

## Continuing the Rainey Chronicles



There have been a plethora of information come available from recently declassified files pertaining to the Second World War. And boy, have cable channels jumped all over them.

The new genre of TV and Netflix shows about “Where did all the Nazis Go?” are filling cable channels as reality type shows with names like “Hunting Hitler” (assuming he didn’t die in his bunker and escaped to South America), and “Hitler’s Bomb” (assuming the Nazis actually built a nuclear bomb, but the war ended before they could use it, and it’s never been found {of course}). This is starting to rival the age old questions about where the Templars went with their treasure after 1307, also an on-going series of shows on cable channels.

Now, these shows are geared to sensationalizing the new information. Whether the information is being told truthfully or not is another thing. I think what mostly disturbs me about these shows is how a little scrap of information gets extrapolated into some big plot line. For example, in “Hunting Hitler”, they found some information about U-boats being able to fuel seaplanes out in the Atlantic. Then in Narvik, Norway, they find a sunken sub and seaplane in the harbour. Naturally, this was a route for Hitler to escape to South America. Never mind Narvik was a U-boat base and seaplanes would have been common at such a base. But hey, Hitler escaping is a better story.

There’s also the possibility he went out through Italy. It is known that many Nazis did make it out that way. But for someone as recognisable as Hitler? The risk would have been way too high. Everyone in Europe knew what he looked like. The same could not be said by several high ranking Nazis below the level of Goring and Himmler.

Hitler’s death and/or escape is one of those historical anomalies that I would love to weave a story around. Although the evidence points to a “possibility” (the methods were there), there is also no evidence that Hitler died in the bunker either, except the word of a few men who were there and would have had a motive to say that. You have to realize that for Nazis, Hitler was like a Messiah. The man was mesmerising when he spoke to large crowds. He fed on their fears and prejudices. Many

would have died for him, and many did. We see the same type of blind devotion throughout history and even into present times. It is totally plausible that there would be a cadre of Nazis with a plan to get Hitler out of Germany in 1945 if you look through the lens of human nature.

As I write my third novel, taking the children of Elizabeth Clarke and Robert Rainey into and through the Second World War, I looked for historical anomalies to exploit for a good story and there is a plethora of anomalies to choose from. (Yes, I like the word plethora.) But which ones to use and which ones to pass over. Can't be writing War and Peace here with way too many plot lines moving along. Need to focus on a single string and the nuclear race is the one I've chosen because of its ultimate effect of the world as a whole.

History is written by the victors. Apparently, versions of this have been said by many people of the years. But it is true, with all their biases and propaganda. It is only after several decades when a new generation can sit down and look at everything again with an open mind for the ultimate truth to be discovered. What all went on during the Second World War is starting to come out and is being relooked at objectively. There were heroes and villains on both sides and where Nazism came out of was an earlier conflict that ended with poor, short-sighted and arrogant decisions of the victors.

It's amazing what you can find on Google and Wikipedia these days....