

## World War II Spy Kit: The Great Nazi Intelligence Coup

### Evaluate a Website:

Researching web sites is a fun and interesting way to learn more about World War II or any subject. And, the Internet can be a good supplement to traditional sources with a few words of caution. All information should be questioned for authenticity, accuracy, and appropriateness, but for Internet sources, this is especially crucial. When traditional sources of information such as books and articles are published, they must first pass through a series of filters such as collegial review, publishers, and librarians. However, anyone can create a web site and publish anything on it. With this in mind, explore web sites as a critical consumer of information, armed with a skeptical eye and a questioning mind.

Before investigating the content of a web site, take time to answer questions like these. Who created the site? What qualifications, credentials, or professional affiliations does the author or sponsor present? Is there evidence on the web site that respected professionals or organizations support it? What is the stated purpose or mission of the site or the organization that it represents? Is a date of publication included? When was the web site updated last? Is there contact information on the site? Is there a privacy policy? Are there any copyright restrictions or use limitations stated on the site? Finally, remember that it is essential to corroborate the content of the web site with information that you have found from other reliable sources.

On a practical note, some web sites have large graphics files that may take a while to load. This is a good time to consider the quality and reliability of the site with the aforementioned questions. Also, many web sites offer a section of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's). It is a good idea to read through them before you explore the site further. Lastly, never give out information about yourself online. If you have a question to post to the web site, ask your teacher to do it for you.

1. What are the URL and title of the web site?
2. Who or what organization sponsors this web site?
3. What is the purpose of the web site?
4. What topic(s) on the subject does the web site include?

5. Are primary sources available on the web site? If so, list which types.

6. What other kind of information may be found on this web site? (chronologies, timelines, charts, graphs, etc.)

7. Write three new questions that you now have about the subject.