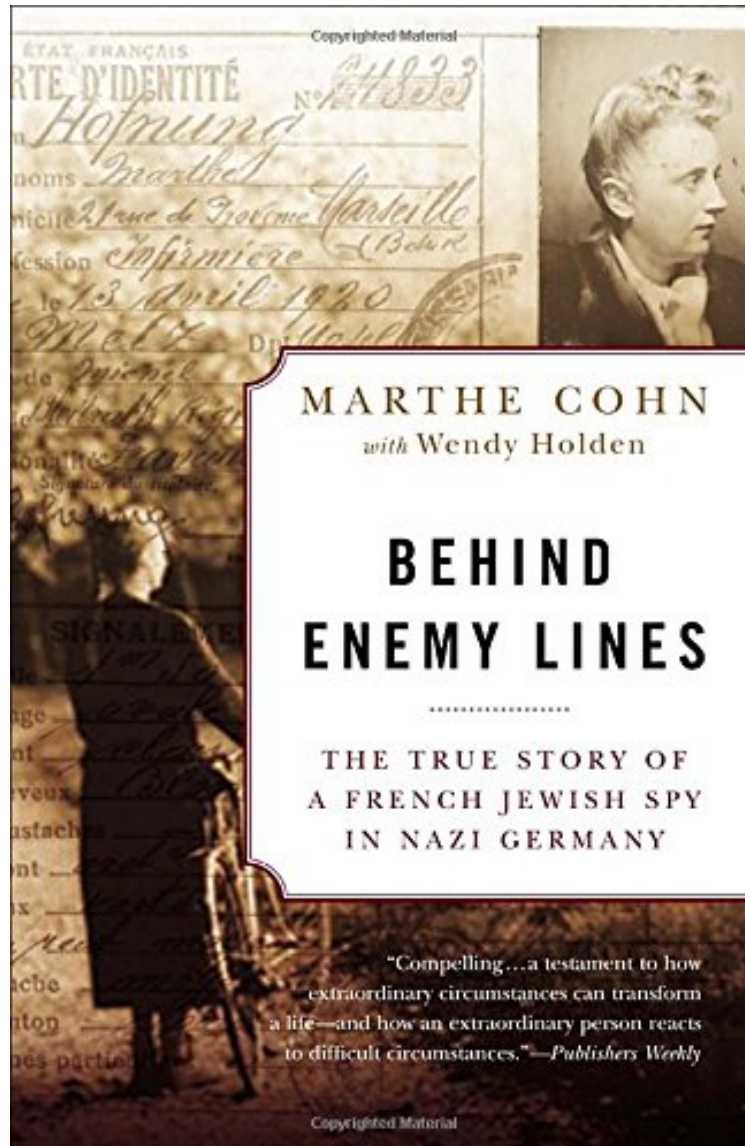


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Behind Enemy Lines: The True Story of a French Jewish Spy in Nazi Germany

Marthe Cohn, Wendy Holden

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Marthe Cohn, Wendy Holden : Behind Enemy Lines: The True Story of a French Jewish Spy in Nazi Germany
before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Behind Enemy Lines:
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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Vive le France! By Markham This is a wonderful book! Marthe, her

family, and other characters in the book were real and likable. She tells her story with enough detail to bring it to life, but not so much that it bogs down. Roughly the first half of the book is about her life before she became a spy--as a Jewish woman in Germany-occupied France. While some of the events she narrates are harrowing, others are filled with the warmth of family and good friends. The second half, which describes her spy activity, is an amazing adventure story! Read this if you like stories of the French Resistance in WWII or of anyone whose work was subversive to Nazi Germany. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great read, good history insights. By Ms. Barbara I really liked this book. Fast moving and very informative. The first (almost half) is about Marthe's life leading up to WWII. Such a brave woman. And I did like that she told of her life a bit after the war in Vietnam Africa. Interesting to see written again how much French people disliked the Jews after the war and some would not give up their 'stolen' residences when the Jews returned. Glad this wonderful woman finally found some happiness! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Must read for the history. By C. Bridges The author is clearly a unique woman with a unique must-tell story. The writing is too wordy, but still interesting and is typical so many a memoir in having too many modifiers and too much detail. However, this is good WWII history, Jewish history, and especially good on how everyday French people lived through the German occupation.

"[T]he amazing story of a woman who lived through one of the worst times in human history, losing family members to the Nazis but surviving with her spirit and integrity intact. Publishers Weekly Marthe Cohn was a young Jewish woman living just across the German border in France when Hitler rose to power. Her family sheltered Jews fleeing the Nazis, including Jewish children sent away by their terrified parents. But soon her homeland was also under Nazi rule. As the Nazi occupation escalated, Marthe's sister was arrested and sent to Auschwitz and the rest of her family was forced to flee to the south of France. Always a fighter, Marthe joined the French Army and became a member of the intelligence service of the French First Army. Marthe, using her perfect German accent and blond hair to pose as a young German nurse who was desperately trying to obtain word of a fictional fiancé, would slip behind enemy lines to retrieve inside information about Nazi troop movements. By traveling throughout the countryside and approaching troops sympathetic to her plight--risking death every time she did so--she learned where they were going next and was able to alert Allied commanders. When, at the age of eighty, Marthe Cohn was awarded France's highest military honor, the Médaille Militaire, not even her children knew to what extent this modest woman had helped defeat the Nazi empire. At its heart, this remarkable memoir is the tale of an ordinary human being who, under extraordinary circumstances, became the hero her country needed her to be.

From Publishers Weekly This compelling memoir is testament to how extraordinary circumstances can transform a life--and how an extraordinary person reacts to difficult circumstances. Cohn was a typical French-Jewish teenager when WWII broke out, but as it did for millions of others, the war transformed her life in unimaginable ways. "There was no time to be frightened," she and Holden, a veteran journalist, write. The first part of the book chronicles her family and friends' response to the war. That countless other books have described the effects of the Nazi onslaught--the life-and-death consequences of the unthinkable decisions many were forced to make--makes her descriptions no less powerful and tragic. The narrative turns into a quasi thriller in its second half, depicting how the death of Cohn's fiancé led her, now a nurse, to join the Free French forces in the fight to defeat the Nazis. A blonde, fluent German speaker who never mentioned to her superiors that she was a Jew, she went on several life-threatening missions into German territory, earning France's highest military honors. But she describes her actions without self-aggrandizement. What comes through is the importance of courageous individual action in the most dire situations. This is the amazing story of a woman who lived through one of the worst times in human history, losing family members to the Nazis but surviving with her spirit and integrity intact--Cohn now lives in California. 8 pages of bw photos. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist The courageous Marthe Hoffnung was born in 1920 in the city of Metz, 33 miles from the Franco-German border. Born into a close-knit Jewish family, Marthe and her six brothers and sisters basked in the glow of love, education, and freedom of expression, but darker times altered their lives forever when Hitler's machinations reached the perimeters of France to shatter their lives. Marthe's family played an active role in the Resistance movement, often hiding fellow Jews in their home or ensuring their passage to an escape route. This selflessness would manifest itself further when Marthe joined the French army and, with her perfect German accent and blond hair, made several trips into occupied Germany posing as a German nurse looking for her fiancé in order to obtain critical intelligence information. In 1990, at the age of 80, Marthe was awarded the Médaille Militaire, France's highest honor. Despite having played a tremendous role in securing vital strategic information crucial to ending World War II, Cohn relays her amazing story of unprecedented bravery with simplicity and modesty. Elsa Gaztambide Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved This compelling memoir is a testament to how extraordinary circumstances can transform a life and how an extraordinary person reacts to difficult circumstances. What comes through is the importance of courageous individual action in the most dire situations. This is the amazing story of a woman who lived through one of the worst times in human history, losing family members to

the Nazis but surviving with her spirit and integrity intact. Publishers Weekly