who were involved in the negotiations. All of these reports wound up on the desks of President Franklin Roosevelt and key members of his cabinet and military. From every historical indication, FDR was willing to accept the terms, albeit with critical changes, of the Japanese surrender. However, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and the leadership of British intelligence—including the infamous Doublecross Committee (XX/C)—sought to prevent the Japanese surrender. What they needed desperately, was to discredit "Source Vessel."

The intelligence officer assigned to the task of checking out "Source Vessel," and who knew the truth about the nature of the apparatus, was OSS X-2 officer James Angleton. X-2, which stood for counterintelligence, was deployed under the joint sponsorship of U.S. and British intelligence through the XX/C. Angleton pronounced "Source Vessel" a fraud, and when the official histories were written, the Vessel Affair was proclaimed a hoax. The combined result of Angleton's report and the death of FDR was the decision to drop the atomic bomb on Japan. Max

and his unit were targeted by Angleton and others in order to prevent the truth from coming out.

### The Dulles myth

Fifty years later, almost to the day of his death, Max fought for the truth. Another historical irony is that Max had more to do with the surrender of Marshal Badoglio and the Italian Army than even most of the U.S. military leaders who received the surrender ever understood. Max's agents and operators also became directly involved in negotiating the surrender of German troops in northern Italy. Although the official histories magnified the role of Allen Dulles in securing the surrender of German troops, Dulles did little in this process. "Operation Sunrise," the secret negotiation between SS Gen. Karl Wolff and OSS Berne chief Dulles, was a public relations gambit designed to build up Dulles's prestige. In reality, it was Max and his unit who did all the work on the ground in ensuring that German and elite Nazi SS troops did not destroy northern Italy.

Did you read about it in the history books? I doubt it.

I understood more about Max in his death, than I did during his life, when I saw hundreds upon hundreds of ordinary citizens pay their final respects to Max Corvo. In his grandchildren, children, and wife stood a remarkable family. As he would have wanted it, his legacy will continue.

## Library of Congress honors German Resistance

To mark the 50th anniversary on July 20, 1994 of Col. Claus von Stauffenberg's unsuccessful attempt to assassinate Adolf Hitler, the Library of Congress is holding an exhibition dedicated to the theme "Against Hitler: German Resistance to National Socialism, 1933-1945" in the James Madison Building. The exhibit will be on view from July 13 to Sept. 2. A scholarly symposium on the German Resistance to National Socialism will be held on July 20.

The exhibit was prepared by Dr. Peter Steinbach, professor of history from the University of Berlin. It chronicles the fall of the Weimar Republic and the rise of Hitler and the Nazi regime.

Once in power, the Nazis arrested, tortured, imprisoned, and frequently executed their opponents. Dr. Steinbach notes that Nazi control of the judicial system led to judges and prosecutors determining sentences before trials. These ruthless tactics made mass resistance difficult, and resistance activities were usually confined to small groups and individuals.

The exhibit features more than 40 panels with photos and text, and explores resistance efforts among religious groups, military officers, Jews, communists, and socialists. Materials provided by the National Archives include documents about Nazi suspicions of German Army officers' concerns about prisoners, the translation of an interrogation of a guard on duty at Hitler's bunker on the day of the attempt on Hitler's life by von Stauffenberg, and a video of the trial of the conspirators.

In a speech prepared for the opening of the exhibit July 14, former mayor of Frankfurt Dr. Walter Wallmann recounted several stories "to illustrate the hard fact that the Germans who were united in their opposition to Hitler received absolutely no encouragement from abroad." Gen. Klaus Naumann, chief of staff of the Federal Armed Forces of Germany, stressed the meaning of July 20, 1944 for the German soldier of today. He described the Bundeswehr as "committed to the remembrance of the 20th of July 1944" as a "true component of its tradition." Naumann pointedly observed that those who resisted Nazism but then set up "a new dictatorship in one part of Germany immediately after the war," i.e., the communists, "will never be on an equal footing with the officers and civilians who died for a better Germany on July 20, 1944 and its aftermath."