



## ENEMY OF THE REICH: THE NOOR INAYAT KHAN STORY

### GLOSSARY OF TERMS RELATED TO WORLD WAR II

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**BATTLE OF BRITAIN:** Britain declared war against Germany on September 3, 1939. From July 10, 1940, until October, the United Kingdom was subject to relentless bombing by the German Luftwaffe (air force). Its main targets were shipping centers such as Portsmouth, Royal Air Force (RAF) airfields, aircraft factories, and ground infrastructure. London, hit hard in August, was subsequently bombed on 57 consecutive nights. Nonetheless, the RAF gained air superiority early, causing Hitler to cancel his marine invasion of England.

**BEAULIEU:** At this “spy finishing school,” located in a manor house in Hampshire, British and overseas members of the Special Operations Executive (SOE) completed their training and preparation for refined operations before their dispatch to postings around the world. (The French word “Beaulieu” was often pronounced “Bewely” by WWII agents and trainers.)

**WIRELESS RADIO OPERATORS:** Agents were placed in occupied Europe during the war to report information by wireless radio back to SOE headquarters in England. They typically used two types of code: Morse code (a set of dots and dashes representing letters to receive and transmit) and key codes (silk codes were written on thin silk to easily conceal) to decode or encode messages. Noor Inayat Khan was the longest surviving wireless radio operator as well as the last one in occupied Paris to be supported by the SOE.

**CONCENTRATION CAMP:** The term is defined by the Holocaust Encyclopedia as “a camp in which people are detained or confined, usually under harsh conditions and without regard to legal norms of arrest and imprisonment ...” After Hitler’s selection as Chancellor in January of 1933, the Nazis began setting up such camps for their political opponents, including Socialists and Communists, and for members of racial groups and foreign nationals whom they intended to isolate from society. During WWII, many of these places became systematic, industrialized “extermination camps,” where by 1945 six million Jews, a half-million Roma (Gypsies), and hundred of thousands of Poles and Slavs were exterminated. Numbers and methods were documented in the Nazis’ own records, as revealed at the Nuremberg and Auschwitz trials after the war.

**CRYPTOGRAPHY:** The term refers both to encryption, the conversion of information to apparent nonsense for the purpose of hiding it from an adversary, and to the process of unraveling and reading encrypted messages.



**DACHAU:** The most notorious Nazi extermination camp in Germany and the first to be opened, in 1933, near the city of Munich in southern Germany. Noor Inayat Khan was interrogated and murdered there on September 13, 1944.

**FAZAL MANZIL:** The “House of Blessing” in Urdu. This large house just outside central Paris became the spiritual center for Inayat Khan’s Sufi teaching in Western Europe. His daughter Noor, her sister, and two brothers were brought up there. Noor, the eldest, managed the household and facilities after her father’s death. It remains in use today.

**GESTAPO:** The “*Geheime Staatspolizei*,” was the secret police department of Nazi Germany and German-occupied Europe. Formed by Hermann Göring in 1933, Gestapo offices in Paris were located at 11, Rue de Saussaies in the 8th arrondissement. The Gestapo was the intelligence agent of the Nazi government that subjected hundreds, if not thousands, of people who resisted Nazi rule to jailing, interrogation, torture, forced confessions, and murder. They also sent people to concentration camps in Germany and Poland.

**FIGARO:** A popular French magazine that published a number of Noor Inayat Khan’s versions of Buddhist children’s stories – especially those included in her only published book, *The Jataka Tales*, now available under the title *King Akhbar’s Daughter*.

**JATAKA TALES:** Beloved tales of the Buddha living many different lives as people and animals, in which he used compassion and virtue to lead others. Noor adapted a selection of these ancient tales into an English-language book to be read to children.

**KEY PHRASES:** In encrypted messages, a key phrase was spelled out in Morse code. Each letter in the phrase was assigned a numeric value that indicated a different letter. In this way, the “real” phrase could be spelled out.

**F.A.N.Y.:** The First Aid Nursing Yeomanry helped run SOE schools and training centers. The term “Nursing” seemed to have been used as a cover to mislead the women’s families. Though F.A.N.Y. members were not agents, they sometimes became contacts for functioning agents. Noor Inayat Khan was enrolled in F.A.N.Y. as she trained for top priority SOE duties.

**FRENCH GOVERNMENT IN EXILE:** A shadow government that served as an alternative to the Vichy government under Nazi control during the occupation of France.



Charles de Gaulle presided over this shadow government in the United Kingdom, lending support to the Resistance in any way it could. Noor Inayat Khan sometimes managed messages between this group and its agents in Paris in addition to her SOE assignments.

**THE FRENCH RESISTANCE:** Organized underground resistance to the Nazi Occupation of France. It consisted of former military and regular citizens during the war. Workers, merchants, and famous intellectual figures such as Jean-Paul Sartre, Albert Camus, and Samuel Beckett were members, among many others. Some supported the Resistance quietly by providing safe houses and delivering messages. Others were active operatives working under the greatest danger of being discovered, arrested, interrogated, and killed.

**FASCISM:** A movement of totalitarian or authoritarian nationalism that spread throughout Europe before the Nazi invasions began. Fascists held that everyone should live by their ideology. Those who thought differently were suspected of disloyalty to the state. They were watched, imprisoned, or eliminated by murder or held under terrible conditions in concentration camps. By the early 1920s there were fascist regimes in Portugal and Italy, the latter under Benito Mussolini, who became an ally of Hitler. In Spain, Generalissimo Francisco Franco led a fascist movement that took power and received military and financial support from Hitler's Germany. In Romania, the fascist League of the Archangel Michael used forces called the Iron Guard to help them ascend to power and conducted massacres of Jews and Roma (Gypsies). The Arrow Cross group seized power in Hungary when the World War was launched. Unlike Communists, who followed the ideas of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, fascists believed in capitalism but organized corporations and unions together under the control of the government to serve national interests as their leaders dictated. Fascists gained support by seizing state power, but they sought the support of the masses by promising to relieve the suffering of various social classes resulting from World War I and the Great Depression.

**PROSPER CIRCUIT (OR CIRCLE):** Resistance groups carrying information that was gathered for operations during the occupation were organized into secret, closed circles of operatives who had specialized skills. Their identities were even kept from other members of the resistance, since one captured member who revealed even a few names would bring down the whole organization. As Noor arrived in Paris, the vital Prosper Circuit was crumbling under the Gestapo's pressure and arrests.

**SILK CODES:** A device created by Maurice Buckmaster and Leo Marks at the SOE used by the most elite spies. Key codes were written on pieces of fine silk to make them



silent and easy to conceal in clothing so that they could be carried into enemy territory, where they were then used to code messages sent by wireless radio operators.

**S.O.E. (Special Operations Executive):** After the first Nazi occupation of Western Europe in 1938, the British government, under Churchill, created an intelligence (spy) agency. This agency grew very large and was spread across the globe during World War II. It dealt with the challenge of providing information in Britain's colonies and on the European and Asian fronts, including operations against the Japanese in Southeast Asia. The SOE was very successful in accomplishing its goals of collecting information and thwarting enemy plans. SOE operatives, however, suffered heavy losses behind enemy lines.

**SURESNES:** A neighborhood adjacent to Paris where the Inayat Khan family lived and maintained a Sufi center. Today, a well-regarded school in the neighborhood is named *L'Ecole Normale Noor Inayat Khan*.

**THE SS:** In 1925, Hitler created the SS or *Schutzstaffel* —“protective echelon”—before he held state power. Members served as an elite corps of bodyguards for Hitler, and then, after his rise to state power, the SS became a paramilitary force used by the government to achieve its objectives in elections and to enforce Nazi policies against various groups. All SS members had to prove they had no “Jewish” or “mongrel” heritage and took personal loyalty oaths to Hitler that excluded expressing any opinions in debates or loyalty to any other organization or religious institution. Their uniforms were black, so they came to be called “black-shirts.” They had SS uniform pins, rings, and hats, and their insignia featured a skull. After the Nazis were elected in 1933 by a small majority, SS training emphasized blind acceptance of policy that would make them effective tools of the state. The SS controlled the concentration camps, which became extermination camps in the 1940s. It was an SS officer at Dachau, who, according to Noor's brother Vilayat Inayat Khan, beat Noor all night until she was no longer recognizable. The SS also executed her and perhaps other women from the French Resistance in front of the camp's ovens.

**WAAF (WOMEN'S AUXILIARY AIR FORCE):** This organization comprised the first large military organization of women in Britain. Many were stationed at airbases run by Fighter Command, which was highly dangerous work. They were the first targets of the German Luftwaffe in the Battle of Britain. The women were also trained in radar plotting (mapping the location of incoming German bombers). Noor Inayat Khan first signed up for this service, but Maurice Buckmaster, Head of the SOE French Section,



transferred her to F.A.N.Y. to reduce anxiety for her family while secretly training her to become a skilled SOE agent.

## GLOSSARY OF RELIGIOUS TERMS

**SUFISM:** A term used to describe the mystical practices of Islam. Sufism emerged as a pietistic and ascetic spiritual movement in early Islam. It is not a sect, but rather an integral part of all major Islamic theological and legal traditions and a foundation for charitable institutions for social welfare. Sufi tradition was based on the model of Prophet Muhammad's piety and closeness to God (Allah in Arabic), and it developed as a path to achieving a transcendent experience of God by following the path of pious teachers. The Sufi tradition emphasizes the immanent, merciful God and emphasizes mercy as the impulse through which humans should relate to one another as gratitude for God's mercy. The inner quest for God-consciousness and transformation of the ego-self in service of others is its goal. Sufism is traditionally understood as cleansing the heart and purifying the ego (in Arabic, *tasfiyat al qalb* and *tazkiyat al nafs*) through life in a community of seekers and in traditions of service to others. Sufism is also understood as the practice of bringing God's beauty into the world (*ihsan* in Arabic). Accordingly, Sufism produced a great tradition of mystical poetry, music, and literature. Sufi communities were also involved in the great traditions of Islamic art. Artisans were frequently members of guilds associated with Sufi organizations (in Arabic, *tariqat*).

**CHISHTI:** The spiritual tradition to which Hazrat Inayat Khan adhered. The Chishti tradition is still active as a Sufi spiritual lineage today. Its roots can be traced to a 10<sup>th</sup> Century teacher from a town named Chisht in present-day Afghanistan. This tradition was popularized in India by the teacher Muinuddin Chishti (died 1236), whose shrine is in the city of Ajmer, and found its most beloved expression in the figure of Nizamuddin Awliya (died 1325), who is buried in Delhi. The Chishtis were traditionally known for asceticism (practice of self-denial to achieve closeness to God), for service to humanity, for a critical attitude toward ruling authorities, and for openness toward non-Muslims. Like other Sufi organizations, Chisti teaching and prayer groups helped to spread Islam in Asia. The Chishti tradition is also known for its love and encouragement of music as an aid to spiritual development. Chishti teachers and their disciples and devotees helped to establish the musical tradition called *qawwali* in the Urdu language, and they contributed to the development of musical instruments such as the *tabla* and *sitar*.

**TIPU SULTAN:** A ruler during the early history of British imperialism in India, known as the Tiger of Mysore, Tipu Sultan was the Muslim ruler of a largely Hindu population

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in the South Indian Kingdom of Mysore. A poet, scholar, and military innovator, he is best known for his stand against the advances of the British East India Company and the resounding defeat he inflicted on British forces during the second Mysore War (1780-1784). In his drive to modernize Mysore, he built a modern army (with the help of the French), developed a new land revenue system that encouraged the silk industry, and created a new coinage system. He was also responsible for innovations in artillery rockets that gave them higher thrust and longer range. These innovations were studied and adapted by the British for weapons used in the Napoleonic Wars.

**SUNNI:** An abbreviation of the Arabic phrase *ahl al sunnah wa'l jamaa*, which means “people of the Sunnah (the way or custom of the Prophet Muhammad) and the community.” This phrase is the basis of the term *Sunni*, the group to which the majority of Muslims belong. The term *Shi'i* refers to the most widespread minority group among Muslims today. Both terms originated from the civil strife that occurred during early decades after Prophet Muhammad’s death. The term *Shi'i* refers to *Shi`at Ali*, “the Partisans of Ali,” those who believed that Ali ibn Abi Talib (Muhammad’s cousin and son-in-law) was the rightful successor to Muhammad and who defended him during his caliphate against the claims of Mu’awiyya. According to Sunnis, all of the first four successors (caliphs) of Muhammad were “rightly guided” leaders of the community, of whom Ali was the fourth. Sunnis make up nearly 90 percent of Muslims worldwide. Next to the Qur’an, the *sunnah* (example of the Prophet) is the key source of practice for Sunni Muslims, based on Prophetic teachings called *hadith* (reports of what the Prophet said, did, and approved).

**SHI’I:** The term that refers to the most widespread minority group among Muslims today. The terms Sunni and Shi’i as branches of Islam originated from civil strife that occurred during the early caliphate in the first decades after Prophet Muhammad’s death. The term Shi’i refers to Shi`at Ali, “the Partisans of Ali,” who believed that Ali ibn Abi Talib was the rightful successor to Muhammad (and Muhammad’s cousin and son-in-law). Ali became the fourth caliph after the third caliph was murdered, and his rule was challenged by a relative of the murdered caliph, Mu’awiyya, Governor of Damascus. A period of civil war resulted, in which both Ali and later his son Hussein were killed. Mu’awiyya became caliph and established the Umayyad Dynasty, oppressing their political opponents and the family of the Prophet, deepening divisions. Over time, political disagreements as well as intellectual and philosophical differences developed. While there is great diversity in the tradition, the Shi’a place special emphasis on the Prophet’s family (*ahl al-bayt*) and especially on Ali as the first imam (leader) of the Shi’a community. The doctrine of the Imamate (leadership of the Imam, with Ali as the first successor to Muhammad) differentiates the Shi’i tradition of leadership from the Sunni concept of the caliphate and holds that the leader of the Shi’a must be a direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad. There are several sub-branches in the Shi’a tradition related to the issue of succession to the Imamate. The imams are believed to be infallible, and so their teachings and are authoritative. Shi’i also believe that in the absence of the



legitimate Imam, the authority to guide the community was passed on to mujtahids (jurist-scholars).

**GOD'S BEAUTIFUL NAMES (*Asma al-Husna*):** Names of God (Allah) found in the Qur'an that describe the attributes of God. Examples of these names are the Merciful, the Beneficent, the Just, and the Compassionate. These names came to be known as the 99 Names. In Arabic, this refers to a large and possibly unknown number, which has mystical importance. The names feature in Islamic art, music, literature, and in recitation during prayer. Muslims call upon God by some of these names, so they occur in everyday, popular speech. Reciting these names and calling upon God using these names is viewed as an act of great benefit to the believer in approaching God.

**QUR'AN:** The holy scripture of Islam. According to Islamic teachings, which are based on the text of the Qur'an itself and narrations of Muhammad, the Qur'an is the revealed word of God. Muslims believe, in accordance with these teachings, that the Qur'an was given to Muhammad, the prophet of Islam, over a period of 23 years, from the beginning of his prophethood at the age of 40 until his death at the age of 63. The Qur'an consists of 114 chapters and about 6,000 verses. The Qur'an was transmitted to Muhammad's followers in oral form and was memorized, written down, and recited by his followers from the first to succeeding generations and down to the present day. Recitation of Qur'an includes detailed rules for pronunciation and rhythm. The written form of the Qur'an in Arabic is a record of the oral recitation and a memory aid. Recitation and calligraphy are both the highest art forms in the Islamic tradition. It is not a book of history, nor of biography, though it is rooted in historical events surrounding the life of Muhammad and the first Muslim community. The Qur'an describes itself as a confirmation and continuation of earlier revelations, reaching back to Adam, through other prophets such as Abraham, Moses, and Jesus. The Qur'an contains many stories familiar from earlier scriptures, such as Noah and the flood, Abraham and the idols, Joseph and his brothers, and Jesus' virgin birth from his mother Maryam. For Muslims, reading or reciting the Qur'an is a beautiful act of worship that brings spiritual growth, purity, and healing. The Qur'an is viewed as a guide for Muslims' lives, the prime source of religious and spiritual knowledge, and a guide for moral behavior, ethics, and law. Muhammad's role as prophet living the principles and practices in the Qur'an is a model for all Muslims to aspire to, called the *Sunnah*, or way of Muhammad.

**MUHAMMAD:** A man known as the Prophet of Islam. He was born in Mecca, in the Arabian Peninsula, in about 570 CE, or almost six centuries after Jesus. Muhammad preached a message of ethical monotheism and social reform among the people of the towns and the tribes in Arabia. He established the first community of Muslims in the oasis city of Medina and provided a model for leadership and law as well as spiritual growth. By the time of his death, much of the Arabian Peninsula had acknowledged Islam and his leadership. Muslims revere Muhammad as a prophet who received a divine

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message from God known as the Qur'an, the Islamic Holy Scripture. Reverence for Muhammad, his person, his family, and his legacy is a rich spiritual tradition expressed in poetry, literature, art, and music in various Muslim cultures. Artistic expressions of Muhammad's likeness — without portraying his face — exist in some periods and regions, but portraits or sculptures of Muhammad are frowned upon out of fear that he might be idolized. There are, however, many literary descriptions based on narratives from his contemporaries among early Muslims.

**LA ILAHA ILALLAH:** This expression in Arabic translates as: *There is no god but God, or There is no deity (nothing worthy of worship) except the One God.* The expression is the creed of Islam, known as the *shahadah* (witness) and first pillar of Islamic practice for a believer. The complete creed is *La ilaha illa Allah, wa Muhammad rasul Allah.* The second part means Muhammad is a prophet (messenger) of God.

**DIVINE UNITY:** The Qur'anic and Prophetic teaching of monotheism, or belief in one God, is called in Arabic *tawhid*. [It is pronounced tow-HEED.] This Islamic concept is defined by the first part of the Islamic creed that there is no god but God, meaning that God is unique. There is nothing like God, and nothing is worthy of worship except the One God. Monotheism in this concept refers to God's unity and implies the unity of God's creation also. The many Names by which God is described in the Qur'an describe His attributes but deny any division of these qualities that God alone possesses in their full essence.